



2021 February Newsletter

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Vice President – Patrick Tobin

Secretary – Jim Manley

Treasurer – Wayne Hunt

Newsletter Editor – Patrick Tobin

Grants Officer – Vacant

Special Events – Vacant

Raffles – Brent Blackwell

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Tony Ward

Committee Members

Fiona Meredith

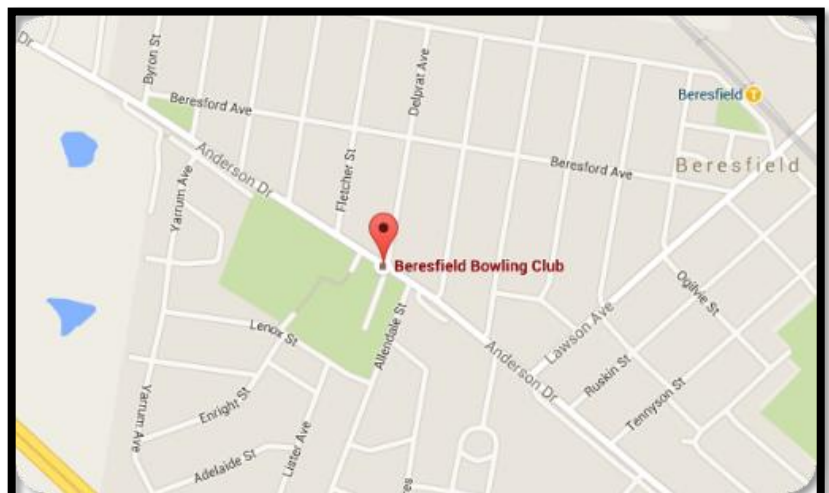
Peter Sewell

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

Patrick Tobin



Welcome everyone to the new year. I hope you have all had a nice start to 2021 and I hope the remainder of the year brings happiness, health and plenty of fish to you all.

Firstly, I would like to thank Jeff for the article he submitted about his trip to St Clair. Jeff always provides us with helpful tips and tricks of the trade, so be sure to take the time to give his article a read.

Thank you Brent for submitting the photos (if he sends photos?)

I hope you are all looking forward to the upcoming trip away with Tom to Hawks Nest. Be sure to have plenty of good stories and photos ready to share for the newsletter. Don't forget to pack your Hawaiian shirts for the dinner!

I hope you all can get to the next meeting on the 7th April by heading over to the Beresfield Bowling Club or joining online via Zoom call.

Stay tuned for a delicious recipe release..... Would anyone like to taste anything in particular? Feel free to share your thoughts and/or recipes.

President's Report

G'day, members and welcome to the first newsletter of the year (albeit a bit thin). I hope everyone enjoyed their New Year festivities and have been staying safe in these troubled times.

Hopefully everyone is getting into the swing of things, making the most of eased restrictions and catching plenty of fish. Or at least tying flies for up-coming trips. I for one, have not had much of a chance to get out for a fish lately so I always look forward to reading about what other members (mostly those that live a life of leisure now-a-days) have been up to.

Current dam levels: St Clair 47%; Glenbawn 51%; Lostock 100%. With some recent rain and more to come in the next few months, expect the levels to rise more again. Lostock has always been in an exceptional catchment location and never takes long to top up. Might be worth a trip up there some time. If the water is going over the wall there's a good chance a few bass will go over as well into the river below the caravan park. This area of the river always holds some big fish.

Our 2020 AGM was moved to March 2021, I hope to see you there.

The next club meeting is on Wednesday 7th April at Bero Bowlo: see you all there for a 7.00pm start or earlier for a meal.



A few of my most successful cod flies tied for the Severn River.
Wishin' I was-a fishin'

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

Scruffy flies and big fish.
Darren Foster
President, HVFFC 2021

Month	Date	Venue/Event	Trip Master	Contact Number
January				
January				
February	03 rd	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
February	20 th	Possible Fly Tying with Brett	Cancelled	
February				
March	03 rd	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
March	13 th , 14 th	Hawks Nest	Tom Jones	0406662713
March				
April	07 th	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
April	17 th , 18 th	Patterson – Pending	Matt Jordan	0428193984
April				
May	05 th	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
May	15 th , 16 th	Lake Wallis – Wallerawang	Rod Fox	0407195508
May				
June	02 nd	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
June	19 th , 20 th	St Clair	Peter Sewell	
June				
July	07 th	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
July	17 th , 18 th	St Clair – Awards BBQ Lunch	Rod & Narelle	0407195508
July				
August	04 th	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
August		Swansea		
August				
September	01 st	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
September	18 th , 19 th	Glenbawn		
September				
October	06 th	AGM/General Club Meetings at Bero Bowlo	All	
October	16 th , 17 th	Windamere	Mik	
October				
November	03 rd	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
November	20 th , 21 st	Williams River – Seaham – Pending	Tangus	
November				
December	01 st	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
December	?	Lostock – Pending		

A Mugs Guide to Fishing at St Clair

Jeff Yates



I regularly drive the 2 hours to St Clair to chase bass, regardless of weather, and never tire of the adventure. Every trip is different in this parcel of paradise. The lake level fluctuates, and it's beautiful to see the dead trees you would cast to and regularly pick up fish, now well and truly up the bank; however, below the trees is a deep cutaway, and fallen branches, so there you go, structure, structure, structure!

