

## February 2025 Newsletter

<b>President</b>	Brent Blackwell
<b>Vice President</b>	Tom Brennan
<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  
1st Wednesday of each month at:-

Beresfield Bowling Club  
Anderson Drive, Beresfield

**Next Meeting:**  
**7pm Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

### Public Officer

Tony Ward

### Committee Members

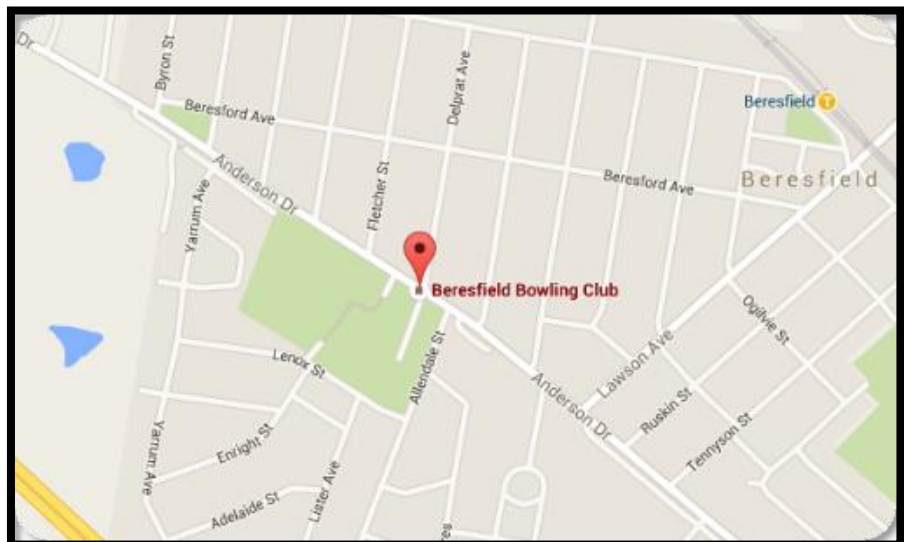
Fiona Meredith

Jeff Yates

Kevin Croft

Matt Jordan

Peter Sewell



# Ramblings from the editor

This is going to be a very short edition I'm afraid. I've skipped over the upcoming events posting as the list will age very quickly, so best to refer to the Google Group or Facebook or meeting minutes for the most up to date info there.

I have also skipped over the Presidents Report this time 'round but we will go back to the usual format in the next edition.

In regards to the next edition of the Newsletter there will be a pause on that for approximately 6 months as I won't have the time required to dedicate to this activity. I am sorry for this as I know how much the newsletter means to the club, however family commitments must come first.

That all being said the number of submissions for the newsletter have dropped off dramatically over the last 18 months which has definitely contributed to the drop in cadence for the release of previous editions.

Thanks Kevin and Paul for your contributions to this edition.

'Til next time!

Tom

Hi fellow flyfishers.

For those interested; below is an article and images penned back in 2006 for FlyLife on the TC fly pattern. The origins of which date back to the 60s where I was first introduced to it by a Cooma local.

## THE INCREDIBLE T.C.

Text and Photography by Paul Barker.

Most of us who have been in the flyfishing game for any length of time have for one reason or another built up a select group of favourite flies.

Being an avid flyfisher of too many years to remember I for one certainly have the odd favourite pattern or two.

While this story did not start back in Izaak Walton's times, it does originate many years back.

Middlingbank, on lake Eucumbene has been the scene of many fantastic days as well as long nights flyfishing over the years.

Many, many seasons ago when you could bank on the serious mud-eye hatches beginning over the Christmas, New year period, by serious I mean you would spend a fair bit of your fishing time plucking these cold footed little creatures from your face, arms and anywhere else on your body that they figured was a good location to enter the next stage of their life cycle.

On those magic nights, it seemed, at times every rainbow and brown in the bay was slashing mud-eyes from near the surface in your general vicinity.

One such evening the lake was glassed out, the moon was a few minutes off appearing over the mountains and it was on for young and old, or so I thought.

