



2020 June Newsletter

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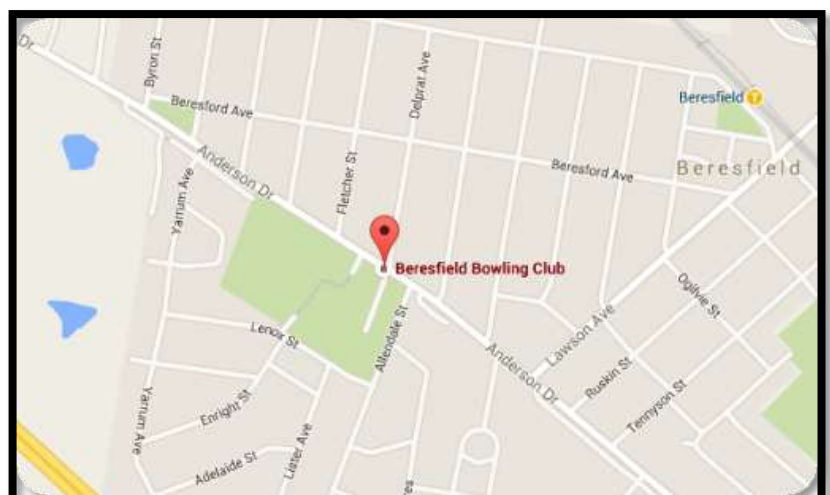
Peter Sewell

Kevin Croft

Robert Probert

Hunter Valley Fly Fishing Club meets on
the first Wednesday of each month at:-

Beresfield Bowling Club
Anderson Drive
Bersefield
At 7.00 pm



Editor's comments

Jeff Yates



Well, the year is almost half over and I hope that you have been able to loosen that rod arm up with a few sessions. I know I have and I've enjoyed every moment of it. You don't realise how important the socializing side of our sport plays in the overall enjoyment of fly fishing. While I have done plenty of solo trips during lockdown, now that the shackles are off it's a great time to share the fun with friends.

Talking of sharing, Glenn has written a report on our recent catchup chasing salmon at Swansea. A lovely story of success and sharing the spoils of the chase, and chase it was. Nothing in the channel, so we headed to sea and intercepted a huge school a kilometer or two south of Moon Island. Glenn and Mark had travelled up from Sydney and I think they had a fantastic time.

Brett and Cherie have been chasing Luderick off the beach, and Brett has been generous with his information on how, when and why they caught fish. As usual, his photos tell the happy story. I stopped fishing for them from the rocks many years ago when I shredded a new fly line, and swore blind to give them a miss. Maybe I can be enticed back and I know of a few places that fit the description after reading Brett's article.

We had our first bass outing to Lake St Clair for some time, and was surprised by the drop in the water level, and equally surprised by the amount of weed along the shores. Still, if you can get clean casts in, then you'll catch fish. Read the report and start planning your next trip.

Allan Ekert has sent more tutorials on casting. This month's lesson is coming back to the basics, and if you want to improve your casting, start reading his articles and get the rod out on the lawn or on the water and practice, practice, practice. I know Allan, although a master of casting, still practices daily to keep his form up.

I looked back over the lockdown and counted 10 books that I have read, some never inspired me enough to finish, but most did. One that may be of interest to club members is a lovely book called "The Feather Thief". It was recommended to me some time ago by Rob, and I have just got around to purchasing a copy and once I starting reading, it was difficult to put down. I have written a review of it for the newsletter.

Keeping with the nostalgic theme, I have added a few pictures from the past to remind members of what a great club we have, and how the generosity and matesmanship of members makes the club.



President's Report

Welcome to the June 2020 Newsletter.

The Government is starting to ease restrictions even more now seemingly just in time for the June long weekend. I know I keep saying it but I still believe we still need to remain vigilant and continue to exercise caution when stepping out, remembering to keep on maintaining good personal hygiene and practicing social distancing, and enforcing self-isolation where applicable. I hope all you and your

families are still all well.

Despite the government easing restrictions, work has ramped up our Covid-19 procedures within the workplace even more since my last Pres's Report. Even though the clubs have some restrictions eased upon them to allow more patronage, they are still closed to meetings and other events. Until then we will continue to hold our zoom meetings. It is envisioned that once our normal meetings resume, we can still incorporate zoom into the meetings to allow our Sydney members to continue to be a part of the meetings.

Remember, if you have a fly pattern or something else fly related and you want to share it with the club, utilise the club's email or the club's Facebook page or send it through to Jeff for inclusion in the newsletter.

