

# The *Flyer*



Official Newsletter Of The



# ***THE FLYER***

## **THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE COFFS COAST FLY FISHING CLUB**

**APRIL 2020**

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**Cover:** No, it's not Father Christmas but our "I've been everywhere" club captain David with a cracking Saratoga from Cania Dam.

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT



As someone famous once wrote "The times they are a changin'." It couldn't be more apt to not only our club's situation but our personal circumstances as well in these times where the situation is changing each day. Undoubtedly the virus is going to have a great effect on all that is going on around us in our day to day lives. Our outings and meetings are going to be influenced by the decisions of our leaders both politically and medicinally.

Allan will be keeping us up to date through emails and messages about committee decisions and actions. Unfortunately, this could roll on for several months and the impact on our club activities and meetings will be very unsettling. It may be time to get the fly-tying gear into operation and tie those flies for the outings we were going to have. This month we are to tie a dry fly for the trout day which now will not eventuate. But the flies tied can still be put to good use especially if we are involved in the Breast Cancer day later in the year. Each participant at this day receives a fly box loaded with flies.

Fishing. I had the great pleasure of accompanying our Secretary to Tassie for ten days early in March. It is always a pleasure to meet up with the members of the Corralinn Club both in a social and fishing context. We were able to fish many of the highland lakes, Penstock, Bronte, Little Pine etc. with varying degrees of success. The success of the outing I feel is derived from the pleasure of the company, the outstanding surrounds and variety of waterways that you encounter in this area. It was again a wonderful experience with numbers of fish caught again being let down by my heavy Bass hands. My personal thanks to Allan and the wonderful members of the Corralinn Club.

In closing I would like to wish everyone good health (and as God knows we may need it).  
All the Best

Tight lines and loops

*Doug*

# Editorial

What a difference a few weeks can make! This time last month Doug and I were on the Club trip to Tasmania, Don and Jim were in New Zealand and David and Glenn were fishing in the Snowies. Many other members were fishing locally and all were enjoying the company of like minded people.

Enter Covid 19. This pandemic has changed everything. Your committee has met (electronically) and made the very difficult decision to **cease all club activities for the months of April and May**. This decision was not made lightly but a majority of views expressed by committee members considered this the only responsible action the club could take. This decision was made to protect the health and well being of all our members and the wider community. We want to make sure we can keep everyone healthy and safe. A review will be undertaken in May to decide if or when normal activities will resume.

In the meantime I have disinfected the keyboard and sprayed dettol on the fibre optic cables and you will continue to receive your newsletter and email updates from me. If you feel the need for company we can still communicate in all the usual ways and hopefully our Facebook Group will receive a lot more traffic while we are restricted in our activities.

So welcome to the brave new world of April 2020. I'm writing this before the end of March so who knows what the situation might be by the time you get your newsletter. I hope by closing shop for a couple of months we can keep as many people as possible healthy and contribute to the early end of this pandemic.



In this month's Flyer you will find a report by Jeff Yates on a trip he, and others you will know, made to Jindabyne and the Thredbo and Gungarlin Rivers. We have a few dual members of the Hunter Valley Fly Fishing Club and Coffs Coast Fly Fishers and this close cooperation is leading to more and more shared outings. If all goes well we will be joining the Hunter guys at Lake St Clair (NSW) for a bass trip in June and the Salmon Classic in August. Enjoy the interesting read. We might have to add this to our outings calendar next year. (P.S. There's also a Lake St Clair in Tasmania which Doug and I fished ... but that's a story for another day)

Despite the cancellations there are still plenty of opportunities to indulge in the sport we love. If you find yourself with time on your hands, sort out your fishing gear, get out the fly tying vice, practice your casting or write an article for the next newsletter. Whatever you do take care of yourself and stay safe.

*Editor*

# Club Executive 2019-20



Doug Urquhart President  
0458696138



Kevin Cosgrove Vice President  
0438554843



Allan Ekert Secretary, Public Officer  
and Newsletter Editor  
0427457725



Walter Krainik Treasurer  
0439187380



Rod Leane Assistant Secretary



Don Cummings Committee  
0433157003



David Moppett Club Captain  
0411723221



Glenn Colquhoun Committee  
0409151270



Brian Bevan Committee  
0409469562

## April Meeting

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic the April meeting has been **cancelled**. If you have anything you would have liked to share at the meeting don't forget we have a Facebook Group where you can post photos, pose questions or report on your fishing activities. Keep in mind our Facebook Page and Group are both public so anything you post can be seen by anyone who is on Facebook.



## Keepit Carp Caper & Learn to Fly Fish for Trout

Both of these outings have now been **cancelled**. They will be rescheduled once the pandemic is over and things return to normal (if that is going to be possible).

### Learn to Fly Fish for Trout

With



Led by internationally qualified casting instructor and experienced fly fishers. In conjunction with NSW Department of Primary Industries - Fisheries

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2020

Dutton Trout Hatchery, Ebor

8:00am to 4:00pm

**CANCELLED**

- Fly fishing instruction, handling and rules.
- Basics of fly casting
- Presentation of flies for trout
- Tour of the Hatchery
- Morning tea and lunch provided
- Finish with a fishing session assisted by experienced workshop leaders.

Cost \$20

#### Places are Limited

Open to women, men and children of High School age accompanied by an adult.

\*Anyone over 18 years, who does not qualify for an exemption, will require a NSW fishing license. For more information or to purchase one online, follow this [link](#)



#### To register contact:

Melanie Buhler - Education Officer  
NSW DPI Fisheries  
M: 0458 274 876  
T: 02 9554 3493  
E: [melanie.buhler@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:melanie.buhler@dpi.nsw.gov.au)



## Club Calendar

With all club activities cancelled until June the Club Calendar is going to look quite different for 2020. As this newsletter goes to press there is every indication that the lockdowns could continue into the second half of the year. The Committee will convene again in May to assess the situation and make decisions on future activities.

The June outing to Lake St Clair has been cancelled by the Hunter Valley Club so it is unlikely that we will be going on our own.

