



June 2023 Newsletter

President	Matt Jordan
Vice President	Brent Blackwell
Secretary	Tony Ward
Treasurer	Mark Schmidt
Newsletter	Tom Brennan
Raffles	Brent Blackwell

Public Officer
Tony Ward

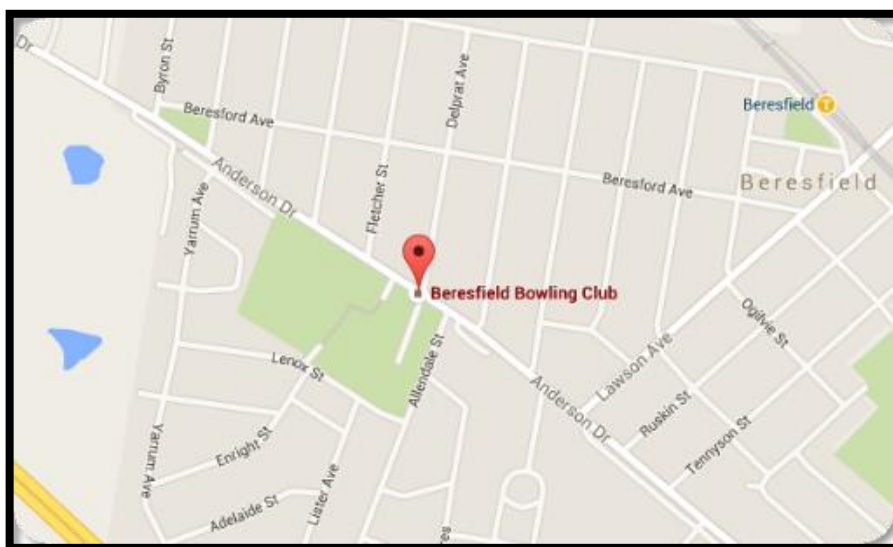
Committee Members

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

Next Meeting
Wednesday 2nd August 2023
7.00 pm



Vale - John Marshall



Some of our newer members may not have known John but those of us who have been around for a while would know him as both a sponsor and friend to many in our club.

I worked with John for several years and many members were regular visitors to John's shop at Parramatta and then Rydalmere.

The lounge was up the back and the free coffee was always on although some would say that after what they spent at the shop the coffee was the most expensive in Sydney.

In the early days John's most visible support of our club was at the Lake Lidell Carp Classic.

Early Friday morning we would remove enough stock from the shop to fill the car and head north. The shop closed early on those Fridays and didn't open at all on Saturday (the best day of the week for sales). Most of what was sold at the event was priced much lower than usual but that didn't matter to John. It was all about catching up with the members of HVFFC.

On Sunday afternoon after the drive home the shop was returned to normal.

In 2017 John was diagnosed with cancer and sadly the decision was taken to close the shop.

He was so well respected in the fly-fishing community that some 45 people, including several members of our club, volunteered to help carry out a stocktake, remove stock and return the building to its original state. I know how grateful John was for this support.

When his health improved a little John and his wife Tessie moved to Hervey Bay to be closer to their family.

Although not well he maintained an on-line shop and fished when his health allowed.

Bert Lloyd and myself visited John and Tessie in May and happily found him to be in good health, all things considered, but sadly in June things took a turn for the worse and he passed away on June 14th.

The funeral took place on June 26th and Mark and myself attended to represent the Sydney fly fishing community.

The fly-fishing world has lost a passionate supporter who introduced many to the wonderful pastime we all enjoy so much and several of our members have lost a friend.

John is survived by his wife Tessie and sons Colin, Wayne and David.

After a determined battle to beat a terrible disease John has gone fishing.

R.I.P. my friend and tight lines.

Glenn Olney

Presidents Report

Hi all and welcome to the June edition of the HVFFC newsletter.

Last month saw our return to the club's ancestral homelands, the banks of Lake St Clair. Pete Sewell put on an excellent outing as tripmaster, including stunning weather and feisty bass. Although numbers of fish weren't as high as they have been some trips, most members managed to get a few, including some breaking their St Clair duck. The outing also saw the addition of a new fly to the annals of HVFFC lore, with "Kev's Fly" – a smelt pattern from Kevin Croft being the hot ticket item, and claiming more than its fair share of bass. Keep an eye out in the following pages for a recipe, you could do a lot worse than tying up a few for the club outing/presentation.

Speaking of which, the club's presentation will be held on the 15th of July, at Lake St Clair campgrounds. This is being organized by the committee, spearheaded by the Foxes. Please let them know if you're planning on attending so that food can be organized. As always there will be the "Clubperson of the Year", "Rookie of the Year" and "Memorable Moment" awards presented, so please get your votes in to me (Matt Jordan) ASAP.

Following that the club is holding its Swansea Salmon Classic 18th – 20th August, and regardless of whether the salmon decide to make it easy or play hardball, I've never heard of anyone having a bad time. This outing also serves as the club's major fundraiser for the year, with a raffle held along with dinner on the Saturday night. If you're keen to attend please let the committee know for catering purposes, bring some cash and a prize to donate, and contact the Swansea Caravan Park to book a site.

Finally, last month we received the sad news of the passing of John Marshall. John was a sponsor of the club for years, and many will remember him and his bags of fly-tying goodies at the carp bash. I didn't know John well, but he has left an indelible mark on the Sydney and Hunter Valley fly fishing communities, with many a fly-fishing journey starting in his shop. The club passes our condolences on to John's family, and thanks Glen and Mark for representing us at his funeral.

Messy desks make tidy flies,

Matt.



Ramblings from the editor



Thanks Matt and Howdy Everyone,

In the interests of remaining consistent I'm running a little behind on getting our June edition out, but I am doing my best to cement in my precedent of being "nearly organised".

Thank you, Glenn, for your wonderful words in recognition and remembrance of John Marshall.

Personally, I don't have a whole lot to contribute to this edition as my recent fishing outings have been limited to an extremely round number, but from the absolute bumper meeting the other night "Fish Talk" was full of more people, more tales, and more "supposedly" witnessed ones-that-got-away than I've heard in my short time with the club. I know it wasn't just me that found the turnout impressive.

Hopefully the use of our fancy mic, speakers and a static camera at this last meeting reduced the motion sickness for some of our zoomers. I'm so glad we got to try it all out this month as I couldn't have imagined being on the other end of 20 people passing the laptop around on Wednesday night.

Hopefully I'll see you at the Presentation Day or the Salmon Classic, I can't wait.

For everyone that has contributed this month, a huge thank you from me! We can't do the newsletter without content. Please remember that you can send anything through that you think the club would be interested in. This could be a report of a weekend away, a new youtube channel you've stumbled across, a how-to that could help others, lessons learned or anything at all that we can share with the club.

'Til next time.

Cheers,

Tom

Nibbles and Bytes



- NSW Angler Access map (created by DPI)
<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/angler-access>
- Fish stocking sites map (created by NSW DPI)
<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/stocking>
- River levels (created by WaterNSW)
<https://realtimedata.watarnsw.com.au/>
- Boat ramps map (created by NSW RMS)
<https://roads-waterways.transport.nsw.gov.au/maritime/using-waterways/boat-ramps-map/boat-ramps/index.html>
- Travelling stock reserve map (created by NSW Local Land Services)
<https://trade.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=dd585551cd5c4320bfcd2d671d8f2364>
- Gavin Hurley's (Stalker's) series exclusively about fly fishing in Australia and New Zealand
<https://7plus.com.au/on-the-fly>
- Freshwater angler access: The Fisheries Management Act 1994 permits boating on or wading in a river or creek, providing you stay within the bed of the river, including parts which are covered and left bare with the increase of flows, other than at times of flood. This does not apply to lakes.

Please send through any links, suggestions of apps or other sources of information that you find helpful and we'll add it to this page. Same goes for updated or broken links, let us know and we'll update.

That Fly

(ed. Many have requested this fly from Kev, so here it is)

This is a fly I fish from the shores of Lake St Clair, I use a full intermediate line with 3 to 4 feet of 14lb leader and retrieve in short sharp strips. Best time to use is the change of light, Dawn and Dusk. Ok through the day as well but use lighter leader as conditions require.

Materials

- Black Magic B6 Fly Hook or Gamakatsu S10 Standard Down eye in Size 6
- I use two opposing feathers for the tail.
- Hareline Medium UV Polar Chenille UV Pearl for the body.
- Enrico Puglisi EP Streamer Brush 2.5inch in Root Beer.
- White Thread of your choice for the Head.
- Black Texta.

Instructions

1. Cover the hook with Thread, end just before the bend.
2. Tie in two opposing feathers for the tail.
3. Tie in the Brush pointing backwards.
4. Tie in the Chenille and wrap forward to make the body, then tie off.
5. Fold the Brush forward brushing the fibres up so they don't get trapped, then tie off while keeping tension on the wire.
6. Make a Head using the White Thread to your desired head size.
7. Whip finish and then use head cement.
8. Use a Texta to put the eyes on.



A quick dash to Thomos

Jeff Yates

With a couple of days' notice and several excited texts, a day dash to Thompsons Creek was arranged by Rob. Now, my trips to Thomos are always part of a four or five day stay at Lithgow, where I catch up with family and friends, and the occasional relaxing trip out to the dam. Having not been over for a few months, and knowing that the winter fishing has been red hot, I thought I might take Rob up on his offer, especially after this text:-

Nice drive over

Coffee and breakfast

Catch a few trout

Exercise

Good company

A different Saturday from the usual

The day arrived, blowing a gale as I headed off at 3.30am to Rob's place. Loaded the Subaru, and onto the freeway by 4am. As we neared Penrith on the freeway, overhead signage flashed messages about an incident at Blackheath, a town close to Lithgow, and advising motorists to take alternate routes. A quick consultation with the navigator, and we are off the main road and heading toward Richmond to pick up the Bells Line road, not what we planned! However, we won't let something like this slow us down, but we were a little concerned as the car thermometer dropped to zero, and hoped that this didn't spell black ice on the notorious Blue Mountains road. We were soon driving through the apple orchards of Bilpin, past Mt Tomah and the Zig Zag Railway at Clarence, before descending into the Lithgow Valley.



A quick bite to eat in town and dressed into our winter woollies, and in my case 9 layers of clothing, we head for the dam. It's so cold and windy outside, I had difficulty exiting the car to get the fishing gear rigged. We were one of a dozen cars, seems that all of Sydney has heard that the fishing is good! The guy next to us was a friendly South African who started chatting and offered some friendly advice and encouragement. We later caught up with him on the water, and he had landed 7 fish using the indicator to a glo bug rig 1m below, fished static. Now, I'm no purest, but this style of fly fishing smacks a lot like drowning a worm under a bobby cork, but everyone to their own, and he got the numbers on the board!

Anyway, we departed the carpark, with backpacks and provisions for a day's fishing, feeling more like mummies wrapped in our many layers of clothing, but whatever keeps you warm on this cold day. We arrived at the eastern end of the wall, and Rob stopped for a

rest, while surveying the 27500MI dam vista for his first ever trip here. I think he was impressed.

Along the rock batter wall, a number of lure fishermen were targeting the spawning fish, but I think the fish had more on their mind than oversized gaudy plastic lures! Further along past the rock batter, I spotted several large rainbows holding station on the shore break, no more than a meter out from the bank. I stayed above and directed Rob for a cast beyond and hoping to drift back onto the fish, nosing into the wind swept shore, but alas, the freezing 40kmh gusting wind made casting almost impossible, and try as he may, the casts kept falling short. A few meters forward, and 2 fish screamed out from under his shadow, taking the rest of the shoal with them. Rob beat himself up for hours after having missed his opportunity, but I would say the degree of difficulty would try most seasoned fishermen out!

We fished several other spots, all the while dodging the conga line of lure fishermen. The only way to get a bit of unspoilt water was to head up to the back of the dam. Up there, after 8,000 steps from the carpark, we run into a couple of fly men who were using the indicator rigs with a couple of small fly droppers. One guy landed a 4lb rainbow on a #20 blood coloured nymph and several others on small nymphs and stick caddis patterns. We gave the indicator rig a go, but I returned to more traditional methods, when I hooked and landed a tagged rainbow on a #12 Tom Jones. This fly looked after me pretty well, as it accounted for another 3 fish landed



and a couple lost.

We fished until sundown and then headed back to the carpark, a little tired after an invigorating 15,000 steps. We de-robed and packed our gear in the car for the trip home. All in all, it was a fun 19 hour day, but as I get older, I think this may be my last dash up to Thompsons Creek, as my body tells me that I should stay overnight, and get a good rest before travelling back home! Thanks Rob for convincing me that I needed another trout fix and thanks for your company, it was certainly a different Saturday from my usual!

