



2022 July Newsletter

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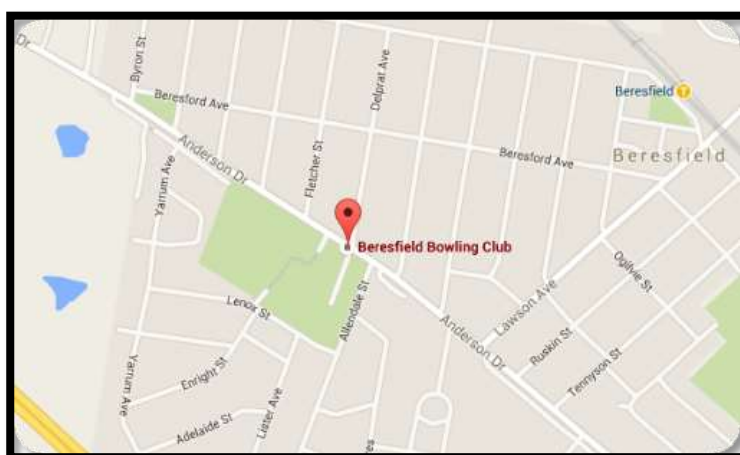
Peter Sewell

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 July 2022 edition of the HVFFC newsletter. The buzz about town is that the salmon (kahawai) have shown up in the channel and are very hungry, to the point I've heard reports you "have to be careful not to let a fly dangle over the side of the boat or it will get eaten". This bodes well for our August outing – the Swansea Salmon Classic to be held the 20th and 21st of August at Swansea Holiday Park. With a catered meal, games, a raffle, and guaranteed good banter, even if you can't make it for the fishing I'd strongly suggest coming out for the Saturday night. This year BWC flies are sponsoring the event and have donated an extremely generous prize in the form of a TFO 8wt outfit valued at over \$600. This event is open to non-members, with a cost of \$20 for non-members to cover the meal. See Pat's article and email for more info.

Brett and Cherie from BWC have also very kindly offered to host our September outing in the form of a tying day and beach luderick session. This is a fantastic opportunity for newer members to get kitted up with flies (and the knowledge and materials to tie them) that have been developed and tested in our local area. Combined with the club's 10% discount at BWC, it's a fantastic opportunity. Pat has very kindly offered to head up the organization of this outing as well (the man's a machine!) and details will follow.

Although the channel is firing, recent rains have turned other estuaries into chocolate milkshakes. Whilst you'd be forgiven for staying in, sulking, and tying flies, some members are embracing the challenge and adapting to the changed conditions. Be it finding bream under the foam lines of flood debris, or moving onto the beach to chase luderick, being adaptable in your local area is the mark of a great angler and can open up new challenges and rewards. Personally I ended up fly fishing as an extension of lure-chucking, looking to expand my horizons and add a new element of challenge and growth. Nutting out your local area in all seasons and conditions is a perfect manifestation of this, and is deeply satisfying.

Finally, a reminder that we're approaching the time for club membership renewal. Club fees are due by the end of September and the membership form can be found at the end of this newsletter. With the 10% discount at BWC I tend to offset the \$40 membership fee within a couple of months, but don't tell my partner that.

Messy desks make tidy flies.
Matt.

Acting Editor's Notes



The salmon are smashing around the channel at the moment so do yourself a favour and get amongst them. Ben rang earlier this week on his way down and scored a few with Peter on board.

The bass are starting to come back after the unfortunate low water oxygen event of a few weeks back. Good to see, and hope the rain holds off long enough for another shot at them this month.

Whats in this month's issue?

A visit to BWC flies at Tuggerah by 2 of our more senior members talking about our navigation skills and being let loose in a candy store of fly fishing goodies.

Patrick Neylon has done a promo for the September outing to Tuggerah. This man is a machine, and has really added a new dimension to the club with his fly fishing knowledge and organisation skills.

