

# September & October 2023

## Newsletter

<b>President</b>	Adam Griffith
<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

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

Beresfield Bowling Club  
Anderson Drive, Beresfield

**Next Meeting:**  
**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023**

**7.00 pm**

### Public Officer

Tony Ward

### Committee Members

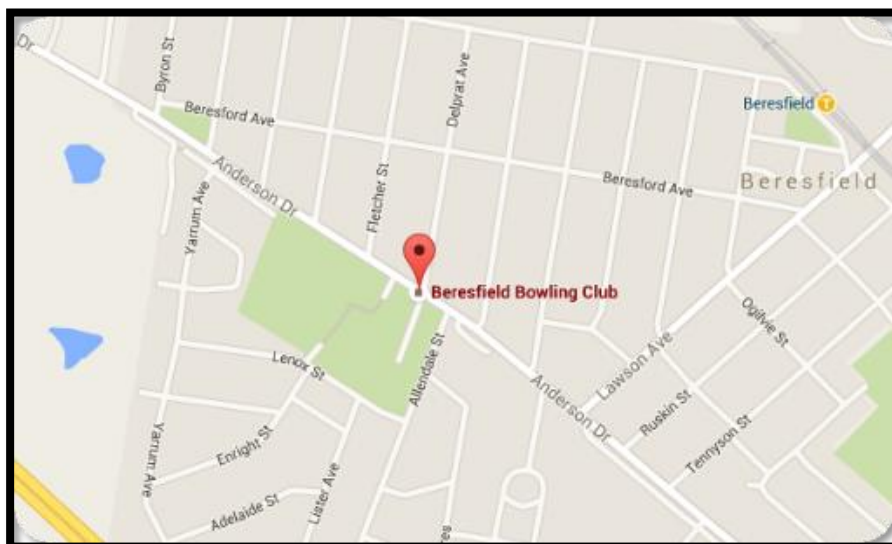
Fiona Meredith

Jeff Yates

Kevin Croft

Matt Jordan

Peter Sewell



# Editors Ramblings – AGM Special Edition

Yes, I've boldly placed these ramblings as first item for this special AGM edition of the Newsletter. Such is the dizzying power of the Newsletter Editor that I can pull off stunts like this and expect to get away with it!

Seriously though what I really want to do is to get in first, before Matt and Adam, and thank them both for their efforts in the roles of Presidents Past and Present.

Matt, you've done an awesome job as President, thank you! Thanks for welcoming me to the club when I reached out (18 months or so ago) and everything you've done for the club to keep things ticking along. However, I do still want to hear the full story about that fox in "that" photo. Furthermore I can't full express how much it has made my day that you managed to slip in one of my favourite quotes of all time into your final report! TY

Adam, Thanks for taking over the helm from Matt, it should be a fairly easy sail I think unless I publish something untoward in the Newsletter and get us all into trouble! With a little more sincerity I must say that with the support of such wonderful club members (as highlighted by Matt report) you've got as much assistance and experience available to you as you could ever hope for, such is the wonderful nature of our club. Again, thanks for stepping up and giving such a great introduction in your report.

On a boring and nerdy note, I'd like to mention that we will be moving from **Zoom** to **Teams** for our remote "Zoomers" from our **December** meeting onwards. Not that I am a Microsoft fan boy ( I used to work for Apple back in the day, so I'm well aware of what a fanboy is) the fact that we've secured our free, ongoing, not for profit (business grade) subscription for M365 it seems silly not to start down that path rather than relying on a club member's (who won't be named in a public newsletter) work Zoom account to make our meetings happen. This will also hand the ability to run/start meetings to more people, because we can't all be at all the meetings.

Three important points stemming from above

- 1) **November meeting is "as normal" on Zoom, nothing changes.**
- 2) Teams invites WILL NOT require an account to be created to join the meetings. Same restrictive practice (or deliberate lack thereof) will apply to Teams meetings as to Zoom
- 3) Agenda item will be raised at the November meeting to confirm whether next Wednesday (8<sup>th</sup> Nov) at 7pm will be a good time to test "Teams" access for our "Zoomers". 5 mins to check everything works for you, if not we'll work it out. If this works for most I'll send out an invite so we can iron out any kinks.

Jeff has very wonderfully, and quietly, collated three submissions for this edition from Wayne Salmon, Mark Schmidt and himself. I hope you enjoy them as much as I did. Thanks Jeff, very much appreciated. Thank you also to Mark and Wayne for contributing and to Paul for a piece that he is putting together for our end of year edition.

Finally, apologies from me as I won't be at this months meeting, my girls are taking me somewhere for my birthday so I can't miss that.

'Til next time.

Cheers,

Tom



# Outgoing Presidents Report

Hi all and welcome to the October 2023 edition of the HVFFC newsletter. This will be my last report as president before I hand the reigns over to Adam - a new(ish) member with extensive club and leadership experience, who I'm sure will be a great asset to the club as we move into the future. I don't know Adam all that well, but he is clearly a genuine and sincere guy, who clearly wants to do his best for the club. I'll be hanging around during the transition, but I'm sure we're in more than competent hands.

As such, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the members, committee and otherwise, who made my time as president as smooth and enjoyable as it was. It's no secret that I wasn't keen when I was "volunteered" for the job, but after a few little hiccups, the process has been remarkably smooth, thanks entirely to people with more idea than me working behind the scenes.

Firstly, I'd like to thank Darren, our previous president, who worked hard and selflessly for the club over many years, including some tough ones during Covid shutdowns. I have nothing but respect for Darren and his time at the helm. Secondly, I'd like to thank Tony, our secretary and public officer, for helping to navigate the ins and outs of club running and paperwork submission. Also Wayne Hunt and Mark Schmidt for their respective times as Treasurer. The club was, and is, in good hands. I'd also like to thank Brent Blackwell for his continuing tenure as Vice President and raffles coordinator, quietly and competently working in the background, and Brett and Cherie of BWC flies, for their continued support of the club via sponsorship and hosting outings. Also a massive thanks to Tom Brennan, who within months of joining the club took on the mantle of newsletter editor and general tech wizard, revamping the club's email systems and dramatically improving the meeting experience for remote members, thanks for everything mate.

Finally I'd like to thank all the members who contributed to making the club experience so rich over the last couple of years. Including but not limited to: Patty Neylon and Ben Hall, who within months of joining put their hands up to run outings, including the Swansea Salmon classic (no small feat). Jeff Yates, Peter Sewell, and the Foxes, for coordinating the running of the club's larger outings and fundraisers, and Fiona Meredith for coordinating the design and ordering of the club's sunshirts and hoodies. Also to every member who came to an outing, shared a fly or a drink, or even a spot next to the campfire. It's all these little acts that make the club experience more than just going for a fish.

I'll still be around, attending as many outings and meetings as I can, and helping Adam with the handover, just as Darren helped me. But as far as this column goes – so long and thanks for all the fish.

Messy desks make tidy flies,

Matt.



# Incoming President's Report

In case you hadn't heard, our club has a new President: Me!

After having served the club with distinction for a number of years, Matthew Jordan has decided to take a well-deserved break. I'd like to take this moment to thank him for the time, effort, and leadership he has provided to our club over the course of his presidency. His positive influence on the club has not gone unnoticed or unappreciated, as I'm sure we can all attest. Now it is my turn to rise to the challenge, and I will try to match the fine standard he has set. I'd also like to welcome and introduce the new and returning committee members elected at this year's AGM on 4<sup>th</sup> October.

President: Adam Griffith (<- that's me!)

Vice President: Brent Blackwell

Secretary: Tony Ward

Treasurer: Mark Schmidt

Newsletter Editor: Tom Brennan

Grants Officers: Tony Ward, Mark Schmidt

Committee Members: Peter Sewell, Jeff Yates,

Kevin Croft, Matt Jordan, Fiona Meredith

Raffles Co-ordinator: Brent Blackwell

Public Officer: Tony Ward



Given the relatively short length of time I've been a club member, it's completely understandable that some of you have not yet met me, or even recognise my name. I hope that this will not be the case this time next year, and that I'll have had a chance to introduce myself in person to you all. For now I suppose in writing will have to do, but if you ever see a very tall, spectacled young man at a future club outing, the chances are that it's me. Come over and say hello!

I'm originally from Orange, NSW, where I cut my teeth chasing mostly carp, trout, and redfin in the area's lakes, rivers, and creeks. In 2014 I moved to Newcastle to study mechanical engineering, but personal transport and local connections found it hard to indulge my hobbies like I used to. Early this year, and after several months of denial, I realised that I now owned a car and that the issues of transport were a thing of the past. Now I just needed some "fishy friends", so decided to introduce myself to this fine club I'd heard so much about. I'm happy to say that I was pleasantly surprised by how progressive and active the club is, and how warmly I was welcomed by its members! Less than a year later I've now found myself in the hot seat, and speaking of hot; Spring has been here for a while, but it feels like Summer has arrived early as well!