Try as I might I could not entice a single taker from the many vigorously feeding fish in my corner of the bay.

In stark contrast my fishing companion, a local, was having a ball, taking an opportunity find out what he was using as he banked yet another fish, all was revealed.

“Put one of these on and retrieve it in short steady strips,” my companion instructed. What a difference a fly makes, instant success,” what is this thing called?” “It’s a T.C.” came the reply.

In the dim torch light the fly was of spider mudeye proportions and was tied such, that when it was retrieved as per the specific instructions would swim just in or below the surface emulating the mudeyes perilous journey to the lakeshore.

A few seasons later while sorting through some seldom used articles of flyfishing kit that original fly saw daylight again.

Having planned a trip to Eucumbene for later in the year it seemed appropriate that some time should be spent tying some of these magic T.C. flies.

Closer examination of the fly in daylight revealed that the fly had had a hard life and was not at all in good condition.

The trick now was to try and identify the materials from which it was tied, the head and collar were certainly deer hair, all be it on the pink side, perhaps with the passage of time it had undergone a colour change, no problem there.

The overwing was a curved feather tied flat over the abdomen, the curve pretty much following the bend of the hook, the material used to form the abdomen was a light fawn in colour, dubbed and could have been any number of different materials, it was also ribbed.

Thinking about the materials and how the fly was tied gave rise to a whole host of possibilities not just in materials but what it could imitate and thus the species of fish it could be presented to.

The creative cogs began to turn, leave off the ribbing, dub the body with a water resistant material and bulk up the deer hair collar and head; bingo it should float high on the surface and be light to cast, the possibilities seemed endless.

There was obviously a range of colours to choose from, the original pattern was almost certainly coloured to match the mudeye's hues, it was most likely natural deer hair before it changed colour.

Given that all of this was taking place during early summer, five hundred kilometres from Eucumbene and as we were not likely to be down there before Christmas, having started this project it would be nice to try the floating T.C. on some local species.

The river bass were on the move as were the black crickets, yes the die was cast, black would be a good starting point, all that remained was to come up with the materials to make the fly work.

Sorting through bags of dubbing material I came across a collection of different coloured clumps of greasy raw wool some of which was dubbed to form the abdomen of the T.C.

In the feather department grey teal neck feathers were selected as they had a manageable curve and were fairly dark in colour, the collar and head would be spun from black deer hair.

Cast under willows and around snags the floating T.C. was an instant hit with the local bass providing some explosive surface action and remains the first choice in surface fly when targeting bass almost three decades on.

Later that summer on the planned trip to Eucumbene the surprises kept coming, fishing in Brookwood bay an offshore wind had maintained a steady flow of hoppers onto the lake margins which in turn attracted a fair number of brownies who were busily harvesting them from the surface.

Some hours into the session and many refusals, not a lot had been achieved other than cycling several hopper patterns between the fly box and the fish, it looked like being one of those days.

Apart from the hoppers there was the odd black beetle drifting past in the ripple, remembering that the black T.C.'s were still in the vest after the bass trips they were about the only option that had not been tried.

Selecting the smallest T.C. it was presented to the next brownie that was encountered, there was not the slightest hesitation, it glided up to the T.C., its nose, golden green in the afternoon light, broke the surface as it engulfed the fly.

Over the following days and some serious T.C. tying this scenario was repeated on most sessions, it seemed all that was required was a section of bank with an offshore wind and the action would start.

By this time other flyrodders in the camp had got wind of this new fly and its successes, credibility remained high until the description got to the fact the fly was a quite large dry, black and it worked very well through the middle of the day, you could almost read their minds," this bloke is having us on".

Wanting some concrete proof of the T.C.'s worth as a daytime pattern a dropper was added to the leader to present two flies to the browns.

In the first instance a black T.C. and several conventional hopper patterns were trialed together, the T.C. was definitely the preferred pattern, next a natural deer hair T.C. was paired with the black version, again it was the black T.C. that induced eighty plus percent of the takes.

In the clear water it was interesting to observe the reactions of the browns when they spotted the fly(s), set about a metre apart on the leader, most of the fish that moved towards the hopper or natural deer hair T.C. patterns would make a definite change in

direction once they sighted the black T.C., usually cruising up to the fly and taking it from the surface.

If the evolution of the floating T.C. has a familiar tone to it, think back to what happened to Don Gapen's muddler minnow not that long after it found its way down under, it went topside rather than it's original sub-surface tying and still remains a popular pattern to this day.

It's taken just on three decades to go full circle and finally run down the history of the original T.C.

Last century, in the late sixties, early seventies there were a couple of successful cordulid patterns enjoying popularity during the then huge mud-eye hatches, the one downside with these patterns was they were rather complicated to tie.

No doubt there were other fly tiers experimenting with similar patterns that worked well during those spectacular mud-eye hatches but were less tedious to tie.

Frank Tarlinton was one such experimenter and it was he who came up with the original T.C., Tarlinton's Cordulid.

Through a series of events over the last couple of years contact was finally made with Frank, he had moved from the Cooma area, which explained why we had not knowingly crossed paths with him on our many trips to Eucumbene.

After a couple of lengthy phone discussions we exchanged our particular versions of the T.C., it was very interesting to finally see what an original really looked like.

It was also interesting to note that the only difference between the two flies was the original was tied on a number six-limerick hook and utilised black duck feathers rather than teal due mainly to the size difference.

In a recent letter Frank went on to explain the importance of having the original pattern placed just in and under the surface film so that as it is retrieved it created a V-shaped wake similar to the one a mudeye creates as it propels itself towards the shore. The sparsely tied deer hair head and trailing legs are all that is required to give the fly a neutral buoyancy compared to the more full dressing for the floating pattern.

Some tips when fishing these patterns, when fishing the wet T.C. Frank indicated that initially adding a little saliva from one's mouth helps to keep the fly in the correct zone.

It also works well when fished on a dead drift, he also mentioned, on sensing a take not to strike immediately, rather pause for a couple of seconds before raising the tip of the rod slowly to set the hook.

When a batch of dry T.C.s have been tied it's a good idea to soak them in a premium quality silicon solution (10% or greater) for an hour and then place them in a partially inflated paper bag in a warm location to dry, then prior to fishing add Gink or similar product for long lasting floatability.

Apart from polaroiding and casting the floating T.C. directly to fish it also works very efficiently in a prospecting roll.

Try casting them in and around timber and rocky outcrops or along weed banks, the fly should be dead drifted with the occasional minute twitch creating a circular wake no larger than the diameter of a twenty-cent coin.

#### TYING INSTRUCTIONS FOR BOTH PATTERNS.

Hook: wet # 6or8 Mustad Limerick 3666, dry # 8 to14 dry fly Tiemco 100 / Mustad 80000.

Thread: Black, diameter to suite fly size.



Abdomen: Wet Dubbed light brown raw wool teardrop shaped (tapper forward). Dry as in wet but dark brown and cigar shaped.

Overwing: Depending on fly size, three or four Teal (small) or Black duck (large) curved neck feathers tied in flat over abdomen.

Legs: Wet Six strands of natural coloured deer hair tied in on either side of abdomen, tips to he back extending to the bend of the hook.

Collar: Dry Medium bunch of black deer hair spun to form collar, tips extending to point of hook.

Head: Wet Small to medium bunch of natural coloured deer hair spun and clipped to a flat slightly triangular shape.

Dry Medium bunch of black deer hair spun, repeat as required to from tightly packed mass, trim to form bullet shaped head, trim bottom of head and collar flat close to hook shank, be careful not to cut thread wraps.

The dry version of the T.C. can be tied in a range of sizes and colour combinations to suite the species being targeted, eg. Bass, Murray Cod, Silver Perch, Bream, (saltwater).

In retrospect the T.C. has been and will continue to be a strong performer when tied and fished correctly over a range of species, give them a try you won't be disappointed.

