

May - July 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 7th August 2024

Public Officer

Tony Ward

Committee Members

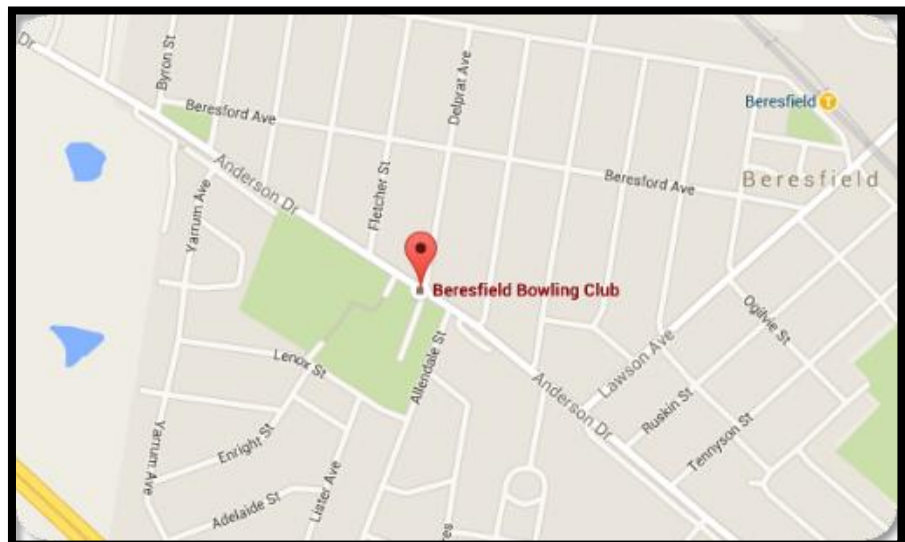
Fiona Meredith

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
Aug	Salmon Classic & Presentation
Sept	Newcastle Harbour
Oct	3 Mile Dam / Snowys / Thompsons Creek
Nov	Windamere
<i>Dec</i>	<i>Nil</i>

President's Report

Hello to all of our dear members, friends and readers!

Last newsletter, our editor Tom brought news of his family's spate of ill health. They've thankfully all recovered, but it looks like this edition has been my turn to be unwell! They say sharing is caring, but when my housemate felt unwell and decided to spend his time convalescing, coughing and sneezing openly in the most well trafficked room of the house, I felt like sharing a few choice words. I felt like sharing a few more after I realised I was developing symptoms, after he'd "shared" his case of the flu with me and our other housemate! Seriously folks, flu is one fish you don't want to catch. Cover up those coughs and sneezes, wash your hands regularly, and if you haven't already, get your flu and covid shots. It might end up saving you, or someone else, a lot more than just lost time and income.



In happier news, HVFFC's June outing to Lake St Clair was very well attended, and all-round a success! Rain did put a bit of a dampener on the weekend, but thankfully did not result in a complete wash out. I, like several others, arrived earlier in the week on the Thursday evening. Luckily the Foxes had bought along a very nice wood stove, which proved to be a warm and communal drawing point for all those that attended. I had a pleasant day fishing on the Friday and packed up a very wet tent on Saturday morning. I managed to land a nice, 37cm bass from one of the islands South of the campsite (Wallaroo Point I believe) around lunchtime on the Friday, and dropped a bigger one that night. I'd just got the lip grips in its mouth when the de-barbed fly dropped out of its mouth, and it swam of with a splash! I'm going to count that as a very quick catch and release, for a total of 2 fish ;) I'd like to say I caught the most fish that weekend, but I think the trip report will likely reveal that a few people well and truly outperformed me!

On a broader note, club members have been keeping the fish on their toes (or should that be fins?) in both fresh and salt water. These are busy months for Lake St Clair (a.k.a. Glennies Creek Dam), with our club holding consecutive events there for June and July (our annual outing is this Saturday 20th!). Many bass have been caught on subsurface minnow and mud-eye patterns, with the majority being in the 30-40cm range and in good condition, indicative of a healthy fishery. In the salt, Australian Salmon and flathead are being frequently caught by our members, between spates of wet and windy weather. When not fishing, members have been busily restocking their fly boxes in preparation for our Swansea Salmon Classic which will be held next month (Friday 16th-Sunday 18th August).