Swansea Salmon Classic promo, looking at the upcoming event and reflecting on previous events. Trip master Patrick Neylon has included all the info you need to come along and join us.

Just Another Manic Monday is a humorous article put together by Peter on his Swansea trip with a few other guys from the club.

St Clair club presentation outing organised by the Foxes. A terrific weekend with pics, prize winners and participants.

What's happening on Facebook

Next outing:- August 20th and 21st Salmon Classic on at Swansea. All details are included in this newsletter, trip master Patrick Neylon. Don't leave it to the last minute, register NOW!

September 4th or 18th Tuggerah. Fly tying with Brett and Cherie, followed by a session on Luderick off the beach.

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	16,17	St Clair Awards BBQ Lunch	Red & Narelle	0407195508
July				
August	3	Club Meeting Bero Bowlo		
August	19,20,21	Swansea	Pat Neylon	0438575060
August				
September	7	Club Meeting Bero Bowlo		
September	4 or 18 tba	Tuggerah	Pat Neylon	0438575060
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		

Winter Solstice visit to BWC flies

Jeff Yates

The shortest day of the year has come and gone but not BWC flies. Coincidentally, this is also Brett and Cherie's anniversary, the new shop opened 12 months ago to the day, so it's time for a visit.



The charming couple have been members and affiliated with the HVFFC for several years, in different capacities, as sponsors, suppliers, members, mentors and demonstrating various ties and encouraging members to tie along with them. Thanks for your loyal and welcome support and wealth of knowledge.

Peter and I decided to head South to Tuggerah, when a good friend pulled out on a prearranged trip to Coffs Harbour. We already had a day pass so what better way to spend it then poking around a fly fishing shop.

Peter decided that the ~~Telstra~~ Tesla would be cheap to run down there, so he spoke nicely to his large screen navigator "navigate to Joule Street Tuggerah", try again... "navigate to Jewell Street Tuggerah", and for the 3rd time try again... "navigate to Joool Street Tuggerah", ahhh, it finally computed!

So down the freeway, onto the off ramp to Tuggerah, around a heap of industrial estates, before we were eventually bushed. Time to speak nicely to the ~~Telstra~~ Tesla again, "navigate to Joule Street Tuggerah". Up come the screen to show that we were at the opposite end of Tuggerah and had to back track, bloody computers, give me a map any day!

Our frustration was short lived as we were greeted at the store with a welcome smile and a fresh coffee, and renewed old acquaintances. Cherie gave us a quick tour of their paradise, and what a store! This fly candy stuff was just too much for me as I piled goodies up high on the counter for later tabulation. I won't go into how vast their array of stock is, suffice say that if you use their toilet, be ready to share with dozens of beautiful new rods and other surplus stock! (<https://bwcfly.com.au>)

After being fitted with new Simms waders and gathering up an armful of necessary supplies, well, maybe I over indulged, but still it's just in case I get the urge to tie a few more secret flies, we farewelled our friends and headed North again at the whim of the ~~Telstra~~ Tesla navigator, but thankfully it delivered us back home safely.

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BWCFLIES SHOPTYING MORNING AND BEACH LUDDERICK AFTERNOON



If long romantic walks on the beach have you thinking of fishing... Here's an outing for you....

Where? *BWCFLIES – 5 Joule Place, Tuggerah NSW 2259*

When? *Sunday 18th September, 2022*
Start 0845

Meet at shop, Bring a Vice, and learn how to tie 2 patterns with professional guidance from Brett. Followed by some Luderick Tactics with both Brett and Cherie. Just checking out the store is exciting as they have

done an incredible job.

Cast a new rod from their extensive range, have a coffee and soak up the experience of all things fly tackle.

After lunch we will meet at a local location and walk the beach to try catch a luderick. The idea is to learn how to transmit this to your local beach.

See HVFFC facebook page for more info closer to date.

BWCFlies have been a huge Support to HVFFC. Lets show our support and make a great day of it.



