



2022 June Newsletter

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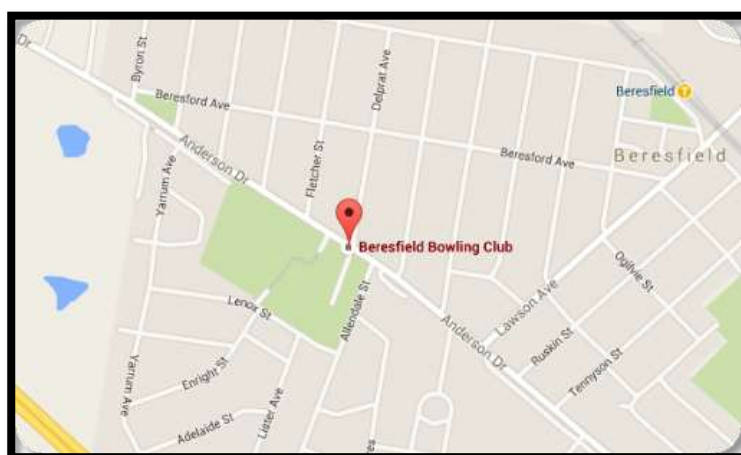
Peter Sewell

Rod Fox

Jeff Yates

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

Beresfield Bowling Club
Anderson Drive
Beresfield
At 7.00 pm



President's Report



Hi all and welcome to the June 2022 edition of the HVFFC newsletter. Last edition I alluded to an impending winter chill, and the weather did not disappoint. Personally, I chose to embrace the season and spent the week of freezing westerlies in Wagga, visiting the in-laws and thinking warm thoughts. Obviously a fly rod made it into the luggage and I had a few attempts at tempting the local cod population, but unfortunately the aforementioned Antarctic wind combined with high water and low visibility made for tough going. The cod didn't play ball, but I did manage consolation carp before falling in the river. I may even write about it for next issue if my dignity recovers sufficiently between now and then.

In less soggy news: our casting weekend with Peter Morse was a roaring success, and I'm sure I speak for all attendees when I say it was hard to tell what was fuller by the end of the day, our brains or our bellies. It was fantastic having a wealth of knowledge there to translate casting theory into biomechanics and rod movement, and there were many lightbulb moments for me. Bad habits die hard, but hopefully my casting will never be the same again. A big shoutout to Ben Hall who organized the day and Pat Neylon who catered and wrote the report (see below). We have tentatively booked Morsie to come to Lake St Clair on the 29th and 30th of October and there has already been a lot of interest, so if you'd like to be involved get your name in sooner rather than later. We are also still in the process of organizing casting practice sessions amongst members, so watch this space.

On the topic of St Clair, June saw the club returning to our spiritual home for a very well attended club outing. Unfortunately it coincided with a fish-kill and extremely tough conditions, so much so that not a single fish was hooked for the duration of the trip (does a jagged smelt count Eddie?). It seems the culprit was a lake turnover, bringing cold deoxygenated water to the surface and leaving the poor bass stuck between a rock and a hard place. I believe Jeff has been in contact with the DPI and has written up a report for us below. Despite the abysmal fishing I didn't hear any complaints, it seems two years of lockdowns has left us hungry for good company, good food (thanks Peter and Ingrid) and good conversation, fish or no fish.

Our next outing is also at St Clair on the 15th, 16th and 17th of July. This will include our club presentation and a catered lunch on the afternoon of the 16th so it's a great one to attend if you can. Remember to register your attendance with the Foxes and send your nominations for Club-person of the year, Memorable moment, and Rookie of the year through to Mik Ewin (unmbig@gmail.com) before the July meeting. Hopefully the dam will have recovered and the fish will be willing, but if last outing is anything to go by I imagine we'll have a good time either way.

Finally, I've just been informed that our Dollar 4 Dollar application for stocking St Clair has been approved, and that this year fisheries are funding \$2 for every \$1 we've committed. I'll elaborate at the next meeting, but it looks like we'll be doing our bit to restore the population after the recent kills.

Messy desks make tidy flies.

Matt.

Acting Editor's Notes



I have been under great duress the last week with a crashed computer hard drive and panicking about loss of this newsletter and 2tb of photos and documents, but now fixed, fingers crossed.

This month has been one of our busiest months since Covid hit over 2 years ago, and members are really starting to rally around, and I'm particularly impressed by our newer members who, besides their youth, have backed it up with much enthusiasm and

skills to share.

The St Clair club trip had a very strong (75%) club turnout, and I'm sure Peter's reputation as a trip master has been justified with such a showing, but try as we may, the bass were sick and failed to show up except kicking their last on the banks. I have submitted a report to DPI for their investigation, and with their permission have included information on how fish kills occur. I have had several conversations with the fisheries since the weekend and they have an investigation underway (Glenbawn Dam is also affected).

Mark advises that from 1st August new rules for Dusky Flathead will apply in NSW. You will be permitted a bag limit of five (previously 10) and only within 36 and 70cm. The previous rule of one above 70cm is finished.

And if you have any opera house yabby traps, chuck 'em out...they're banned in all NSW waters.

Whats in this month's issue?

Fly casting clinic at Branxton was a huge success, to the extent that Ben has organised Morsie back again for 29 and 30th of October. Patrick has written his inaugural piece about the Branxton clinic, and I must say, as an editor, I did not have to change a word. Thanks Patrick, and be careful, I'm only acting in this position.....

Ben has relived his super catch in Newcastle harbour, a once in a lifetime fish, no spoilers, read his great story.

Peter invited me to Jindabyne the week before closing season, but I decided to squib out of it, and as you will read, he had a ball, and skied as well!

I extracted some secret fly patterns for the St Clair outing, as well as exposing one of my own favourites, and I thank all who played the game and shared their flies with the members. This banter can only make the club stronger and I sincerely thank those who participated.

Last but not least is the trip report from our Club outing to St Clair, that trip master Peter has prepared. This, I'm sure is our best attended outing, but if Rod and Narelle have their way, it may be gazumped next month!

Next outing St Clair annual presentation day, trip master's Rod and Narelle Fox.

The Club Presentation Day Lunch will be held on Saturday 16 July from 11am at Lake St Clair. All members and immediate family are invited. Lunch and dessert is provided by the club and members are asked to bring their own plate and cutlery. Soft drink and water will also be provided. There will be lucky door prizes and a raffle. If members intend staying the weekend they need to book their site.

Club Calendar 2022

Month	Date	Venue/Event	Trip Master	Contact Number
January				
February	2	Club Meeting Bero Bowlo		
February	18-20	Clarence Town		
March	2	Moona Brook	Matt	0428193984
March				
April	6	Club Meeting Bero Bowlo		
April	8-10	Laurieton	Ben	0417291593
April				
May	4	Club Meeting Bero Bowlo		
May	15-16	Lake Wallace	Red	0407195508
May				
June	4	Club Meeting Bero Bowlo		
June	17,18,19	St Clair	Peter	0428685101
June				
July	6	Club Meeting Bero Bowlo		
July	22,23,24	St Clair Awards BBQ Lunch	Rod & Narelle	0407195508
July				
August	3	Club Meeting Bero Bowlo		
August	19,20,21	Swansea	Pat Neylon	
August				
September	7	Club Meeting Bero Bowlo		
September	18-19	Glenbawn	Mik	
September				
October	5	Club Meeting Bero Bowlo AGM		
October	14,15,16	Windamere	Mik	
October	29,30	Peter Morse casting skills	Ben	
November	2	Club Meeting Bero Bowlo		
November	20-21	Williams River - Seaham	Tangus	0401960973
December	7	Club Meeting Bero Bowlo		

Branxton Casting Day May 2022

Pat Neylon



To open, I want to firstly thank the club for being so welcoming. I'd also like to thank the club for the opportunity to write about the Branxton Casting Day with Master Caster and one of Australia's most highly respected industry Ambassadors, Peter Morse.

Peter Morse started his Flyfishing Career in 1973 and has been heavily influenced by many people over his career, In the beginning his mentors were Rod Harrison, Lefty Kreh and Gordon Dunlop to name a few. 'Morsie' as he is affectionately known as, has owned and operated guiding services in Australia's top end, Fiji and has hosted trips all around the world. He was the writer/host and coproducer of the extremely popular 'Wild Fish Series' and several other fly/sportfishing related series. He has also made several instructional videos including "Arbor to Fly" – A DVD I got my hands on at the age of 18. He is a regular writer and photographic journalist to multiple fly magazines. And is also an author of several

books. Morsie also has held several World Records – Yellow Fin Tuna 42.5 10kg :Shark Bay. Two Southern Blue fin records– one still current, 25kg and 28kg on 8 kg Test : Tasmania/ Narooma. Spanish Mackerel 19.3 Kg 10kg test landbased Wessel Islands – Hole in the wall. Truthfully, there is not much he has not done in Australia's flyfishing scene.



Having a Master Caster Instructor and Industry Leader to learn from Like Morsie is spectacular in my opinion. If there is a kink in your cast, Morsie can straighten it out without putting a kink in you armour.

With this being said, it's no wonder why The Branxton outing was nothing short of a success. Hosted by HVFFC, and arranged mainly by Ben Hall with the help of Matthew Jordan. The Saturday had 4 CI candidates having some time with Morsie – Dave Moppet, Ben Hall, Mick Zoro and Myself. This also helped us understand how we could help Peter on the Sunday as assisted instructors. We all got a lot out of the day, leaving with a lot of homework.

Thankfully this never-ending journey always continues. It would be sad if it didn't.

On Sunday the sun decided to stay out and dry the soggy Rugby Oval. That cold westerly seemed to stick around. But in the sun, it was quite nice and certainly balmy midday. We had 8 students on the pitch and Morsie immediately got underway at 0830 sharp, introducing the expectations of the day, and understanding everyone in the groups level and knowing simple and effective ways to target some ones technique to help them get over that next hump.