If you aren't a HVFFC member but are interested in participating in the Swansea Salmon Classic, you're more than welcome to attend. Please get in touch via our website (<https://huntervalleyflyfishingclub.com.au/about-hvffc/>) or email so we can provide you with the details. We will be sending an invitation out to clubs from the surrounding regions, but if you're from further afield you can definitely still take part!

Kind regards, and tight lines!

Adam Griffith

HVFFC President

Fishfully yours,

Adam Griffith

HVFFC President

Ramblings from the editor

Thanks Adam, glad you're on the mend mate.

Happy Friday everyone. What a glorious Friday it has been! The sun is out, the wind has gone, I knocked off for the week a few hours ago and somehow, I haven't headed to the pub so instead here I am taking advantage of a quiet moment to finally put our Newsletter together. Yes, I'm late as always getting this out, apologies as usual.



Obviously, the presentation day at St Clair in July was cancelled due to appalling weather, which we have had more than our fair share I think. But this bodes well for an awesome turnout and event in Swansea which I know young Callie is almost as excited as me about attending.

Speaking of Swansea I've attached some info about the trip that Jeff has sent through. If you're able to help out with food, organising, cooking or whatever don't hold back, let Tony or Adam know. Many hands make light work.

A few months ago we had a casting afternoon in the park here in Beresfield and it was quite a hit. I'm wondering if there would be interest in holding something like that regularly? I'll bring it up at the next meeting, but it's food for thought in the meantime. Personally, I can do with all the practice and advice I can get and doubt I'm alone there.

Thanks Tony and Jeff for contributing to this edition, it's very much appreciated as always. The next Newsletter will have an article from Adam about all things inflatable which sounds interesting. He's just organising some photos, which if you do a google search it returns some very colourful pics I can tell you.

I hope everyone enjoys the read as much as I did.

'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.waternsw.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.

2024 Swansea Salmon Classic

Fri 16th to Sun 18th August

This year's 2024 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 HVFFC 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

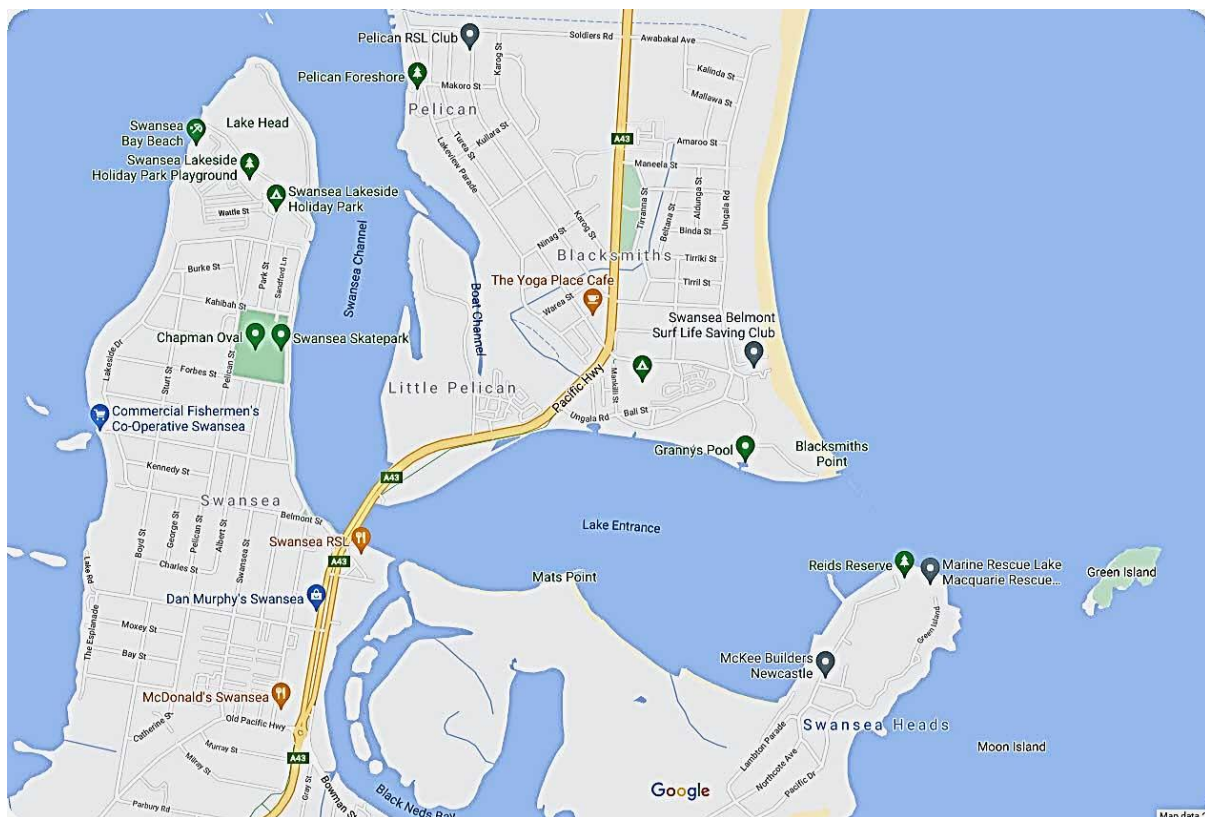
That's what we're here for. The salmon usually work between Swansea bridge and Green or Moon Island (depending on your map), at various times of the tide. Last year they relocated to the airport channel and around the dropover. Bring a boat or a buddy with a boat and abide by all normal water navigation 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

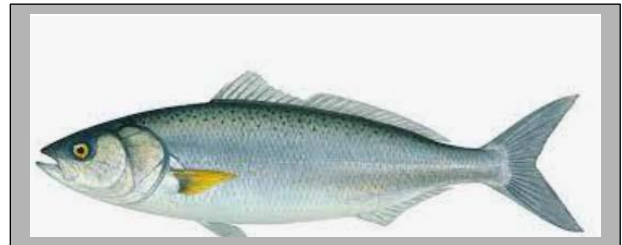
Dinner - 6:00pm. Swansea Lake Holiday Park Function Room.

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-alcaholic 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:- xxxxxxxxx for details of your stay
or
Mobile:- xxxxxxxxx in emergencies

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

Winter Fishing Lake St Clair



Nothing like a hastily organised trip to our favourite lake to get the adrenalin rushing. Having missed out on the club outing the previous weekend, Peter invited me on a trip along with Paul. As I said, hastily, as we were just leaving he put the invitation out to others, but unfortunately, we were not able to get any last-minute takers. As retirees we are not dictated to by working hours and weekends, so we elect to go to St Clair on a whim, when the least number of people are about up there.

We arrived at the back of the lake, up from Lemontree on the Carrowbrook arm late afternoon, due to me catching up with old school friends at lunchtime for a reunion. This spot gives us easy access to fishable waters. We pulled on the waders and layered up for a frosty night. The normal access through the fence has become more challenging with the addition of several strings of barbed wire, but with 230 combined years on the planet, we were able to find a way through, not with the nimbleness of some of our younger members, but with a bit of huffing and puffing and grunting we squeezed through unscathed to the other side.

The western bank was as beautiful as a picture card (picture above, Peter fishing in the distance), but when the water is so pretty, it doesn't always bide well for fishing. Having said that, it wasn't long before Peter landed his first fish along the craggy shoreline on the point.

Very little breeze and glassy water is not what we wanted, however, just around the corner the breeze was pushing briskly along parallel to the bank. Paul peppered the

water with his relaxed and classic casting style, and it wasn't long before he hooked a couple of lovely chunky, roed up bass. At 420mm and 410mm, these were lovely fish landed just as the sun was setting.



We commenced with intermediate lines and smelt patterns, but as the day drew to a close, I changed to a floater and the trusted Craig's Nighttime. There was very little action during the session so it was hard to work out what they were feeding on. The Craigs is a great baseline fly, and I have confidence in its ability to catch fish on most occasions. It wasn't long before I had a 400mm fish on the bank. I fished parallel with the weed bed, now drowned with an addition of a least a meter of new water. At this stage we still hadn't cracked their feeding code. We continued searching for fish as the night grew colder and the thermal layers multiplied.