Summertime in the Snowy's

Justin Smith

1 March 2023

Too Hot for Trout?

Jindabyne and Eucumbene

The most common question I'm getting at the moment is how do I like retirement? To be honest, as I'm less than one month in to the next phase of living without a job, I really don't know? What I do know is, when asked by a mate if I would like to go fishing for a week, and being able to actually say **YES PLEASE**, is a new and special privilege, not nearly possible for the last 5 years. So to answer the first question, do I like retirement? The answer is, so far so good!



Our destination and base accommodation is on a property called Glengarry on the outskirts of Jindabyne, situated only meters from the lake's shore with easy boat access to all the lakelaying in the 'shed' separate to the main house in my view, was not a step down in either comfort or facilities. All we could hope for was available including excellent cooking, sleeping and recreational space. However, as the booking date neared, one of our cohorts unexpectedly dropped out, leaving just Pete, Fred and I to fill the spacious and comfortable digs.

All fishing trips start with packing and preparation. My approach is simple, pack everything remotely connected to fly fishing for trout, and then a bit more just to be sure! Thankfully, Pete was towing his boat/fishing equipment trailer which allowed extra space for taking excess bags stuffed with 'just in case essentials'. But in summary for me, packing my favourite lake rod, a Loomis 9' IMX 5wt matched to a Greys Reel with several interchangeable spare cartridges pre spooled with a variety lines from floating to fast sinking was a no brainer . A spare reel was thrown in to allow the option of taking two prepared rods if desired.



As it happened, as the week's fishing progressed, I only used a floating or sink tip line and the spare rod was never used although both Peter and Fred both packed and used their spare's. Variable fishing options were achieved by leader set ups matched with combinations of fly types. My personal approach to which rig set up to use is to watch who's catching fish and copy them....simple but effective.

But as they say in fishing, the fishing was tough. I think that's a euphemism for 'where are the fish?' (Not

here) What are they eating? (Don't know), when are they feeding? (not now)'. But that, as an avid fly angler might muse, is where the fun is....why? Pondering as the fish-less some times do, we speculated that the unusually warm weather, coupled with water temperatures of up to 23 degrees might be putting some dampers on the fishes failure to meet our expectations? Similarly, what worked last year was now ancient history failing to repeat.

Throughout this early phase of speculation, Fred remained true to his preferred style of fly fishing, and it paid off, both in the early days of this trip and on to the last. Fred's fly pedigree is British/Irish loch style. In summary a simple long leader, easily 20 feet, but often longer, of 6-10lb breaking strain mono with three droppers, all small loch style flies, ALL of his own creation.



As Fred might say, his fishing style was an extension of himself and his long held values about being true to himself and true to his art. I just thought he was a little odd Irishman, committed to aerialising a super long tippet multi fly rig, day or night, rain or hail, windy or calm. I might have been more critical except there's nothing you can say when you stand shoulder to shoulder with the man and you are fish-less and he connects consistently and on one occasion, landed 2 fish on the one cast.



If you have the skill and the patience, a rig that delivers flies to multiple feeding zones at once will catch fish, Fred showed us time and time again that this technique works, and he sees no point in fishing differently. In true form, my first good tak and short lived fight came from copying Fred's long multi fly set up.



Notwithstanding Fred's initial successes, it was decided that the Tropic of Jindabyne was proving less productive than hoped, despite many hours on the water, day and night using a number of approaches, be it speculative wets, single or multi-fly searches in deep and shallow water. WillyWeather suggested Eucumbene might be a little bit cooler and with the hope that cooler conditions might encourage the trout to feed, we decided mid week to set off for the launching ramp at Buckenderra.



As hoped, soon we were getting some runs on the board. Was it the slightly cooler conditions, or perhaps it was because we were fishing more confidently in well known waters. Most of our fish taken were punchy rainbows in that 1-2lb size range with the occasional well conditioned brown thrown in, again, smaller than hoped. As we took in our surroundings seeking clues for food sauces nothing stood out.