We have booked to go to Dunmore Waters in July and a final decision on this outing will need to be made by the Committee in May. At this stage it is in doubt.

Hopefully the August Salmon Classic at Swansea will go ahead so this might be the first club outing for the year. The Committee will liaise with the Hunter Valley Club before making a decision in May.

From September on, the Calendar will look quite different as we try to reschedule outings such as Keepit and trips to our Homewaters.

Your Committee will continue to meet (via email) to plan events once this lockdown has been lifted. Rest assured that you will be kept informed and feel confident that any decisions made will be in the best interest of keeping our members safe. Should you have matters that would have been presented at a club meeting please forward it to the Secretary and it can be dealt with in Committee.

Maybe we should have a "letters/emails to the Editor" column in the next newsletter.

## Club Calendar 2020

**All outings, meetings and events for April and May have been cancelled. The situation will be reviewed in May.**

Month	Outings	Activities
JANUARY	No outing this month <b>Casting</b> at Mylestom at 5.00pm on Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> .	<b>Club Meeting</b> at Mylestom Monday 20 <sup>th</sup>
FEBRUARY	<b>Home Waters</b> Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Club Meeting</b> Monday 17 <sup>th</sup>
MARCH	<b>Forster Fly Muster</b> (Cancelled?) <b>Tasmania</b> Tues 3 <sup>rd</sup> - Sat 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Club Meeting</b> Monday 16 <sup>th</sup>
<b>APRIL CANCELLED</b>	<b>Keepit Carp Caper</b> Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> - Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> (some members will be going Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> )	<b>Club Meeting</b> Monday 20 <sup>th</sup>
<b>MAY CANCELLED</b>	<b>Home Waters</b> Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> <b>Fly Fishing for Trout Workshop</b> Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Club Meeting</b> Monday 18 <sup>th</sup>
JUNE	<b>Lake St Clair</b> Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> - Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> <b>Home Waters</b> Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Club Meeting</b> Monday 15 <sup>th</sup>
JULY	<b>Casting Day</b> Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> July <b>Dunmore Waters</b> Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> - Sun 26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Club Meeting</b> Monday 20 <sup>th</sup>
AUGUST	<b>Home Waters</b> Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> <b>Swansea Salmon Classic</b> Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> - Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Club Meeting</b> Monday 17 <sup>th</sup>
SEPTEMBER	<b>Fly Tying Workshop</b> Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> <b>Jackadgery or Copmanhurst</b> Fri 18 <sup>th</sup> - Sun 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Club Meeting</b> Monday 21 <sup>st</sup>
OCTOBER	<b>Home Waters</b> Saturday 31 <sup>st</sup> <b>Dorrigo or Ebor</b> Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Club Meeting</b> Monday 19 <sup>th</sup>
NOVEMBER	<b>Urunga Flathead Tournament</b> TBA <b>Home Waters</b> Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Club Meeting</b> Monday 16 <sup>th</sup>
DECEMBER	<b>Home Waters</b> Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No Club Meeting</b>

# Cabin Fever

In Tasmania (and other places) during winter there is usually an outbreak of a very serious viral disease called "cabin fever." The symptoms include irritability, boredom, restlessness, lethargy, lack of patience, and even sadness or depression. Fortunately, it is not contagious and is short lived ending as soon as the trout season opens.

During the coming months of lockdown and self isolation I fear that there is going to be an outbreak of cabin fever here. With no end date in sight it would be prudent for all of us to take precautions against cabin fever. Here are some things you might like to try to keep cabin fever at bay.

**1. Go fishing.** With the latest message to "Stay at Home", travelling to go fishing is not advisable. However, if you live on the water I guess you can fish from your backyard. For the rest of us you could try a fly fishing simulator App. I've never been desperate enough to try one of these but the time might come soon. If you are into video games and can read a mobile device without magnifying glasses you might like to give one a go. (It would make a good article for someone to write for the next newsletter!) For now, I think I will have to stick to dreaming of going fishing.

**2. Tie some flies.** If you are an experienced fly tyer this is a good time to stock up on flies for when outings start again. If you are a beginner now is the time to learn. Last month's newsletter featured a lot about fly tying so now you have time you might want read all the articles. Don't forget we have a fly tying competition going on at the moment and it will continue in our Facebook Group. You can read more about the competition on page 10.

**3. Do some writing.** I always need articles, stories, reports etc for the monthly newsletter. Everyone can write and everyone has something they can write about. You don't have to be an Ernest Hemingway. If you need help the Editor can give you a hand. People love to read real stories from real people.

**4. Practice your casting.** With spare time on your hands you don't have any more excuses not to practice your casting. Getting out in the backyard or nearby park is great exercise and will give you a chance to get better at casting. Now would be a good time to have a go at the Fly Fishers International Casting Challenge that I wrote about last year. You can do this with a friend as social distancing is not a problem when you are throwing fly lines around.

**5. Watch some fly fishing videos.** There are millions of videos on DVD or Youtube/Vimeo you can watch. If you want to work on your casting or fly tying there are plenty of instructional videos to choose from. If you just want to chill out, you can sit back and watch fly fishing adventures from around the world. Here are a few reliable sites to find videos: The Tug is a collection of videos curated by Orvis.

<https://flyfishingvideos.orvis.com/>

If you want quality casting videos look here:

<https://flyfishersinternational.org/Education/Learning-Center/Casting/Casting-Instruction>

RIO has an extensive instructional video library:

<https://www.rioproducts.com/learn/videos>

I have a collection of fly fishing DVDs which can be borrowed. Get in contact if you want a list of what is available.



**6. Reach out through social media.**

The club has a Facebook Group with over 200 members. Post your thoughts, photos, questions or reports and start a conversation. We are going to be using our FB Group for our fly tying competition for the next two months. If you haven't joined the group yet, get on board.



**7. Buy some new fly gear.** You can never have too much fly fishing gear and just think about how much time you are going to have to get used to it while we are all locked down! Researching the right gear to buy, reading the reviews and checking prices is a relaxing way to while away the hours. When it comes time to buy have a look at what I wrote about shopping local on page 26.