Don't forget about Brett & Cherie's tying days on Instagram. Sign and watch their live feeds of Brett tying popular fly patterns on a Sunday night at 7.30pm or alternatively, search on YouTube for BWC Flies.

I know this was in the last couple of newsletters and I keep on repeating it and although it may not be for everyone, but if you know of someone that is struggling, please heed the advice below and pass it on.

During the current situation you may feel overwhelmed by all that is happening. If you are struggling, please, and I really stress please, talk to someone. If you have no one to talk to there are other options:

Life Line Phone: 13 11 14 (24 hours/7 days); Text: 0477 13 11 14 (6pm – midnight AEDT, 7 nights); Chat online: <https://www.lifeline.org.au/crisis-chat> (7pm - midnight, 7 nights)

Or: NSW Mental Health Line: 1800 011 511: Mental health crisis telephone service in NSW.

If you are looking for answers or advice check out: www.health.nsw.gov.au or health.gov.au

Stay safe people and I look forward to talking with you on Zoom or over the phone (when I can).

Darren Foster

President, HVFFC 2020

Month	Date	Venue/Event	Trip Master	Contact Number
January	18 th	Fly Tying @ Mai Wei with BWC Flies	Darren	0413392774
February	05 th	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
February	28 th , 29 th , 01 st M	Lake St Clair — Bass, Yellowbelly	Rod Fox	
March	06 th	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	0407195508
March	27 th , 28 th , 29 th	Lithgow — Lake Lyall	Rod Fox	0407195508
April	03 th	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
April	11 th —TBC	Bunyah — Silver Perch	Patrick	0458781675
April				
May	01 st	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
May				
June	05 th	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
June	12 th , 13 th , 14 th	Lake St Clair — Bass, Yellowbelly		
June				
July	03 rd	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
July	18 th —TBC	Xmas in July & Club Awards Night	Cherie	0410555019
July				
August	07 th	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
August	TBC	RISE Film Festival — Bero Bowlo	Darren	0413392774
August	TBC	Swansea Salmon Classic		
September	04 th	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
September				
September				
October	2 nd	AGM/General Club Meetings at Bero Bowlo	All	
October	16 th , 17 th , 18 th	Lithgow – Lake Lyall	Rod Fox	0407195508
November	06 th	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
November				
December	4 th	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
December				

Mole and Rat Had It Right

By Glenn Olney

It's a long time since I read "Wind in the Willows" but as Mark and me pulled out of my driveway on a foggy Thursday morning Mr Rats famous line came to mind.

"There is nothing, absolutely nothing, half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats".



Mine had not been in the water since February and I had not cast a fly for 3 months so the opportunity to head up to Swansea on a beautiful autumn day to catch up with Jeff, Peter and Brad to chase a few salmon was too good to say no to.

This inconvenient virus has limited socialising and fishing and at the same time increased my workload, but the good thing is that the traffic as we headed North was a bit less than usual.

Just as we were heading down the final hill the phone rang with a disappointed Jeff telling us the fish were there, but his new 4 piece rod was now 5 piece.

No worries as we had a spare 8 weight in the car and our timing was perfect as Peter and Jeff had just pulled alongside the jetty as we reached the car park.

My boat has never been outside in its 24 years but the waters were so flat today was the day and it was an uneventful journey following Peter's boat out to the back of the island where there had been lots of salmon a short time ago.



After an hour or two of searching without joy we came back inside to share tim tams and coffee with Brad who had driven over from the west of the lake.

The phone went off with the good news some fish had been found.



Pelagics as far as the eye could see

Back outside again and we were amongst the salmon and even a school of bonito. Mark got his first bonito on fly.

All three boats spent the next few hours with bent rods as the salmon played nicely.

Towards the end of the day a large pod of dolphins joined us which spooked the fish a little, but by then we had all caught our share, and a catch up at the ramp followed by an amazingly good curry pie and coffee on the way home made a lot of sense.

Maybe times will change a little but catching up with friends while messing around in boats will always make life a bit better.



*Salmon, bonito
and Glenn*





Peter managing loose line as he hooks up on another salmon



Brad hooked up with a coal ship on the horizon

Mark and Glen playing fish while the massive school frolics in the background



Luddas off the beach

By Brett and Cherie Clark

This Winter was always going to be about chasing fish with methods or locations that I have not employed prior. Usually, the Salmon dominate my image albums through these months but after a solid season opener on them, in my mind, I felt a change was needed.