As I comb through the thousands of photos and various articles, I see a common thread emerging, whether it be time of year, feeding patterns, lake levels or weather. I will try to quantify it as much as possible, but firstly and most importantly, how do we fish it? Look no further than the bank. You don't need a boat, as all of the good fishing spots are easily accessed from the roadway. Just pull over into a safe spot, kit up and go through the fence, but remember, don't damage fences, leave rubbish behind or disturb stock, as we have had 20 or more years without being challenged by lease holders (water resources land).

Waders are handy, particularly in winter and wet weather, but as summer comes about, wet wade or use thigh waders. Rods can be 6wt for the courageous, 7wt for the sportsman or 8wt for the safety conscious. Lines are either clear, intermediate or floating. I have been using mainly intermediates in winter and have found the floating line more productive in those summer evenings fishing in the shallows. Leader around 2.4m is ample, with tippets of 8lb to 14lb, depending on the fly that you are using. It would be ridiculous using 14lb on a caddis grub or floating fly, likewise using 8lb on a Donny Brasco variant or a Bass Vampire; horses for courses, and beef up for the weeded areas.

We carry a little shoulder bag for a raincoat, water (yep, even though it's the Singleton water supply, cattle tend to shit along the shoreline!), 2 head lamps (usually walk 5 or 6k in a night and you don't want to be caught with flat batteries), pocket knife with integral pliers, flies (more about them soon), snacks, line spools and alternate fly line. Go light but functional. Most of our fish are returned, but if you fancy a bass, silver or yella we won't frown at you.



When you look at what the fish are feeding on at various times of the year, you start to get a clear picture of the size and pattern of flies needed. Most of my flies are tied on a #8 hook, with some exceptions, of course. **Smelt** are plentiful around the edges all year, so a fly 2 finger joints long or less is deadly. We have success with a Trevs, fur flies or more fancy flies as above. **Mudeyes** are also a staple, year round. Craigs are our go to fly and account for most of the fish caught. Deer hair floaters like Churchies and Muddlers work on a rise. Gurglers are a good search pattern. When the fish are on **Shrimp**, they have eyes for little else. A good time for this type of fishing is mid-winter when the weed beds are breaking up, and the shrimp's habitat is shrinking. Simple resin shrimp patterns work well. Other times the fish are chockers with caddis grubs, and damselfly are also an attractor. This is my basic guide to flies, however others may differ with their selection, but keep to the principle of matching the hatch and St Clair will be kind to you.

The weather has little impact on fishing, particularly in winter. We have caught in gales, storms, dropping barometers and everything in between. Don't put a trip off because of a change in the weather, just adapt. When the wind is blowing on shore and the waves are breaking around the crown jewels, there is usually a dirty water line up to 4 rod lengths out. Cast to the clear water and its surprising how many fish are taken on the junction of the clean and dirty waters. If the tributary streams are flowing after large rain events, the bass will push up to where they enter the lake, in surprising shallow water, though I have seen a few fish kills from deoxygenated water after sudden dam level rises.

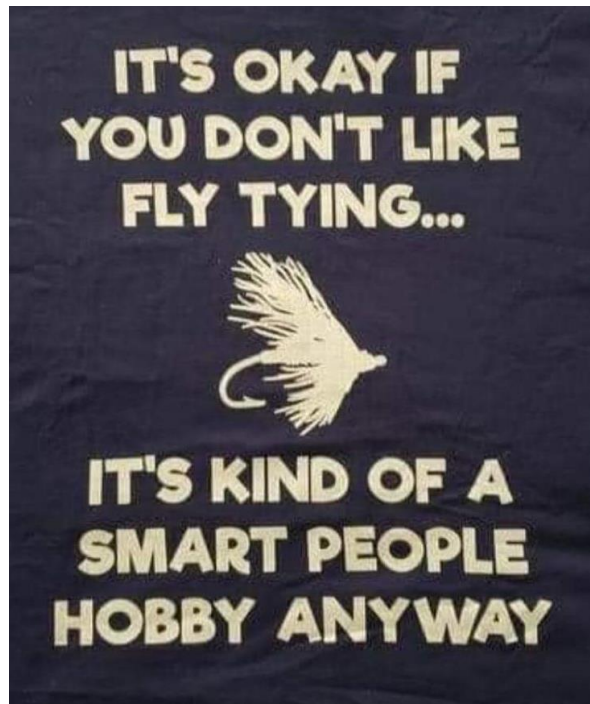
Now, keeping the best part for last; where to fish? My best advice is think like a fish. In the day, summer or winter, look for deeper drop-offs, particularly if there is rocky environment. Use your intermediate or sinking lines to cast Vampires, or weighted smelt patterns that will drop to the depths and can be retrieved up the rocky incline, but not too fast. Late afternoon and particularly after dark, target those shallow, weedy bays. Don't be afraid of the weed, which is where the fish feed, and is the main reason I use an 8wt. When the weed is covering most of the shore line, target between weed and the bank or any visible breaks, and be prepared to quickly get the fish to

the surface to prevent getting buried. Now the weed grows over late summer and autumn and starts to break up mid-winter. Once again, adapt as the riparian environment changes.

Lastly but not least, enjoy the experience of fishing this beautiful waterway. I know we all get tired, take falls, get wet, cold, hot, leave fishless, get tangles, etc. Learn from the experience and become better fishermen for it. Always have a camera on hand for those magical moments when the sun is setting over the mountain range, or when you get a personal best of a particular species; self-gratification and share your experiences. The main fish we target are bass, but the occasional yella, silver and catfish add to the variety.

Well, I hope that has given you a mugs guide to fishing in my favourite bass waterhole. See a few shots of satisfied fishermen below.





Finally found out why the fish were'n biting..





MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL – 2020/2021

Fees due by 30th September 2020

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 2020 until 30th Sept 2021
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: