



## 2022 October - November Newsletter

**President** – Matt Jordan

**Vice President** – Brent Blackwell

**Secretary** – Tony Ward

**Treasurer** – Wayne Hunt

**Newsletter Editor** – Tom Brennan

**Raffles** – Brent Blackwell

**Public Officer**

Tony Ward

**Committee Members**

Fiona Meredith

Peter Sewell

Rod Fox

Jeff Yates

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

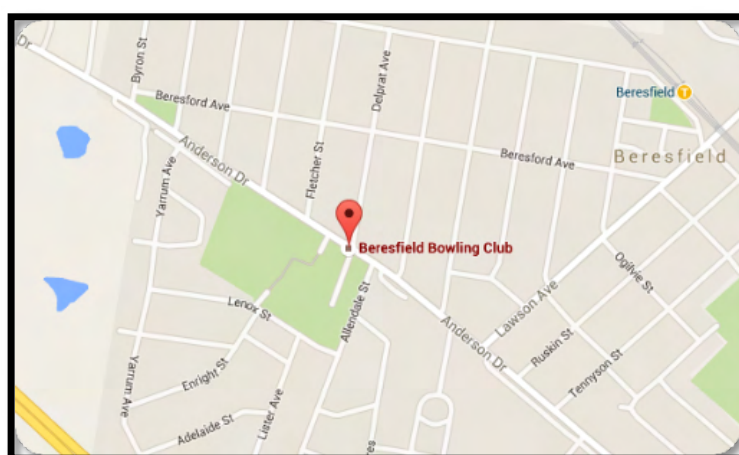
Beresfield Bowling Club

Anderson Drive

Beresfield

At 7.00 pm

**Next Meeting December 7<sup>th</sup> 2022**



## *President's Report*



Hi all, and welcome to another edition of the HVFFC newsletter.

This will be our first issue with Tom Brennan at the helm, bringing with him experience in web development and layout, and a blazing enthusiasm for fly fishing. I think Tom should be congratulated and thanked for stepping up to the plate, the club is reliant on members coming forward and investing their personal time and effort to keep things running and enhance our collective experience. The best thing you can do is keep the anecdotes, trip reports, and fly recipes coming - without content there is no newsletter. That said, I'm sure Tom wouldn't mind if you were

to buy him a beer at an outing as well...

Last month saw us return to Lake Windamere, and although the fishing was tough, the dam is looking spectacular, sitting at 100% for the first time in decades. It's not a waterway I'm familiar with, but the phrase "return to the glory days" has been bandied about, so we'll see what the next few years bring once the water level has stabilized and the weedbeds grown back.

The bragmats that Ben Hall organized have arrived and are getting a good workout. They're fantastic quality and a really good size, portable but with plenty of length. There have been a few photos trickling in to the facebook group showing some fantastic fish gracing the mats, including some stonker mulloway occupying just about the whole length. I suspect my mat will have a fair bit of wasted realestate in comparison, but a man can dream. There are a few mats left if anyone wants to purchase one from the club.

Following our October meeting there has been an increase in membership price, from \$40 to \$50 for individuals, and from \$50 to \$60 for family membership. This only applies moving forward, so if you've already paid under the old fee structure (e.g. \$40), you don't have to pay any extra until next renewal period.

The next club outing is November 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> at Clarencetown caravan park. This is a self-catered affair, trip mastered by local Tangus Ness. If anyone is thinking of going or wants some more information, hit him up. I'm planning on going and scratching the river-bass-on-fly itch that has been troubling me since the season opened, but apparently there is also good sight-fishing for carp available. This is our last official club outing of the year, as we take a break to spend time with family over the holidays. However, if you happen to get out and throw some fluff over the break please feel free to write up a report, there are some fantastic options opening up as the water warms, and I for one want to read about them.

Messy desks make tidy flies,

Matt.



## *Editor, In-Training, Notes*

Well, here goes the first newsletter as the editor. Matt's words above, as well as Jeff's and many others either directly or via email have been wonderful to hear. Thanks everyone for the support.

This edition of the newsletter will be a little light on as the recent month and a bit has been crazy with both work and family commitments. However, I've tried to make sure that the key elements are in place and will grow the format over the coming months in an attempt to reflect the efforts that Jeff has put in for so long.

Thanks again Jeff for your continued efforts in keeping the Newsletter going. I strongly agree that we need a place to record and share our stories and that "they shouldn't be written like meeting minutes" (contributed by club member).

Weirdly enough I will be attending my very first HVFFC meeting in person on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December. I say weirdly as I live (challenge opened) closer to the meeting venue than any of the other members and have been a member for a while now. This isn't exactly newsworthy, but it really helped fill another paragraph.

Thank you, Matt for the Presidents report, much appreciated.