It seemed a bit of everything was on the menu, and examinations of the stomach contents of several fish showed everything from beetles to mud eyes, yabbies to dragonflies were being consumed, but not exclusively, nor consistently. That's fishing I guess.



Each and every day, Peter was our guide and skipper. With much skill, he night navigated the expansive waters of out two largest trout waters. For trips like these, to be successful, you need a balance of humour, optimism and collaboration and I think we had enough of all, oh and a freshly caught and cobbled together Yabby Linguine also helped, but that's a story for a another time.



2023 Swansea Salmon Classic

Fri 18th to Sun 20th August

This year's 2023 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, meals and drinks, however, on Saturday night at 6pm the club will have a bbq, salads, tea, coffee and water. 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.

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 for non-members. This includes your Saturday night feast.



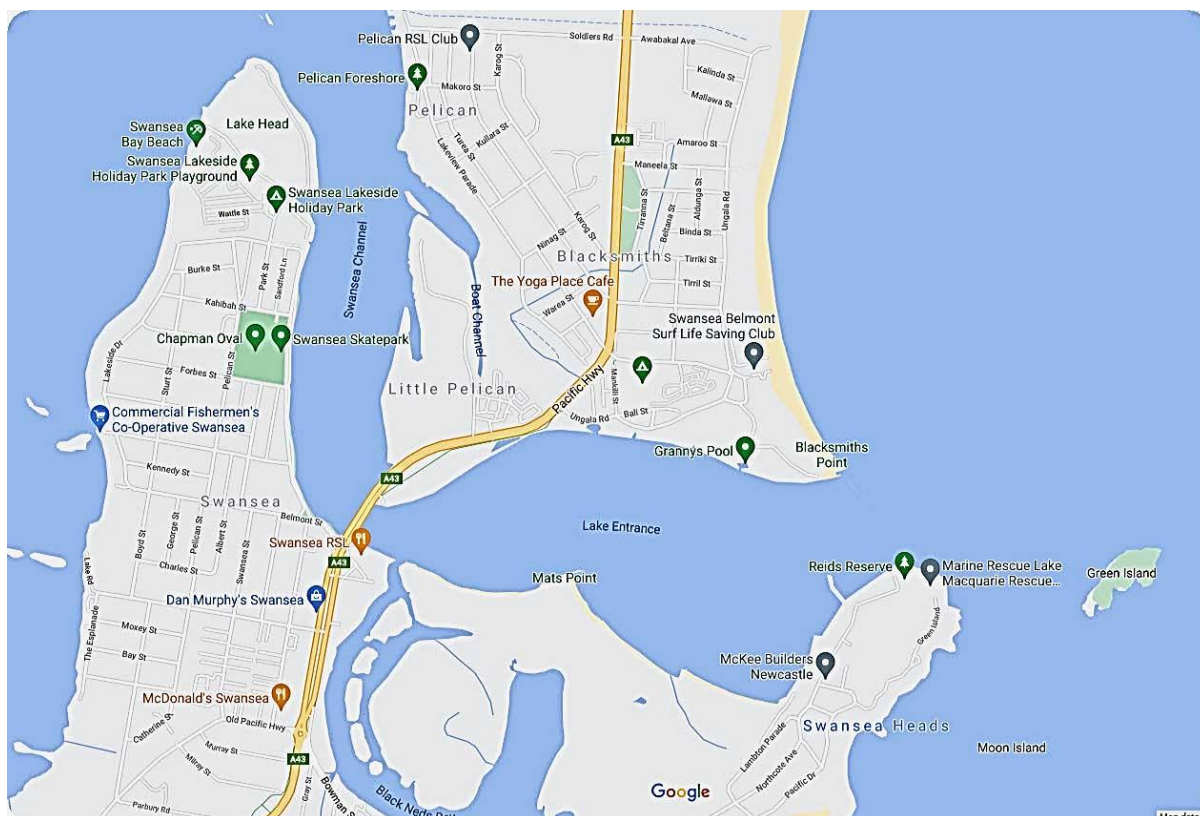
Fishing

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 fishermen.

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. Just one bit of advice, if you arrive early on the water your chances of getting fish multiplies!