For those of you that have perhaps had an eye on the water but not necessarily on the weather, it looks like we're in for another hot & dry summer, with the BOM confirming last month that we're in another El Niño cycle. Rainfall has also been below average for the past few months, with club members already reporting that flow levels in the local area are lower than usual. Things are beginning to look dry in parts of the Hunter Valley, and there have already been several bushfires locally and further afield. These hot and dry conditions will bring hazards and risk to us anglers, and the fish as well. With these things in mind, please remember to be safe and responsible while fishing (as I'm sure you already are), and to take extra water and precautions. On the upside, insects such as termites, hoppers and cicadas have started to become quite active, which is good news for all you dry fly fans!

Despite low rainfalls, fishing reports from members have so far been good. As I write this, some of our members are near Lithgow enjoying what the region's fishing has to offer. I've already seen some photos, and with it being near to my homeland, I look forward to what they have to say about their trip away, either in this newsletter or the next!

Wishing you all tight loops and tight lines,

Adam

# 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.*



## *2023 October 7CD Club report*

Jeff Yates

What a magic place Thompsons Creek dam is, yet it still has the reputation of being a difficult fishery, but I hope after our recent trip, members have had a few glances of its possibilities.

Friday was a lovely 24 degree day to meet up with a few guys for flick around the lake. At 100% capacity, the lake was looking spectacular, with the water particularly clear. The first fish I sighted looked small on the bottom, but when he swam from the depths to inspect my offering, his size was surprising. The unweighted #16 nymph was casually swallowed, but the mood changed when he felt the cold steel. The brief encounter lasted less than 30 seconds as a jump and head shake dislodged the nymph, and I was left wondering about what went wrong. This was repeated twice more during the day, which I wasn't too happy about.



Anyway, back to the trip. I soon caught up with Eddie, keen to show me his Tangara outfit. Lovely gear for the rivers, but maybe a little restrictive for the dam. However, not all is lost, I know a great spot up the back of the dam, where a deep gully with a permanent soak, empties into the backwaters. We had a flick on the way up, and meanwhile spoke to Wayne who was going to meet us up there for lunch. At this stage I didn't realise that I had a terminal problem with my phone camera, and this was to haunt me later, with unclear shots, almost like looking through the bottom of a glass jar.

We marvelled at the tame kangaroos, some on steroids such that bulging muscles encouraged us to give them a wide berth. We counted over 50 in one mob, all quite content to share their paddock with us. I was giving Eddie a reminder to be on a lookout for Tiger snakes, but the only tigers we saw were 2 beautiful Tiger trout, one falling to Eddie and his Tangara outfit and I scored a 470mm one at the back of the dam. These fish are a marvel to catch, they fight like demons and take for ages to subdue.

The fishing slowed down around lunchtime, some of us snoozed under the shade while others flogged the still waters. By about 3pm with a light breeze on the water, the fish started to show up again cruising the edges. We had some fun chasing them, and as time wore on, I decided that we needed a change in scenery. All 3 of us headed back towards the carpark, but not before a stop at one of my favourite spots. Wayne hit the jackpot, landing several lovely fish, and after an exhilarating half hour it was time to pull up stumps and head for camp. Eddie and myself walked 14,000 odd steps and I'm sure Wayne walked further, but all the aches and pains we forgotten in the ecstasy of the catch and pleasant surrounds.



***A tiger  
and  
rainbow  
from  
Friday's  
fishing***

Next morning I travelled back in from Lithgow, still a little sore from the previous days trek, those aging bones aren't getting any younger. Meeting up with Mark and Brent in the carpark, I updated them with the findings from the previous day, giving them the heads up on the 2 nymph rig and strike indicator.

There was a procession of people in front of us, and after all it was a weekend, as a couple of guides did their stuff with a team of rookies. My team were far from rookies as Mark sighted a lovely fish and landed it without any fuss. Eddie had decided to go to a conventional rig today, and towards the end of the rocky banks, I sighted a fish for Ed to target. In his excitement he lost one of his nymphs on a back cast, but undeterred he fired the remaining one in front of a very large feeding brown, which had swam up the edge of a weedy, deep drop over. On cue, the fish homed in on the rig, but was more interested in swallowing the white wool indicator, rather than the nymph! Ed struck, a bent rod but no hookup!

We moved on, and after a brief fish with the crew, I pulled up stumps, wished them all the best and headed back. Along the rock ledge, the wind had started to blow black beetles in from the surrounding trees, this created a bit of activity, but with the number of weekend warriors on the water, I decided to give it a miss and head for home.