*Beach pack
and Brett
checking out
the water*

Walking the beach beats with flyrods in hand get some curious looks from the runners and other beach folk. Standing on sand mounds looking through waves seems to draw even more attention.

Low tide scouring of rocky points, sand gullies, shallow water platforms and the like to suss out the available food sources and whether said locations held potential access and escape channelling for the fish.

High tides confirmed what we were looking for, with the added factors of onshore current flows, depth, foam levels and water clarity. Almost statue like, standing in a location for 2 hours or more through the rise, top and turn of the tide with eyes fixated on the rolling swell. The eyes play fish tricks with your brain; was that a flash, did that move - nope it's the rock.... Dealing with fly line in the shoreline dumpers can become somewhat frustrating, being soaked from the waist down in the cool water is interesting (sorry I only wear waders Trout fishing and that's very seldom).

And then, like a small army of fish, 1 at first, and then another and another, from over the far rock ledge, the fish come over the top and onto the shallow water feeding ground. Simply watching it unfold was reward enough. There'd been more than a dozen scouting missions in a few locations with not much to talk about, we'd see a tailing fish or 2 (that's another challenge) - they spook very easily, we'd see 1 or 2 fish and they were gone before the fly line came off the reel or we'd not see a flicker of a fish at all.

Well, I can tick the Luderick off the beach from the list to get done. In an arvo session, all the variables aligned to present an opportunity of super clear water and a few more fish from what had been previously seen. We'd had some help along the way, those who fish this method more so than me, pointed us in to some areas to search; not a 'spoon feeding' information pack though - there's a lot of satisfaction in working out the finer detail.



Brett and Cherie with a couple of fine Luderick caught from the beach

The gear is the same as I use for the Bream -

6 weight rod, rigged with a clear intermediate tipped line to get under the surface swell

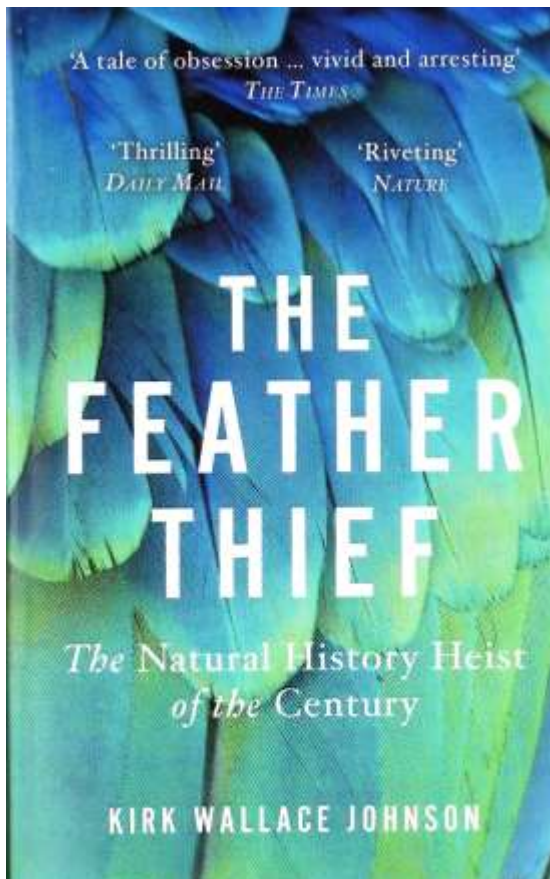
7 to 9 foot tapered leader of 8 - 10lb

with a 2 rig Cabbage fly set up – 1 is weighted with a Tungsten bead and the other is unweighted

Line Management is critical in the beach environment. The multi directional currents play havoc with the fly line, leaders and the rig. We found that shortening up the length between the bomb fly and the unweighted fly assisted in reducing the flies tangling together, but not always and have not done this enough to make fundamental conclusions. I do carry a floating line in the pack, just in case the conditions are glassed out, if that's possible on the beach, but you get my drift.

If you look closely at the pack, you'll see a few Candies and Shrimp attached to the patch – just in case there is a shoreline Salmon feeding frenzy. Let hope that presents itself this Winter...

Fly fishing is about options... And this is one that you could consider in the cooler months.