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. However, 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. Go online to Swansea Lakeside HP <https://lakemacholidayparks.com.au/swansea-lakeside-caravan-park/contact-us> and check out the cost, availability and type of accommodation to suit your needs and budget. 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 Gommera St
Swansea	Blacksmiths
0249712869	0249712858

Saturday night

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

A buffet style bbq, salads and desert will cater for your needs after a gruelling day on the water, as well as water. Bring you own grog and specific non-alcoholic beverages.

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.

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?



My contact details are
Email:- jeffandlynnyates@bigpond.com for details of your stay
or
Mobile:- 0427002766 in emergencies

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

HVFFC Sponsors



If you follow BWCflies on social media, you are most likely aware of our fly fishing dedicated store located on the NSW Central Coast.

Our range of fly tying materials, fly tying tools, fly boxes, accessories and fly fishing equipment is always expanding as new product and new Brands are being sought from around the world to bring them to the range available in the Shop.

A vast product mix from the leading Brands in the flyfishing industry are now on offer. Our goal is to deliver fly fishing product that represents high quality and consistency each time. Flyfishing, It's our passion and we take personal pride in upholding our professional and service ethic goals.

Our Fly Shop is open to the public (see Trading Hours on the website for opening and closing times), with 4 car parking spaces available right at the front door.

If you heading to the Central Coast or in need some fresh gear before heading north or south, be sure to stop by.

We are located approximately 5 minutes off the M1 Wyong Rd turnoff.

Visit us at Unit 8, 5 Joule Place, Tuggerah NSW, 2259.

Cherie and I hope to catch up with you in the store, sharing a coffee or a yarn about recent sessions.

LIDDELL

GLENCORE



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Hunter Valley Fly Fishing Club Incorporated (the "Association")
(Incorporated under the *Associations Incorporation Act 2009*)

I,
[full name]
of
[address]
.....
[email]
.....
[contact number(s)]

☐ \$50 Full member ☐ \$20 Junior member ☐ \$60 Family membership (✓)

I hereby apply to join the Association. I agree to comply with and be bound by the constitution of the Association for the time being in force.

.....
Signature of applicant

Date:

Fees:

For applications dated between 1st July and 31st December, please pay the full fee.

For applications dated between 1st January and 31st March, please pay HALF the full fee.

For applications dated between 1st April and 30th June, please pay the full fee, but your membership will extend to the end of the NEXT financial year. That is, up to 15 months' membership.

Fee paid \$ _____

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 apply:

- Family Membership is available for a member and their immediate family only (i.e. wife/husband/partner and children under 18 years of age as at 1st July) and does not include grandparents, members' siblings or other relations, etc.
- members' children 18 years or older will be required to join as a full member
- each family membership is entitled to one vote at club meetings.
- the information in the following table must be supplied in respect of all people covered by a Family Membership:

Full name	Date of birth	Relationship to member

Lodgement and Payment

Once completed, please sign, scan and email to president@huntervalleyflyfishingclub.com.au, headstarting@bigpond.com and treasurer@huntervalleyflyfishingclub.com.au.

Membership fees can be paid by cash, 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**

Communications

All members participate in a group email for communications about meetings, outings and general fly fishing chat. Separately, we operate a members' directory.

Members' Directory

The club operates an opt-in members' directory. It allows members to contact each other for advice and fishing trips. If you choose to participate, you will be added to the current directory, and you'll receive the current copy, and your own details will be available to other members upon the next mailout (usually twice a year). The directory is STRICTLY paper only and does not include addresses. Only members who choose to participate in the directory receive a copy. We ask for your partner's name so we can address them with courtesy. All fields are optional.

I wish to participate in the members' directory ☐

Spouse/partner's first name

General locality (eg Sydney, Newcastle, upper or lower Hunter, Central Coast etc)

.....

Fly fishing interests (particular species, techniques, places...anything that you may be able to contribute to another member, and you don't have to be an expert. This is about connecting members with members.)

.....



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2023 – 2024

Please fill in this form if you are renewing a Family Membership, if your current details have changed or if you wish to join our members' directory. Single members whose information has not changed do not need to fill in this form.

I am:

- ☐ updating my information as a single full member
- ☐ renewing a Family Membership
- ☐ wanting to join the members' directory

.....
[full name]

.....
[address]

.....
[email]

.....
[contact number(s)]

☐ \$50 Full member ☐ \$20 Junior member ☐ \$60 Family membership (✓)

.....
Signature

Date:

Renewal of 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:

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