**8. Read a book.** Just as with videos there are plenty of fly fishing books available for you to read. From fact to fiction there is a book for you. Then there are all the fly fishing magazines. Our club library is not very big yet (see February newsletter) but if you are looking for something to read reach out to fellow club members and I am sure you will find they are willing to share. I'm told there are even books written about subjects other than fly fishing so if you are desperate read any book.

**9. Clean your fly fishing gear.** How long is it since you took the line off your reel, washed it, cleaned it and stretched it? Have you marked the end with the line weight? With all the spare time you are going to have, make sure your gear is in top condition for when you are able to go fishing again.

**10. Listen to a Podcast.** There are a lot of good fly fishing podcasts out there these days including one from Australia. Just search "fly fishing" using your favourite podcast app. The good thing about podcasts is you can listen while you tie flies or clean your fly gear reaping double the benefits.

**11. Plan a trip.** Obviously, we are not going to be able to go anywhere for the next few months but you should have a plan for when this is all over. Whether it be a club trip or something special just for you, having a trip to think about can take your mind off cabin fever. You can spend hours researching the destination, the species to be caught, the gear you will need and how to fish there. If it's an extended trip you need to look at transport, accommodation and maybe fishing guides. Having something to look forward to can give you the motivation and resilience to keep going during these difficult times.



If you are going to spend a lot more time on your computer researching, watching videos posting to Facebook etc you might want to think about updating your Internet Plan. Faster speeds and unlimited data will make for a more relaxed experience and help you find what you want when you want it. With more people working from home or avoiding cabin fever I think the superhighway is going to become more like driving through Coffs.

## Fly Tying Competition

The winner of the fly tying competition for the month of March was President Doug. His "Keepit Kermit" won the popular vote of members present at the meeting.



Despite what you might be thinking Doug wasn't the only entrant and it was great to see so many members having a go. We have some very talented members in the club. Well done Doug for your fly tying skills and Pip for getting the competition going and making the display cabinet.

There won't be a meeting in April but the fly tying competition will still go ahead. Instead of bringing your flies to the meeting you will have to post a photo in our Facebook Group. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1073002562788177/>

You will have to tie 2 flies following this month's theme of wet flies for trout. As the name implies a wet fly is any fly that gets wet because it sinks below the water. That means nymphs, streamers, buzzers or soft hackles.

One of the easiest types of fly to tie for trout is a soft hackle. It's also a very productive fly. Our guest fly tyer this month is Kevin Cosgrove and he has chosen to tie a traditional wet fly. Traditional wet flies are patterns developed over the centuries for the lakes and streams of the British Isles. Most of these have soft hackles, and neatly tied, conservative bodies and tails that resemble terrestrials or aquatic insects. Whether you tie a traditional wet or any fly that can be fished wet is up to you.

The rules of the competition will remain the same (see last month's newsletter) except that photos must be posted on line by the 20<sup>th</sup> April and voting will take place over the remainder of April. To vote just click the "like" button. The fly with the most likes will be declared the winner.



So you can plan ahead and start tying your flies here is what's to come:

May .... Bass flies

June ... Trout flies (Dry)

July ... Australian Salmon flies

# Fly Tying

This month's guest fly tyer is Kevin Cosgrove. Kevin was born in England and grew up fishing the rivers and reservoirs for trout. He has also fished New Zealand and the Snowy Mountains area of NSW and Victoria.



One of his favourite flies, with which he has had great success in all the places he has fished, is the March Brown Soft Hackle. This pattern has a long history. Originally fished in the streams of England over 600 years ago, no self-respecting fly fisherman would be caught without this pattern in their fly box.



**Hook** Size 12-14 wet-fly

**Thread** Brown

**Tail** (optional) Brown partridge hackle fibres

**Rib** Fine gold wire

**Body** Dark hare's fur

**Hackle** Brown partridge



Run the thread down to the bend in close turns. Catch in a few fibres of brown partridge (if you want a tail) and 5cm of fine, gold wire.



Take a pinch of dark hare's fur and dub the body.



Take hold of the gold wire and wind it over the body in open, evenly placed turns.



Select a well-marked brown partridge hackle. Catch the hackle in by its tip, just in front of the body.



Holding the stem base of the partridge feather with hackle pliers, wind it on for two or three full turns. Stroke the feather fibres back so that they sit around and beneath the body.

There are quite a few variations of this pattern the most widely used being a silver bodied version.



The March Brown Soft Hackle was originally tied to represent the mayflies that hatched in spring in England. It is such a versatile pattern that it does well to imitate mayflies and other aquatic insects right around the world.

In rivers, probably the most common way to fish a soft hackle wet fly is to cast it across and slightly downstream, letting it sink and then swing in the current, rising with the tightening line much as a natural rises to the surface before hatching (this maneuver is also referred to as the Leisenring Lift)

Another productive method is to cast the fly upstream on a short cast and then let it dead drift back to you just under the surface. If you want to get the fly down deeper you can add lead or use a tandem rig with a weighted fly on the point and a soft hackle on the dropper. You can also use an indicator with this rig to maintain the right depth and detect any takes. A floating line is all you need.

On lakes and ponds a soft hackle fly cast in front of a cruising trout and then twitched slightly can be absolutely deadly. If there are no fish in sight, blind casting with a slow figure of eight retrieve will work. A slow sinking line is sometimes useful.

If you add wings to your soft hackle you end up with another very famous and effective wet fly - the March Brown



# Breaking in new blood, Alpine Country 2020

Jeff Yates



*Glengarry property, Lake Jindabyne*

A week trip to Jindabyne is never complete without an adventure to the Thredbo and Gungarlin Rivers; but this trip also included Gaden Hatchery, Rainbow Lake, Guthega and Island Bend, as well as the almost daily coffee fix in town.

A trip always starts with the planning phase. Luckily, I have accommodation booked a year in advance at Glengarry, a ski lodge situated on the banks of Lake Jindabyne. It accommodates up to 8 people, but 4 or 5 is comfortable.

Next we lock in the team. Peter, Ian and myself have been regulars for the past 10 years, and we always like to invite a couple more to add to our diversity, and give others a chance to experience this unique adventure. New club members, Dave and Glenn, travelled from Coffs Harbour, slept overnight in a freezing carpark in Canberra and were on the water before we arrived on the Saturday.

