



2020 September Newsletter

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Secretary – Jim Manley

Treasurer – Wayne Hunt

Newsletter Editor – Jeff Yates

Grants Officer – Mark Schmidt

Special Events – Cherie Blackburn

Raffles – Brent Blackwell

Public Officer

Tony Ward

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 travelled to Lithgow early this month and had a fish at both Lake Lyell and Thompsons Creek dams. With the unofficial club outing to Lyell in mid-October, I thought a prefish might bring some good news, however, I hope the snot around the foreshores clears up with the warmer weather. The algae hung from my fly line, clogged the reel and caught on the fly every cast. The good news is that the 100 odd monster ex brood stock trout are still safely holed up somewhere on the lake, however, my hopes of catching one were shattered. Thompsons Creek dam on the other hand looked superb, now only a meter or two from the HWM. My 13.6km circumnavigation of the lake in 25knot winds was uneventful, I saw 2 fish and my casts landed in the nearby paddocks. The water was clear and inviting so put that one on the agenda when you go over.

I had a day out at Swansea with rookie salmon fisherman Russell Humble. Russell is well versed in catching trout, bonefish and other species but he really wanted to tangle with a salmon. His first 2 hookups were exciting runs, but unfortunately the fish were not landed, but this has wet his appetite and I'm sure he'll be back on the water soon. Read about the salmon action at Swansea in the newsletter.

Vale Rylstone Weir, now closed off to fishermen!

I have loaded up a few collages as members brag shots, just to show that we all do catch fish. We have a great balance in the club both socially and fishing and these collages certainly show off our angling skills.

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 the September Newsletter for 2020.

I hope all of you and your families are staying healthy and well. I think at this stage if you have not needed to get tested for Covid you can safely say you are doing everything you can to stay safe. With Newcastle now being off the Government's Local

Government Areas (LGA's) the list of potential hotspots, how do people feel going back to meetings at the Bero Bowlo? Are members keen to attend face-to-face meetings again or stay the way we are? There is no reason why we cannot continue with zoom meetings though if people feel more comfortable meeting in the comfort and safety of their homes for the time being.

Hopefully if all goes well, we will be doing a bass fingerling release around November or December with Glenn from Searle Aquaculture once again looking after us. In light of the recent fish kills at St Clair, a bit of light stocking will hopefully boost the numbers of one of our iconic natives we all love to flick a fly at. It would be good to see fisheries step in and boost the numbers after these type of events but I suppose there would be too much investigations, enquiries, red tape and hoops to jump through.

So, what have you all been up to since the pandemic started? Fishing? Tying Flies? Travelling (when and where possible)? Tell us in the newsletter what you have been doing. After all it is your voice.

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	

Convert to salmon

Jeff Yates

A call was put out last week for a trip to Swansea on the salmon. Russell has each Friday off, and would dearly love to hook into a salmon, but as yet has not tussled with them. Last Friday the wind was blowing a gale, white horses as far as you could see, more of Stockton disappearing into the ocean, so wisely we called it off. Today, more favourable winds of up to 8 knots, fluked around from NW to S, so the die was set, and we met up at the Blacksmiths ramp for salmon 101. Peter and Fred turned up in their boat at the same time, so we put out onto the water just as the sun rose above the horizon.



An orientation trip to the bridge, then down the southern shores of the channel, into Salts Bay, chased a small shoal of tailor chopping baitfish along the shores, being constantly spooked by a walker tossing sticks in for his dog to chase. We continued



along past the sunken breakwater, past Lucy's breakwater and donning the lifejackets, headed out to Moon Island. Today the Island area was not co-operating. No fish on the sounder or breaking the surface. So what do we do? What else, but to stop for a coffee!

Now, just under the bridge is a great little coffee shop which opens at 8am, but the wharf where we dock is an absolute disgrace. It

has been closed for the last 2 years while council conduct structural investigations, which means we have to crash land on the oyster embankments and scale a wall, or risk the wharf falling into the water.



By whatever means we got our caffeine fix, while, meanwhile being entertained by the resident friendly dolphin. The beautiful animal circled our boat, looking up at us for an approving smile, which we gladly gave.

