



# July & August 2023 Newsletter

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

**Public Officer**  
Tony Ward

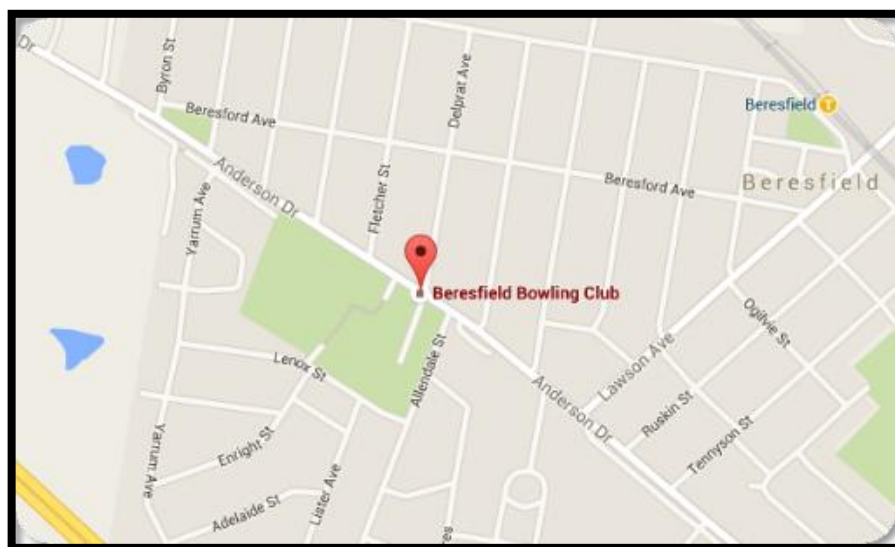
## Committee Members

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 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023**  
**7.00 pm**



# Presidents Report

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

The days are getting longer and the air is filling with insects. In fact, after the last few days you could be forgiven for thinking we were at the end of Spring, rather than the tail of Winter. In fact I killed my first cockroach of the season at home the other day, which is a sure sign that bass season is just around the corner.

Unfortunately still, balmy days weren't on the menu for the salmon classic, with boats battling a stiff breeze throughout the weekend. Unfortunately I only made it down for the dinner/raffle, so didn't get to tangle with any fish, but spirits were high, with good food and good company. It was also great to see so many members from Coffs and Hastings down for the weekend. Despite some ordinary fishing, I didn't hear too many complaints.

Tough fishing and good company was also the order of the day for the St Clair presentation weekend. I've included a brief rundown in the pages of this edition, but thank you again for all those whose efforts made the day such a success, and congratulations again to the winners.

On the topic of outings, we've unfortunately had to cancel the September outing for Luds in the Suds, due to changing beach formations and too much pedestrian activity. We might be able to revive this for next year depending on conditions. If anyone has ideas for a last minute September outing, please let me know. At this stage I'm thinking we can organize a tying day.

Also, the club will be holding its AGM on the 4 th of October, 7pm, at Beresfield Bowling Club. If you've been thinking of putting your hand up as a committee member, now is your chance. I won't be standing again as president, so if you have any interest in the role, please put your name down.

Messy desks make tidy flies,

Matt.



# Ramblings from the editor



Thanks Matt and Howdy Everyone,

Yes, I'm running behind as usual, but here we go for a bumper, two month, edition with all the news about our wonderful club.

I'd firstly like to say I am sorry to hear you're stepping down as President Matt, you've done a great job. Thank you for the time and energy you have put in. You've held the wheel steady and helped the club through a very strange time with covid and such causing as many issues as it did. Thank you.

You probably won't believe this but I am sitting here typing this up as my two girls fall asleep, on our caravans maiden voyage, at Swansea Caravan Park. Yep I'm a couple of weeks late on the Classic but I eventually made it!

My favourite pic from this month's submissions is definitely the three hood(ie)lums standing at the BBQ trailer. For me it really sums up the club.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this edition. With your words, stories, pics and ideas we can knit this little newsletter into something that's a little bit of everything, and that's a good feeling. Jeff, thank you for pulling together the Salmon Classic article and to everyone who contributed to such an awesome read, and some really cool pics to boot.

Finally there is a new annual event that Fiona has taken the reins on organising and it is in its infancy. Personally, I am willing to admit, this sounds like a terrifying event and something beyond my capacity, skill level or levels of tolerance to attend. But for those braver than me please see below.

'Til next time.

Cheers,

Tom

## ***HVFFC Westfield Classic***

*The morning arrived with fine clear weather, no obvious swell and a light wind from the NNE, but I think that was the air conditioner.*

*We skirted around to all the likely spots, NoniB, Kmart, Lincraft, etc. We went at it pretty hard till lunchtime then had a break.*

*A brief afternoon session where everyone got something, cardigans, socks, shoelaces, blouses.*

*A most successful day.*

# 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.*

# Presentation weekend – Matt Jordan

June saw the club hold its annual presentation weekend on the windswept shores of Lake St Clair. Some members made the trip out on Thursday, using the presentation as an excuse to harass some bass before festivities began. I arrived at the campsite mid Saturday morning to tales of woe, with the fishing reported as being very tough. This was somewhat at odds with the two fish I landed before coming to camp, but you've gotta take your smugness where you can.

As folks drifted in and out of camp, lunchtime setup seemed effortless, so either many hands made light work, or I got off lightly. It was also great to see so many members making their way up from Sydney for the presentation. Once our bellies were filled (3 barbeques on the go!) it was time for award presentations.

Rookie of the year: This one was hotly contested, with Eddie A and Patty N drawing a lot of votes for their fishing enthusiasm and contribution to club events respectively. However, the trophy went home with our illustrious editor, Tom Brennan, for enthusiastically taking on the role of newsletter editor, as well as kitting out our zoom meetings so that remote members don't get seasick from the laptop being passed around.

Memorable moment: Another hotly contested one, with Tony's 50cm bass (stick verified) a very close runner up, but in the end the award went to "The Fox". Not to be confused with "The Foxes", this was a moment from the Moonan outing that saw a puppeted fox taking close interest in some fly tying, before donating a few hairs to the cause. Mik Ewin has graciously accepted the prize in the Fox's stead.

Clubperson of the year: Unlike the previous categories, votes for this one were scattered across quite a few members, with long-term office bearers such as Jeff, Brent and Tony getting recognized for their continued efforts. However, pipping them to the post was Fiona Meredith, for her ongoing involvement in the club, in particular in organizing the highly popular (and stylish) sunshirts and hoodies. This means Fiona has now won both Rookie and Clubperson of the year, and so is just a memorable moment away from a grand slam!

Congratulations to all the winners and thank you again to everyone who made the day go so smoothly. Particular thanks to Rod and Narelle Fox for organizing the meat (and the weekend at large), Mark for collecting breadrolls and an ostentatious raffle prize, Brent for conducting the raffle, Fiona and Ray for taking the trailer home, and Callie for her artwork. Thanks also to everyone who chipped in on the day, and anyone else I may have forgotten to mention by name, these events help to engender a sense of club camaraderie, and everyone who puts their hand up is contributing.



# Presentation weekend pics

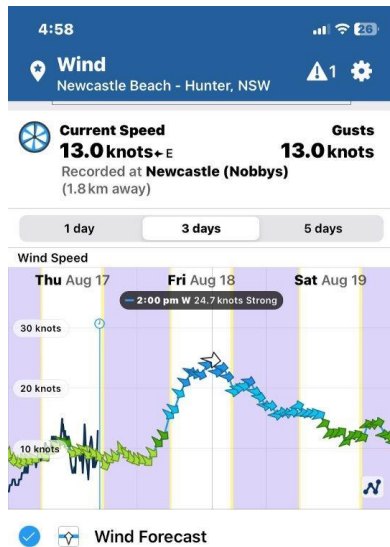






## 2023 Swansea Salmon Classic

Jeff Yates



This year's Classic was shaping up to be one of our best ever outings, but Mother Nature intervened, and threw 50kph plus winds at us for the duration of the event, yet prior to and directly after, the weather was magic and so was the fishing. I'm sure Treasurer Mark Schmidt, holidaying in Taipei, was casting his imminent typhoon further south. We had up to 54 attendees earlier in the week, but the numbers dwindled with sickness and other issues.

***Check out Willy weather app for the Friday and Saturday***

I do feel for the fly fishermen travelling from Hastings and Coffs Harbour and I hope they understand that we can give all the hospitality in the world, but have no control over the weather or the fish biting. Having said that, I'm sure they still enjoyed themselves and stretched the occasional line. I went out with Brad for a few hours Saturday and found the fishing tough, so those who fished a couple of days in that wind, I take my hat off to you!

