



2020 August Newsletter

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Committee Members

Fiona Meredith

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



I believe that the winter months are the most productive for us in this region. This year has been slow by comparison to recent years, with the salmon arriving late, bass just starting to play ball and hopefully recent rains will improve this year's trout season. Talking of trout, you will see a news flash and newspaper copy of a fish release in Lake Lyell. One hundred mature age brood stock trout were released into the lake, firstly to limit the predation of the Redfin on juvenile trout and secondly to feed on the pesky Redfin. I will pull my big streamers out when I next go down there next.

The salmon have started at Swansea, with a raft about 200m wide by 800m long coming into the channel at the bottom of the tide. We caught several around Moon Island early in the morning, then after a coffee break we caught a heap just upstream from the boat launching ramp. Brad joined us for a fish and has written a report for the newsletter.

The Sydney connection along with a few others had a successful weekend at St Clair. Rod has a photo of a lovely fish caught around the twin soaks area. I have been trying to tie a fly that has a better than average chance of catching bass. I know I can get them on Craigs, Trevs, Zetis and shrimps, but my latest experiments with a smelt replica seems to be working. I have used it the last couple of trips and regularly caught on it. The recipe is inside but don't tell anyone....

This month our champion caster and instructor, Allan has a few tips for buying rods. Read it carefully and you might just decide to take up lessons instead of buying another rod, more of a case of the user rather than the tools.

Going with the nostalgia theme, 2018 seems to have been a year where we did a lot more than fish. A number of fly tying sessions, Peter Morse fly casting clinic, 2 bass releases, Xmas in July celebrations, recognition of our fellow members for outstanding work, and generally having collective fun. That's what it's all about being part of our club, but unfortunately this year has prevented us from mass gatherings, and I think most members are hurting. Well, cheer up and go fishing more often, that'll ease the pain.

Patrick has sent in a couple of his recipes which he cooked for our last fly tying session at Mai Wel. As quick as he cooked the tucker it was gone, a great recommendation for any aspiring chef. Well done Patrick.

With this membership year coming to an end and elections coming up in a couple of months, I regretfully will be sheathing my pen, and am looking for someone keen enough to take over editing the newsletter. I have now been doing it for 5 years now and am getting a little stale, and I think it is time for a fresh change. I would love to see someone who is keen enough to breathe new blood into the publication to have a chat, and a nomination for the position will be guaranteed. I can offer ongoing support and the occasion trip report if needed. Think about it over the next couple of months; the challenge and rewards of putting information out there with your own stamp on it for our members to read and enjoy is most fulfilling.



President's Report

Welcome to this month's Newsletter for August, 2020.

I hope you are all surviving the current situation and everyone is healthy and well. In light of the recent up-date of the Government's Local Government Areas (LGA's) to include Newcastle on the list of potential hotspots, I feel it necessary to commit to the safety of our members and discontinue meetings at the Bero Bowlo until Newcastle is off the list. As a result of this we held another zoom meeting for

July and I think the zoom meetings should continue for the time being.

How does this affect us as club members or members of the public in general? For example, if we were to resume meetings at Bero and say Patrick, Tallis and I attend: we would have to wear surgical grade face masks for the next fourteen days (current work directive). As I have visited my parents who live in Bero since the list was made public, I now have to wear such a mask before I enter my work site through to the time I leave every work day for the next fourteen days. Given the current situation with my father I will be wearing said mask until Newcastle is taken off the list. Any visitors that answer yes to visiting Newcastle, they are not allowed to enter the site at all (again until Newcastle is taken off the list).

Now enough of the doom and gloom, let's read something more positive and more closely related to fly-fishing. I am looking forward to hearing about how St Clair is going, especially since the recent rains have brought the level up. Any news on the salmon? What about the luds on the humble weed fly?

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.

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				
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 via Zoom	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 & Narelle Fox	0407195508
October				
November	06 th	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
November	13 th , 14 th , 15 th	St Clair Club Presentation Day	Rod & Narelle Fox	0407195508
December	4 th	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
December				

Matuka Smelt Variant

Jeff Yates

Taking inspiration from a photo of a skewed smelt from Lake St Clair, I decided to try and imitate some of the main features of the baitfish. As we all know, bass feed on smelt all year round. Seldom is there a trip to the lake when smelt are not popping the surface, and this is mostly in response to bass in hot pursuit.

Now, analysing the bait fish, some of the must haves are, similar length, colour, shape, sink rate, action and maybe another prominent feature is the eye.