"The gear is the same as I use for the Bream' – Brett Clarke, BWC

6 weight rod, rigged with a clear intermediate tipped line to get under the surface swell



7 to 9 foot tapered leader of 8 - 10lb with a 2 rig Cabbage fly set up – 1 is weighted with a Tungsten bead and the other is unweighted" (Referenced from BWC Authored Article – 05-2020 Luddas off The Beach)



All gear and tying needs can be arranged in the morning before the event starts. Remember you get a 10% Club discount with the Store !

If any one wants to be a trip master please contact Patrick Neylon.

If any one is interested in the morning , or want to find out more please contact Patrick Neylon p.neylon@hotmail.com 0438 575 060

If you need any specific items, please give BWCflies a call and they can help you out. 0408 622 959 www.bwcflies.com.au

2022 Swansea Salmon Classic

Jeff Yates

After a hiatus of 2 years due to the damn Covid pandemic, we are finally on track for a huge back to Swansea Salmon Classic weekend on 21st and 22nd of August. With Pattie Neylon at the helm steering the ship-event, it has all the vibes of being a memorable weekend. In the spirit of co-operation, an invitation to clubs from Coffs, Hastings and Central Coast will boost the numbers, so we are making the plea to get your name registered, and book early for your accommodation. Read the info that Pattie has put out and give him the feedback to make his catering job easier.



Previous years have seen big catches with many participants catching salmon at the Classic for the first time. There have been reports of the salmon showing up around Lucy's breakwall and into Salts bay. The anticipation is electric, and the probability of catching fish like those above is high.

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2022 Swansea Salmon Classic

Sat 20st and Sun 21nd August

This years 2022 Swansea Salmon Classic will be held in similar fashion of years past. Please read through the details below as some are new. It will begin Saturday and go through to Sunday. People will have to organise their own accommodation and lunches. We will not be doing sandwiches like years past as we are catering a feast for Saturday night. There are some fantastic places to grab takeaway breaky and lunch in Swansea, as well as great coffee. Or, pack some easy sandwich making supplies in the esky and do it on the water like I will be doing. We will supply some coffee tea and milk in the kitchenette. And some bottles of water and cans of soft drink on ice if you want to stop in through the day.

There are already reports of salmon in the channel so there is no doubt there will be fish around. If you are a HVFFC club member and want to join in all the festivities – this will cost you \$Zero Dollars. Otherwise, it's a small \$20.00 fee for the weekend. This includes the non alcoholic liquid refreshments through the day AND includes a lovely Dinner on Saturday night.



Fishing

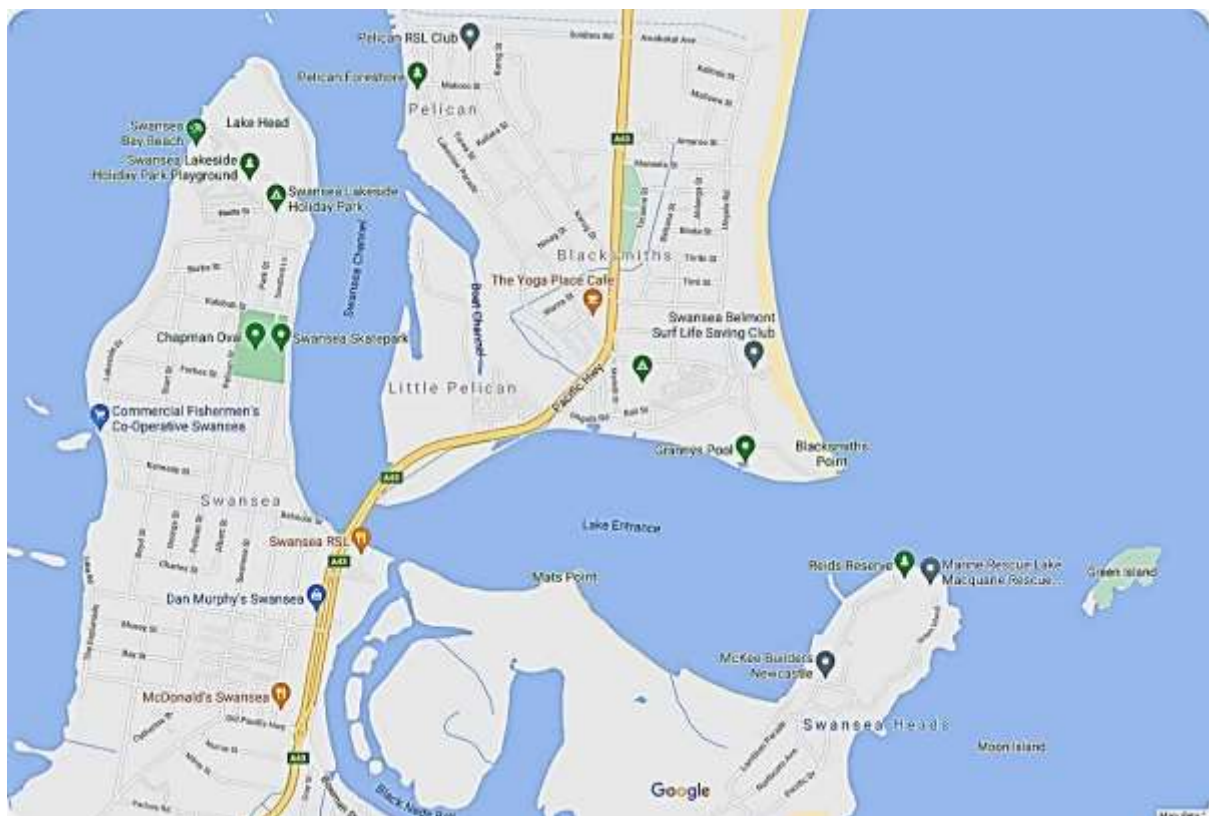
That's what we're here for. The salmon usually work between Swansea bridge and Green or Moon Island (depending on your map), at various times of the tide. Bring a boat or a buddy with a boat and abide by all normal water navigation rules. If you have a spare seat, you will make somebody's day. Put it out there on email. Protocol dictates that you must not drive through the middle of a salmon school. Have respect for your fellow fishermen and don't spook the fish. One other thing, I encourage all to share information on flies and give a few excess ones away, tackle and locations as

we all like to catch fish. This is particularly for the benefit of those members who have not fished here before. There is no competition, this is a chance to share knowledge and strengthen our fantastic community of fisherman.

The 2 main boat launching ramps are at Blacksmiths, over the road from the Holiday Park, and at Swansea, outside the Lakeside Park. Both are easily accessible. Be aware of what you and your boat can do, especially if you decide to cross the bar.

Gear :- 8 or 9 wt rod with intermediate line and 15- 20lb tippet, just in case a few big green backs come in. Many flies work, and the fish will be feeding on small anchovies, white bait and our flies hopefully. Bring a range of Surf Candies to 75mm, smaller polar fibre flies or miniature Candies. Small Poppers can be exciting too if they are really fired up.

There are a lot of other species in the area – blackfish, bream, whiting, Flatties, snapper and Kings. Don't feel obliged to target Salmon all day! The salmon are the main draw card though as they make exceptional sport fishing on light tackle. But the lake and inshore reefs hold lots of other opportunities too.



Accommodation

I have spoken to both caravan parks and they have plenty of accommodation both camping and cabins at the moment, **but you will need to book soon**. Let them know that you are with the Hunter Valley Fly Fishing Club and they will try and group you together in the park.

You take care of your own booking, whether camp or cabin. Cost for Swansea Lakeside HP - Powered sights \$44.00 - \$52.00 , Unpowered \$40.00. Cabins - 2 bedroom \$215 night, 3 bedroom \$355.00 Deluxe Villas \$205.00 , Budget cabins (no ensuite) \$145.00 night. Blacksmiths Beachside offer great accommodation options if the SLHP is exhausted. Book early – you can always cancel.

Swansea Lakeside Holiday Park- SLHP	Blacksmiths Beachside Holiday Park - BBHP
1 Dobinson Drive	30 Gommeria St
Swansea	Blacksmiths
0249712869	0249712858

Saturday night

Dinner - 6:00pm. Swansea Lake Holiday Park Function Room.

If you have the energy and the spirit for a great social evening - Dinner and some games at the Swansea Lake Holiday Park Facilities Hall will be hosted by the HVFFC. There will be the club BBQ and trailer as well as a communal kitchen. A few members and I will cater likely a buffet style BBQ with salad and sides with vegetarian options. If you are not a member of the club, please still come for a small fee of \$20.00 as mentioned in the intro above. As this helps pay for the Hall rental, trailer slow cooked BBQ and of course the excellent grub.

Games (after dinner).

RAFFLE – Ten Dollars to Enter the raffle – Prizes will be donated fly fishing related items of value up to \$20.00 - OPTIONAL Please bring a fly fishing related prize worth \$20.00 to donate to the raffle. This could be a handful of self tied flies, a spool of tippet, a bunch of tapered leaders, some fly tying material etc etc.. A fun way to raise money for the club. keep it fishing related – club has suggested no Booze please.

IRON FLY – Enter the Fly tying arena where you will be given a small amount of materials to develop a single fly in a set time. These materials are donated by attendees. So please -have a look in the bottom of your box and bring any materials you no longer use and are happy to donate. These will be divvied up among contestants.

Rules -will be explained more on the night.

We are aiming to have 6+ IRON FLY Champions in the ring at once. The 3 highest scoring contestants will be placed into a high stakes final. Most votes will decide the Peoples CHAMPION.

Challengers - What you will need – Bring your vise and tools, scissors, a hook.

Similar to the Iron Chef – a secret ingredient/material will be given to all, that must be incorporated into the fly. Tyers are judged on their technical skill, creativity and ability to integrate the materials into a functional fly for fishing.

7 Important questions I need to know:-

Who is coming

What club are you with

Who will need to pay the \$20.00

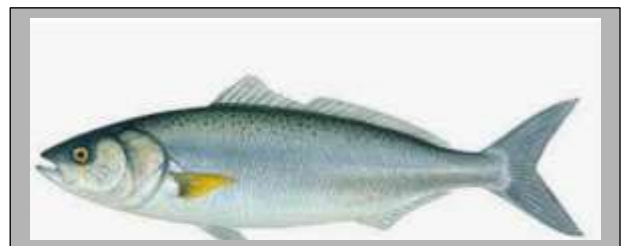
What days are you attending

Where are you staying

Are you joining for Saturday Dinner

Do you want to donate a prize to the raffle?

Do you want to compete in the IRON FLY?



My contact details are

Email:- p.neylon@hotmail.com for details of your stay

or

Mobile:- 0438575060 in emergencies

Marine Rescue Lake Macquarie (02 4972 7400) VHF Channel #16 or #27

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JUST ANOTHER MANIC MONDAY of RESEARCHING

Peter Sewell

Every article needs a heading, so I can thank our resident researcher for part of the title and I did steal part of that heading from the Bangles who sang the 'Manic Monday' song way back in the Eighties. It probably wasn't meant to describe a day fishing for Salmon in Swansea channel with a bunch of fly fishos from HVFFC, but what the heck, there's always something manic about chasing Salmon the day after the weekend, when boats were wall to wall or gunnel to gunnel doing the same thing.

This Manic Monday gathering was encouraged by new member Chris, who posted a Facebook note to see if any volunteers would like to put their hand up for a spot in his boat and we ended up with a mini club outing, with at least three boats of fly fishers searching for Salmon.