We went through effective and ineffective loop formation, the roll cast, double hauling, presentation casts and casting in the wind. From a teaching perspective, it's a challenge to not complicate instructional advice, and keeping it short and simple. Dave Moppet, Mick Zoro and Ben Hall Certainly honed their teaching skills and gave so much valuable advice to everyone. The energy and positive crew really made this a lot easier for all assistant Instructors.



As we are all students of this sport, it's so bloody nice to see immense progress over one day. Loops tightened, haul timing improved, roll casts were firing out straight, wrist were slightly fused and shoulders and elbows were brought in closer to the body creating better tracking and straighter rod tip paths. Like golf, there are so many small and large motor movements that need to line up for an effective cast. And the cast needed is pragmatic to the situation. This highlights the importance of practice. Because at the end of the day - we want automatic

muscle memory in heart stopping moments to catch more fish, and fish long into our years with healthy technique.

Jeff Yates popped in for a hello and took some fantastic action and group shots. It was great to meet a man I've heard so much about and see him looking so well.



A fly fishers biggest asset, whether we know it or not, in my opinion is observation. What we learn from observing on the water, in nature, or at training days like this, teaches us patterns for success. We can observe why the person next to us is casting so well, or not so well. And how we can tweak our body movement, our timing, our stance or our application of power to be more successful. This day was about Morsie teaching us the fundamentals of the 'why' and the 'how'. And how once again slack in the line will always be the enemy. The days aim is for us all to leave with an ability to diagnose our faults and correct them at home or out on the water.

As casting can get tiring, we needed a quick refuel for lunch. I sizzled some grub for the hungry crew which miraculously didn't kill anyone. The menu was de-boned butterfly chicken, butterflied lamb shoulder, corn and zucchini cooked low and slow over open coals. I made a fresh Tabouli, Coleslaw and had some lovely sauces and dips to make a wrap or open plate. Matthew Jordans Mother made us all a delicious Banana bread and a few other treats were brought. While I cooked Morsie had the two hander out demonstrating its effectiveness in fishing scenarios. A few of us all were able to have a play with Sages new R8 model. A lovely versatile rod a lot of us want to own. I just need to figure out how to convince the Boss I need another rod.

There will be another day with Morsie coming up in October so stay tuned and don't miss out on another spectacular club day. I'm certainly looking forward to more club outings such as this. If you are interested, please reach out to Matthew or Ben, I believe there are dates bouncing around but nothing has been finalised.

If you are interested in a highly visible casting line - Peter Morse sells them for a really cheap price - \$55.00. Among other things – check out his business website <https://wildfish.com.au/product-category/accessories/>

Cheers and thanks again all involved in a fantastic day,
Pat



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Next Fly Casting Clinic

Ben Hall

Due to the success of the recent casting day and all the positive feedback. Also the request from people who couldn't make the last one for various reasons, we are going to have Morsie back this year.

The location has been set by Morsie at Lake St Clair and dates set for the 29th and 30th of October. On each day the class will be 8 students where you will get plenty of one on one with Morsie to work on whatever you wish. I know it is some time away so this is the plan.

I will send out emails at the end of June and the end of July reminding members giving everyone as much time as possible to make their mind up if there keen. After the July reminder I will post on our Facebook page, where friends of the club will get their chance to fill spots, which I know some will want to go again that are not members. From there if we can't fill all the spots Morsie will advertise to fill the classes.

Once we have a list I will put together a group email to Morsie where Morsie will give more details like bank details for deposits.

Just so you know the day costs \$150 and the day goes from around 8am to 4pm.

Once we send off the group email to Morsie he will request deposits to be paid which is \$50.

Doesn't matter what level you are at I'm sure you will have a good time and take something away from the day to become a better caster.

And if you can't make these dates I'm already talking to Morsie about another CCI casting day next year which is pretty much full with Patrick Neylon, Mick Zoricic, Shane Nevin and myself all pencilled in so there will be a class of 8 to go with that if we can fill it.

If you have any questions or I over look any emails, your welcome to contact me.

0417 291 593

Cheers Ben

Catching Newcastle Harbour Exotics

Ben Hall

This is a story of a once in a lifetime fish capture, that I was asked to write about for the newsletter at my work.

On Thursday the 13th of February 2020, I was fly fishing in the early hours of the morning to try and entice a Jewie from the large volumes of fresh water from the swollen Hunter River, pushing into Newcastle Harbour. At around 2am, I hooked up to a very sizeable fish, which I suspected to be a Jewfish. After a good fight, I got the fish into my landing net boat side. On removing the BWC Gold Bomber Fly and after putting a tag in the shoulder, I started to notice the mouth was different, spots along the shoulder, and the tail was considerably different to that of a Jewfish. A boat nearby witnessed me fighting the fish and came over while I was trying to release it and took some photos. We both knew that it was not a Jewie, but weren't quite sure what species it was. Unfortunately, the fish wasn't strong enough to swim away.