This fly is similar to a Trev's, a Zeti, a Matuka, a Bushy's or it maybe all of them in one fly. Australian Fly Patterns by Peter Coulson describes several styles of Matuka and it is well worth researching. The body is particularly obvious pearly white, so I used off white wool with a tiny amount of dubbed UV Crystal ice. The tail is a light tan feather with a central dark centre. The silver rib wire holds the 2 or 3 feathers onto the hook body.

First outing I was able to land 4 bass under very trying conditions of wind and cold. The challenge is to make it better and I am happy to see members improving the pattern for even better results.



A Smelt from St Clair impaled on a fly showing the classic features that a bass would consider, and should be incorporated into a tie.



Gamakatsu #6 hooks or Black Magic B8



Tie in silver rib and white wool fro body



Wrap wool forward and dub thread with a small amount of crystal flash UV dub and zig zag up and back down the hook.



Use a soft hackle, light tan with a central dark strip.



Tie in 2 or 3 opposed tail feathers Matuka fashion.



Wrap wire forward evenly spaced over feathers to form Mohawk



Tie in soft hen hackle and wrap 2 or 3 turns behind the eye. Build up head with thread.



Add a 3mm eye and resin head. The challenge is to make the fly look and operate like the real McCoy, but most of all catch fish.



Bass hooked on Smelt variant just as the sun dropped below the horizon



Proof of the fly is in the eating

Salmon Alley

Brad Kershaw



Late Thursday I asked Peter Sewell if he wanted to blackfish Friday morning, but he talked me into getting up early for another chance at Salmon. Now I had 5 previous trips out and had not turned a scale. He said Jeff would come but they would be on the water at Sparrow's fart..... What! I'm retired, I don't do early!!!

I'm glad I did get up. If you look hard you can see tails and fins above the surface. Jeff said, just cast here.....



He was right, I caught one there and they slowly

moved around the rocks between Moon Island and Swansea Heads. Two more around the corner under the gaze of the Rescue Headquarters. We didn't have to go far out to sea, as they were hugging the rocks and shore bound anglers could have had a ball. No 2 fish was too big for the net, why did Brent and Lawrence want to go to work instead of having a sickie????



I have to give credit where it is due, the fly I caught my first 4 fish on today was a Darwin Eyes fly, yep everything is bigger up there, was tied by an old member Richard Carter..... size 1 medium length hook. You can contact him for the recipe...look him up on the internet and Youtube.

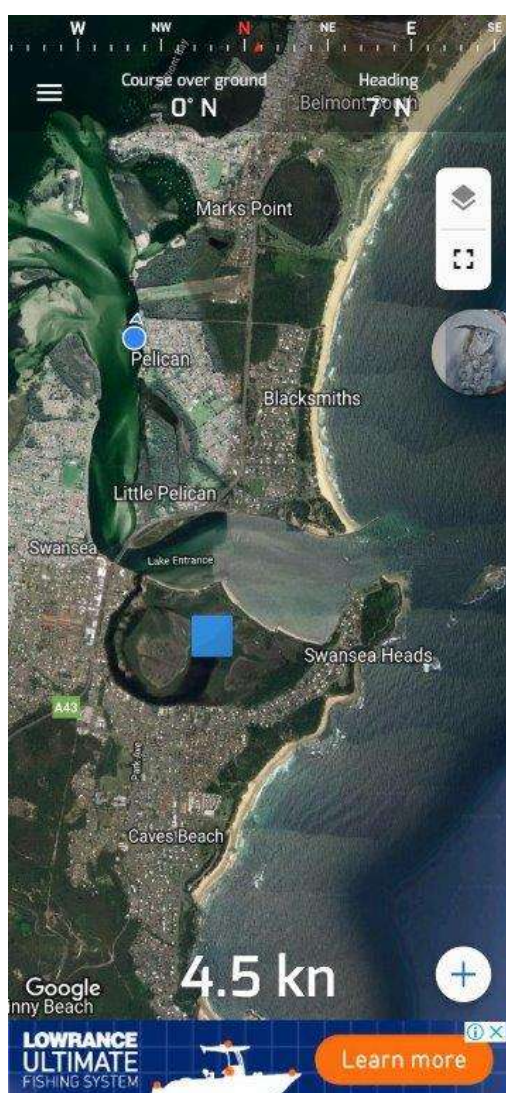


Then we moved to Salmon Alley..... Don't push Pete in Jeff, he's your mate..... HaHa

My fly was a bit simpler. Just a size 4 hook and some near hair white or grey add a little flash whatever you have and a couple of dark strands to make its back.

On the way back across the lake to Wangi, Peter and myself picked up a feed of squid, a great way to finish off what was truly a memorable day.