Last, but not least, we look at the water levels, temperatures and this year, bush fires. Fires Near Me App <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fires-near-me> indicated devastating burns up above the headwaters of the Gungarlin river, but fortunately, had not travelled down the Alpine plateau, to the lower reaches that we were planning to fish. Temperatures had been high over summer, with little rain and the lake level was down 12% on last year <https://www.snowyhydro.com.au/our-energy/water/storages/lake-levels-calculator/>, all telling factors as we would find out later.

Trip planned, a constant feed of team emails about conditions, food, accommodation, fish reports, travel arrangement, clothes, food lists and fishing gear poured out to ensure we were all on the same page. The 8 hour trip to Jindy was broken with lunch at the Cooma Kettle and Seed, best coffee in Australia. While at Cooma, a visit to the Alpine Angler is a must, however we probably had more fly tying gear than we needed, so it was only a quick visit.

Meanwhile, Dave and Glenn were up at the Diggings, on the Thredbo River, doing battle with the line shy, super spooky trout, in the crystal clear water. 20 degrees with low humidity, a far cry from the 34 degrees in Coffs and 90% humidity just the day before. Besides the trout, the boys were astounded by the number of wombat holes dotting the river flats, ready to swallow up the inattentive adventurer.

Rabbits, rabbits everywhere. Haven't seen that many since I was a kid. The hills move under the sheer mass of numbers. Warrens are easily seen, with fresh dirt mullock hills silhouetted against the emerald green carpet of fresh growth from recent storms. Shame the trout were not on the same diet as the rabbits! We found the lake fishing really difficult; clear, warm water, with the grassy banks 10's of meters up the banks. There were no insect hatches and the mudeye hatches, prevalent at this time, was absent. This was a baptism of fire for the new guys who have not done any night-time trout fishing. Dave warmed to it, eventually scoring a lovely 4lb brown on the last night, but Glenn, well, not that impressed.



*Glenn on the top of the world at 5250ft elevation on Rainbow Lake, formed with the damming of Diggings Creek for the long abandoned Kosciuszko Hotel.*

The lake that did impress Glenn was Rainbow Lake. Dave and Glenn tripped up the Kosciuszko road toward Perisher, and tramped the 1.5km into the lake. This beautiful water hole located at an elevation of 5250 feet, was formed when the Diggings Creek was dammed, for the long since abandoned Kosciuszko Hotel. It holds brown and rainbow trout, some of which are a fair size, being ex-brood stock from Gaden Hatchery. Ask Glenn about fishing light line to big fish! Photos that were taken from the day show a beautiful little lake surrounded by alpine shrubs and a plentiful quantity of water foliage. Truly magnificent.

I poured over the 1:50,000 hiking map with the lads, tracing out the route to the lower Gungarlin. They were so quick in departing camp, that they left their food behind, and lived for 2 days on snack bars. They made an excuse about a storm and wet swags to come back early, but we know they were hungry! But, what a time they enjoyed. Glenn was concerned about the XTrail handling the wet dirt track, but it proved unfounded, as it easily handled the conditions. Was the trip worth it? 2 days later they were up there again, this time with a couple of t-bones and matches.

The Gungarlin offers beautiful scenery, a spectacular river meandering down an alpine valley and heaps of wildlife. Platypus, deer, dingoes and brumbies were the highlights, but another critter, the proverbial Tiger snake did not impress Dave. What did impress him was a couple of larger fish dotted among the numerous smaller trout that they were landing. Although the biggest fish caught was only 350mm, the larger fish when sighted were too difficult to catch, a challenge for the next time, as I'm sure they are not finished with this river.



*Dave and Glenn fell in love with the beautiful Gungarlin River*



Besides the fishing, we caught up with the guys in Jindabyne's High Country Fly Fishing shop for some expert advice. We were to visit them later in the week to test new fly rods. Also on the agenda was Gaden Trout Hatchery, where millions of fish are produced each year by Dept of Primary Industries for distribution around the country. The brood stock includes Rainbow trout, Brown trout, Brook trout and Atlantic salmon; these fish are huge, and can be attracted to the surface with handfuls of pellets purchased from the hatchery. We took the remainder of our pellets to the nearby Thredbo river, where more, obviously well trained trout to maybe 15lb, muscle their way around the dark pools at any sign of free food. These fish are not your average river fish, and many hard hours were put in further up the river for little result, on slimmer wild varieties.



*Feeding pellets to Thredbo leviathans*

Mid-week the wind got up and fishing was put on the back burner for a day. We decided to take a look at the 5200ft high Guthega Dam, which is an integral part of the Snowy Hydro Scheme, and was formed by the damming of the Snowy river below Kosciuszko base. It is also the highest of the Snowy impoundments. It looked really promising as a fishing location, but I would hate to be there in winter with signs advising not to walk on the ice that forms across the dam. The nearby hills were dotted with the skeletons of past bushfires, and ski runs came right down to the tiny community. We went for a walk across the wall and took a few photos. We know there's fish in the dam because we could see a lonely trout swimming at the foot of the spillway. We left Guthega to go down to Island Bend dam for a look, but access is a little more difficult, and probably not worth pursuing as a viable fishing option.



*Peter, Zulu, Glenn, Dave and Jeff on Guthega Dam wall*



Peter exited early from the trip, unfortunately having to attend a funeral of a friend in Sydney, who incidentally, saved Peter from drowning many years ago. As they say, the show must go on, so we gave the lake a final hammering on the Friday night before we departed, and I must say our confidence was a little dented by its poor performance during the week. At that stage we had caught half a dozen smallish fish, include a Brookie that Peter landed.



*Pete's Brookie*



*Dave on rocks in Creel Bay*

Our night-time rig consists of a 6wt wf line, with a 7ft level 12lb leader using a dual fly rig. Sounds a little agricultural to the average troutie, but at night throwing two #8 flies into wind, with the chance of hooking a large fish requires a degree of brutality not adopted for the day time show. Last thing you want are tangles or snags busting off your precious flies or trophy fish. The only downside is any ill-timed strike or a rampaging brown that may cost you a fish or even a good rod, but where there is a tackle shop in town, a new Sage heals the wounds. Talking of new rods Zulu christened his on the last night with a fine brown, and Dave showed us up with a magic 4lb Brownie. Unfortunately, the bite window was extremely short, with 3 fish in 10 minutes, then nothing, but we certainly finished the week on a high.

