

# The *Flyer*



*Official Newsletter Of The*



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## **The Official Newsletter of the Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club**

**APRIL 2021**

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**Cover:** Club Captain David hooked this "Dollie" off shore from Coffs. Better known as Mahi Mahi or Dolphin fish, they are a great species to catch on fly. Thanks to David R. for the action photo.

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT



## April 2021

Welcome to another edition of our Club Journal, "The Flyer". I hope you find it informative and interesting.

Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> of March saw several club members involved in the Bushfire and Drought Recovery day at Dutton Trout Hatchery. This was a combined effort involving our club and DPI. Thanks must go to Mel, Rob and Josh from DPI for proposing the project and to members of our club for their support of the concept and work on the day. Thanks to meticulous organization, the day ran like clockwork.

The newsletter must be read by a few people because the call to arms to tie some brown nymphs for the day was heeded by people from near and far. The nymphs worked as did a drowned tiny Parachute Adams that I found in my fly box and tied on Kristen's line. We finished up with fourteen participants from both the New England Area and the Mid North Coast. The staff at the Hatchery were most supportive on the day with Greg (Darb) and Ian (Izzy) helping out for the entire day. Not many fish were landed but overall, I think everyone involved had a top day.

At our March meeting, which saw a very big roll up, Glenn gave a presentation on his and David's trip to the Snowy Area. It was a most interesting exposé on their trip especially as I am heading down there in the next couple of weeks so again thanks to Glenn and David for their efforts.

The next Club outing will be to Keepit in April. I had to go out to Tamworth a couple of weeks ago so decided to take some fishing gear with me. I could not believe the number of fish, backs out of the water, feeding on the freshly water covered greenery. In about an hour I managed to hook three fish, landing one and losing two flies to fish that wrapped me around dead standing thistles etc. Even though there were large numbers of fish they were not easy to hook, but when you did it was hang on and hope for the best. It certainly is a worthwhile experience to fish out there for the mud marlin.

All the best and tight lines

*Doug*

# From the Editor

With fourteen eager participants all wanting to catch their first trout on fly, the highlight of the Bushfire/Drought Recovery Workshop was going to be the opportunity to fish one of the dams at the Ebor Hatchery that had been filled with hungry trout. Unfortunately, we were all brought back to earth when bright sunshine saw the fish sulking in deep water and we were reminded that the name of the game is fishing, not catching.

Some fish were caught and some were lost because not only is hooking a trout difficult so too is being able to land one. If you need help when it comes to landing fish you would do well to study Jason's article on page 20. Having landed sail fish, mud marlin (carp), trout and a host of other species he brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the topic.

If you want to learn about hooking and landing trout don't forget our workshop at the Ebor Hatchery coming up in May. Jason will be there again, along with other experienced club members, to help you learn to fly fish for trout. Places are filling fast and you must register with the Department of Primary Industries if you want to attend. See the poster on page ? for details.

At our last meeting Glenn presented a very interesting report on a trip to Jindabyne with David and members of the Hunter Valley Fly Fishing Club. After watching the slides I think we would all like to go next year. If you missed the meeting you can read about the trip in an article written by Jeff from the HVFFC on page 16.



This month's cover shot points to the fact that it has been a very good season for offshore fishing (weather permitting). Unfortunately, our blue water outing had to be cancelled due to the weather. We don't have many members with sea going boats but Coffs Harbour is a good place to try fly fishing for ocean species and as the club grows so too might this aspect of the sport.

I received an email from Neil Nelson, President of the Illawarra Fly Fishers' Club based in Wollongong, with a copy of their newsletter and an invitation to our members who may be travelling south to contact them if they would like to catch up for a fish. I responded with a similar offer for their club members when travelling north.

We should be fostering communication and co-operation among neighbouring clubs as we have much in common and much to share. Neil mentioned that the Wollongong area has access to the ocean, to estuaries, dams and rivers and they are able to fish for Bass to Mahi Mahi and everything in between - much like what we have to offer up here ... when the rain stops!

*Editor*

# Club Executive 2020-21



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

Our April meeting will be held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> at the North Beach Bowling Club at Mylestom starting at **6.30pm**. Some members will be arriving earlier (about 5.30pm) to have something to eat and drink.

The focus for the night will be YouTube/Vimeo fly fishing videos. Members are asked to select their favourite video to share. Videos should be no more than 10 minutes and you are asked to introduce the video and talk briefly about why you chose it.

You can download your video to a USB drive or you can send me the URL and I will do it for you. Alternatively, if you have an iPhone or iPad we can project directly from your device.

There won't be a formal meeting but the Committee will report on decisions made and there will be time to discuss upcoming events and any issues.

## April Outing

Our outing for April is to Lake Keepit. All places have now been filled. Those attending will receive more detailed information in the coming week.



We have added another outing to our calendar for April due to the cancellation last month. This will be held on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> April. We will be fishing our Homewaters at Mylestom. A boat or kayak is needed but for those without there will be opportunities to share a ride or be taken to some flats for wading. You can launch whenever you like but we plan to meet back at the Mylestom Park at 12.30pm for lunch. The "official" start time will be 7.00am and there will be someone at the boat ramp at that time to help people who haven't made their own plans.

Sausage sandwiches will be available for lunch for a gold coin donation. You must register for this outing so you can be contacted with further details. You can register by contacting Club Captain David on 0411723221 or Allan on 0427457725.

The target species will be bream, flathead and trevally. Information regarding equipment, flies and other details will be emailed to those who register.

## Tuesday Casting Group

Casting sessions on Tuesday mornings have got off to a great start with big numbers attending each week. As we all get better at casting we will enjoy our fly fishing more and have a chance to catch more fish.

The next casting day will be Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> April. There will be no casting on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April as instructors and many of the group will be at Lake Keepit.

Anyone is welcome to attend. We try to cater for beginners to advanced casters. Rods will be available for those without. The venue is the park in Mylestom opposite the boat ramp. For more information you can contact David on 0411723221 or Allan on 0427457725.