Afterwards I posted the photos on a few Facebook pages to try and get an identification. Fishing World within hours had consulted with Dr Ben Diggles and posted on their page identifying it as a Japanese Sea Bass. I reached out to Dr Julian Pepperell and on looking at the photos he thought that it was indeed a Japanese Sea Bass. He also suggested that the Australian Museum would be interested in my fish and he was going to make some calls to them. In the meantime, I have had various people from the DPI contact me requesting tissue samples or fin clippings for DNA testing to confirm the species of fish. A Courier for the DPI picked up the fin clipping on the Monday, and by Thursday, through DNA testing, it was confirmed that it was a Japanese Sea Bass. I am going to take the fish up to Yamba to Rod Gardiner who will Taxidermy the fish. He only takes the skin to tan it. I have told the Australian Museum that I will donate the fish's carcass (minus the skin) to them. I am going to get the Australian Museum to cut the Otolith bones out of it and send it to the DPI so they can age the fish based on the Otolith bones.

There has been speculation that the fish most likely got introduced into our waters through the ballast water of a ship. There have only been 2 recorded captures of Japanese Sea Bass in Australia and these were in the 1980's. My fish measured 113cm and weighed 27.6lbs. Looking into the IGFA records for fishing 20lbs tippet the record is 17lbs.

This rare and unusual capture has put me into contact with a lot of Doctors, Researchers and Fellow Anglers whom have all shown such interest in my catch.

It just goes to show you never know what you going to catch when you go fishing, you just got to get out there and give it a go.

Also, if any of you have Facebook and aren't on the members HVFFC Facebook page, then I encourage you to jump on there. A few of us have been sharing trips when we've been able to get out, also motivating each other to tie with post of flies. There's only 12 members on the page. *(Thanks to your encouragement Ben, there are now 48 members: ed).*



The DPI have posted the following exciting story about the capture:-

NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Fisheries experts have confirmed a mystery fish caught in the Hunter River in February by keen fly fisherman Ben Hall was indeed a Japanese sea bass.

Examination of the fish, including analysing its otoliths (ear bones), by DPI and other experts at the Australian Museum and Fish Ageing Laboratory at the Sydney Institute of Marine Science have revealed the sea bass was six years of age and was a female.

Measuring 113cm and weighing 12.53kg (27.63lb) the fish is more than twice the weight and length of sea bass of a similar age studied by fisheries scientists in their home waters of the Western Pacific.

In fact, Hall's sea bass has been described by DPI experts as being "exceptional in both size and growth rates". As it turns out, it is only just off the IGFA All Tackle record, a fish which weighed in at 28lb 15oz.

Japanese sea bass - known as "suzuki" in Japan - are *protandrous hermaphrodites*, reaching sexual maturity as males at about two years of age and then changing into females as they become older.

Hall caught his sea bass early in the morning on February 13 of this year (2020) while targeting mulloway on fly in the Hunter River at Newcastle in NSW's Hunter region.

He initially tagged and tried to release it. Discovering it was unsuitable for release, he kept it and put up a post on his Facebook page.

Not surprisingly, the fish created something of a social media storm. It also attracted considerable interest in the scientific community, with the upshot being that Hall very kindly agreed to donate the fish to the Australian Museum and DPI for analysis and study.

Note to that, Hall arranged for the fish to be taxidermied and it now holds pride of place on the wall at his home.

DPI understands that small numbers of Japanese sea bass have previously been recorded in Sydney Harbour, with speculation that they may have been transported as fry or larvae in ship ballast water.

At this stage, it is uncertain how the fish Ben caught ended up in the Hunter River.



**Ben with mounted Sea Bass and
his Gold Bomber fly**



Fly Talk Lake St Clair

Jeff Yates



With this month's outing set for St Clair with Trip Master Peter Sewell setting the itinerary, I thought I would open up a dialogue on email to gauge the individuality and variety of favourite flies for St Clair. I was pleasantly surprised by the replies and even happier that new members enthusiastically joined in, giving their views on what works best for them. So, I thought I would combine our efforts and come up with a document that best reflects successful patterns at Lake St Clair.

Well what's my favourite?



As a traditionalist, I believe in matching the hatch as much as possible, as it will generally catch more fish, so in reality, I have several favourites, but for the exercise, I will start off with my version of a Trevis, named after one of our long time members who started using this fly 20 years ago. This fly in its many versions, represents smelt, the bulk of bass food in St Clair, tied on a #8 or #10 hook, unweighted or weighted, and cast to snags, weedbeds, gullies or rocky shores. The fly is 40 – 50mm long, and is generally worked slowly, using little pulses. I think most members will have their own version of this fly, and it works for them. Well that's my story, hope to hear yours and come on St Clair!