The locals are doing it tough after the bushfires, and every business owner comments on the lack of normal summertime patronage. I think we supported them pretty well during our stay, and hope that this traumatic fire season is not repeated again next year. That's it for another year in Alpine country, a great place to visit, fish and enjoy with the company of new found friends. Thanks for you photo contributions Dave and Glenn, a picture tells a thousand words.



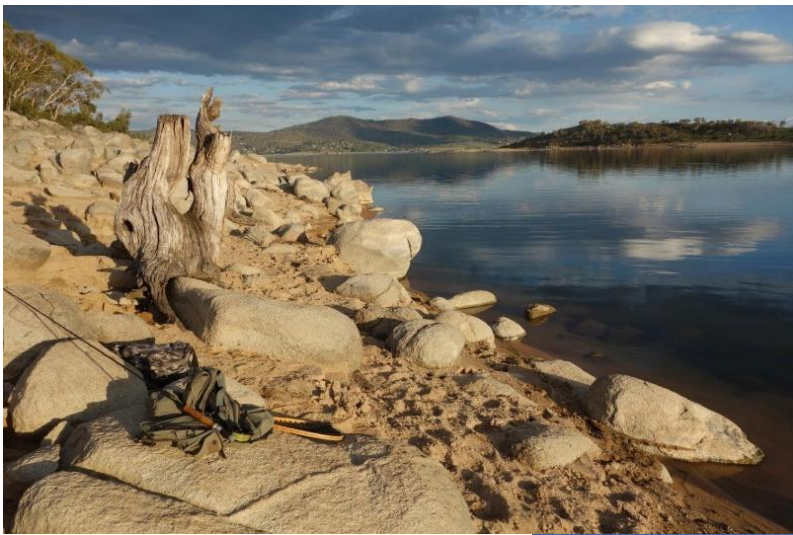
*Glenn crossing Gungarlin,*



*Zulu with 2 nice browns*



*Dave on the Gungarlin*



*Beautiful Rainbow lake,  
Hayshed Bay.*

*Glengarry  
entrance not  
welcoming to  
poachers.*



## Beginners Corner

This month's question is one I have asked myself many times. How do you teach someone to cast? Every time I have people wanting to learn to cast I have to think about how to teach them. My answer is determined by a whole lot of factors such as their expectations, age, previous experience, gender, ability and how much time they have. My answer is usually different in every case.

Although the Trout Workshop at Ebor has now been cancelled I have been thinking about how to go about teaching people who would have attended the workshop wanting to learn how to cast. Where do you start with an absolute beginner who wants to learn to catch a trout on a fly rod in one day?



Those of us who have been fly fishing for a while know how difficult this task is. In fact it's almost impossible. Having spent some time as a casual "guide" at a private fishery in Tasmania I was often confronted with people wanting to learn to fly cast and catch a fish in one day. For some it was just something to tick off their bucket list while for others it was to be the start of a lifelong pursuit. I treated each person accordingly but my usual approach was to start by teaching them the roll cast.

The roll cast is a safe and easy way to get beginners started. You don't have fly line whizzing backwards and forward through the air and you have plenty of time to perform the cast in slow motion. When fishing, the roll cast

can be used when there are obstructions behind. It's really useful for laying out line ready for the pickup, lifting a sinking line from the water, and countering the wind. Once you have mastered the roll cast you have learnt the mechanics of half the basic cast.

The roll cast is easier to do on water than on grass but I think it is easier to teach on grass. The first thing I like to tell people is to forget the "roll" in roll cast. It's nothing like rolling your arm over as in bowling. The fly line rolls out in the air.

To start to roll cast you must have the line laid out in front of you. For a beginner I will often just pull the line off their reel and walk the line out (bit difficult if doing it on water!) Once you have about 30-40 feet of line out you are ready to start.

Step 1: Keep the rod tip low and the line straight.

Step 2: Tilt the rod slightly away from the body (you don't want to hit yourself)

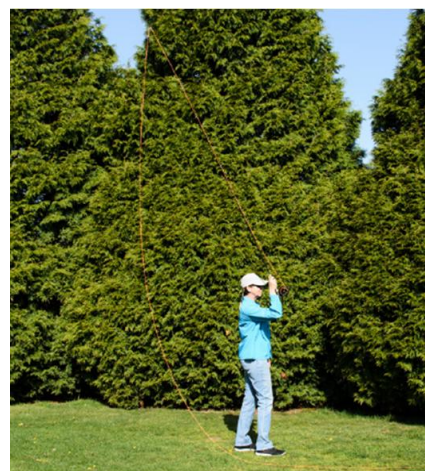
Step 3: Slowly drag the line back by lifting the rod to a position with the reel is opposite your ear. Allow some line to lay on the ground behind you forming a D loop.

Step 4: Pause. Check hand, rod angle position, insure rod is tilted away from body.

Step 5: Begin forward cast stopping just above horizontal. Remember it is not a roll. Move the rod tip in a straight line for as long as you can.

Step 6: Lower the rod tip to the water.

*Editor*





## Casting in the Real World



Scenes such as this from the movie “A River Runs Through It” are the reason many people want to take up fly fishing. The movie, which was released in 1992 and launched the career of Brad Pitt (as an actor, not a fly fisher), has inspired countless thousands to take up the sport. In the year following the release of the film the fly fishing industry doubled in size as everyone wanted to cast like Brad Pitt. In fact, it was Jason Borger who did the casting and his style and grace with a fly rod was responsible for creating an image of fly fishing that has inspired many.

We all have our reasons for getting into fly fishing but I am sure all of them involve casting in idyllic places where the scenery and the fish vie with each other for our attention. Whether it be a trout in a mountain stream, a bonefish on a tropical flat or a marlin in a vast ocean, we savour the thought of being there and being able to cast like Brad Pitt. Our mind turns to open spaces, long graceful casts and obliging fish. As Paul Maclean puts it, "something within fishermen tries to make fishing into a world perfect and apart." The reality is quite different.

Carl McNeil, the well known New Zealand film maker and Master fly casting instructor, has a video which he calls "Casts that Catch Fish". It would have been a great title for this month's column. There are casts that catch attention in a Hollywood movie and there are casts that catch fish. Having recently returned from trips to New Zealand and Tasmania I can tell you casting in the real world can be very different to what we see on the big screen. Let me tell you about a few situations I've encountered where the world has been less than perfect and I have had to make casts that you didn't see in "A River Runs Through It."



Small streams and willows are a favourite haunt of trout. Unfortunately, your cast is often blocked in front and behind. The amount of line you need is not even enough to load the rod. Enter the bow and arrow cast. Not elegant or graceful but very practical, the bow and arrow cast enables you to get your fly into tight quarters without having to make a back cast. The trout above was the result of using a bow and arrow cast to reach a fish that others would have walked past. If you want to learn to make this cast here is one of many videos available on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2RVhOgAiK>

Sometimes trout can use trees to protect themselves from even a bow and arrow cast. I was taught a very important lesson from a New Zealand friend when trying to get a fly to a trout cruising below some dense willow branches. Chris hooked the fly on the tip top of my rod and had me feed the rod through the branches above the fish and tap the butt. The fly obligingly fell off and plopped on the water. The fish took the fly but won the battle as there was no way I could lift the rod to set the hook and land the fish. Although it might be stretching the definition to call this a cast, if you want to have a chance to catch fish in the real world it's worth adding to your repertoire.



Tasmanian lakes vary from tree lined shores to open expanses and all have the same problem of wind and rain. When you are confronted with trees at your back and wind in your face you have to find a casting style that will deal with these conditions. In the "The River Runs Through It", the family uses what we might call the traditional overhead style of casting. It looks great especially in the hands of Jason Borger. But when there is no room for a back cast and a bow and arrow cast won't reach, you need another approach. Try spey casting. Now you would think that Norman Maclean, who wrote the book on which the movie was based, would have known about spey casting with his Scottish ancestry. If he did, spey casting didn't feature in the book or the movie.

In the real world we have to deal with confined spaces and the wind all the time. Roll and spey casts came to my rescue in the situation above when trees blocked a back cast and wind added to the degree of difficulty. I don't profess to be an expert in this style of casting but I do try to use it when the situation demands. Being able to cast without room behind and change direction easily opens opportunities to make a cast that catches fish. Although longer rods make life easier when spey casting you can still use a single handed rod - there are even lines specifically designed for single handed spey casting. But for me the game changer in spey casting is I can use two hands and manage my tennis elbow.

Casting in the real world is about questioning the perceived wisdom of what casting should look like and finding solutions that catch fish. The answers may require you to change styles, experiment and learn new casts. A cast may not look as graceful as you have seen on the big screen but the fish is not going to know how your fly got there. Learn to think outside the box and make your cast according to the real world in which a fish lives.

A couple of years ago I wrote a Casting Around Article on variations to the basic cast in the form of mends and curves. Anyone can present a fly when there are no obstructions, no conflicting currents and no tricky trout. Casts that catch fish in the real world require a bit more thought than laying a long line gracefully on the water. If you want to learn some of these you should watch these video clips from Carl McNeil.

## **Common Mends and curves**

### **Aerial Mend**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bai4B6rMT8o>

"The aerial mend places a large curve of slack in the line - valuable for casting over or around obstacles or dealing with large changes in current..."

### **Simple Curve Cast**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v9xXSxr2hss>

"At times you'll want to be able to throw a line around a corner -- usually to get around an obstacle like a tree trunk or rock. And this is where your curve casts come in...."

### **Reach Cast**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=14njsZy47qg>

"Of all the slack line casts this is the one that you'll use most often, in-fact if you tend to present your fly side on and at an angle to your fish - (and I suggest you do) then you'll want to use this cast

### **Pile, Puddle or Parachute Cast**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O6uHddBAH7g>

"What looks like the most basic slack line cast is actually quite difficult to do well. And it's the Pile, or Puddle Cast. Also called the parachute....."



### **Tuck Cast**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4mZ2WxjmWBo>

The tuck cast, or tuck mend is a great cast for getting heavily weighted nymphs or even streamers quickly down into the water column.

### **Wiggle Cast**

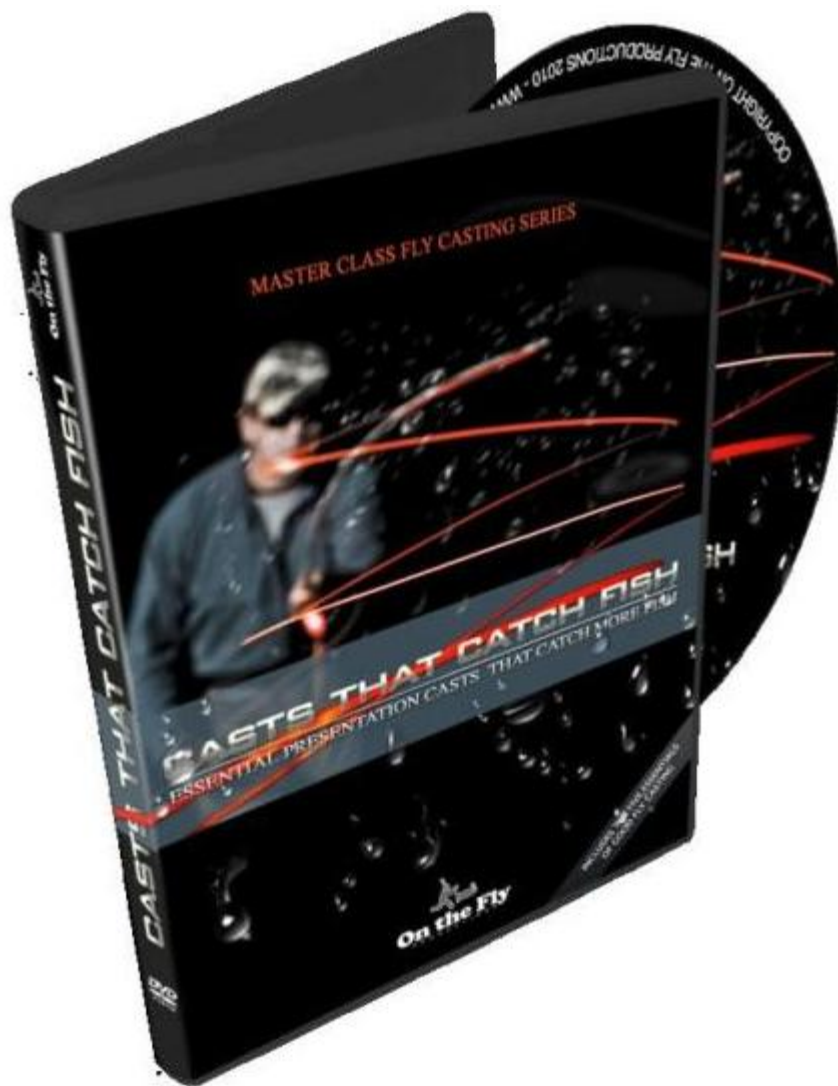
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wcJtSEjYUog>

