



2021 March Newsletter

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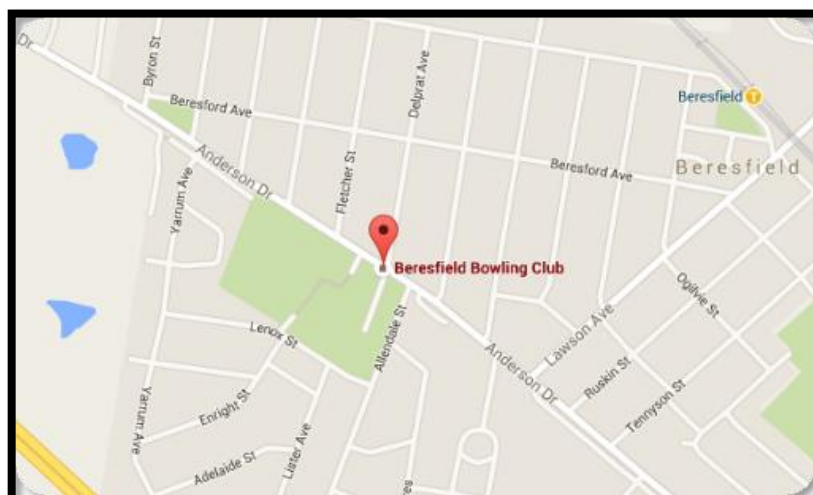
Hunter Valley Fly Fishing Club meets on
the first Wednesday of each month at:-

Beresfield Bowling Club

Anderson Drive

Beresfield

At 7.00 pm



Editor's comments

Patrick Tobin



Hi all and welcome great month.

Firstly, I would like to thank Tom for the article he submitted about this month's club trip to Hawks Nest along with the other members of the club that got a chance to go along with Tom on the trip. It was a great article to read and I hope everyone gets a chance to read it. I would also like to thank Matthew for his article that he has submitted for the club to read. There is great information about the club trip that he is doing in April to Patterson. I hope you all find the time to have a read of the article and I hope you are all able to go to the

April trip.

I hope you all can get to the next meeting on the 7th April by heading over to the Beresfield Bowling Club. For members that are unable to come, there is the option of joining via the Zoom call from home. I hope all club members are staying safe and having fun with fishing and fly tying. Keep dreaming about the big fish you may catch in the future and who knows, it may be in the next trip with the club.

to the March 2021 Newsletter. I hope you have all had a good month. Here is photo from Hawk Nest trip.



President's Report

G'day members and welcome to the March 2021 Newsletter (a bit late). Firstly, thanks to those that are contributing articles to the newsletter. Keep them coming along. Good initiative by Matt to use the newsletter as a spring board for the up-coming trip to Patterson, it gives members a bit more insight into what to expect.

St Clair is fishing quite well at the moment with the water level rising, those bass just can't resist mooching through the drowned grass looking for an easy feed.

Glenbawn Dam is 56%, St Clair is rising up to 58% and good olé Lostock is going over the wall at 103%. After the long-lasting effects of the recent drought it's good to see Lake Keepit back up over the 60% mark, now all we have to do is wait to see if and when the Fisheries will get around to re-stocking with cod and yellowbelly fingerlings.

I have spoken to Glenn from Searle Aquaculture and the fingerlings (2019/2020 Stocking) are doing fine and look like being ready for release around June or July. Can't see too many people getting their feet wet at that time of the year. The 2020/2021 round has begun so Glenn has got his work cut out for him but is more than up to the task. These fingerlings look like being ready for release around December or earlier if things go very well.

With the recent rain and flooding, I urge all members to exercise caution when heading out for a fish either by boat, kayak or walking the banks or wading. Not only in regards to being possibly swept away in flood waters but also once the waters start to recede and the banks are left slippery and muddy which can be very hazardous. Also, there is the risk of infections and diseases which go hand-in-hand with flood waters.

Stay safe and also look out for your mate, because one day you may just need them to look out for you.



A very nice and very fishable section of the Severn River.

A mix of granite and volcanic rock makes for some hazardous conditions but the rewards are well worth the effort.

