



March - April 2024 Newsletter

President	Adam Griffith
Vice President	Brent Blackwell
Secretary	Tony Ward
Treasurer	Mark Schmidt
Newsletter	Tom Brennan
Raffles	Brent Blackwell

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

Beresfield Bowling Club
Anderson Drive, Beresfield

Next Meeting:
7pm Wednesday 5th June 2024

Public Officer

Tony Ward

Committee Members

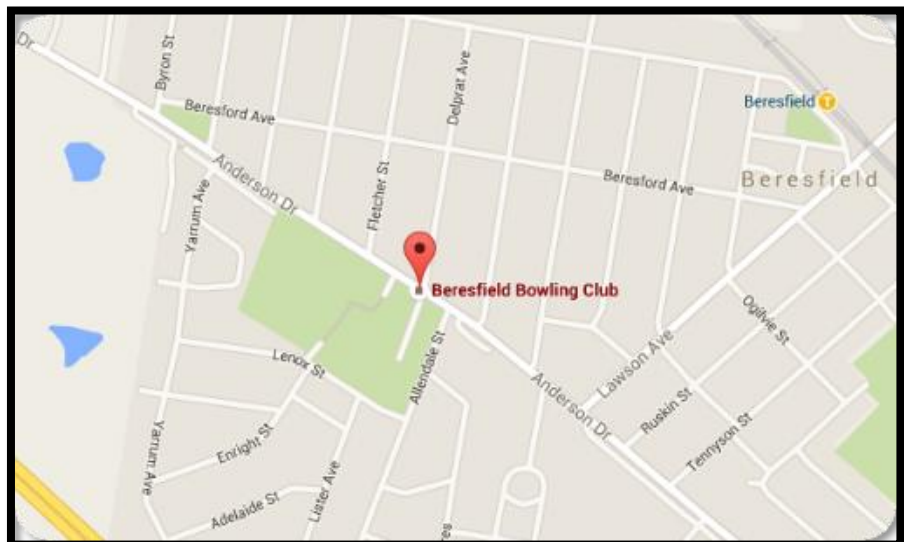
Fiona Meredith

Jeff Yates

Kevin Croft

Matt Jordan

Peter Sewell



Yearly Club Outings

There will be further details about Trip Masters etc circulated via the club email group. This will be a work in progress and will be subject to change so make sure you refer back to the most recent newsletter for the most up to date listing.

<i>Jan</i>	<i>Nil</i>
Feb	Jimmys Beach (2024) / Tuncurry
March	Casting Afternoon Beresfield
	Thompsons Creek (2024) / Moonan Flat
April	Chaffey Dam
May	Lake Lyell
June	St Clair
July	St Clair & Presentation
Aug	Salmon Classic
Sept	Newcastle Harbour
Oct	3 Mile Dam / Snowys / Thompsons Creek
Nov	Windamere
<i>Dec</i>	<i>Nil</i>

President's Report

Hello HVFFC members and friends! I hope you've all been well, and angling like mad!

Have you ever wondered how difficult it must be to be a weather forecaster? You spend hours upon days collecting and analysing data, looking at weather charts, running computer simulations and all for what? Maybe 2 minutes at the end of the 6 o'clock news? It's a fairly thankless job, but the moment mother nature decides to do something unusual, then LOOK OUT. While some people's BBQ picnics are getting slightly damp, you're up to your neck in a tsunami wave of complaints, all because of something you can't control! Oh well, where there's losers there are winners. I suspect there's been a definite uptick in the sales of clothes driers recently thanks to the spate of wet weather Newcastle and the Hunter region has experienced lately. The reason I bring up the matter is because a certain someone (a.k.a. me) wrote a while back that we should be prepared for a period of hot and dry weather as the BOM had declared we had entered El Niño. The weather cycle has changed much faster than expected and now it's La Niña! Funny thing, weather. Do you think that if tomatoes blush when they see the salad dressing, that clouds might avert their gaze when they catch the weather changing?



Moving on from the weather front, the fishing front has been pretty decent in the freshwater, probably thanks to all that rain. Several of our members have been having great success with the local Australian bass, and those fishing further afield have even found some enthusiastic trout. It has, however, made estuaries a bit more of a challenge, as I found out myself at the club's recent Foster/Tuncurry trip. I won't write anymore about the outing here, you and I are going to have to read all about it in the trip report. I wonder if anyone fared better? I certainly hope so!

This month's outing will be to Lake St Clair, also known as Glennie's Creek Dam. Many of our members are very familiar with this dam, with the bass anglers doing quite well recently. Considering that next month will be our annual club outing and will be at the same location, this month would be a good opportunity to familiarise yourself with the location if you've never been before. I've only been there once or twice, but it is quite nice and I definitely recommend it. The dam has some lovely weed beds that prove perfect for bass and everything they like to eat. I do advise earplugs and a means of keeping wildlife out of your bed if you intend to stay overnight. During my most recent trip I was rudely awakened by the soft, wet, *thplonk* of a frog jumping on top of me!

Enjoy the read, and kudos to Tom Brennan and everyone who contributed to another wonderful HVFFC newsletter!

Fishfully yours,

Adam Griffith

HVFFC President

Ramblings from the editor

Welcome to Winter!

The cold weather is well and truly upon us that's for sure. Luckily though our little family here has managed to over achieve in the lead-up to Winter by managing to back-up a dose of covid with a family sized deal of influenza a, so we are hopefully all done for this season!



No fishing to report from me but will look at fixing that in the coming weeks.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to the Newsletter, as always it's your contributions rather than my enthralling ramblings that keep everyone coming back for more.

Whilst I haven't brought much content over in the past from our Facebook group it has been nice to see how active it has been recently with lots of people posting pics worthy of some serious envy. Even "The Fonz" made a cameo appearance. If you've posted anything on "Facebook" or "Plenty of Fish" or wherever you post your best stuff let me know and we can always find a spot here.

Looking forward to seeing some familiar faces at the meeting tomorrow night, especially those of you who've just googled the new fishing social media platform mentioned above. We might vote on the newly proposed name of HVFFRWC (see below).

'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.

Forster Weekend - 17th-19th

We headed off for the weekend on the Thursday with Rod and Lorraine joining us and everyone else arriving either Friday or Saturday.

Most people had arrived by lunch on Friday. We had 18 members attend which was awesome. Not everyone stayed the weekend.

Friday we hit the water for a few hours but came up empty mostly with the exception of Simon who caught a couple. The weather on Friday was great, however the water was very dirty due to flooding. We all went out for dinner to Sporties at Tuncurry.



Saturday dawned and the weather was appalling, rained all day. The ladies went shopping whilst the guys went on a tour of the fishing and camping shops of Tuncurry and Forster. However Les did brave the elements and had a fish.

We all piled into my late mum's house for Happy Hour and a BBQ. We had a great time socialising and chewing the fat. A good time was had by all. It was great to see everyone catching up and swapping stories.

Sunday most went home. We stayed with the Dillon's, Mark and Brent. Mark braved the southerly winds to fish off the break wall for Black Fish, but had no luck. Sunday was a slightly better day with almost no rain, but it was very windy.

It was agreed that we should change the name of the club to the HVFF Rain and Windy Club ! LOL 😂

Regards,

Rod and Narelle

A couple more pics of Forster trip from Mark S



March Bass Catch – Les Simshauser

I attended the "Hunter Native Fish inc" March Bass catch at Clarence town 9/3/24, this is the 34th year of the Williams River Bass Catch which our group has hosted since 1990 & backed by DPI Fisheries who keep the data base.

Its a Data collection event where all fish are measured to fork length & recorded, checked over & gently released. It starts at Day light on the Sat. & ends 12.00 noon on the Sunday.

We try to cover as many reaches of the river as possible in boats & kayaks. Some of the reaches take many hours to complete as they are 10 to 14 ks in length.

My fishing report for the 9/3/24 started at 8.00 am a long way up stream in the William River, there was a fresh coming down & a good flow of fairly clean water. We paddled upstream for a few hours catching some nice Bass & recording them. These Bass were in perfect condition & all between 195 mm & 245 mm. After returning to our launch spot for lunch we started down stream finding only a few Bass for the afternoon session but a much bigger class of fish, 285 mm to 390 mm Bass were recorded. Because of overgrown bamboo stands, finding the river at the end of some of the pools became a problem & cost us many hours of Kayak dragging, finally finishing at 7.00 PM where we left the pick up vehicle 10 Ks downstream.

I finished with 10 Bass recorded, but only 3 on Fly, using a 4wt, 6'6" rod & a Graeme's Gurgler Fly.

Simple Mudeye Pattern – Paul Barker

This mudeye pattern has proven itself as an effective fly for both Trout and Bass, fished through the change of light and into the night over weedy areas they are generally very well accepted by fish that are feeding.

Tying this pattern couldn't be much simpler, apart from the hook and eyes, fur for dubbing and Black duck breast feathers are all that is required. (*Figure 01*)

The eyes are made from 4mm plastic red beads mounted on 100lb Jenki nylon trace line, after laying down a bed of tying thread the eyes are tied in about 4/5 mm behind the hook eye (*Figure 02*)

Next, wrap the hook shank with tying thread back to the hook bend above the barb, the dubbing material can be any mix of brownish green seals fur or similar, arctic fox fur dyed brown and green were mixed about 3 to 1 and clipped and blended to form the dubbing here. The aim is to form a dubbed tear-drop shaped body, (*Figure 03*) the thinner end finishing just behind the eyes. The over body is formed by four curved black duck neck feathers, these are stacked one on top of the other and tied in so the curved profile of the feathers pretty much follows the curve of the hook. (*Figure 04*)

To complete the fly the shoulder and triangular shaped head are formed with the dubbing material and tying thread. (*Figures 05 & 06*)

We fish this pattern on a floating line with a very slow retrieve, say 25mm strips, with a pause between strips. ST Clair Bass respond well to this pattern with enthusiastic takes being the general rule.