Addiction satisfied, and dolphin entertainment finished, our boats headed under the bridge again to search out our quarry. Russell and myself drifted toward Salts Bay, but soon headed back up the channel when a surf ski rider told us our mates were seeing heaps of salmon.

The salmon were schooled above the wreck and tailed down some 200m before petering out on the sand flats. Hearts took a flutter as Russell cast his newly tied and trimmed fly (4 finger widths long) at the grey shadows holding in current adjacent to the wreck.

A couple of tweaks of the intermediate line and Russell was hooked up to his first salmon. I think it gave him a bit of a shock, as it muscled off at a great rate of knots to join his now fleeing companions. Unfortunately, the fight didn't last all that long before the 12lb line parted, fly and salmon going one way and the fly line going the other way.

Now beefed up to 14lb with another fly we caught up to the school, and tried to entice another strike. It wasn't until the retrieve slowed down that the salmon again showed interest. Again the take was savage, and gave me enough time to fire off a couple of photos before a lightly set drag back-lashed the line on Russell's reel, causing an almighty bird's nest. We both worked hard to free the line, but a rampaging salmon on a fixed line was no match for the 14lb line, twang and another fly awaits discovery at a later date attached to the jaws of a salmon. The leader is now beefed up to a reasonable 20lb.....

The short window of excitement come to a conclusion too soon, as the tide receded and the salmon schools drifted from the flats, only to disappear into the deeper waters. This was our trigger to head back to the ramp and have a cupper to further contemplate our navels. Russell, by now pumped with adrenalin, headed back in search of fish. Me, satisfied that my tutoring had got him excited and confident enough in his abilities to land a few.

Now the epilogue to this story was a surprise, as Peter and Fred headed back over to Wangi to collect his mobile and come back later with Brad. They fished the channel where we were earlier in the day and ended up boating heaps and left them biting! Ah well, that's Swansea fishing!

Later in the evening as I logged on to the computer I received several photos from Kev and Janice who had a heap of action the previous day. Well done all round and especially well done Russell for your maiden salmon trip, 2 hookups, no fish but heaps of enthusiasm to try again another day. His email that night read "***I'm converted***"..... say no more!



Fred with fish caught later in the day and Russell hooked up early





Kev and Janice with a couple of salmon from the previous day



Swansea Channel showing our track

Lockout

Jeff Yates

During the bushfires in January, the access gate into Rylstone weir was locked. I could accept that; maybe firefighting helicopters collecting water; a risk assessment in some bureaucrat's office with the public needs for protection possible.

After the Covid lockdown, a visit over there to catch up with family and the gate is still locked. Drought now over thanks to the most welcome rain, my mind wonders why the lock and chain is still in place.

I travelled back over for Father's Day, what beautiful weather to take Dad out bird watching on Rylstone weir, where he has fished, swam and admired the beauty of the fauna and flora since the weir was constructed on the Cudgegong River in the early 1930's. I was hoping to duck off for a fish while he reminisced and sipped on his thermos, and chewed his strawberry sponge birthday cake on what is his 98th birthday. What a disappointment when we found that the access was now high security, new gates, locks, signs and cameras. We left disappointed and bemused



by the situation, and had our cuppa elsewhere, minus the views and beauty.

This parcel of paradise has been accessed for the past 90 years by local folk, unimpeded from the Glen Alice Road via crown land which is clearly visible in the satellite shot, with a track weaving through a narrow forest of significant native vegetation. The sign has Mid Western council logo with a phone number. A place to start.

My call to the council, directed me to the Crown Lands Dept. on a 1300 number. I lodged the details of my complaint with them, received a reference number and this enquiry was then forwarded to the regional office at Dubbo. I received a call this morning from the Central West Local Lands Services. I was informed that the crown land reserve is now closed and there is no access to the water. This decision has come about with collaboration with the water supply owner, Mid-Western Council. I asked for a council contact and got the Water and Sewage Engineer, back to where I started from, except I now have a name!