Jeff and Peter another double hook up.



Brad working his rod to the max, a salmon eyeing off his assassin, and an aerial of Swansea.

St Clair Roundup

Rod Esdale

A few of us from Sydney (Foxy, Mark, Gavin and me), Wayne Salmon and Fred, fished St Clair on 3rd and/or 4th August.

The wind was a bit unfriendly but in all 16 fish were caught between us including a "yella" by Wayne. Most of the fish were really well conditioned and all, except Fred's were caught at Twin Soaks.

Spectacular sunset on Monday evening. You don't get to see it because I left my phone in the car - sorry.

Cheers all, stay safe.



One of my Lithgow spies has just sent this clipping through from the local paper. With the wanton vandalism of Redfin discharge into Lake Lyell, which has put both natural recruitment and trout fry release in jeopardy, the stocking of 100 brood trout to 4kg will be a real winner.

With the Lake Lyell outing coming up in October, what greater incentive do we need to get down there and catch a few. These monsters will by then have Redfin on their menu, so you may need to knock up a few larger Redfin flies.

Don't be surprised if you catch a big bass as bycatch as there's a healthy population within the lake.

BIG FISH MAKE BIG SPLASH AT LAKE LYELL

Member for Bathurst Paul Toole was on hand for the stocking event near Lithgow and said it was great news for local anglers.

"These 100 Rainbow trout were broodstock, and are part of the State's re-stocking program to keep our local waterways full of healthy fish," Mr Toole said.

"At around 70 centimetres long, and some even weighing up to 4 kilograms, our region's passionate fishos might have a tough time reeling them in."

"This is great news for anglers who I know are excited to see fish populations flourish with not just these Rainbow trout, but also Brown trout."

"The State's fisheries experts have chosen to stock Lake Lyell because it has one of the best environments for these fish to grow. It is an ideal location, right in our backyard."

Mr Toole said the fish came from the State Government's Dutton Trout Hatchery, which produces more than 1.6

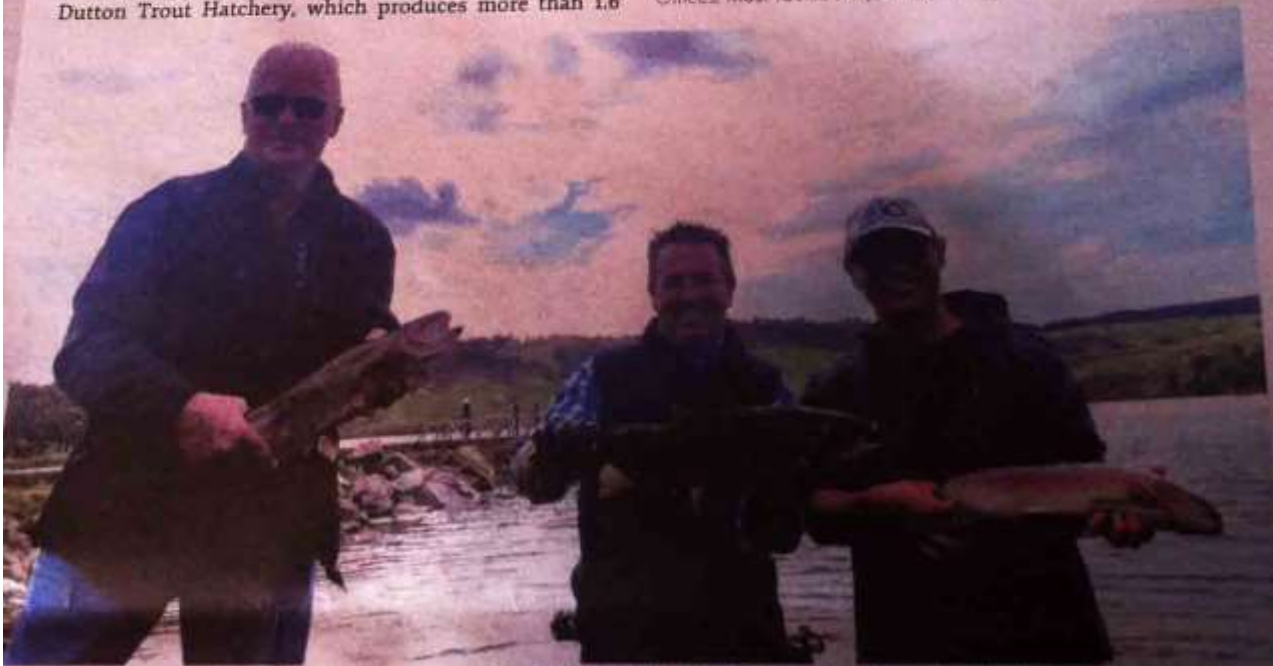
million trout each year - around 1.3 million Rainbow Trout and 300,000 Brown Trout fry and fingerlings.