Book Review – “The Feather Thief”

Jeff Yates

Rob Probert has been telling me for some time about this fascinating book that he has been reading. I quietly put it into the books box in my male brain, and promptly forgot about it. Along comes the lockdown, and being an avid reader, I was looking for something interesting to read. Now, I had several unread books, and I wanted a change from war history and adventure, and I then remembered the book in the box that Rob mentioned. I jumped online and ordered it from Angus and Robertson and it arrived 2 days later; what service!

Now back to the book. Once I started to read it, I was hooked. The book is written by a great storyteller, and he has you in suspense from the moment you pick it up. Who ever thought that exotic bird feathers were worth more than their weight in gold.

Anyway, this extraordinary book exposes an underground traffic in rare and exotic bird feathers, fuelled by the lust for tying perfect salmon flies to old

recipes. The young character in question, breaks into an English museum of Natural History and grabs hundreds of irreplaceable bird specimens, from collections going back to Charles Darwin era. These vividly colourful birds are extremely rare in the wild and their trade is highly illegal, but this thief will use his influence and connections in fly tying cyber space to potentially make millions out of illegal trade in their feathers.

The obscure topic and bizarre tale made for a fascinating read, and I found that my body clock woke me up daily at 4am for a 2 hour pre breakfast read fix, until it was finished.

Thanks Rob for the recommendation, and this gripping work of creative non-fiction should be on all of your wish lists. I can't tell you any more as I will spoil the story....



Winter at St Clair

Jeff Yates



It was the first Wednesday of the month, time for a Zoom club meeting, but tonight we tendered our apology, as we headed North/West along the New England Highway towards Lake St Clair. Our normal preparations, like temperature, wind, precipitation and lake levels were all secondary to the new post, that ***the lake is open for business!*** No sweeter words have been uttered, as winter is the start of prime fishing time up there, and the restart after the Carona lockdown, was music to our ears.

The walk to our favoured fishing spots, through waist high grass in places, was a welcome relief from the parched ground of only a few months back. The lake level is around 36%, a long way down and obviously not getting the catchment rain that we got on the east side of the divide. Having said that, grass is growing to the edges, and water weed is growing from the depths, crossing paths along the boundary of the shoreline. First thoughts were that our favoured fishing spots would be high and dry, but forever the optimists, we were relishing the opportunities to fish new ground.

It was a shock when we saw the big weed bank ten meters out and extending further out to where it disappeared into the depths, ***“what a bastard”!*** We walked around St Clair Island casting to any little opening, and mostly coming up with weed. At that stage I changed from intermediate, to floating line to get above the weed, and any thoughts on how I was going to land a fish was furthest from my mind.

The mountains silhouetted against the setting sun, also reflected, along with the peach coloured clouds onto the gently rippled water, as a fly fisherman works the bank.



On the Southern side of the island the bass started to hit the surface chasing the numerous schools of smelt which were creating tiny water ringlets as they popped the surface while escaping along the weed edge. How frustrating, not able to cast over the weed bank, and when I was finally able to get a cast over into some clearer water, I came up hard on a fish that had eyes for the bottom only. For the next ten minutes I tried to encourage it to swim out, giving the line slack, then

slowing building pressure, twanging the taunt line, but finally the fish broke free of the weed, and I was able to get it to the surface and somewhat skull drag it in, together with a heap of weed.



The next take I applied maximum drag to get the fish onto the surface, but alas, deeply buried and eventual breakoff. At this stage we were on the steeper shores of the inlet that eventually leads under the Carrowbrook road. This bank is quite steep, and while there is still weed, it is substantially less as the water is quite deep. Peter and myself landed several more fish well after dark, weeded a few, until the cold drove us away from the water.

My thoughts are that with the colder weather approaching, the weed will die off as it does each winter and we will be in for another extraordinary period of fishing.

I know I have explained our rig before, but for the sake of repeating myself I'll describe it, and remember that everyone has their own ideas, but this is what we do.

Rod – 8/9 wt

Line - Intermediate, floating or sinking tip lines

Leader – 1200mm 30lb, 1200mm 14lb Rock flourocarbon

Flies to suit the feed – Craigs are the go mostly, but Fur flies, Trevs, Shrimps, Wooly buggers all work, and mostly in size 8.

I do occasionally use a 7wt but only when the weed disappears, because you really need that grunt to get the fish to the surface.

Good luck and hope to see you on the water sometime soon.



Late afternoon fishing over weed beds, and a freshwater mussel ploughing its way along the foreshore, as the lake level drops.