## Raffle

Raffle prizes went out the door last meeting but the tickets and major prize didn't. Remember we will have draws each meeting but a major prize will only be drawn each third meeting. All tickets purchased at the last meeting are still in the "barrel" and will remain there until the winning ticket for the reel is drawn at our May meeting.

After some discussion about the time it takes to write names on tickets and the probability of having a winning ticket, it was decided to change ticket prices to \$5 each. Most people have been buying \$5's worth of tickets and if they won multiple prizes have been donating extra prizes back. So in the interest of simplicity, from now on ticket prices will be \$5. Buying a ticket is not compulsory so if you are used to spending a smaller amount you could just save your money and only buy a ticket each three meetings to be in the draw for the major prize.



## Committee

The Committee has a few issues to be discussed prior to our AGM. These mainly relate to membership. During the pandemic membership was free and our numbers rose considerably (currently 77). It is proposed that at the end of June, when the new membership years starts, everyone will need to complete a membership renewal form and pay membership fees if they want to remain a club member. Those who have not returned their membership form and paid their fees will be removed from the membership list.

The Committee will also be considering if we should continue to offer eMembership which is free. Currently we have about 50 eMembers who receive a newsletter. In most cases we have no membership form and no idea if they still want to receive a newsletter. It is proposed that we abolish eMembership and only send newsletters to paid up members and supporters of the club.

The newsletter is currently being sent to anyone who wants one. It is proposed that the newsletter only be emailed to members. Anyone interested in the club will be sent a newsletter but then must become a member to receive regular emails. The newsletter will still be made available on the club website.

Membership fees need to be discussed before being set at the AGM. It is proposed that we introduce a family membership. If we decided to abolish eMembership consideration could be given to having a cheaper membership fee for distant members who cannot attend meetings and events.

Please consider these matters and make your thoughts known to the Committee or at the next meeting.

## Club Calendar

You will find the draft club calendar for the year on the next page. Make sure you keep up to date with the latest calendar - it changes every month. Note the additional outing on 24<sup>th</sup> April, the change of date for the Homewaters outing in June and the weekend at Gumma in September. You can also check our website for the latest plans.

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

## Club Calendar 2021

Here is the draft club calendar for 2021. It is provided to give you an overview of what might happen and an opportunity to plan ahead. Check the monthly newsletter or website for the latest changes.

Month	Outings	Activities
JANUARY	No outing this month <b>Casting</b> at Mylestom at 5.30pm on Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> .	<b>Club Meeting</b> at Mylestom Monday 18 <sup>th</sup>
FEBRUARY	<b>Home Waters</b> Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> Family fishing day with a focus on kids fishing for bream, flathead and mullet held at Mylestom. <b>Tasmania</b> 28 <sup>th</sup> Jan - 8 <sup>th</sup> Feb	<b>Club Meeting</b> Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> <b>Committee Meeting</b>
MARCH	<b>Casting Day</b> Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> <b>Tuesday Casting Group</b> resumes Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> <b>Blue Water Outing</b> Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Club Meeting</b> Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> North Beach Bowling Club Mylestom
APRIL	<b>Keepit Carp Trip</b> Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> - Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> <b>Home Waters</b> Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Club Meeting</b> Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> North Beach Bowling Club Mylestom
MAY	<b>Fly Fishing for Trout Workshop</b> Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> (and Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> if numbers warrant a second day.)	<b>Club Meeting</b> Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> <b>Committee Meeting</b> Major Raffle Drawn
JUNE	<b>Lake St Clair</b> Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> - Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> <b>Home Waters</b> Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Annual Club Meeting</b> Monday 21 <sup>st</sup>
JULY	<b>Casting Day</b> Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> <b>Dunmore Waters</b> Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> to Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> August	<b>Club Meeting</b> Monday 19 <sup>th</sup>
AUGUST	<b>Mullet Mash</b> Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> <b>Swansea Salmon Classic</b> Dates to be set in conjunction with Hunter Valley Fly Club	<b>Club Meeting</b> Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> <b>Committee Meeting</b> Major Raffle Drawn
SEPTEMBER	<b>Gathering at Gumma</b> Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> Gumma Reserve. Fishing, Casting, Fly Tying	<b>Club Meeting</b> Monday 20 <sup>th</sup>
OCTOBER	<b>Home Waters</b> Saturday 31 <sup>st</sup> <b>Ebor Weekend</b> Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Club Meeting</b> Monday 18 <sup>th</sup>
NOVEMBER	<b>Bass on the Bellinger</b> Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Club Meeting</b> Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> <b>Committee Meeting</b> Major Raffle Drawn
DECEMBER	<b>Keepit Carp Caper</b> Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No Club Meeting</b>



## Bushfire /Drought Recovery Workshop

In conjunction with NSW Department of Primary Industries, Fisheries and Recovery Support Services, we recently conducted a Learn to Fly Fish Workshop for rural people whose lives have been impacted by bushfire and drought. Fourteen men, women and children attended what turned out to be a great day at the Dutton Trout Hatchery at Ebor. The aim was to give people a day out having fun, relaxing and socializing while experiencing the positive benefits of learning the art of fly fishing. Judging by the photos that follow, I think you will agree it was a great success.



The success of such a day as this can be attributed to many people. We were well supported by DPI providing planning, staff and funds so that the participants could enjoy a relaxing and free day out. Thanks to Mel, Rob and Joshua from DPI and especially to the staff at the Hatchery for making everything so easy. Thank you Ian and Greg.

Club members Jason, Doug, Jim, Kevin, Alan, David L. and Allan tied flies to give to the participants. Thanks to Jason's publicity on the Saltwater Fly Forum we received flies from Jim (Redfin), Allan (Bozming), Ian (Bonefisher) and Ezvin (SEQFC) who could see the merit in what we were doing and helped out. Most of the fish caught were on the nymphs tied specially for the workshop and everyone appreciated the thought and work that had gone into the donations. Thanks everyone.

Our club can be proud of its efforts to support initiatives such as this. Thanks to the involvement of Doug, Pip and Jason there were lots of smiling faces, lots of socializing and networking and lots of opportunities for people to have fun and learn a new skill. Whether anyone goes on with fly fishing doesn't matter.