"The NSW Government is committed to supporting the State's valuable recreational fishing sector, and as both the Member for Bathurst and a member of the NSW Nationals it brings me great joy to give anglers great catches," Mr Toole said.

"These fish are stocked in streams and impoundments throughout the Central Tablelands to support our fantastic trout fisheries and all the benefits that trout fishing offers."

Mr Toole said that in conjunction with the Gaden Trout Hatchery at Jindabyne, this is part of the Government's overall stocking program of three million trout and salmon produced each year.

Recreational fishers are reminded that they are required to carry a NSW current recreational fishing fee receipt at all times while fishing. Recreational fishers are encouraged to use the NSW Recreational Fishing Guide, available from DPI Fisheries Offices, most tackle shops or online at www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au



Councillor Joe Smith, Paul Toole and Ray Tang from Central Acclimatisation Society



A New Fly Rod

At some stage in our fly fishing journey we all dream of having another fly rod. At the beginning that dream is stronger as we realize that one rod is not going to be enough. Towards the end of the journey there comes contentment and satisfaction in the rods we own. That is, of course, unless you are a “fly rodaholic”, when owning another fly rod is a constant imperative.

We buy new fly rods for many reasons. In the beginning almost any rod will do as long as it meets our budget. Then you come to realize that learning to cast is not going to be as easy as you first thought. Maybe a new fly rod will make you a better caster. As a fly casting instructor I can tell you emphatically, a new fly rod **will** help you with your casting – but maybe not for the reasons you think.

The marketing departments from the major rod manufacturers will tell you how their new fly rods will make your loops tighter; your casting more accurate and add metres to the length of your cast. They probably won't tell you they are not much different to last year's model and cost a lot more. Admittedly, the latest rods bring advances in technology which makes them lighter, stronger and more responsive but unless the caster can take advantages of these innovations a new rod is not going to make much difference to someone learning to cast. To cast better you need to be a better caster and not rely on a new fly rod to solve your problems.



I learnt early on that buying the latest and greatest fly rod was not going to improve my casting ... but I'm glad I bought the rod. A poor craftsman always blames his tools and when I was struggling with getting distance and accuracy I was quick to blame the rod. When the purchase of a state of the art graphite rod from a leading fly rod manufacturer didn't seem to make much difference (except to my bank account) I knew it was up to me to work on my casting and not look for easy solutions. So buying a new fly rod will help with your casting ... but only if it makes you realize you cast the rod and the rod is only as good as your casting skills.

Buying a new fly rod can lead to other ways to improve your casting. A new toy always gets more attention so a new fly rod is going to be taken out of its tube and cast more often. The more you cast the rod the better your casting should become. And if you are going to show off your new rod in front of you club mates or on the water you had better be sure it makes you look good. If the new rod doesn't immediately make your casting better - which it won't – you need to practice more. You may even realize you need a lesson or two from someone who seems to make it look a lot easier than you – even with an old rod. When you see the light and practice to become better, you have reaped the benefits of buying a new fly rod.

Adding to your fly rod collection is not just about improving your casting. Once you start branching out into catching different species in different locations you are going to need new rods. These might be a different length or weight to suit the flies you are trying to cast and the fish you are trying to catch. When I moved from just being a “troutie” to fly fishing in the salt, not only did I need new rods but I had to learn new casting skills. Casting a size #22 Adams on a 2 weight is very different to casting a size #4/0 Clouser on an 8 weight ... especially in the wind. Each new rod wasn't necessarily going to help me improve but gave me reason to practice my casting. In the end it is not the rod that makes you a better caster, it is the time you put into learning to cast it.

As you wind your way along the road, or should that be river, on your fly fishing journey, you may find yourself buying rods that look nothing like the state of the art, latest and greatest graphite models, that you are constantly being told will make you a better caster. I started fly fishing when fibreglass and bamboo were the rods of choice and although I jumped straight into graphite I have found myself returning to these rods of old. Modern glass rods have come a long way. Glass is stronger and more forgiving than graphite and it is well worth your while adding one to your fly rod collection. From the casting perspective, glass and bamboo will help you improve as they will make you slow down and learn to vary your casting stroke. I would go as far as to say that everyone should cast a glass or bamboo rod at some time if they want to become a better caster.