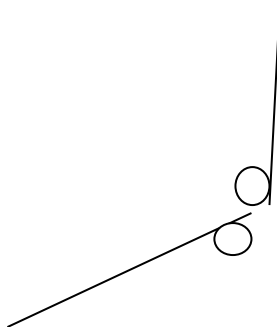
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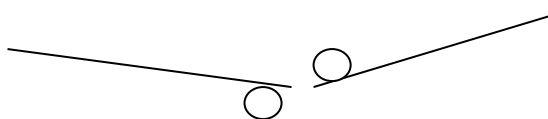
“Give The Dog A Drink” June 2015

Last month I used the phrase “*give the dog a drink*” in relation to teaching the pickup and lay down cast. I wrongly assumed most people had heard this phrase before. So for this month’s column I thought I would look in more detail at “*giving the dog a drink*” and talk about its meaning and a few others phrases that are used when we teach casting.

I think Peter Hayes was the first to use the phrase “*give the dog a drink*” however, just as I have borrowed the phrase, Peter may have got it from someone else. The words are designed to paint a clear picture of the starting position for the pickup and lay down cast. Just as a dog bends its head down and laps up the water with its tongue the PULD cast should begin with the rod tip as low as possible – maybe not actually in the water. This starting position is important to ensure the casting stroke finishes vertically.



Start low and finish high ✓ (right)



Start high and finish low ✗ (wrong)

Starting with the rod tip too high is a common mistake with beginners and many intermediate casters. The problem is exacerbated when someone realizes the rod tip is too high and then lowers the rod before making the cast. What this does is introduce slack into the line which leads to the need for a wider stroke and the rod

ending up too low on the backcast. If you are going to “give the dog a drink” it must be the very first thing you do and the rod tip must not lift until the cast begins.

Still on the subject of teaching the pickup and lay down cast Peter uses the phrase “*make a waterfall out of the honey.*” You need to think about this one a bit. Imagine that instead of casting on water we are actually casting our line on a pool of honey. The line will stick to the honey unless we peel it off slowly. As the line peels from the water tiny droplets will fall back to the surface making a waterfall. If you get it right you will see the drops of water and hear the gentle sound of the waterfall. If you get it wrong and apply too much force you will see waves and hear the sound of a jet ski (and so will the fish!) So the second step in making a pickup and lay down cast is to “*waterfall out of the honey.*” Starting with the rod tip low we slowly lift the rod until most of the fly line is off the water. In this position we are ready to complete the cast. With the line out of the honey it is just a matter of lifting the rod into the vertical position and squeezing to a stop. The line will unfurl on the back cast and you are ready to execute the lay down portion of the PULD cast.

The lay down is really the same as any forward cast. Whether you are false casting or performing a roll cast the forward cast requires the same motion. Peter Hayes has a very good way of describing this action. He refers to the backslash and forward slash keys on a computer keyboard. A good forward cast could be described as “*backslash, backslash, backslash, forward slash.*” A poor forward cast can be described as “*backslash, forward slash.*”



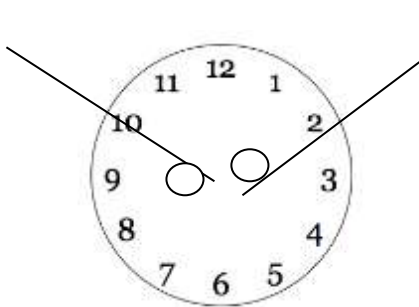
A good forward cast ✓ (right)



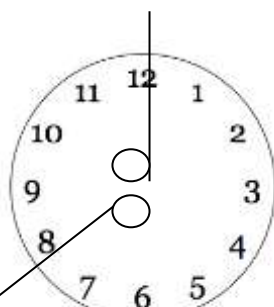
A poor forward cast ✗ (wrong)

I find the backslash analogy very useful when teaching the roll cast. Most people understand the need to get some fly line behind them in a “D loop.” But once they start the forward cast they immediately “forward slash” and end up making a big ineffectual loop. The term roll cast refers to the roll of the fly line not the roll of the arm and rod. Next time you are making a roll cast try \\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\ / and see how more effective the forward cast is.