As well as helping with the instruction, Jason from *Logicus Images* took on the duties of official photographer and you will see on the following pages just how good he is at capturing the moment.



LOGICUS IMAGES  
OF THE WORLD

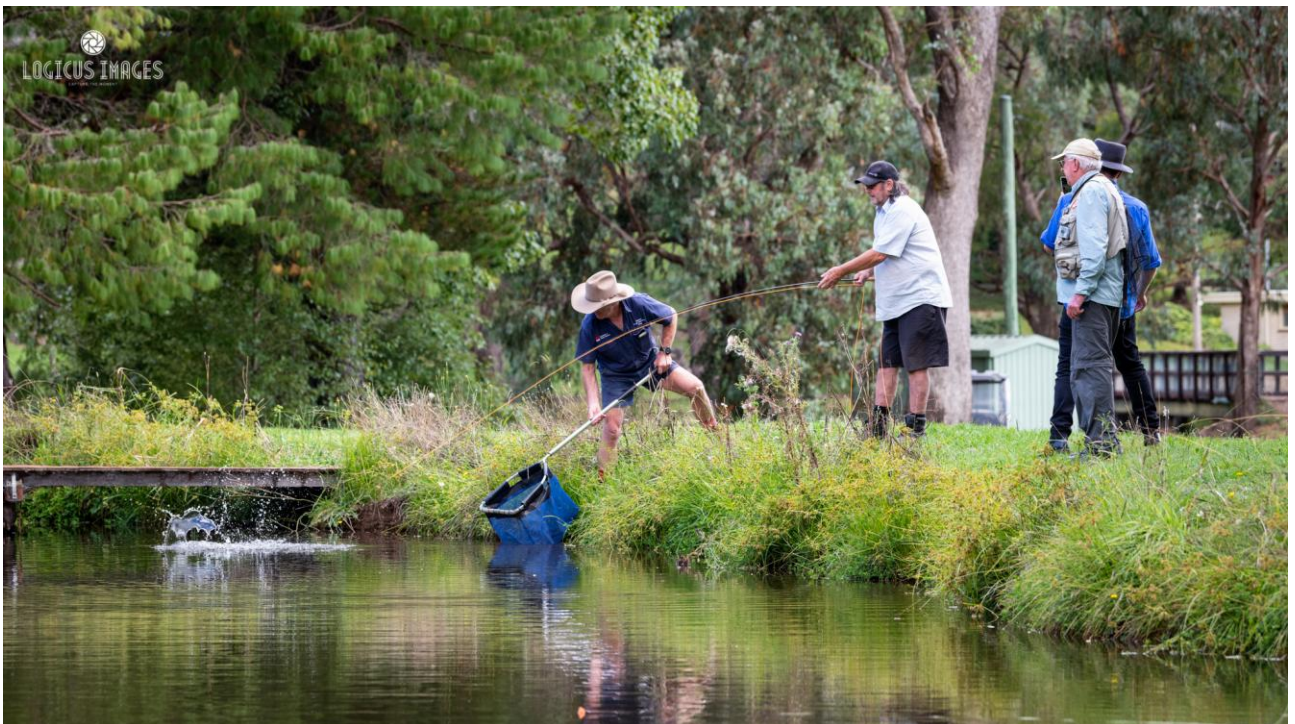


*Above: Fly fishing is not a male only sport. Kristen and Mel worked together as a great team to land this beautiful rainbow trout.*

*Opposite: Each participant was given a box of flies to use and take home. All the nymphs were tied specially by club members and other willing helps for the day.*



*Jason's great photo captures the moment Kristen and Mel get to land a feisty rainbow with Ian looking on to lend a hand if needed.*



*In the other dam Jim does battle with another rainbow that didn't want to go in the net that Greg had waiting for it.*



*Fly fishing is about patience, concentration and anticipation. Some serious concentration going on in this photo!*



*Among Doug's many other duties on the day was cleaning the fish which he performed with his usual proficiency. Watching and learning were other participants and a big "black snake"!*



*Learning to fly fish can take a lifetime but it's surprising how far you can go in a day if you are willing to learn and give it a try.*



*From never having had a fly rod in hand to casting loops only took a few hours thanks to instruction from club members willing to share their skills and knowledge.*



*Pip had the job of teaching everyone how to tie on their fly and the fact that we didn't lose any of the flies indicates he did a great job.*



*Everyone got advice and assistance from our club helpers. Even with the best help sometimes the fish don't co-operate.*



# Learn to Fly Fish for Trout

With NSW Department of Primary Industries Fisheries  
& Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club

Stronger Primary  
Industries



**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup>  
and Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup>  
May 2021**

(Sunday only if numbers warrant)



## Dutton Trout Hatchery Ebor

8.00am to 4.00pm

Cost \$25 Club members ... \$50 non members

### Workshop presentations

- Rod, reel and line setup
- What flies to use
- Trout identification, handling and rules

- Tour of the Hatchery,
- Morning tea and lunch provided
- Rods, reels and lines provided or bring your own.

Places are limited.

To register contact:

Melanie Buhler  
Education Officer (North Coast)  
Fisheries & Aquaculture  
Management NSW Fisheries  
02 6691 9681 / M: 0458 274 876  
E: [melanie.buhler@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:melanie.buhler@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

### Practical sessions

- Learn the basics of fly casting
- Fish the trout filled ponds at the Hatchery.
- Led by internationally certified casting instructor and experienced fly fishers



# Jindabyne

*By Jeff Yates*

It's that time of the year again, when the wild apples are ripening along the verges of the Alpine Way, a bit of scrumping to fill the larder, later to be turned into lovely stewed fruit back at camp. It's also the time of the mudeye hatch on the lakes and grass hopper action on the cool alpine streams.

A visit to the Jindy Highlander Outfitters Fly fishing shop and a chat to Anthony, and very soon we had the good oil on what was happening on the nearby waters. Lake Jindabyne was slow, with water temperatures rising, but the mountain streams had the best fishing in years. Dave and Glenn restocked their boxes with suggested flies, meanwhile us older farts were content to use what we had and try our luck with the lake fishing.