The weekend channel traffic might have been why the Salmon were keeping their heads low but then again maybe it was Sammy the Seal who seemed to be enjoying himself frolicking around with Salmon, tossing the odd one in the air for sport, his sport not the Salmon! So despite not seeing many leapers or surface action, they were definitely there.



I did ask el Presidente Matt how he managed to get out on a Monday and I think he said something about good researchers needing to avoid set hours of work, it helps the research. And if you check the photo out below you can see he was researching how to Open Chris' net while Chris was trying to land a Salmon before Sammy the Seal got it.



Now Fred was in my boat and practically before I could get a cast out he had three hook ups. Couldn't get the smile off his face, no research needed there. Although he thought his flies could improve so he was deep in thought on the next version to emerge from those nimble fly tying fingers. I had to stand so close to him to catch a fish that I almost pushed him overboard .



Next was Kingfisher Kev, he'd done his research and had a sounder with side scan. Despite the recent rains leaving the water still being as clear as a London fog or the colour of a mushroom soup, it was no problem for Kev, he could see the fish. So he just tracked around and hauled them in whenever his sounder spoke to him. However, he was not able to thwart and onslaught from Sammie, who captured, skinned and devoured one of his fish.

He's a good bloke is Kev, he even rang me up to say he'd found the fish again, thinking I was still scouting around looking for them when I sheepishly had to admit I

was at the coffee shop jetty just past the bridge, enjoying a flat white and sharing a chocolate brownie with Fred.

Maybe we were all researching for the upcoming Salmon Classic next month. The trick might be to arrive on the Friday or even the Thursday before, I'm not sure if we'll beat Sammy to the fish but we might find them a little less shy.



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St Clair club presentation weekend

The Fox's



Lake
landscape
compliments
of Mick Zoricic

We headed up to Lake St Clair on the Thursday, very optimistic that the Weather Gods were going to be kind to us. By all reports, read before we left, the weather was going to be lovely; not too windy and sunny. We got onto the F1 and what did it do, RAIN !

So the rain followed us to Lake St Clair and we had to set up with it sheeting down around us. Later that night Peter Sewell and Rod went down to the boat ramp to try their luck. On arrival at the boat ramp they noted that a sign that said NO PARKING was in the water, and had a laugh about that. Unfortunately the fish did not want to play so they headed back to camp and cracked a bottle of red with dinner. It rained most of Thursday and we were a little worried for our Presentation Lunch on Saturday. But, true to the changing nature of the weather at Lake St Clair, out came the stars that night and our hopes for a lovely day for the Presentation lunch were again lifted.



Friday morning was beautiful and we were sure that Saturday was going to be just as good, and we were not disappointed. Peter and Rod went to Twin Soaks Friday morning Rod had one hit, but unfortunately it failed to hook up. They saw a number of fish rising out of casting range. A few other members arrived on Friday night.

Kevin Croft caught 2 bass and a catfish near twin soaks on the way in on Friday. Sitting around the fire the same night Kevin started a discussion about what type of

line and flies we used at Lake St Clair and it was interesting to note that we all used similar lines and flies. Kevin advised that he ties a smelt pattern to match the smelt in Lake St Clair, and that this is what he caught his bass on. Matt came back from fishing, with a very interesting tale. He had gone for a swim to untangle a fish that had snagged on a stick sticking out of the water, and guess what, the fish won, it lived to fight another day, and Matt ended up cold and wet. Saturday morning Kevin gifted a fly to everyone involved in that discussion.

Saturday dawned and members set off in different directions for a fish. All had an enjoyable morning.

Unfortunately many members who had planned to attend were unable to due to Covid or the flu, but those who did attend had a lovely day. Good food, good friends and a sense of camaraderie abounded. Thanks to everyone who helped make the day a success.