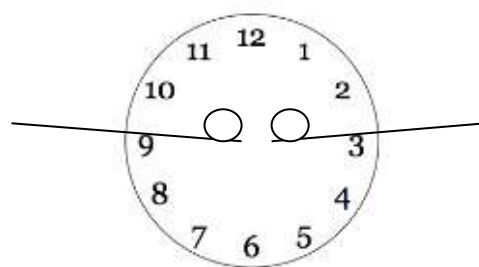
The one phrase that everyone has heard of in relation to casting is “*10 o’clock to 2 o’clock*”. This refers to the traditional way of teaching casting where the rod starts in the 10 o’clock position and rotates to 2 o’clock. You won’t find many casting instructors using this phrase these days because it limits a student’s understanding of how a casting stroke must be varied. One of the essentials of fly casting is that the length of the casting stroke changes as the length of line changes. We have already seen how the pick up and lay down cast begins with the rod low (8 o’clock position) and finishes high (12 o’clock position). When casting distance more line is aerialized so the casting stroke must be wider - as wide as 170 or even 180 degrees (9 o’clock to 3 o’clock).



“10 o’clock to 2 o’clock” casting



The PULD cast



Distance cast

So next time you hear a casting instructor using phrases such as “*give the dog a drink*” or “*10 o’clock to 2 o’clock*” I trust you will have a better understanding of what they are trying to convey. Learning to cast can

be a complex task but word pictures such as these can help. I hope my words and pictures have helped make sense of what is involved in the complex task of learning to cast a fly rod.

If you want to learn the pickup and lay down cast from a master you can watch how it is done and hear these phrases explained in the following YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PABl19Zk8o0>

Next 5 years photographic history







Fishy Pics



*One in the boat, another in the water and a
photo bomber in the background (Brad...)*



Scape Pics



A storm brewing as I contemplate a search along the breakwater with the fly rod, but I quickly returned the lightning conductor to the car



The take on sunset



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL – 2019/2020

Fees due by 30th September 2019

Hunter Valley Fly Fishing Club Incorporated (the “**Association**”)
(incorporated under the *Associations Incorporation Act 2009*)

I,
[insert full name]

of
[insert address]

.....
[insert email]

.....
[insert contact number]

☐ Full member
(\$40.00 p.a.)

☐ Junior member
(\$20.00 p.a.)

☐ Family membership** (✓ applicable)
(\$50.00 p.a.)

I hereby apply to renew my membership of the Association for the period 1st October 2019 until 30th Sept 2020
By renewing my membership, I agree to comply with and be bound by the constitution of the Association
for the time being in force.

.....
Signature of applicant

Date:

** Members renewing a Family Membership must complete the information on page 2 below.

LODGEMENT AND PAYMENT

Once completed, please sign, scan and email back to darrenfoster65@bigpond.com

Or alternatively mail to:

Darren Foster
20 O'Donnell Crescent
Metford NSW 2323

Membership fees can be paid by cheque or via bank transfer.

If paying by bank transfer, please use your name as a reference for payment so your payment can be easily identified.

Bank transfer should be paid to the following account:

Name: Hunter Valley Fly Fishing Club

BSB: 637 000

Account No: 780 089 059

Please make cheques payable to **Hunter Valley Fly Fishing Club**

Important Note: Your renewal fees must be received by the Association no later than 31st October 2019 to avoid your membership lapsing, after this date your membership will no longer be valid.

Application for Family Membership

To be eligible for Family Membership, and have the Association's insurance cover extend to include all applicable family members, the following conditions will apply:

- Family Membership is available for a member and their immediate family members only (i.e. wife/husband/partner and children under 18 years of age at the start of the new membership term) and does not include Grandparents or member's siblings or other relations, etc.
- Member's children 18 years or older will be required to join as a full member
- Each family membership is only entitled to 1 vote at club meetings.
- the requested information in the following table must be supplied in respect of all people proposed to be covered by a Family Membership:

Full name	Date of birth	Relationship to member

Office use only:

Date payment received:

Membership fee received: \$.....

Payment method:

HVFFC members wish to “thank you”

Arthur's Lake Retreat



Arthur's Lake Retreat is located in the Central Highlands of Tasmania at Arthur's Lake. The home is located just 3 minutes' walk from the lake, in a private setting. This makes for a perfect weekend getaway.

Please contact Rachel on 0428451720 or Michael on 0400721544



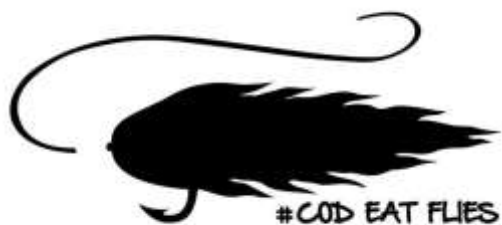
<https://bwcflies.com.au/>



Flies by Fedeles



<http://flytyerman.blogspot.com>



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