We quickly settled into our lodgings as the late afternoon shower cast a rainbow over the lake and surrounding hills. All was looking good for a session on Kangaroo Bay, located on the Snowy arm at the top of the lake, right under the rainbow, an ominous sign. This lovely bay has granite outcrops edging the foreshores and gentle manicured green flats right across the back of the bay. True to its name, the Eastern Greys and Red neck Wallabies were grazing across the flats, down to the water line. Later in the week one of these roos took to the water and hopped right through a mudeye hatch for 100m, no doubt scattering trout everywhere, but this is our excuse!



The fishing was slow, with a water temperature of 23 degrees, making late night fishing an absolute must. Early catches and occasional fish indicated a liking for Corduloid and Churchie patterns, which I mainly used for the remainder of the week. The Churchie (deer hair head, black duck overwing) caught a number of smaller fish, including an atlantic salmon, but saved the biggest fish to the last cast of the last night, when a heavy brown enveloped the fly and let me know who was boss when it buried me in the rocks 5m below the water surface around mid-night, before snapping the 12lb leader dropper. A consolation 1lb rainbow meanwhile, picked up the bottom fly, and had us in fits of laughter, otherwise, tears would have flowed!





Now let's look at the weather. One can't complain, evening storms after a buildup, and a cool change midweek, tempered the water temperature to around 20 degrees, which should have suited the fish. The only other factor was the full moon phase. I have never liked fishing under a bright moon when mudeye hatches are expected, and this trip proved the theory once again. A number of the fish caught was directly after sun down and before the moon rose, which was only a small window of time; many a night we prayed for a cloud cover to get those little critters hatching and listen to the chomp of feeding fish.

Having used up all our excuses, we were not deterred as we tackle tinkered on a daily basis, meanwhile our Coffs friends, Dave and Glenn, chased pretty coloured fish in the high, cool, alpine streams. Oh to be young again or in Glenn's case, young at heart. See below a couple of their hard won, but beautiful mountain browns.





The shoreline on Lake Jindabyne is mostly granite boulders and weathered granite sand, whereas Eucumbene is mainly made up of former grazing lands with much detritus, dead trees and mud. Jindabyne is a better lake for polroiding early season, as the fish show up against the creamy sand bottom, and the rocky shoreline hides crayfish. During the day there is little evidence of insect or crustacean life, but after dark things change, and I have been rewarded with a bucket full of yabbies when the fishing gets slack. So, what I'm saying is that the fish that feed on the yabbies, cruise the shoreline after dark, so target rocky and weeded areas close to the shore line. The fish I spoke of earlier, I hooked within a meter of a rocky shoreline, so it pays to search with casts radiating from bank to bank, either side in an 180° arc.

There are more productive places to fish, and having fished the Snowies regularly for the past 30 years, some time ago I came to the realisation that it's not just about fish, its about the journey, of friends, the environment, wildlife, relaxation, scenery and yes, the occasional fish. We stay in a luxury chalet, camouflaged as a tin shed, perched just 50m off the water with boat access and 10 minutes from Jindabyne for that morning coffee. What more can we ask for in our twilight years where comfort is as important as the fish we catch?





Can't wait till the next trip down to the mountains to once more savour the elixir which pretends to extend the life of crusty old fishermen!

# LANDING A FISH WITH A FLY ROD

*By Jason Stratford*

Compared to other types of rod fishing, there are some differences in the technique AND some limitations of equipment used, that create some challenges to the beginner fly fisher. This only comes into play if you have put the right fly, in the right place, with a good cast!

So let's assume you have done all of that...what happens next???

## **Get into the 'Ready Position'**

After a cast is made...we set ourselves into the 'Ready Position'. This is simply: pulling unnecessary slack out of the line (between the angler and the fly). Pinching the line against the rod grip and your index finger on your rod hand. Depending on the type of fly fishing the rod tip is generally kept LOW in the ready position (Some low rod tip exceptions may be 'high-stick' nymphing, heavy bankside vegetation, avoiding snags etc).

The 'Ready Position' is common to all types of fly fishing and should be practiced until it becomes second nature. In the 'Ready Position', you are prepared to 'set the hook' the moment you detect a 'take' or 'bite'.

I'm ready...what happens now?

Well...quite simply...we have to wait for a fish to 'bite' or 'take' the fly. Sometimes we wait and wait and well...just wait!!! Other times it can happen as soon as the fly hits the water - which can even be before we get into the Ready Position.

You can tell a fish has taken the fly by:

We see the fish come up and completely engulf the fly ... the fly disappears (dry and sometimes wet)

We might see our 'indicator' disappear (wet / dry)

We might feel the line bump and or tighten (wet)

You might see the line start to move in a different direction - but not yet feel tight.

**So we are now in the Ready Position and have detected a take - let's catch that fish!**

## **1. SETTING THE HOOK**

The 'setting the hook' is the most important part of landing a fish. It is a necessary step after a fish takes your fly that helps drive the point of the hook into the fish's mouth.

There is more to a good hook set than just swinging the rod back and giving it to the fish. A good hook set involves timing, subtlety...and a little bit of luck.

## **'Trout Set' or 'Trout Strike'**

A standard hook set for trout fishing is a simple lift of the rod once we have detected a bite / take. This is a sharp, but very controlled, upward raise of the rod is generally - to drive the light wire hook into the fish's mouth.

We don't want to 'rip' the rod upward as this can:

1. Pull the fly away from the fish if it didn't take properly - no chance of a 2<sup>nd</sup> bite.
2. Easily break the light tippets used - particularly those for trout
3. It can send a small fish flying through the air into the bushes behind us (damaging the fish).

## **Another Option - the 'Strip Set' or 'Strip Strike'**

The 'strip strike' or 'strip set' is a specialized hook set normally used when for larger / boney mouth fish or when using an active retrieve. When you feel the fish 'take', keep the rod pointed right at the fish and pull the line hard with your stripping hand to tighten the line and pull the hook into the mouth of the fish.

If you miss the take, keep working the fly back to you. Often, the fish will come back for another shot.

## **Matching Your Hook Set to the Current Speed**

In general, no current (*like here at the hatchery*) / slow current means that the fish will inspect the fly and rise slowly for the take.

Delay your actions and allow the fish time to eat your fly and turn back down before you set. A good starting point is to wait until the fish's head goes back under the water before attempting a hook set.

In a fast current, fish will often rocket off the bottom and quickly attack the fly, so a swift set will hook more fish in this circumstance.

## **Matching Power to Distance**

If you are fishing close in or just off the rod tip, a quick flick of the wrist is adequate for a good hook set.

If you are fishing at a distance or you have a lot of necessary slack line out, you may need to use a fast lift of the rod combined with a haul or long strip of the line to recover the slack and come tight to the fish.

## **Setting Downstream**

When drifting a fly below you in a downstream direction, setting the hook directly upward can often pull the fly away from the fish. Instead, sweep the rod sideways toward the bank in a downstream direction. This will help set the hook into the corner of the fish's mouth and keep the fish on the line.

# Setting the Hook



## 1 Ready Position

Line is controlled by index finger while stripping, awaiting strike by fish



## 2 Trout Set

When you spot a take, lift the rod in a short, firm, but not dramatic motion; almost as though you are lifting the fly off the water to make another cast



## 3 Strip Strike

When you spot a take, strip line toward you with a hard, fast, jabbing motion; about a foot to the full reach of your arm, depending on the amount of line in the water

## THE FIGHT

Once you have a fish hooked, you need to be able to bring it to hand. If you are unprepared, a large or feisty fish can easily throw the hook or snap your tippet, leaving you wondering what went wrong.

### Make a Plan

Even before making a cast, we need to visualize the fight if we hook a fish. Look for hazards along the bank (including other anglers) or snags in the water that could cause a problem.

Think about where the fish is likely to swim and what direction you should pull to guide the fish away from potential threats. Often, a big fish will immediately head for a nearby structure or deep water.

Plan accordingly, and you will have a greater chance that the fish will swim into your net.

### **Don't 'Slack' Off**

Fly fishermen often use small, barbless hooks. If there is any slack in the line during the battle, the fish can easily shake the hook and get away.

Practice keeping the line tight at all times. If the fish swims straight at you, strip by hand or reel quickly to recover the slack line.

Pay attention to what the fish is doing and keep a slight bend in the rod to maintain tension.

Hand stripping can be easier for smaller fish...larger fish might be better to fight using the controlled drag setting on the reel (includes palming).

### **Lower rod tip is Better**

You will often hear people telling you to keep the rod high when fighting a fish. A high rod tip puts very little pressure on the fish and allows them to exert their will. It also encourages a fish to jump and throw the hook.

Generally, keeping the line tight and fighting with the rod at a 45-degree angle or less will help you land more fish.

A low rod angle allows you to take advantage of the full flexing power of the rod to put pressure on the fish BUT too low of an angle and you lose the 'shock absorber effect' of the high rod angle...which can help absorb any hard runs or head shakes.

### **Bow to the King**

During a fight, a fish may take to the air ('jump') to try to dislodge the hook from its mouth. When this happens, lowering the rod will lessen the fish's leverage and reduce its chance of throwing your fly or landing on a tight tippet and breaking it.

### **Lead the Fish**

Confuse the fish by switching the direction of pull back and forth to always lead it in the opposite direction it wants to go. Constantly changing directions will tire it out quickly and finish the fight faster. If you can 'roll' the fish a few times...they will ease their fight.

The first few seconds of the fight are often the most crucial. Trust your tackle, your hookset, and your fighting abilities.

Don't jerk the rod or lose your cool. Keep pressure on the fish BUT also be ready to 'give line'.

### **Pump the Rod**

When fighting a big, stubborn fish, recover the line quickly by pumping. Pull the fish toward you by lifting the rod, and then lower the rod while simultaneously reeling in the slack line. Repeat this motion to keep the fish moving toward you.