This cast gives you slack line all the way down the line and is great for complex currents with lots of variations. It's also a good one for accurately presenting "fly first" directly down stream

### **Bucket Mend**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d26S-v3eB4s>

"The bucket mend is similar to the Aerial mend but the slack is thrown in the vertical plane rather than the horizontal plane..."



## Shop Local

Coronavirus is going to affect us all in many ways. We may find we have more time on our hands. We may have to reduce our discretionary spending. Spare a thought for those locals in small businesses who have to survive through these difficult times. If you are looking for some new fly gear or if you need materials to tie some flies look no further than our local businesses. Listed on our Supporters Page we have a few local supports where you can spend your fly fishing dollars. Although the Club doesn't promote one above the other you might want to keep Garry at **A1FlyFishing** in mind. Garry is an active club member and supporter and runs his online fly fishing business from home. I'm sure Garry would appreciate your business during these difficult times.

<http://www.a1flyfishing.com.au>



## Our Supporters

If you read the newsletter from cover to cover you will know we have a page for our supporters. This month you will notice Freshest Fishing Tours is missing from the page. Dale has decided to take a break from guiding for a while and is no longer accepting bookings. His website is now called **Freshest Fishing** and it will continue to provide information for those who love to fish, explore, travel, get on the water & get off the beaten track.

<https://www.freshestfishing.com.au/>



Dale has been a great supporter of our club and I'm sure we all wish him well in whatever he has planned for the future.

## BWC Flies

Brett Clarke and Cherie Forbes run a small online business on the Central Coast offering a range of premium hand tied flies using quality components to suit a range of Australian native freshwater and saltwater species. Brett has offered to run a fly tying workshop for our club in September so you can learn more about the art of fly tying. If you are in the market for some specialist fly tying materials or hand tied flies take a look at their website.

<https://bwcflies.com.au/>



## More Support

Barry Ryan was one of the club's first supporters. When he ran a website selling Talon products in Australia he was generous in donating fly rods to the club. Since the business has closed he has continued to support us with gifts of fly tying materials. This week Barry sent some dubbing for fly tying for the club to use. When I opened the packets there was enough to fill a plastic tub.



If you need some dubbing to tie flies there is probably something in the tub that will do the job. As I can't take the dubbing to a meeting for a while if you want some you will have to contact me. There is no cost. If you are an experienced tyer you just need to tell me the sort of thing you are looking for. If you are beginner I can let you know what is available that would be suitable to start tying some simple nymphs or soft hackles. You can collect the dubbing from my place or I will post. Let me know.



Thanks Barry

## The Providers

As you will be aware, Committee Member Don works for The Providers in Coffs Harbour. Don has used his contacts through The Providers to support some of our past club activities. Don has asked me to make you aware that The Providers are now open to the public.



As of NOW we are open to the PUBLIC for pickups up!!!  
(Coffs depot only)  
Must pre order & pay via card.  
More things to follow so watch the socials!!



66 580 144 9am to 4.30 pm

<https://theprovedores.com.au/>

If you are looking for bulk goods at true wholesale prices you can buy Meat, Cheese, Butter, Flour, Sugar, tinned Tomatoes, Pasta and all the frozen lines like chicko rolls, dino snacks, salt & pepper squid ..... the list goes on. There are 4500 lines on offer except you are paying real wholesale prices. If there is something you can't see on the list just ask.

Give Don your email and he'll send you a list of what's available or give him a call and he can craft an order especially for you.

Don Cummings  
The Provedores  
0433157003

## Our Supporters

These people have all helped our club in one way or another. When you are looking for products and services make sure you consider them first



# Membership Fees

Membership Fees are as follows:

Adult membership \$30

Concession membership \$20

Junior membership free

eMembership free

The membership year runs from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> June. If paying membership after December fees will be reduced by 50%.

<sup>1</sup> Concession membership is available to senior cardholders, pension card holders (including disability support and aged), Centrelink and Veterans Affairs cardholders

<sup>2</sup> eMembership replaces Distant Membership and is available to anyone not wanting to attend meetings or events but still retain the other benefits of club membership. eMembers are not covered by Club Insurance. eMembers wanting to participate in an event or meeting must pay to become full members.

<sup>3</sup> Junior membership is available to anyone attending primary or secondary school.

Fees can be paid:

1. **In cash** or by **cheque** at the next meeting or fly tying night. (cheques made payable to Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club Inc.

2. **By cheque** posted to:

The Secretary  
Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club  
11 Butterfly Close  
Boambee East  
NSW 2452

3. **Direct deposit:**

BSB 062-678

Account Number: 10333424

Name: Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club Inc

Reference: Your surname

If you are making an electronic deposit please send an email to [ccffc@tpg.com.au](mailto:ccffc@tpg.com.au) to indicate you have paid as we do not have online access to our account. When depositing make sure you include your surname in the Reference section. e.g. **Ekert Membership.**

## Club Contact Address

Our official email address is [ccffc@tpg.com.au](mailto:ccffc@tpg.com.au).