We have a wonderful article that has been contributed by one of our members around the "Fishers for Fish Habitat Forum" that was held recently. This is a great read, thank you for the contribution.

Personally, I can't wait to lock in and send out next years club outings calendar, as for me 2023 will be very much about as many weekends away, and as much time out on the water as possible. I know the recent covid years have been tricky but if what we have organised as a club this year is any indication we are back on track.

Thank you Jeff also for the Blackfish article, that sure looked like a fun day!

Please send through anything you would like to see in the Newsletter. It's ours, about us, written by us, so send through anything you feel would be fitting, enlightening or just entertaining. The more contributed content we get the better the read will be.

Thanks again for entrusting me with the reigns on this, I really look forward to being part of the story.

Cheers,

Tom

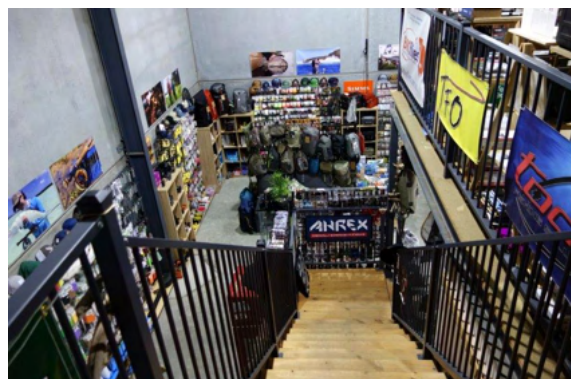
## *Hunter Coastal Challenge*

Jeff Yates

We have heard so much about chasing Luderick in the surf, and while some of us have sporadically caught fish in the estuaries, this is ratcheting up the challenge to another level. Patrick has been negotiating with our good friends from BWCflies about running a workshop on how to tie luderick flies, set up leaders and finally, the practical application. But, all good plans can come unstuck, in this case, the Trip Master was unavailable at the last minute, however, in true form, Patrick had everything organised with Brett and Cherie, and Peter stepped in to do the catering.



Sunday is a day off for BWCflies, however, today the Shop has been specially opened for our club. We arrived before 8.30am to a packed carpark, a gazebo and bbq set up at the door. Greeting us were BWC helpers Shane and Jared, ready to show their barista skills with a fresh cup of coffee each and a tour of the shop.



Next, we ascended the stairs to the inner sanctum, where Brett described and tied a few luderick flies, spoke about weed fly materials, hook selection, trials and tribulations of varying hook patterns used throughout the season and those who brought their vices, followed, and applied themselves to the task. Soon, a number of finished flies were trotted out before the master, to get his tick of approval and a fine tune, before being put away for the afternoon fishing session.

Time management was an important factor today, as the Luderick start to appear, feeding on the freshly submerged weed covered rock platforms around 2 hours before high tide and for a further hour after the peak. With this in mind, we adjourned down to the gazebo where Peter had the snags sizzling, buns and filling ready to go. While having a briefing over the early lunch, Brett and Cherie described their preferred leader arrangement, and



the two weed fly rig. They also spoke about fly line management and fly presentation between wave sets to maximise the time the flies are in the zone. Drifting flies and flyline drag / mending were also discussed to ensure better presentations. All-important skills



as we were soon to learn as we packed up and headed for the beach for a fish.

The beautiful spring day had attracted a lot of sun lovers to the beach, most oblivious to the casting habits of fly fisher folk, but we all know that it is our responsibility to check behind before casting. Soon there were several rods being waved about, to the amusement of many of the bathers. Fish started to appear, initially just a few further out on the far edge of the rocky platforms. Russell got his range early and managed to be the first to break his duck on a surfing luderick.



Brett, Cherie, Shane, and Jared wandered about the group, directing people into known haunts, and pointing out fish as they miraculously appeared in the window of a wave, or flashed across the platform. It is evident that a good line holder is essential to stop the line being washed around the feet by wave action. The style of choice is the spike type, which hangs from the belt and plastic tags hold the line as it's stripped in.

Some people have keen eyes and are able to see the fish after having them pointed out by the experts, while others take a little more convincing. Mark, who is an optometrist, could not see a fish if his life depended on it, but Cherie saw this as a challenge and continually pointed out fish, until finally the penny dropped, I think the pictures tell the story!



As the tide rose, rafts of luderick could be seen tailing in the receding wave, busily feeding over the rock platform. Now, the flies were being thrown in earnest, and to show the guys where the fish were holding Brett and Jared lobbed their flies into the wash, and they quickly hooked up. These fish are solid and feisty, and are good sport even on the 8wt rods.

The fishermen that were having very little luck initially started to hook up, as they learnt the importance of line control, being in constant touch with the line. Even the most delicate take will be noticed and reacted to. Chris was soon on the money, along with Mick and Tom.