The awards were as follows:-

Clubman of the Year - shared by Darren Foster and Matt Jordan



Rookie of the Year -
Ben Hall



***Most Memorable Moment -
Wayne Hunt first flathead on fly***

Other novelty events:-



***Flies in the bottle guessing
competition (donated by Rod
Dillon) – Shane Navin***



***BWC open order (donated by
Brett and Cherie) – Rod Fox***

Lucky door prizes – Rod Fox and Abby Zoricic
Hamper raffle – Glenn Olney
Golden leave certificates – Brad, Matt
Children's prizes \$30 gift vouchers

After the luncheon those that remained went for a fish and Rod caught a bass on the fly that Kevin gave him. Kevin was stoked. Kevin also caught another bass on Sunday morning.

Everyone packed up Sunday morning, another successful weekend came to an end.



Narelle and Rod



Mick, a family affair

A LITTLE MORE ON THE WEEKEND – Jeff Yates

The fish are just starting to recover from the recent low oxygen event, which killed quite a number in the dam. The fishing was tough, but the water looked magnificent, and as high as it's been at 104%. I noticed a deficiency of critters for the bass to feed on. Normally the water is alive with smelt, mudeyes, damsels, shrimp, etc, all of which we copy into flies, but without the feed why would a bass come into the bays? There is at least a meter of fresh grass under the water.

Just on dusk I managed a couple of fish on mudeye patterns, the first one I kissed and sent back, but the second one I decided to cull in the name of science, just like the Japanese culling some 400 Minke whales a year in the name of science. Anyway, I digress, it weighed just on a 1kg, 390mm long and I checked its stomach contents. It was heavy with eggs and its stomach was full of caddis grubs about 12mm long. I have seen them on caddis before, but that was when there was also a plentiful supply of other critters. So what I'm saying, would it not make sense to use a floating line with a big dry and suspend a caddis grub or stick caddis below at Twin Soaks? It means that you'll be fishing 6 or 8lb line but I think it would be fun, and you would fish it during the day. Food for thought, might increase your catch rate.

Lovely to see young families at the day, and partners. Not for everyone though, getting Lyn to a fishing event would be like dragging me into a dress shop!

It has been said by others, but I wish to extend our gratitude to the Fox's for catering and organising the weekend. Also honourable mentions to the trailer maintainers Mark, Glenn and Foxy and all those who helped with the cooking and making it a

success. Then the prizes, flies donated by Dillo, hampers, gift voucher from BWC flies and Brent for running the raffles.

Did I say that it was freezing at night?



*Wayne with a
sunset lit fish*



*Belly full of
caddis grubs*



Healthy fish



What's happening on Facebook



John Kerklaan - *Managed to stop a couple in a nice little arvo session yesterday, oyster covered rocks and 6lb tippet make a real challenge*



Mick Zoricic - *Shoal bay was pretty dirty today but the bream were sitting under the foam feeding on the surface*



Ben Hall - *Few off the vice today, think we all know what they are for, a couple might just go into the raffle for the Swansea*



Jeff Yates - *Well Ben, you got me motivated, knocked a few salmon candies up this morning, will give them a run later this week, thanks for the motivation!*

Chris Wright - *Beaut morning down in the channel, nailed my first salmon on fly, boated about 8 fish boatside, released a few others. Get out there gents n get a bend in the noodle*



Ben Hall - *Just in case you're thinking of getting the boat out for some Salmon action do it, they're busting up everywhere down here. A fish every cast*



Russell Humble - Couple from today. Bruce's first Salmon on fly



Matt Jordan - A couple from today and a couple from last season. I like the miniaturised bucktail tie (bottom) when they're shut down. A fatty on the surf candy.



Kevin Croft - A nice trevally to go with the many salmon that he has been catching of late.





MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2022 - 2023

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 ☐ Junior member ☐ Family membership** (✓ applicable)
(\$40 pro rata) (\$20 pro rata) (\$50 pro rata)

I hereby apply to renew my membership of the Association 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**

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--