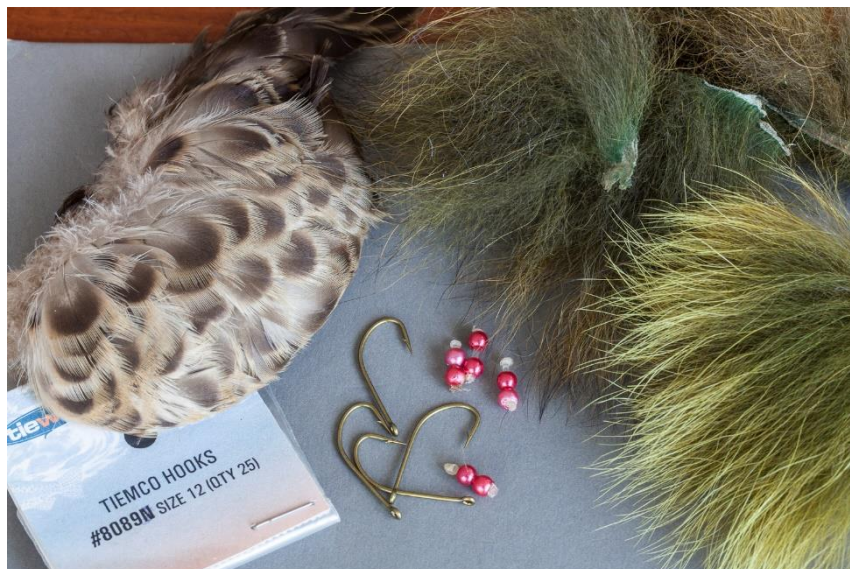


Figure 01



Figure 02



Figure 03



Figure 04



Figure 05



Figure 06

From the Book of Faces

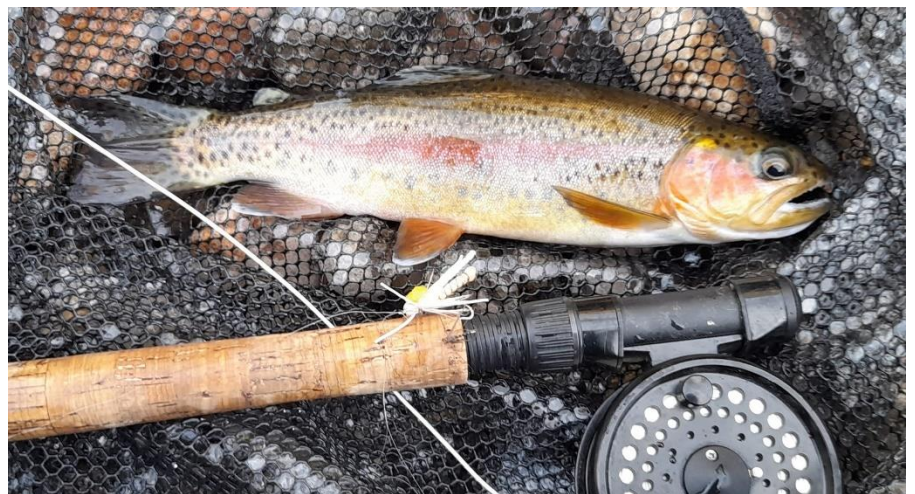
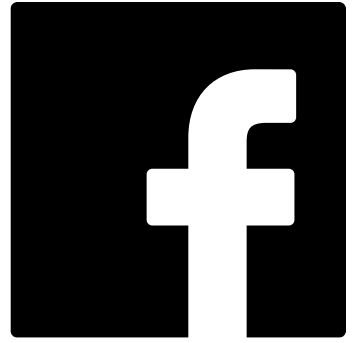
Windy conditions and capping waves at Lake Dissappointment (aka Blowering Dam) on the weekend meant the rare white speedfish that occasionally migrate to the lake were not showing much action on the surface. Despite this I managed to snap a photo of one speedfish that appeared during a brief lull in the weather.

They're not a common target species, but one of the Tumut locals says the cost of the necessary gear and tackle is the main reason most are just happy watching them zoom around the lake from the shoreline. I did see one person chasing them from the bank using a 20 ton Franna crane and a size 1000/0 hook. He said that targeting them from the bank was the safest option, as their size and speed pose a considerable hazard to watercraft. He also said that using a wire trace of at least 0.01-0.015m dia. was critical to successfully landing a speedfish. While they don't have teeth, mono or fluoro leaders are not suitable as they just can't handle the great heat generated by their high speeds.

After walking the banks of the lake for several hours without any luck I decided to head elsewhere. Luckily the mountains around Talbingo protected Jounama Creek from the adverse conditions and I managed to catch 1 rainbow and missed another

If you're interested in learning more about the rare white speedfish, Warby Motorsport and Spirit of Australia 2 have dedicated Facebook pages and websites. There are also some videos on YouTube

Adam Griffith



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 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 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 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, 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**

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 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

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Communications

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

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