If you are going to buy a new fly rod you will probably be tempted to buy a new fly line too. This is a good thing because one of the easier ways to improve your casting is to find an appropriate fly line to match your rod and your casting. If you haven't bought a new fly line for a while you will be amazed at the options that are now available to you. Not only are there more tapers, these lines are slicker and more suitably weighted for modern rods. Putting a new line on might even make enough difference for you not to **need** another rod ... but you **want** a new rod don't you?

Finally, if you buy a new fly rod it will make you a better caster because you have committed to continue your journey in fly fishing. Fly fishing is lifelong pursuit. The commitment and the confidence a new rod will bring, will motivate you to improve your casting along the way. The new rod doesn't have to be expensive to achieve this goal. When I look at my collection I find rods from all levels of the market and those I have bought secondhand. I have quite a few bargains that I have picked up from people who thought they wouldn't need to practice or get a lesson once they bought a new fly rod! You can improve your casting with any rod as long as you put in the time.



My collection of fly rods has grown along with my casting skills. Hopefully, I am not a “fly rodaholic” yet but when I look in the cupboard it's not bare! You wouldn't expect having a lot of fly rods would be a problem. It isn't, until you have to choose a rod for a fishing trip. I shouldn't complain. I am lucky enough to have rods of varying actions, lengths, weights, pieces and rods made from graphite, fiberglass and bamboo. Collecting fly rods for me is one case where less has never been more! Each time one of these rods was added to my collection it has helped me to become a better caster. Buying a new fly rod will improve your casting ... but only if it leads you to spend more time practicing.



Danish Hotdogs By Patrick Tobin

Ingredients:

6	Hotdog rolls
6	Extra-long frankfurters or Kransky
½ cup	Sliced dill pickles
½	Red onion, finely diced
2tbsp	Asian fried shallots
	Tomato sauce, to serve
	Mild mustard, to serve



Remoulade

1 cup	Mayonnaise
½	Brown onion, finely chopped
2tbsp	Chopped capers
2tbsp	Gherkin Relish
½tbsp	Curry powder
¼tsp	Turmeric
1 tbsp	Lemon juice
2 ½ tbsp	Asian fried shallots
2 tbsp	Brown sugar
Pinch	Of salt
Pinch	Of sugar
2tsp	Dijon mustard

Directions:

1. For the remoulade, combine all the ingredients. Allow to stand for at least 10 minutes before using- the longer you allow the remoulade to stand, the more the colour from the turmeric will develop.
2. Boil the frankfurters according to their packet directions. Warm your hotdogs rolls by wrapping them in a tea towel sprinkled with a little water and placing them in a warm oven (around 150C) for 10 minutes.
3. Place sausage into each bun so they overhang the edges of the bun. Top with remoulade, pickles, red onion and fried shallots. Serve with tomato sauce and mustard.

No Bake Nutella Cheesecake

By Patrick Tobin



Ingredients:

1	Packet of Nice Biscuits
1/3 cup	Unsalted Butter (softened)
3/4 cup	Toasted Hazelnuts
1 jar	Nutella Chocolate Hazelnut Spread (small)
500g	Cream Cheese
1/2 cup	Icing Sugar (sifted)

Directions:

1. Line a 23cm round springform pan with baking paper and set aside.
2. In food processor place the biscuits and pulse a few times to make a rough crumb. Add into bowl with butter, 1/3 cup of the toasted hazelnuts and 1 tbsp of Nutella. Process into well combined.
3. Press the crumb evenly on the pan and flatten using the base of a glass. Chill while making the topping.
4. Use a mixer, beat the softening cream cheese with the remaining Nutella and icing sugar until well combined. Pour over chilled base and smooth top. Sprinkle remaining toasted hazelnuts over the top and chill for 3-4 hours.
5. Serve straight from the fridge.

2018 It's not just about fishing







Fishy Pics



St Clair Bass





Scape Pics



*Going with the 2018 theme, Tanguis chasing Tiger fish
silhouetted against a magic sunset in Africa, while Peter
chasing salmon off Swansea August, 2020*





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:

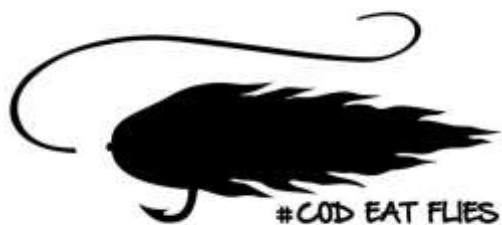
HVFFC members wish to "thank you"

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





JASON STRATFORD

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