Tight loops and scruffy flies,

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	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	21 st , 22 nd	Swansea	Jeff Yates	
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		

Hawks Nest Trip Report

By Tom Jones

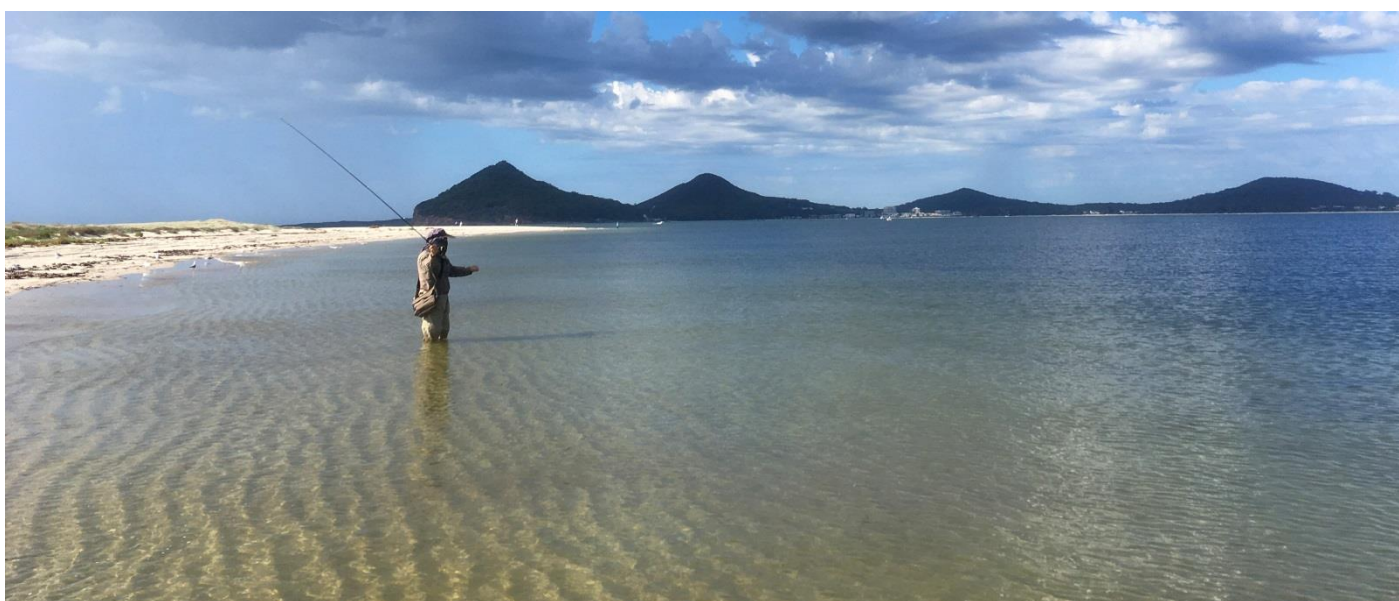


Well the Hawks Nest trip has been done and dusted for 2021. Wayne H, Fred, Matt and Myself camped for the 2 nights. Tanguis was “Glamping” at his Mum and Dad’s place and the day trip team consisted of Glenn, Brent, Ray, Fiona, Peter, Jeff, Darren J and his son (sorry I forgot his name).

Thank we went on the weekend that we did as we would have been battling floods and extreme conditions if we went the weekend after.

The Nor Easter was blowing pretty well when I arrived on the Friday however Matt was determined he was going to get a fish in before the winds got worse. I set up camp and decided the wind was a bit too much for the “Cobweb” (My Kayak) and myself to Battle

The next morning seen the winds ease considerably and we headed to the bakery for a meet up and brekkie. Then it was game on with Glenn, Brent, Fred and Darren J heading up river in their boats and Wayne drifted along behind them in his kayak. Ray and Fiona headed to the river mouth at the western end of Jimmys Beach. Peter and Jeff found their way over to Jimmys Beach as well. Matt pick up Tanguis and head down river and I launched the cobweb from Hawks Nest ramp and paddled over to the sandflats in the corner of the river.



As a trip master the one thing we like to hear is that someone caught a fish. Brent and Glenn caught 5 Taylor, Fred caught a couple of Flathead, Peter caught a Flounder and there were varying reports of fish being caught a mangrove tree (in my defence it was a very healthy looking mangrove tree and it was legal size).



After the day's fishing we headed back to the camp and enjoyed good conversation with a couple of drinks to help. Matt and Tanguis spoke about seeing big flathead down near the mouth of the river. Unfortunately with all the flood water coming down these big flatties probably won't be hanging around.

This year we changed our camping venue again. I had heard that the Jimmys Beach Caravan Park had a bit of a problem with dingoes/ wild dogs. Interestingly while we were there I seen a news report about a dingoes attacking people at Hawks Nest, it turn out that some people have been feeding them and now they are getting demanding for food from humans. Thankfully we never saw any while we were there.

It was a great weekend and I would like to thank all of our members who attended.