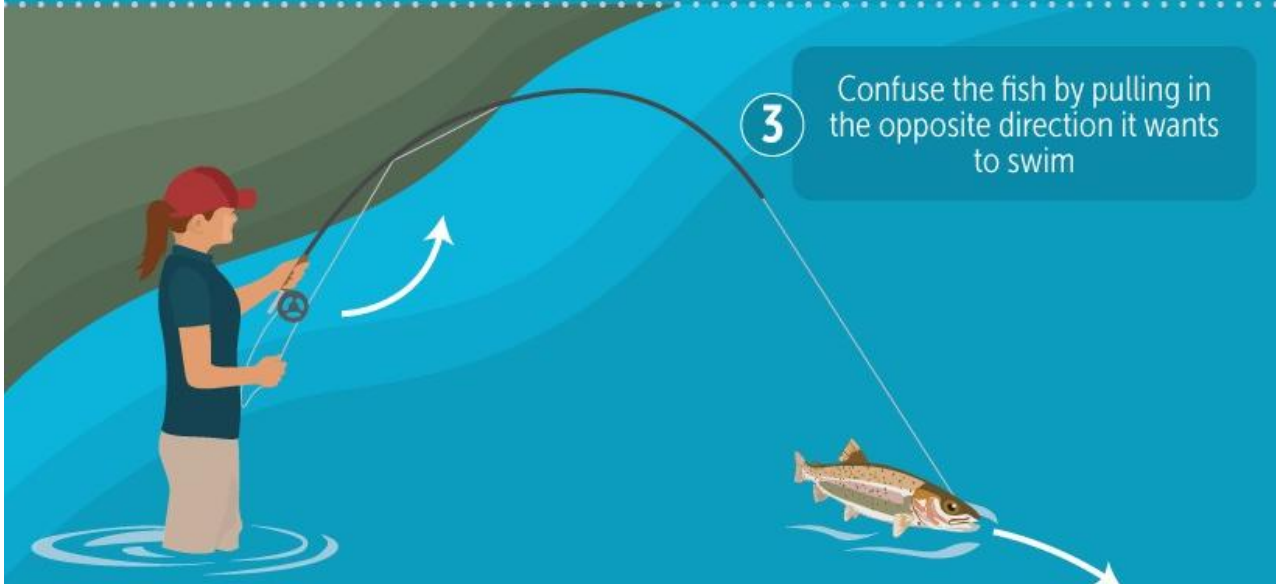
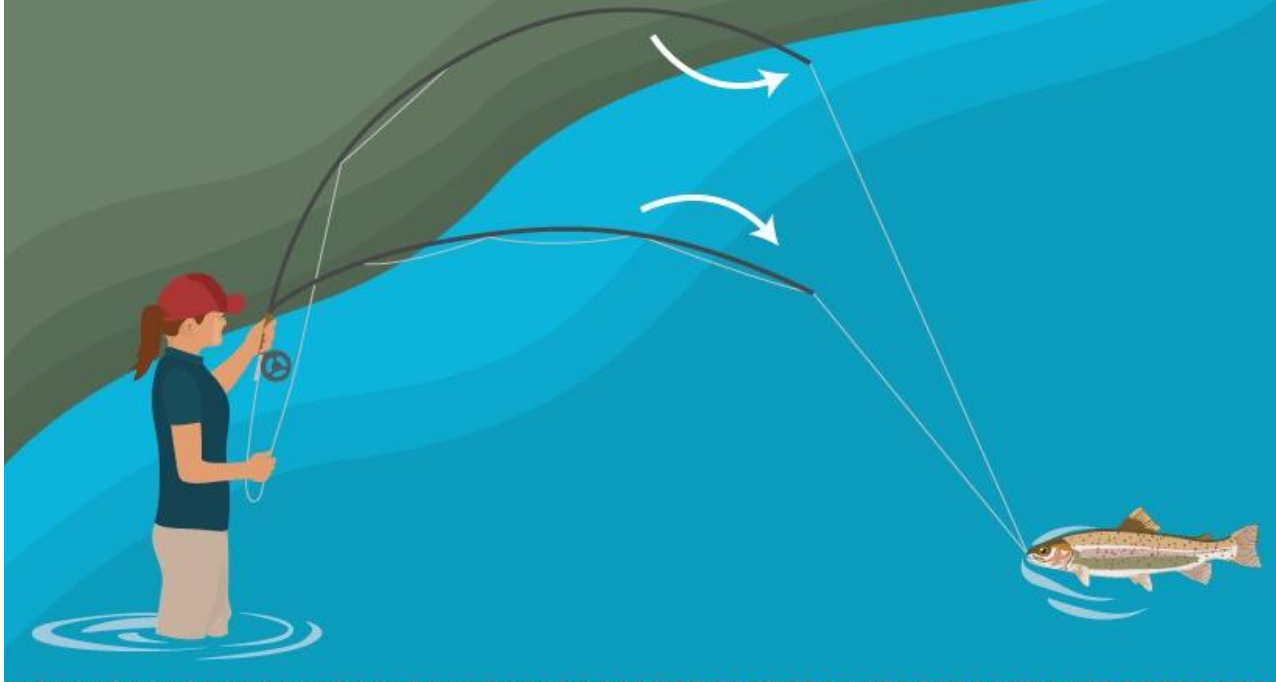
# Fighting the Fish

1

Maintain tension by keeping the rod bent

2

Lift the rod to bring the fish closer; reel in the slack as you lower the rod



3

Confuse the fish by pulling in the opposite direction it wants to swim

## LANDING YOUR TROPHY

You may think you have your fish whipped and you've brought it in close enough to touch, but the fight isn't over yet! One wrong move...and that fish will be swimming right back into the depths.

Here's how to finish the fight and get your trophy fish to hand.



### **Find a Good Landing Spot**

As soon as you hook your fish, you should be looking for a place to land it. In a river, it often helps to work your way downstream of the fish to an area where the current is slow and ideally the bank is flat. The fish will be forced to either fight upstream against the current or drift down to your waiting net.

### **Watch Your Leader**

Avoid bringing your line into the rod past the leader connection. The rough connection between your leader and the rod is prone to snagging on the rod tip or in the guides, which could result in a broken rod, a broken leader, a lost fish, or all of the above.

### **Heads Up**

When the fish becomes tired, bring it in close and raise the rod to lift its 'nose' slightly out of the water. This takes most of its fighting power away and allows you to gently glide the fish across the surface into your net.

### **Use a Net**

Whenever possible, use a net, preferably with rubber mesh. This will allow you to land the fish safely and easily while reducing the chance of breaking the tippet at the last second.

Avoid jabbing the net at the fish. Instead, hold the net in the water below the fish and guide the fish gently to the net.

If you are practicing catch and release, it will also help you keep the fish in the water while unhooking it or preparing your camera for a photograph. Less stress on the fish means a healthy release and a fish that lives to fight (and hopefully be caught again) another day.

### **Be aware of 'High Sticking'**

Fly rods are designed to bend progressively along the entire length of the rod. When landing a fish...there are times where a fly rod can be bent in a way that will easily break it.

When fishing from a boat or by yourself and trying to net a fish...high sticking becomes more likely...so be aware of the bend in the rod and you will avoid an expensive accident!

Also - don't attempt to lift a fish from the water using the rod

**Remember these tips and you will have a greater chance of bringing more fish to the net ... AND you'll be well prepared in case the next strike you get is the fish of a lifetime!**

# Landing Your Trophy

1 Find a safe landing spot free of snags and steep bank sides

2 Raise the rod to lift the fish's head up and guide it toward you



3 Hold the net beneath the fish and guide it gently



## Fly Tying



### Flies by Fedeles

Paul Fedeles is our guest fly tyer this month. Paul has tied this pattern for use on Herring and Trout. Judging from the photo it can be a very successful fly.



### Bloomfield Grub

#### Materials

Hook: size 16 Scud  
Thread: Black or the new improved version Red Sheer 14/0  
Body: Peacock herl, 6 turns of .015 lead free wire.