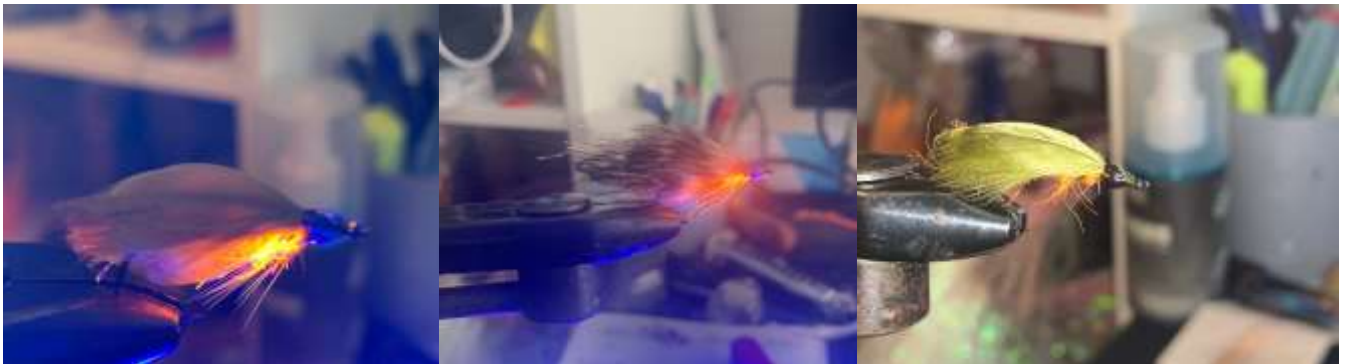
Shane Navin:- over the last few years I have fished several patterns from Brett Clark from BWC. With an olive green, a brown and a black masked bugger being the most popular for me, and the brown catching most fish. I fish an intermediate line all year round. I do love the surface bite, but have never really focused much time on that. All my fishing is done from bank.

Edward Anacki:- I started fly fishing about the middle of March, the Bass were still active on the surface so I fished with poppers till towards the middle of April when the action slowed down, and that's when I started fishing sub surface flies.

First fish was on a Lefty's Deceiver, shop bought, and that got me started just before Easter on tying my own flies which have been successful at times proving that the Bass, if in the mood will hit anything, looking forward to catching up at St Clair.



Russell Humble's Killers, tied up on #6 and #10 hooks. Note the UV underbellies, my favourite flies for trout and bass, all set for St Clair this month.



Ben Hall:- Bass fishing for me has always been about a surface bite, I normally only fish for them in summer when cicadas are about. I tie a popper on and fish late afternoon into the dark when the bass become active on the surface.

I have not caught a bass sub-surface on a fly, so interesting to see peoples GOTO flies. Definitely some flies I don't have in my box or considered to use. Keen to fish for some schooled up bass deep like they do in winter, heard there can be some good fishing to be had.

Unfortunately I'm working this June outing so hopefully you guys have a good time and catch a stack of fish.

Matt:- My go tos for different situations.

Top left – “Low-rider cicada” – go to surface dam or river

Middle left – “Sloane’s nighttime” – go to dam (mashup of a Sloane’s fur fly and a Craig’s Nighttime)

- “BMS shrimp” – go to dam when they’re on shrimp
- “Boob-eye” – honourable mention dam – still needs some work to balance the buoyancy

Bottom left - “Bead-head Slumbuster” – go to dam deepish water

Top right - “Weedless Double Bunny” – go to river weeds/snags

Middle right - “Beck’s Super Bugger” – go to creeks (preferably in orange, but apparently I need to tie more)

- “Fur-backed Yabby” – honourable mention creeks
- “Bass Vampire” – go to river deepish water

Sorry I couldn’t keep it to one Jeff, I like to unnecessarily complicate things.



Peter Sewell:- Well my favourite is a Craigs Night-time, I almost feel like its cheating to tie it on because it almost always catches fish. Another is a Yeti which I haven't used for a while.

For surface action of a night there is always the black muddler minnow.

Otherwise Jeff's experimental flies get results. And the Yabbie fly Matt tied recently looks really promising

Pat:- Surface - My Go too is generally a deer hair/foam cicada style fly. It's one I use on trout too. Otherwise smaller poppers I make with no particular pattern in a gurgler style. Just creations. I like gurglers as you can fish them with a short strip for a popping motion. Or a long draw for a wake style presentation. Or a hybrid and a diving frog style imitation. Great on the Cod too.



I also like muddlers and mud eye patterns on an intermediate or sink line. And bass vampires if there's not too many snags. Keen to try some small size 2 bend backs and some slow water game changers.

The good thing about bass is when they are feeding they don't seem too picky on the exact pattern. At least in my small experience. I'm away for a wedding that weekend sadly. Enjoy the weekend all.

Kevin:- Well I like to keep things simple. I really only use two Flies.

1. Cherie's Purple Popper

2. A Baitfish pattern (slightly different versions) to match the bait that are in St Clair. Obviously fish the popper on a floating line around the change of light and after dark and the baitfish on an intermediate line anytime.





Huon:- I'll share my go to bass fly in almost all conditions subsurface. I just change the line depending on the depth. Tie it in a #6 for St Clair, nice little tadpole imitation. It's the two on the left in the photo. I call it a DFA.



Russell's mulled wine recipe for St Clair

Looking at a winter warm up for Friday night. Making some mulled wine. If interested bring a mug and seek out our Van in the powered site area.