Martyrdom

By Matthew Jordan

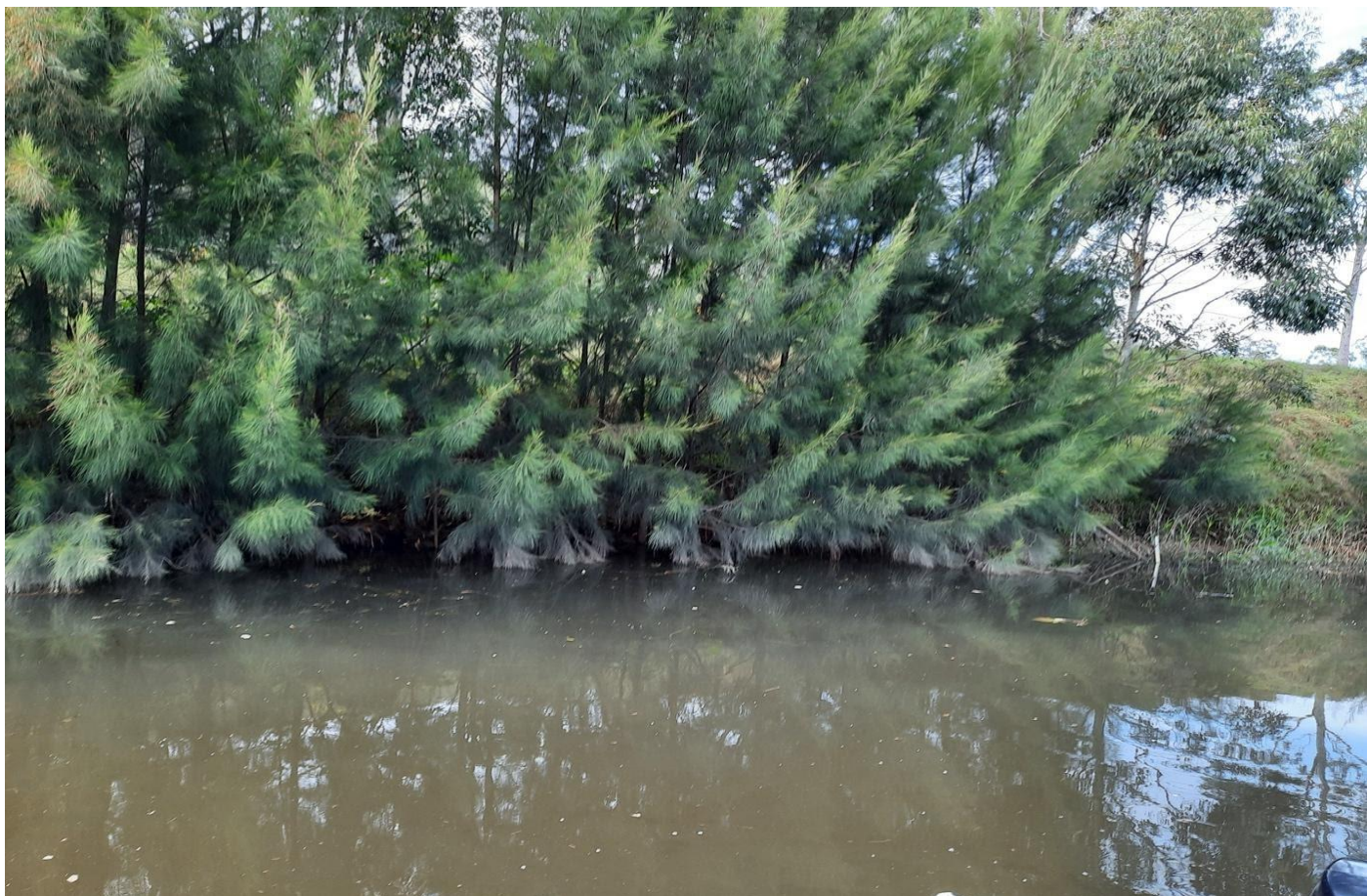
The things I do for this club. Taking the morning off work, waking at the crack of dawn, skipping breakfast, flogging my casting arm to the brink of exhaustion, and writing a dramatically exaggerated trip report, just to ensure a smooth and enjoyable trip for next month's club outing.

With this air of selfless martyrdom, I launched the boat at Tocal boat-ramp just after first light to find I had the river all to myself. The water was alive with fish, sprat (freshwater herring) practiced their acrobatics above the waterline, as mullet cruised just under the surface, their lips furiously working the meniscus. While both species are fun on the appropriate gear, I had my sights set on a more predatory target. With the cool westerly ruffling the surface serving as gentle reminder that opportunities for the season were numbered, I set out in search of bass.