#### Tying Instructions

Six turns of lead free wire just above the barb, so hook rides upside down.

Cover hook and tie down wire with thread.

Starting at the eye, tie in two or three strands of peacock herl.

Wrap the herl to just past the bend in the hook and back to the eye filling in any gaps.

Tie off and whip finish.

If need trim the inside to make sure gap isn't filled.

#### Fishing tips:

Cast up stream let the fly sink and then short quick jerky figure 8 strips.

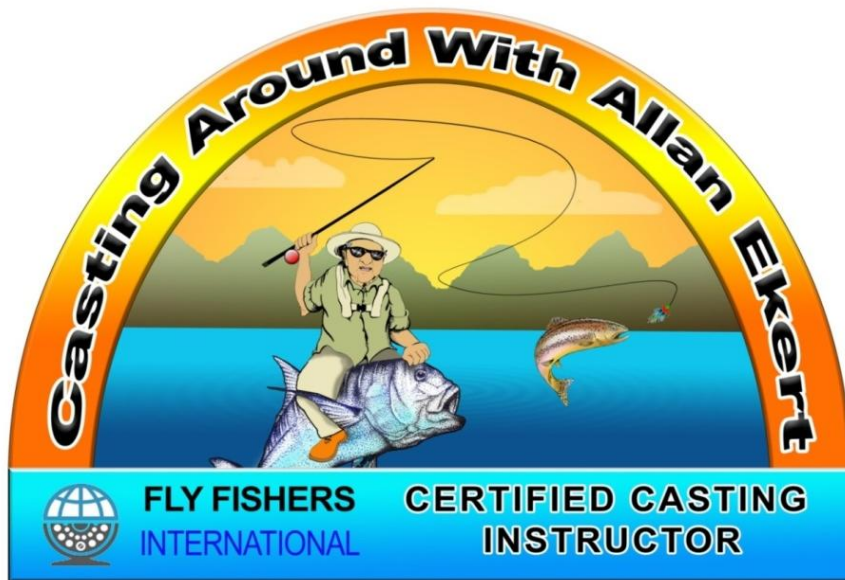
Keep your rod pointed at you fly line and in the water.

Maintain contact with your line.

Strip strike any small takes.

If you miss the strike pause and short strip again

Don't lift your rod until you are hooked up.



### **Fly Rod Action**

“Soft, crappy action.” These were the comments of one of the participants at a recent fly casting session trying out different fly rods. About a dozen members had assembled to test cast a collection of 5 weight rods all running the same line. The rods were all sub \$200 and this one was the cheapest of them all. Surprisingly, it wasn’t universally condemned and at the end of the day everyone agreed it would be very difficult to buy a “bad” rod in this category.

Trying out different fly rods is a popular activity at our regular fly casting sessions in the club. Most of the participants are new to fly fishing and curious as to what rods are available and what difference they might make to their casting. Not yet addicted to the sport they don’t want to spend the thousands of dollars needed to buy a top of the range rod. I managed to assemble 9 different rods in the sub \$200 category that I had acquired over the years, sourced from local fly shops or from overseas. As each person test cast a rod they wrote down their comments and gave it a score. There were no standout winners or losers but the ensuing discussion proved very interesting.

So how do you describe the action of a fly rod? “Soft and crappy” paints a pretty good picture but sometimes you need to be a bit more specific. This month I want to talk about fly rods and the different actions they have. Take any collection of fly rods and cast them one after another and it will soon become apparent they are all different. Even rods from the same manufacturer can behave differently. Being able to feel and see the difference is one thing but being able to describe that difference in objective terms is another.

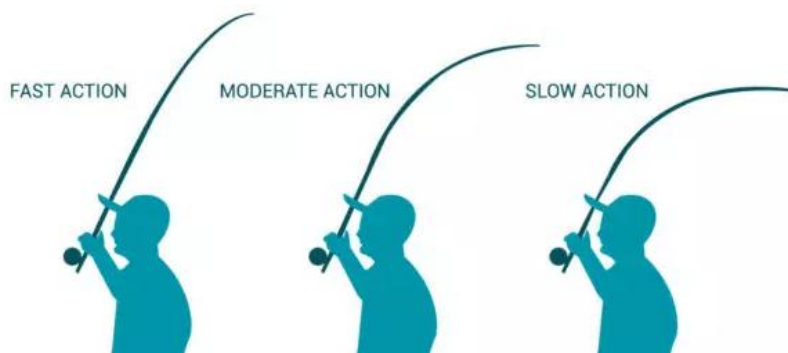
The action of a fly rod describes how much it bends or flexes and how long it takes to recover after flexing. This is influenced by the taper of the blank and the materials and components used to build the rod. It’s a complicated formula which gives rise to so many different approaches to making the perfect fly rod. It also gives rise to so many different ways to rate the action of the rod.

There is no industry standard for rating fly rods. Each manufacturer has their own way of describing the action of their rods. In the 1990's the Orvis Company developed a system to describe the speed and amount of power required to make a rod bend. A numerical value between 2.5 and 12.5 was assigned to a specific rod action - the higher the number, the faster the rod action. In theory the Orvis Flex Index<sup>1</sup> is a good standardized way to rate the action of a fly rod. Unfortunately, it did not catch on with other manufacturers and even Orvis itself does not appear to be using this index today when you look at how they label their Helios rods 3D and 3F.



Another attempt was made in early 2000 to find an objective and standardized way of rating the action of a fly rod. The Common Cents System<sup>2</sup> was created by an American rod builder named Dr. William Hanneman. It's called the Common Cents System because he used cents to weigh the tip of a fly rod and measure the angle of deflection. It is a complex system where any fly rod or blank can be usefully described using a term called the "Defined Bending Index" or DBI. This number is obtained by using the formula  $DBI = ERN / AA$  where ERN represents the Effective Rod Number or power of the rod, and AA represents the rod Action Angle. It is too complicated for me and a lot of people obviously agree as it never caught on. Nevertheless, it is objective and standardized and could have been useful if universally adopted.