Secret recipe: 2 bottles of red (preferably not GRANGE) orange slices, star anise, cinnamon stick, brandy or rum. Put in pot. Slowly bring up to warm. Do not boil (alcohol boils off). Serve in mugs. Drink one then ask for another. Then repeat.



LAKE ST CLAIR (NSW) 2022

Peter Sewell

Glennies Creek Dam

Another great weekend, our annual June outing, at Lake St Clair has concluded. You might be wondering why I put NSW in the title and then Glennies Creek Dam. I could have added Carrowbrook. The reason is that if ever you want to do a weather check for “our” lake you need to type in any of the above except Lake St Clair. One of our visitors checked the weather prior to our trip and decided to come alone as the weather was showing as most unpleasant and it probably was..at Lake St Clair in Tasmania. Fortunately for us the weather at Lake St Clair in the Hunter Valley was much more pleasant, well pleasant for June. We didn't this year have bucketing rain or howling wind we had great weather for a winter “social” outing. Just look at the Saturday night camp fire with Jeff checking on the spuds in the Dutch Oven. We even had a special cakeous delicious presentation by Foxy to Fiona and Lorraine to celebrate their birthdays (no age revealed).



*Jeff being supervised
to make sure those
spuds are well
cooked.*

What a BBQ and Club Trailer, just check out the shots below.



Peter helping Fiona to BBQ



Brian with his Saturday Night Feast

We had a weekend of camaraderie, people pitching in to set up camp, to help others set up camp, to clean the trailer and BBQ which hadn't been used for twelve months. Russell making Gluhwein or mulled wine and very generously sharing it with anyone keen to visit his Friday night soiree at the van. Some may have even slightly overindulged but what happens on camp stays on camp.

Well starting on Thursday and working through to Saturday a lot of us went with a sprightly step along the various parts of the shoreline not to forget Dave and Allen from Coffs who in a gentrified way, boated about the lake, all in search of the elusive bass. We fished each side of the camp, Lemon Tree, Twin Soaks, the causeway, Carrowbrook arm, Falbrook arm and everywhere in between.



Lemon Tree



and Just to Prove it

Did I say how splendid the lake looked, just have a look at the shot below taken near the old “caretakers” cottage looking South. Beautiful.



A picture is worth a thousand words, what a spot.

They say a picture is worth a thousand words and the one above says something, or doesn't say something. There apparently is an elephant in the room and it's all revealed, or not revealed in the picture above, or maybe it is revealed in the pictures below.



The only bass I spotted



Jeff's Bass, wallowing in deoxygenated water, caught by hand..Does that count?

Strange as it may seem with some thirty people in attendance there were no bass caught (using a fly rod) over the outing period. It has not been uncommon to see fifty bass caught (most released) at our June outings so this result was a real surprise. The articles Jeff has researched and included in this newsletter go to explain the cause of this rather uncommon occurrence.

There was one fish caught over the weekend though and it probably deserves a prize. New member Eddy caught a smelt, so well done mate!



Thanks to Tom and Jim and Dave and Allen for travelling down from Coffs Harbour to the Hunter Valley to join our social get together hopefully you come back next year when the fish have decided to play.

Fishing but not catching on this occasion but I can't wait to get up there again and look forward to next year's trip when this year's fish results will be but a vague memory. The social outcome of this outing is not to be forgotten, it showed a strong club spirit and it was great to see new members such as Eddy and Mick turning up for their first club outing.

Fish kills in NSW

Please report any fish death incidents or observations to the Fishers Watch Phonenumber on **1800 043 536**

What are fish kills?

Fish kills are defined as a sudden mass mortality of wild fish.

Fish kills can occur at any time although data indicates fish kills are more likely to occur in summer or following sudden changes in temperature.

Recent reports of fish kills are included in the table below and we will update the table as we receive reports.

Some of the key causes of fish kills are outlined in the information below.

Blackwater

Blackwater occurs naturally over time when leaf litter and woody debris build up on the floodplain and then get washed into the river system during a flood. It's an important part of the aquatic food web as it provides food for insects which feed fish, frogs and other aquatic wildlife.

When there is a prolonged dry period, the leaf litter and organic matter on the floodplain builds up until the next flood event. This can result in a significant amount of organic matter returning to the river with any big flushes of water after prolonged drought, making blackwater events more likely.

Hypoxic blackwater

When there is a lot of organic material washed into the river, its rapid decay can consume dissolved oxygen from the water. If dissolved oxygen drops to very low levels, this can cause 'hypoxic' water which can be stressful for native fish and can lead to fish kills.

More information on blackwater can be found on the [MDBA website](#) and in [this factsheet](#) by DPIE Environment, Energy and Science (NSW DPIE EES).

To notify the department of potential blackwater events email waterqualitydata@industry.nsw.gov.au or to report a fish kill, contact the Fishers Watch Phonenumber on 1800 043 536.

Bushfire impacts on native fish

Find information on the [impacts of bushfires on native fish](#).