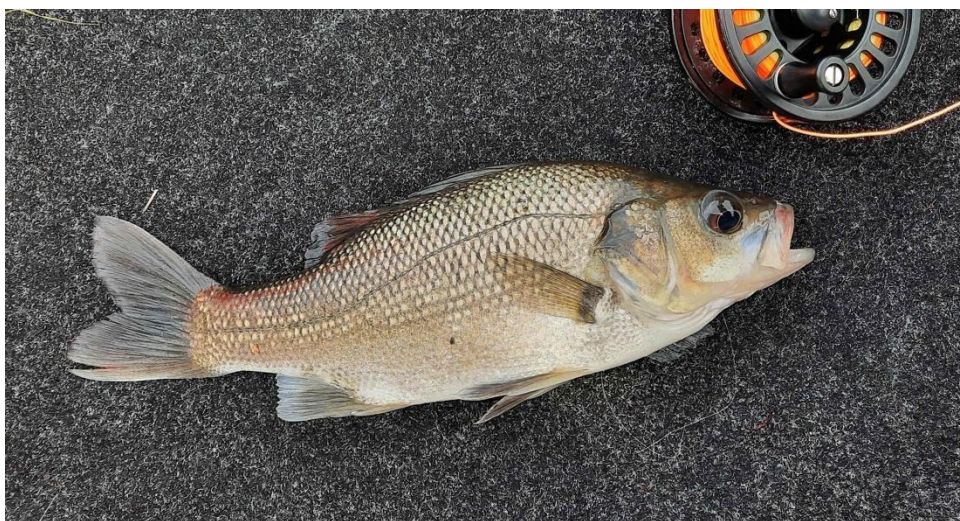
Lovely day for it.

Most people tend to fish downstream from the boat-ramp as there's more navigable water, but as well as trying to suss out the targets, this trip was also a cartography mission, determining whether it's feasible to launch boats at the ramp and then drive them to the campsite on the farm. Within 100 m the water started to get quite shallow, with the sounder reading 4 ft at about half tide. Fishing my way up I peppered the snags, making the most of the low light with surface flies. Although it's been a big year for cicadas the hatch appears all but finished, with only one stand of she-oaks hosting a choir of rowdy latecomers. The water started to deepen upstream from Tucker park and I switched to a pink vampire on an intermediate line as the sun climbed. Before long a series of taps transmitted up the line, a staccato hit at the end of each strip. On the fifth strip there was weight, but only for a moment, as the fish let go and my strike came up empty. The fly was deep, so I'm not sure if it was a bass or flaty, but it was reassuring to know there were some vampire hunters around.



Kitchen next to the lounge room.

Working my way upstream I targeted overhanging vegetation and weedbeds. I've generally found that weedbeds are the most productive structure to fish in this river, particularly if they're situated near deep water or shade. The fish may live in the snags, but they shop in the weed. Putting a purple and black weedless zonker fly in the channel between a weedbed and some she-oaks, the line came tight and the hook found its mark. The fish wasn't huge, but put up a good account, even on the 8wt. After a short fight an EP of around 30cm was in the bottom of the boat. Bass outnumber EPs in this section of river, and ever since I've been able to tell the difference I can only remember catching bass here. However, this season I've landed two EP, whether they're becoming more abundant or are just suckers for a fly I can't say, but I'm definitely not complaining.



I'm calling it an EP.

After donating my pink vampire to an underwater snag I switched to an orange and black version with a purple wing. Before long a small tap turned into a surging run that had me trying to remember what weight tippet I had on the 6wt. Fortunately the fish didn't find any snags, and an anxious minute or so later I scooped a healthy bass of around 35cm into the net. A lovely river fish with a big head and broad shoulders, it was toward the upper end of average for this stretch and I was pretty pleased with myself.



Vampire slayer.

I waved the wand around for a little longer, but eventually had to turn my attention back to objective number 2 and plot a course to the farm. The 11:45 Dr's appointment that I thought gave ample fishing time was beginning to loom and I still had a ways to go. I fired up the outboard and idled my way upstream towing a small hardbody behind (don't judge me). The water stays reasonably deep on the port side up to the train bridge, before becoming quite shallow just before the edge of our property. By the time I got to the proposed campsite the tide had just turned and the sounder was reading around 4ft. While I wasn't working hard to find the deepest channels, at lower than about half tide this section would be sketchy. In the 15 min or so of idling I also picked up another bass (32 cm) and a little flatty (36 cm) for my troubles.



The campsite above the bank is flat, and at the time of writing, much more aquatic than what's shown here.

Having put in a solid half day's work for the benefit of the club, I turned around and headed back, the return trip to the ramp took 10 min of motoring with the tide. I loaded up the boat (embarrassingly sideways) and took-off, walking into the Dr's surgery at 11:44, smelling of fish slime and self-satisfaction.

While I feel the mission was a success and that it is feasible to drive boats from the ramp to the farm, possibly even catching fish on the way (!!!), it does come with a caveat. At the time of writing the river is about 8 m above normal levels, although this would obviate the risk of running aground, it could be tricky to find somewhere dry to sleep. Although there are other rivers in the area, they would all be unfishable at the moment. We'll have to see what the next couple of weeks bring, by the time of publishing we should know whether it's worth continuing with this trip or rescheduling. Either way I'll probably have to do another recon mission.

The things I do for this club...



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 say

“thank you”