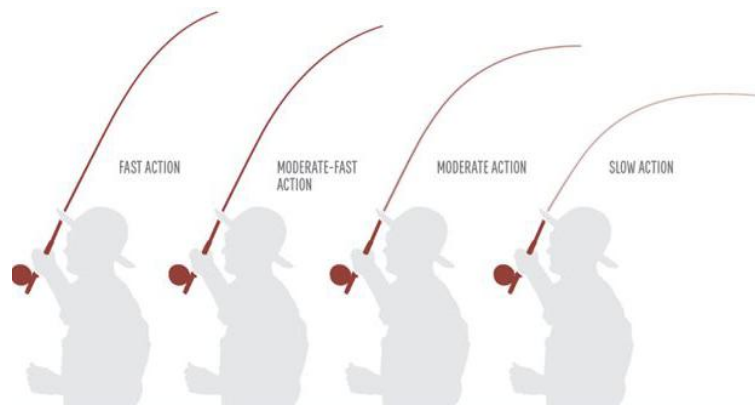
Nowadays, most rod manufacturers refer to the action of their rods in their own terms. The industry seems to have settled on: fast, medium/moderate or slow but even that is not standardized as you will find some rods labeled as "medium fast" or "very fast" just so rod makers can differentiate their models. However, these three terms are widely accepted and will tell you a lot about the rod you are casting.



Fast action rods are usually stiff with less flex. They have become popular because they make quick casts and tight loops easier. The trade off is it is harder to feel the rod load and unload which can make getting the timing right for beginners. And, the stiffness is not good for protecting light tippets and jumping fish.

Moderate action rods work well for a wide range of applications. They are fast enough to produce tight loops but the longer casting stroke required means there is more time to line up everything and be more accurate. For casting sinking lines or large flies, a moderate action rod easily throws a more open loop, and it works better with presentation casts and roll-casting.

Slow action rods require smooth acceleration and a longer casting stroke. They work best throwing small flies short distances on long leaders. These rods flex throughout the entire length and are forgiving when it comes to protecting tippets and fighting fish. A slower action rod is not an ideal rod for casting in windy conditions and it's easier to throw tailing loops.



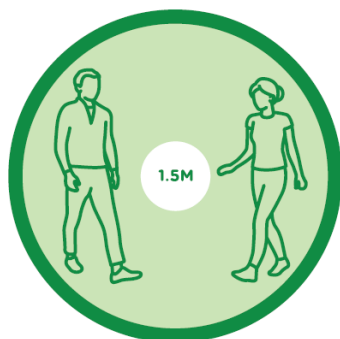
It's important to understand these actions when talking about a fly rod. It helps when you want to describe a rod to someone else. It helps when you want to choose a new fly rod. It helps you to know how to cast the rods you have. There should be a consistent terminology even if manufacturers find it difficult to agree. Orvis and Bill Hanneman failed to convince us with their approach so maybe our rod tester from the club casting day was on the right track ... because I rather like "soft, crappy action!"

<sup>1</sup>To read more about The Orvis Fly Rod Flex Index: <https://www.orvis.com/s/fly-rod-flex-index/24>

<sup>2</sup>To read more about The Common Cents System: <https://www.common-cents.info/>

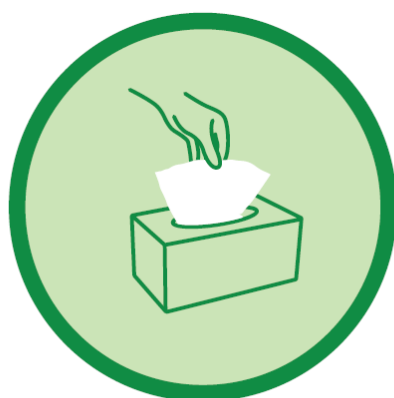
## Covid-19 Safety Policy

To ensure the safety and well being of all our members and the community you are asked to abide by the following guidelines whenever we meet:



Practise physical distancing.  
Where possible, stay 1.5m apart.

- If members have any flu like symptoms they are requested not to attend club activities. (We won't ask you to complete a declaration form, as many groups are doing, but will trust you to make the right decision if you are in doubt).



Stay at home and  
self-isolate if you are unwell.

- The sharing of equipment should be avoided where possible and frequent use of hand sanitizer is encouraged. Sanitizer will be available at all club activities.

- During this time many people are refraining from shaking hands and hugging. If you are a gregarious person you might want to check the body language of the person you are approaching to gauge their feelings on this matter. Not shaking hands or touching during this time shouldn't be seen as being unfriendly.



Wash your hands regularly  
with soap and water.

- You must register and sign in with your phone number for all club activities. If you have the COVIDSafe app active that would be another safeguard.
- When food and drink is part of a club activity you should consider bringing your own crockery and cutlery. For the immediate future, the club will be using disposables.

**BE COVIDSAFE**

# Our Supporters

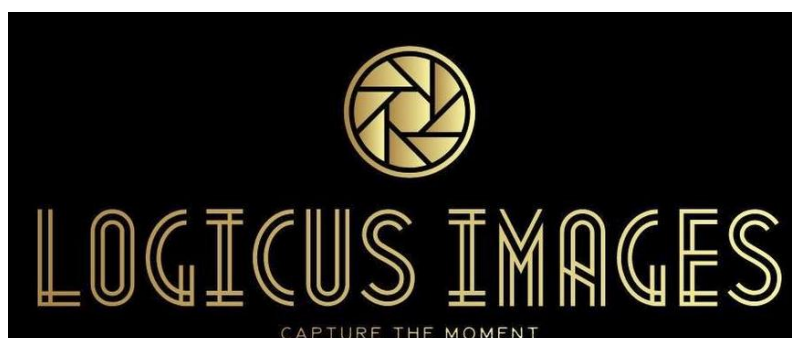
These people have all helped our club in one way or another. When you are looking for products and services make sure you consider them first



## Flies by Fedeles



<http://flytyerman.blogspot.com>





## 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.





# 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 |

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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)**

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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)**