Stratification?

Stratification is when the surface of the water heats up more than the deeper water. That warmer layer tends to be warm and well-oxygenated compared to the deeper water that is colder and oxygen-depleted.

Thermal stratification

1. **Blue Green Algal Bloom**

Algal flourish in warm and still conditions, particularly in the absence of high flow

2. **Surface Water Layer**

Warm, high nutrient load from run off.

Dissolved oxygen by day, depletion overnight

Limited fish habitat

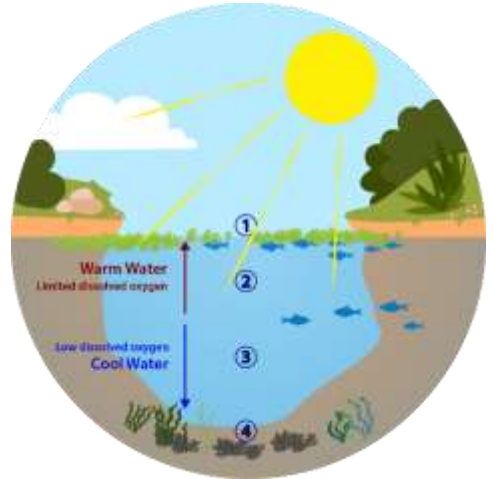
3. **Deep Water Layer**

Cooler, low light penetration, low dissolved oxygen (hypoxia),

Poor fish habitat

4. **Decomposition of organic matter**

Depletes dissolved oxygen



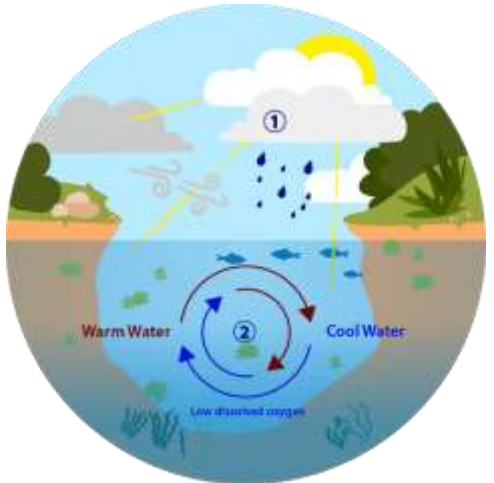
De-stratification ("Turn over")

1. **Sudden weather events or small increases in flow**

Can mix the warmer surface water and cooler deep water – essentially breaking down the temperature stratification

2. **These changes can mix the warmer surface water with cooler deep water**

Algal blooms may also be disrupted, potentially increasing decomposition (and further depleting oxygen). This means even at the surface dissolved oxygen levels can become critical, killing fish.



Simple things you can do

- Be on the lookout for any changes in water quality - i.e. changes to the colour or odour of your local waterway and report them to us via the **Fishers Watch Phonenumber on 1800 043 536**.
- Contact us on the phonenumber if you observe any dead fish or fish starting to gasp at the water surfaces.

- **Investigating and reporting** - <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/habitat/threats/fish-kills>

To Go or Not to Go, that was the Question.

Peter Sewell

The last week of the trout season was approaching and I had a hankering to chase the trout before the winter really set in so I suggested a Jindabyne fishing trip to Jeff, who couldn't make it this time. I then suggested to Ingrid would she like another trip down there and she did. So here is the fishing trip diary.

So we made a last minute booking of our Unit, there was after all some maintenance to be done.

Day 1 Monday:- Travel to Jindy

Travelled down in the Telstra, sorry Tesla. That was interesting, return fuel cost zero, refuelled at Goulburn and Jindabyne. The jeep would have cost me around \$260 for fuel. (Lets not talk about the cost of the car).



Goulburn E.V. Charging Station

Day 2 Tues:- Unit Maintenance

Well I guess somebody had to do it, touch up painting and sofa bed repairs. Tenants can do some damage we've noticed.



Jindy



Thanks to somebody.

Day 3 Wednesday:- Skiing

Will we, won't we? We are old but you only live once. So a day of skiing, crossing over the Thredbo on the way up the mountain that river did look very inviting, from a fishing perspective only. It was way too cold to be thinking about a leisurely dip with the outside temperature at one degree and -3 up at Perisher.



No Entry Without Chains

We ventured up the mountain past gum trees doused in snow and icy snow trapped roads and had a great day skiing the front valley at Perisher. Had to put chains on to be allowed up the mountain past Saw Pit Creek, fingers crossed the Telstra didn't get damaged in the process, I don't think I'd have been forgiven. Coming back we realized we didn't need to keep the chains on so we pulled up at Smiggins Holes to take them off. It was 5pm and the temperature had dropped to -5, by the time I got back in the car having finally got the chains off it was -10.



Too Old for this methinks



Chains Off -10

Day 4 Thursday:- FISHING

Finally!

Having left the Unit at leisurely 8.00am after breakfast I drove back to the beautiful Thredbo River and it looked spectacular.