Peter hooked a couple more fish and I was able to relieve one from a windswept corner after casting to the distinctive slurp of a feeding fish. I kept this fish to investigate the inflated body size. I only wish that I had done a post mortem earlier in the day, as the stomach contained a smorgasbord of shrimp, ranging from tiny 10mm, up to 20mm. I know that I have got some patterns in for the next trip.

It's now 7pm and the fishing has been quiet for the past hour, and the night is cold. Someone mentioned a hot thermos back at the car and I didn't hear any arguments

from the others. The only snag was that horrible fence, but with a little persuasion we overcome our nemesis unscathed!

The hot brew was most welcome, as we struggled out of the waders and into some warm trousers. Our conversation centred on what the fish would have been feeding on as we caught our fish on a variety of flies. It still hadn't dawned on me to clean the fish, as I was being a sook and didn't want my already cold hands dipped in water.

We headed off slowly to dodge the wildlife, and at one stage chased a night critter that was the size of a ring tail possum but had little or no tail and hopped along. I suggested it might be a bandicoot, but unfortunately, we could not get close enough for a positive id. Anyone have any ideas?

Anyway, after the excitement of chasing around in the bush with headlamps flashing, a coffee was suggested and it took little convincing to hit the road again and stop at Maccas. Onward on our journey home it dawned on us that it was State of Origin night, so 'without further adieu' the lads dropped me home for the second half. A win for the Blues was a fitting way to finish off an eventful and rewarding night. Thanks Peter and Paul for your words of wisdom and great company,



The Mrs Simpson



The Mrs. Simpson is another traditional wet fly pattern, that is known as a streamer. This fly has many originators, and it is hard to say who actually came up with the fly. I believe it was one of the legendary NZ ghillies and fly tiers. One thing everyone agrees upon, is the name of this fly. It was named after the Duchess of Windsor, Mrs. Wallis Simpson, who caused quite a bit of controversy when she and King Edward VIII started to get romantically involved. However, I was told by an acquaintance of mine, who claims he met the

original tier of the fly, during a fishing trip to NZ, when he was a young man.

Now, Ric, is a well-known identity in the Tea Gardens and Hawks Nest area. He is a very keen off-shore fisher, and regularly competes in the off-shore big game events, in his large Riviera boat. Ric is also a Real Estate Agent, and land developer. So, he must be right, Yeah?

So, this is the yarn he told me.... Just after King George the VI was crowned in 1937, he and Queen Elizabeth embarked on a grand tour of the colonies, finally arriving in New Zealand for a few days R and R. As you may know, Her Majesty was a very keen and accomplished fisher, both of salmon and trout. And during her lifetime had caught many trophy specimens of both species, On one of her free days from Royal duties, Her Majesty asked one of the equerries if he could arrange a day's fishing on the famous Tongariro River with a local guide. And, so after much investigation, the equery finally located a suitably skilled local man to escort her Majesty to one of the famous pools on the river.

After several casts with no luck, the Queen turned to the guide and asked him if he had another fly to try, as nothing was working for her. After some thought and with great reluctance and some hesitation, He delved into his jacket and offered a new fly. "What is it called" said she. He said "It doesn't have a name yet mam, as I only tied it yesterday". But it looked attractive and fishy, and so the Queen decided to give it a go!

And lo and behold on the second cast, the Queen hooked onto a magnificent Rainbow trout of considerable weight, and following a determined, skilled and energetic fight, the "denizen of the deep" finally came to hand, to the delight of her Majesty and the astonishment of the guide!

Well, after everyone calmed down, and the fish returned safely to the river. Her Majesty went quiet for a moment, and legend has it, the Queen said "I have a name for you and your new fly. Let's call it the Mrs. Simpson". When asked "why that name Mam" Her Majesty replied "Because this fly worked so well on catching and luring big trout in the way Mrs. Simpson lured King Edward VIII into marriage" It was therefor only fitting that the fly was named after the Duchess Of Windsor.

So, the story might be apocryphal, but it doesn't matter, because we all know it certainly catches Trout and Bass!!

Tony

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:

- 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@huntermvalleyflyfishingclub.com.au, headstarting@bigpond.com and treasurer@huntermvalleyflyfishingclub.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.)

.....