Our mailing address is:

The Secretary  
Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club  
11 Butterfly Close  
Boambee East  
NSW 2452

## Electronic Contacts

We have a Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club website which can be found at:

<http://coffscoastflyfishing.weebly.com/>.

If you find problems with the website such as broken links please email the Secretary so they can be rectified.

Our Facebook Page can be found at:

<https://www.facebook.com/coffscoastflyfishing/>

We have a **Facebook Group**. If you are on FB all you need to do is search for Coffs Coast Fly Fishers and ask to join the Group. Currently there are 247 members in this group.



# 2020 Calendar

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
1	We	Sa	Su	We	Fr	Mo	We	Sa	Tu	Th	Su	Tu	1
2	Th	Su	Mo	Th	Sa	Tu	Th	Su	We	Fr	Mo	We	2
3	Fr	Mo	Tu	Fr	Su	We	Fr	Mo	Th	Sa	Tu	Th	3
4	Sa	Tu	We	Sa	Mo	Th	Sa Casting	Tu	Fr	Su	We	Fr	4
5	Su	We	Th	Su	Tu	Fr	Su	We	Sa Fly Tying	Mo	Th	Sa	5
6	Mo	Th	Fr	Mo	We	Sa	Mo	Th	Su	Tu	Fr	Su	6
7	Tu	Fr	Sa	Tu	Th	Su	Tu	Fr	Mo	We	Sa	Mo	7
8	We	Sa	Su	We	Fr	Mo	We	Sa	Tu	Th	Su	Tu	8
9	Th	Su	Mo	Th	Sa	Tu	Th	Su	We	Fr	Mo	We	9
10	Fr	Mo	Tu	Fr Easter	Su	We	Fr	Mo	Th	Sa	Tu	Th	10
11	Sa	Tu	We	Sa Easter	Mo	Th	Sa	Tu	Fr	Su	We	Fr	11
12	Su	We	Th	Su Easter	Tu	Fr Lake St Clair	Su	We	Sa	Mo	Th	Sa	12
13	Mo	Th	Fr	M Easter	We	Sa Lake St Clair	Mo	Th	Su	Tu	Fr	Su	13
14	Tu	Fr	Sa	Tu	Th	Su Lake St Clair	Tu	Fr	Mo	We	Sa	Mo	14
15	We	Sa Outing	Su	We	Fr	M Club Meeting	We	Sa	Tu	Th	Su	Tu	15
16	Th	Su	M Club Meeting	Th	Sa	Tu	Th	Su	We	Fr	M Club Meeting	We	16
17	Fr	M Club Meeting	Tu	Fr	Su	We	Fr	M Club Meeting	Th	Sa	Tu	Th	17
18	Sa	Tu	We	Sa	M	Th	Sa	Tu	Fr	Su	We	Fr	18
19	Su	We	Th	Su	Tu	Fr	Su	We	Sa	Mo	Th	Sa	19
20	M Club Meeting	Th	Fr	M	We	Sa	M Club Meeting	Th	Su	Tu	Fr	Su	20
21	Tu	Fr	Sa	Tu	Th	Su	Tu	Fr Swansea	M Club Meeting	We	Sa	Mo	21
22	We	Sa	Su	We	Fr	Mo	We	Sa Swansea	Tu	Th	Su	Tu	22
23	Th	Su	Mo	Th	Sa	Tu	Th	Su Swansea	We	Fr	Mo	We	23
24	Fr	Mo	Tu	Fr	Su	We	Fr Dunmore Waters	Mo	Th	Sa	Tu	Th	24
25	Sa	Tu	We	Sa	Mo	Th	Sa Dunmore Waters	Tu	Fr	Su	We	Fr	25
26	Su	We	Th	Su	Tu	Fr	Su Dunmore Waters	We	Sa	Mo	Th	Sa	26
27	Mo	Th	Fr	Mo	We	Sa Outing	Mo	Th	Su	Tu	Fr	Su	27
28	Tu	Fr	Sa	Tu	Th	Su	Tu	Fr	Mo	We	Sa	Mo	28
29	We	Sa	Su	We	Fr	Mo	We	Sa	Tu	Th	Su	Tu	29
30	Th		Mo	Th	Sa	Tu	Th	Su	We	Fr	Mo	We	30
31	Fr		Tu		Su		Fr	Mo		Sa		Th	31



# Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club Inc.

## Membership Form

I.....DOB.....

**(print full name)**

of.....

**(print full address incl. street name and number, town and postcode)**

Email address.....

Phone number.....mobile.....

Emergency Contact:..... phone: .....

I hereby apply for membership of Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club Inc. (tick one)

- |   |      |   |      |
|---|------|---|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult membership         | \$30 | <input type="checkbox"/> Concession membership <sup>1</sup> | \$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> eMembership <sup>2</sup> | free | <input type="checkbox"/> Junior membership <sup>3</sup>     | free |

The membership year runs from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> June. If paying membership after December fees will be reduced by 50%.

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<sup>3</sup> Junior membership is available to anyone attending primary or secondary school.

I agree to: (cross out if you **do not** agree.)

- having my contact details circulated only to financial members of the club.
- abide by the constitution, rules and any safety regulations of the club.
- any photographs taken of myself or family members to be used in the club newsletter, club promotional material or on the club website and Facebook Page.
- receive emails from the club including newsletters and club announcements.

..... **(signature of applicant)** ..... **(date)**

..... **(signature of legal guardian if junior member)**

Fees can be paid:

1. **In cash** or by **cheque** at a meeting or fly tying night. (cheques made payable to Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club Inc.

2. **By cheque** posted to:

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Boambee East  
NSW 2452

3. **Direct deposit**

BSB 062-678  
Account Number: 10333424  
Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club Inc  
Reference: Your surname

**All information supplied will be held in club records and will only be disseminated to financial club members (if approved by the applicant as indicated above)**