## T.C. PICTURES



The T.C. version that started the evolution of the floating pattern.



The materials required to tie the T.C.



The dubbed raw wool body, tied cigar shaped.



Select three or four curved duck neck feathers, stager slightly and tie in flat over the abdomen, note thread base to spin the collar over. (Dry version)



Select an appropriate sized bunch of black deer hair to form the collar and spin forward of the abdomen over the thread base.



Select a proportionally sized bunch(s) of black deer hair and spin to form the head and trim to the desired size and shape.





The completed dry T.C.



A selection of dry T.C.s in a range of sizes and colour combinations.



Fishing during the daylight hours with a T.C. can produce some blistering action when there are rainbows in the area.



Prime conditioned, beautifully coloured Eucumbene browns, as a general rule most find it hard to pass up a well-presented T.C.



Could this lakeside critter have something to do with the success of the black T.C.?



## 3D Bass Minnow

I fish the 3D Bass Minnow from the bank at St Clair using a floating line when the water is a bit shallow and /or when there is weed around and you are getting snagged up. The 3D Minnow is somewhat weedless.

I use 6/7 Innovator Distance Rod.

SA Mastery Titan WF-7-F line.

7.5ft Cortland Bass Tapered Leader (16lb) to a 2mm Tippet ring the 1m of 14lb tippet.

This line performs very well in the conditions at St Clair.

When fishing with the 3D Bass Minnow I cast out and let it sink for a few seconds (depending on the depth) The strip back using short sharp strips with pauses every few strips.



Remember the 3D Bass Minnow will ride Hook Point Up

**Brett and Cherie at BWC Flies is the place to go to get your materials and they would be glad to help with any questions.**

### Materials

Hook	Ahrex PR358 CA Bendback in #4
Weight	0.8 Lead Wire
Eyes	4mm 3D stick on eyes in Silver
Thread	Ultra Thread 140 in White
Body	Enrico Puglisi 3D Fiber in Back Country, Orange and White
Head	Solarez Thin Hard UV Resin



## Steps

1. Wind 7 or 8 wraps of 0.8 lead wire on the shank of the hook. Then use UV resin to secure the wire in place



2. Cut about 20 strands of White EP fibre full length from the Hank, then cut it in half and put together to make 40 strands thick. Cut to 100mm long and then tease out the end to taper.



3. Tie the EP Fibre in at the mid-way point spreading the fibre around the hook shank.



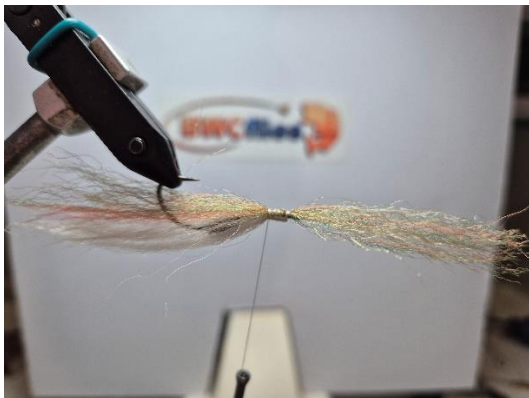
4. After tying in, fold the forward facing EP Fibre back and tie in.



5. Take a small amount of Orange EP Fibre and tie in on the Hook Point side of the Hook.



6. Repeat the steps for tying in the white EP Fibre with the Back Country Colour on the hook point side of the hook shank. Using the white thread make a suitable head and then whip finish.



7. Brush all the fibres to blend them together and trim if necessary.



8. Turn the hook on its side and place a 4mm 3D eye on. I use UV resin to tack it in place before doing the other side.

Use the UV resin to finish the head and secure the eyes.



Happy Fishing

# 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

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@huntermvalleyflyfishingclub.com.au](mailto:president@huntermvalleyflyfishingclub.com.au), [headstarting@bigpond.com](mailto:headstarting@bigpond.com) and [treasurer@huntermvalleyflyfishingclub.com.au](mailto: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.)

.....



**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

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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