Thanks to those who attended and hope you had a good time, and have learnt a few more tricks for fishing this wonderful waterway. Heaps of fish sighted and a few landed.....



*Thompsons Creek Dam Club Outing*  
Mark Schmidt

It's always good when fish are caught at a club outing.

And they were. Regularly.

There's something uniquely appealing about trout. They're elusive, they're clever, they're wily and when we manage to win one, they're quite a pretty fish too. Photographable, almost.

Brent and I met on Thursday night at Lake Wallace campground in Wallerawang. It's a great campground. Free showers and 24 hour toilets (warning: B.Y.O.T.P.). A time limit of 48 hours exists, and our neighbours who'd been there three weeks were a friendly lot.

I've always admired the simplicity of Australian nomenclature. A snake's brown, so we call it a Brown Snake. A black snake is a Black Snake. You understand. Well the Fish River is indeed the Fish River, and Brent and I proved that fact at Flat Rock campground on Friday. A couple of rainbows each in the morning, with sunbaking audiences suitably impressed. It's always nice to have an audience when you're doing something right. For me it's usually the other way 'round.

For the afternoon we went to the ford where Honeysuckle Falls Road crosses the Fish River. I'd had a run-in with the landholder only two weeks earlier and he was well-and-truly the topic of conversation at DPI, so we received a friendly smile and wave, instead of peevish ire. I didn't enjoy flyfishing that place, but I can attest to the presence of trout and redfin, and Brent was playing with some carp, unfortunately.

Friday was also the day Jeff, Wayne Salmon and Eddie hammered Thompsons Creek Dam. Good fish caught, and plenty of them.

Being the consummate gentleman, Jeff ignored his weary legs to instruct Wayne Hunt, Brent and myself at TCD on Saturday, and under his excellent tutelage even I caught a fish. A first TCD trout on fly. I want to publicly thank Jeff for sharing his knowledge and skill with me.

Wayne Hunt, Brent and I met with local legend and angler access guru Ray Tang on Sunday for a morning fish at the Portland Millpond. Picture this: a still morning with blue skies, your friends spread around the lake but within your field of view, trout swimming past you in gin-clear water, and catching two of them in the first two casts. Does it get any better than that? Well apparently it does, because the delightful village of Portland has a building called The Annexe, which houses interesting (read: bizarre) artworks, and coffee with homemade muffins.

Wayne's departure for a long drive home left Brent and myself, and having fished three days on rivers and lakes, and having caught fish on every day, we opted for a more mechanical afternoon. I've always said that inside every man is a boy who likes steam trains, and with this in mind we spent the afternoon on the Zig Zag Railway.

Beer, trout, red wine and steam trains. The very definition of a boys' weekend away.



## *Indicator Nymphing: A New Approach*

Wayne Salmon

Indicator nymphing is the standard go to rig for fishing NZ Tongariro River and Lake "O" and I have been using it successfully for many years over there. However, I never considered using this set up in our waters for some reason until recently.

What is meant by indicator nymphing can vary in the setup as some regulations especially in NZ mean you can only use a woollen indicator but over here it can be any floating item that will support the nymphs. A standard rig would consist of a floating fly line using a dry fly as the indicator and nymphs below. The woollen indicator or a small "thingamabob float" are also options for use here.

A recent trip to Eucumbene was blown out with gale winds and casting was very difficult in the conditions so I found a partially protected bay at Middlingbank and tried my luck using an indicator with 2 nymphs under and surprisingly caught 2 small rainbows.

My interest in this setup was growing and at the trip to TCD last week, Jeff persuaded me to put an indicator on as he was getting more bites with it. I put on the "thingamabob" float with 2 black nymphs, a size 14 beadhead and a size 16 black flashback nymph and with the strong wind at my back I cast to rising fish and to my surprise the fish tried to eat my float on 3 occasions so at this stage still no luck. With the day drawing to a close we headed back towards the dam wall when Jeff advised we should try his favourite spot. Still with the float rig set up I cast into a deep hole and was immediately hit by a fish but an early release. This was the beginning of a hot bite as the next half hour I landed 2 rainbows around 4 and 5lb, a brown around 2lb and a couple of small fish.

What was interesting was that the bites all came when there was ripple on the water as it gives action to the nymphs. The advantage of this style of fishing it allows the nymphs to be in the strike zone longer than the cast and retrieve method as well as resting my poor old worn out shoulder.

So if you have not considered using a float for nymphing give it a go as I am now a convert.



# 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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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

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