I spoke at length with the Water and Sewage Engineer, and he explained the situation this way:-

- Its crown land access to Rylstone Weir and nobody should have been using it, though I did say that my grandfather use to swim in organised swimming events in the 1930's, fished there regularly, my father did likewise, as have I, unchallenged in 90 years.
- Risk assessments during the recent bushfires indicated a need to control access.
- Potable water for town supplies requires security of service.
- Undesirables have cut fences and trashed the reserve and tracks.
- For the foreseeable future all access is denied, no watercraft, vehicles, etc.

I will recap on the angling and ecology of the 100Ha weir, built originally for the Kandos Cement works and towns of Kandos and Rylstone water supply. A few pictures will highlight its uniqueness.







I see it as a travesty of justice for this access to be permanently shut down. The weir is totally enclosed by private property. Whatever the reason, the public will be the losers as the signage clearly states no access and the managers reconfirmed this point. Who will now gain from the closure? Maybe the rich local adjoining properties to enhance their holdings or grazing, or maybe a lockout to enhance future sale of the public land?

Or to be less of a cynic, the Council may well be justified to close public access for water supply security reasons.

The last few visits to the beautiful spot, I caught fish, took photos and had a wonderful paddle, but the down side, was returning home with a ute full of rubbish left behind by those who have spoilt it for all of us, ***bastards***, say no more!

Brag shot gallery

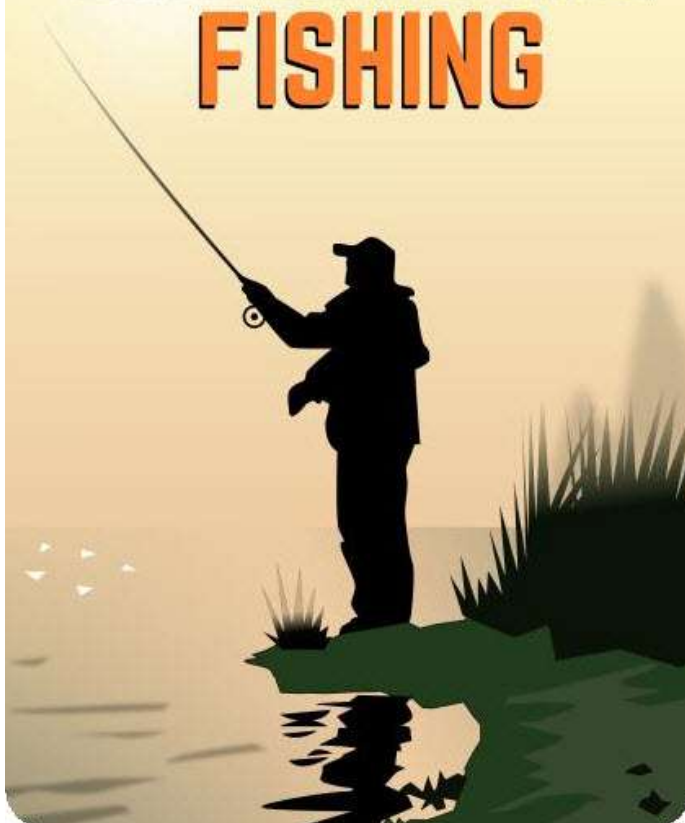








DAD AT LEAST YOU CAN
SOCIAL DISTANCE WHILE
FISHING



*Happy
Father's Day
to our HVFFC
members, and
trust that you
were able to wet
a line*

Fishy Pics



*Fiona with a salmon that's looks like it was
destined for a seals dinner*



Scape Pics



A tribute to Rylstone weir, a magic fly fishing venue for beautifully marked cod and yellas, tranquil waters in a lovely environment, now just a memory RIP



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



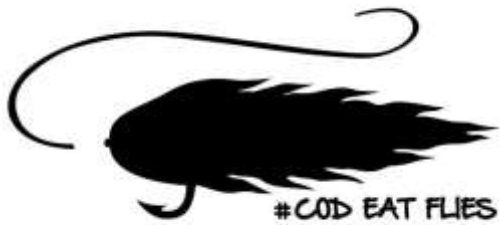
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