Before we get into the story, I would like to thank those who made the trip possible, the trip committee, the Foxes for sourcing the meat, Wayne for lending us the Men's Shed bbq kit, Brent for his tireless effort on raffles helping to offset the cost of running the event, Tony taking up the challenge of MC for the event of which he is a natural, the many helpers who prepared food for the hungry fishers and last but not least, our major sponsor BWC Flies Brett and Cherie, who dropped some much admired prizes to the park, but were down with a lurgy so apologised for not being able to attend. Thanks one and all and anyone that I may have overlooked.

Seeing that I was not on the water long, I called for input into this article, and got a great story from Adam, which I kick off with.

*Hi Jeff!*

*I'll tell you about my experience from our pre-weekend outing. While we didn't have much luck with the fish, Tony did manage to catch.... something. I'll let him tell you what it was, just in case he'd rather not have that in this story.*

*Either way, I'm glad he was able to catch a salmon on the weekend after the day we had on the Thursday!*

*Story:*

*After spending the morning trying to find them, we decided that if you can't catch 'em, buy 'em!, so got some fish and chips at Swansea for our lunch.*

*We headed back into the lake along the channel, a couple of hundred meters behind the other boat with Brent and Glenn, chips and fish on our laps, butcher's paper blowing in the breeze.*

*Suddenly we saw some splashes next to the boat. We'd found them! Unfortunately, the other boat by that point was well out of earshot. Oh well, more fish for us!*

*The Australian Salmon had schooled up in the shallows on the edge of the channel, near the sand opposite Pelican Beach, but were staying low in the water column, facing the current. They just weren't jumping. If it weren't for our boat spooking a few, we likely wouldn't have found them at all! Soon enough, a few other boats with anglers turned up, but the tide made things difficult.*

*After finally getting the boat into a suitable position, that wouldn't risk us getting stranded by the tide, both Tony and I managed to hook up. Alas, neither of us managed to get our fish into the boat. The reason for me dropping both of my fish was I'd seriously underestimated the size of tippet needed. 8lb is not enough, lesson learnt!*

*After what seemed like the better part of an hour, the other boat and its crew finally turned up. They quickly had a couple of fish in their boat, which considering we'd found the fish, didn't seem very fair!*

*After trying for a little longer, tired, and a little fed up, we decided to head back in. We'd been on the water for a long time, but it felt like longer. My sea legs didn't go away until the next day! We were both pretty tired, but happy that we'd had some action. It had gone better than I'd hoped for, and I'm thankful to Tony for the invitation.*

*Hopefully next time we won't have to buy our fish!*

*Kind regards,  
Adam Griffith*

I contacted Tony, and in between his MC duties, he and Adam gave the water a fair bashing. He sent me this photo of a large hard earned salmon on light gear.



***Tony with his fish from the sand islands***





The lead up to this event is different every year. This year we had TV footage of massive schools south of the Shoalhaven in June and we hoped that this indicated that we were in for a bumper season, but alas, the buggers didn't turn up here until early August. Peter and myself got amongst them and posted to Facebook, telling everyone that the fish had moved to the drop over adjacent to the Marine Rescue station. Previous years they holed up east of the Swansea Bridge, but this year they have decided to go further into the lake.

Kevin has also been out pre-fishing and his experience has been freely communicated with all club members, so it was no secret when he acted as guide and took Ray and Fiona up to the feeding grounds for their 2 days in the wind.







***Huon locked in battle with one of 3 fish he caught against the odds on Saturday, generously sharing his boat and knowledge with Rob Gorseski***



***Glenn with a nice fish and above motoring about with Brent up front***

Story:

*I really look forward to attending the clubs Salmon Classic at Lake Macquarie.*

*If I'm lucky, the fish I catch are the largest I've ever caught on fly, and they put up a fantastic fight on my 6 weight! (My weak shoulder)*

*Kevin, our fishing guide, seems to track down the school, through rain, wind, ripping currents or big swell!*

*Photos below tell the story! (ed. they sure do, thanks Fiona)*

Fiona







I'm sure there are many other stories to be told and no doubt will hear them during fish talk at our next meeting



# 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.

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# LIDDELL

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# GLENCORE



### **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:

- 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 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

### Lodgement and Payment

Once completed, please sign, scan and email back to [president@huntervalleyflyfishingclub.com.au](mailto:president@huntervalleyflyfishingclub.com.au), [headstarting@bigpond.com](mailto:headstarting@bigpond.com) and [treasurer@huntervalleyflyfishingclub.com.au](mailto: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**

### 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 are 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 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 1<sup>st</sup> July and 31<sup>st</sup> December, please pay the full fee.

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

For applications dated between 1<sup>st</sup> April and 30<sup>th</sup> 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**

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**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.

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.....