I will let the pictures tell the remainder of the story, but would like to end with a lovely note from Mark, the blind optometrist:-

*"I want to publicly thank our most gracious hosts Cherie and Brett of BWCflies today. They gave us such insight into this new form of fly fishing, that I think many of us may be hooked. Speaking of hooked, congratulations to all those who caught fish.*

*A morning of learning, followed by a nice lunch courtesy of Peter Sewell (thanks Pete...you always step up to the plate) and an afternoon of experience made for a*



*well-rounded event. Perhaps if we all beg nicely, we can convince them to host another event in 2023.*

*And thanks also to Patty for organising the event. Clubs like ours need people like you."*

***From Cherie and Brett,***

***"Thanks so much to everyone who attended the HVFFC open day at the Shop. Its means a lot to both of us to see the store full of great people, having a likeminded chat, learning, sharing, and having a good time. Those involved in planning and assisting on the day have made it seamless. A special thanks to Jeff who has captured the essence of the day with his great write up and photos of the event. Peter and Mark were great on the BBQ – very tasty and enough of a feed before the arvo session.***

***Looking forward to hosting more events in the future."***





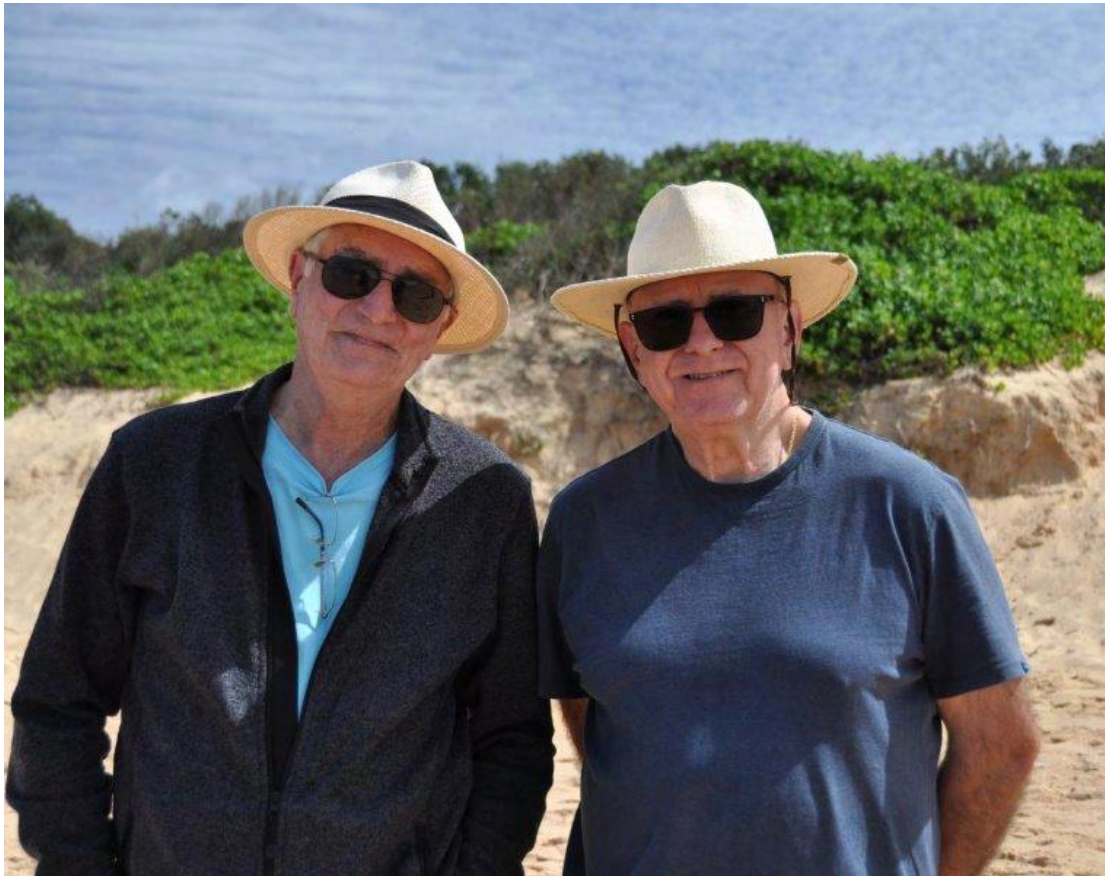






***Tom with his first Luderick, after being successfully operated on by the blind Optometrist.***

***Below - our best dressed new members Don and John, just starting on the fly fishing scene, please make them welcome and offer tuition to help them on their latest journey.***



# Fishers for Fish Habitat Forum 2022

A mixture of good and sad news was disseminated at this year's forum. Good because many people from all walks of life are doing wonderful work in restoring habitats for aquatic creatures, and sad because they're repairing the extensive damage we've caused already.