The Thredbo



Mountain Drive

While getting ready in the car park I was approached by a guy with a spin rod, Wally originally from Lebanon, who said he hadn't caught trout before and would I mind if he tagged along with me. Go figure! Well of course I said yeah, Sure. After getting Wally set up and selecting a lure from those he'd been loaned he was off and fishing. He caught his first trout, a Brook trout almost before I'd rigged up. He fished the lower part of the pool while I fished the mid to upper part and as the spawn run was in full swing there were plenty of fish to be caught. Bloody Wally had caught four before I had any. HE was having a ball.

Just joking, we were both having a ball. It was a bit chilly but being well rugged up and wearing waders the only chilly bit was my feet. The river water was like ice but the day was spectacular with a combination of a light breeze and some sunshine. I experimented with flies and techniques, I caught my first fish, a nice Brook Trout on a Shaving Brush. Caught another one an orange bead headed green nymph. The rest were caught on a heavily weighted glow bug (egg fly) using a nymphing, pseudo Euro nymphing technique. Pseudo because I'm not very good at it and I had fly line on the water for parts of it. A mate of ours has been posting UTube articles on Euro Nymphing where he fishes the Snowy area and Tasmania using this technique and others and they are great to watch. Just go onto UTube and put in Snowy Fly Fishing, they are great to watch and really get a feel for the beauty and fun of wandering the mountain streams and lakes.



Brook Trout



Brook Released at feet

I have digressed, the Thredbo outing finished at around 2pm, when the fishing had gone quiet, didn't leave the same pool all day and landed around eight fish, Two Browns, a Rainbow and the rest Brookies. Had only caught the odd very small Brook trout previously and was fun to see a number of them come to hand and some of reasonable size. I was talking to a young bloke, Mitch, who had caught a six pounder a week earlier so good to know there are some big ones out there. He told me that when you released them that they just stay where you put them and don't swim off for quite a while, took a couple of photos of them doing just that, really strange. Kept one Brown trout a bit over 500 long and noted that it had already spawned but had retained about a half dozen very pale looking eggs. Brown Trout for dinner was very enjoyable.

Day 5 Friday:- Travel Home

Packing up and travelling home is always the worst part of any trip but a coffee for the road at Birchwood Café in Jindabyne makes it a little easier.

It really wasn't the week of fishing I had envisaged but have to say that it was an enjoyable eclectic gathering of diverse activity.

Now I can't wait for the October long weekend to get back down there and do it again. Or maybe a mid-winter trip to ski with a bit of (lake) fishing on the side. Or maybe just wait for summer and another boat trip on the lake chasing mud-eye feeders. Or maybe a trip to Tassie. There's always our club trip to Windermere to chase Golden Trout Perch. One fishing trip ends but then it's time to plan the next one I guess. Are you coming Jeff?



Peter and friends at Jindy

Get Lost Anonymous

“Marine park? I’m sure I’m not in the marine park, officer?”

NSW DPI are pretty strict on fishing near and in marine parks, and watching you with binoculars until you drift a bit too far is known to happen. Then WHACK with the fines, threats of confiscation of your boat, your tackle, your car...the list goes on.

So can you protect yourself from this injustice? The answer is yes. And easily.

A free app called AVENZA is available from both the Google Play Store and the Apple Store. It’s a mapping program which can read homemade and professional maps, and more importantly, it can overlay your exact position on the map, as well as record your route. Avenza is so popular that it’s now the primary system for National Geographic.

I use it if I’m near a marine park. I haven’t been challenged by DPI yet, but I promise that producing the Avenza map, along with a plotted course, will quell any discussion quickly. It’s accurate to a couple of metres, subject to your phone’s GPS. DPI actively wants you to use this software.

It’s also great for national parks, topographic maps, recreational reserves and historic sites. I record my bicycle route over the Prospect topographic map to see how far I’ve travelled, I plot a waypoint where my car is on the local topographic when I go fishing (very handy for knowing how far you’ve got to walk back in the dark) and I download maps of cities I’m visiting just in case I don’t have mobile data for Google Maps. The applications for this system are endless.

Once the app is installed, you search their ‘store’ for relevant maps. Typing in *NSW Marine Park* gives Port Stephens, Jervis Bay, Batemans Bay, Solitary Islands and Cape Byron. Typing in *GetLost* (one word) will get you all the NSW topographic maps for free (otherwise you have to pay 99cents, or ask me to supply them) as well as hundreds of others. There’s also a Murray River Access Guide for a few cents, covering Lake Hume to Lake Mulwala.

Similarly, you’ll find the South Australian and Victorian governments publishing their topographic and national park maps here too.

The one limitation of the free version is that you can only have three active maps at any one time. That’s never been a problem for me, not in years of using the system.

Have a look at <https://www.avenzamaps.com/maps/features.html> for all that AVENZA can achieve. Pretty good stuff for a freebie.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL – 2022/2023

Fees due by 30th September 2022

**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 2022 until 30th Sept 2023

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 c3091769@uon.edu.au and headstarting@bigpond.com

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 2022 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

--Sponsors--