Boffins and researchers, NGO staff and volunteers, state government departments and humble fishers all came together for a day of lectures on brilliant and innovative methods for undoing previous damage and preventing further harm. For example NSW Fisheries stocks a few million native fish each year, but 100 million are sucked up by pumps into irrigation channels where they die. The count was 3.5 fish per megalitre, which equates to hundreds of thousands per farm. That was the bad news. The good news is they've developed a new rotating screen which prevents any fish or debris from entering the system AND saves the farmer money because he doesn't have to backwash out the dead fish. A win for the farmer, a win for the river and a win for the fish. Each fish that doesn't get chopped up by the spinning blade is a potential parent in the future.

[<https://fishscreens.org.au/>]



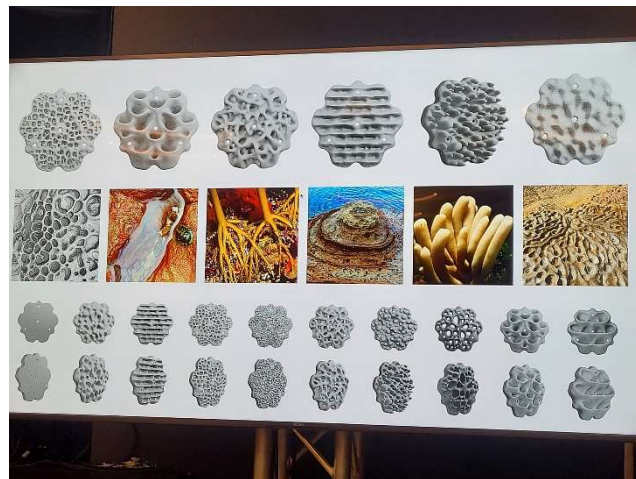
Most people can guess that a weir will impede fish movement, but I learnt that of 420,000 road/water crossings in the state, 60% are fish barriers, and now all new culverts must have a fish-friendly design to allow migration, and many previous impediments are being removed or modified to allow better water flow and consequently better fish movement.

Posidonia seagrass is the nursery of everything. Every living creature eats something lower on the food chain, until the lowest creatures eat from the seagrasses. We're losing seagrass at a rate of 7% per year and Posidonia may be extinct in New South Wales within 15 years. These aren't "doom'n'gloom A Current Affair" numbers, these come from a university professor whose job it is to measure. BUT the good news is, efforts like the Sydney Harbour Posidonia Project aim to replant Posidonia beds, and old boat moorings which drag chains around the seabed are being replaced by new designs which protect that seabed. [<https://www.operationposidonia.com/sydney-harbour>]

The same can be said for saltmarsh, which was traditionally drained for farming. But farm and foreshore is being purchased and returned to [as close as possible] its original appearance and this has resulted in a dramatic increase in fish in the system, because spawning grounds and food sources are increasing. 79% of seagrass and 78% of saltmarsh has so far been lost but interestingly enough, there has been a 6% increase in mangrove.



Around the Australian coastline horizontal rock shelves, which have gaps and crevices and permanently wet areas to house and hide small creatures, have been replaced with vertical concrete seawalls and pylons. Not much sticks to these slippery surfaces so the diversity of creatures is low. The living seawalls program has devised clever additions to existing structures which emulate those rock platforms and the biodiversity has more than doubled. This has implications for fishers...look at the wall before deciding what lurks below. [<https://www.livingseawalls.com.au/>]



There was a strong 'citizen science' emphasis on all the talks. The work cannot be done by the researchers alone. They need the public to commit. The Fish Habitat Network, Ozfish, Landcare and many other NGO's are working with the researchers for best-practice outcomes in habitat restoration. If a fisher self-rated their knowledge of fish habitat as 'high' they were five times as likely to take part in restoration work. I'm proud to be included in that number. Al McGlashan, famous fisher and promoter of the environmental cause said "You can only appreciate it if you can understand it, and you can only understand it if the science is done."

So the next time you're thinking 'bloody greenies', think 'thank you science'.

I conclude my report by quoting one of the most recognised names in fishing media, Michael (Guesty) Guest: "Someone's got to do it, so it might as well be me."



## *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	Moonan 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	1	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	Rod & 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	18	Tuggerah BWC shop	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		



### **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)  
(\$50 pro rata)                      (\$20 pro rata)                      (\$60 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](mailto:c3091769@uon.edu.au) and  
[headstarting@bigpond.com](mailto: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:

<b>Full name</b>	<b>Date of birth</b>	<b>Relationship to member</b>

-- Sponsors --



UNIT 8 5 JOULE PLACE  
TUGGERAH NSW 2259

