

The *Flyer*



Official Newsletter Of The



The Flyer

The Official Newsletter of the Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club

APRIL 2023

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Front Cover: Tom was expecting something bigger to tow him around the place but instead he had to settle for this beautiful little Murray Cod.

I had intended for this newsletter to be much shorter but with so much good material to use I couldn't help myself. I hope you find it as interesting as I did.

Make sure you read the first few pages or you won't know about meetings, casting and outings. But don't stop there. The really interesting stuff comes later. Tom's presentation from last month's meeting is included for those who weren't there and Garry has a great report from New Zealand for those who wish they were there.

Anthony has given us an update on the Carp Control Program and the chances we will have something to catch at Keepit this year and the usual articles and club information fill out the remainder of the newsletter. Happy reading.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

April 2023



The past few weeks of March have seen some of the warmest temperatures that we've experienced this year and for that matter the past summer. From the few reports I've had from around here this temperature blip has seen an increase in the Bass activity. I can't really verify it myself as I've only had a couple of outings on the Bass and they have been what you would call relatively unproductive. Hopefully I may get a few more outings in on the bass before the autumn weather moves in. The Bluewater action is seeing a lot of small tuna species moving through this area and I would think that the Mackerel should be in close pursuit.

This issue of the "The Flyer" has over forty pages of well worthwhile information. Tom Clancy has generously let us use the slides, from his presentation at the last meeting. Most of the photos have featured in FlyLife Magazine, a testament to the quality of the photography. Tom's presentation is certainly a most professional and informative document. The information contained in it should give anyone who is interested in chasing the fish he has listed a very big leg up in the capture of these fish.

... Continued next page

PRESIDENT'S REPORT *Cont.*

I did have a question for Tom after the last meeting but didn't get a chance to put it to him: "How many caps do you own?" In all the photos in the club presentations and magazine articles I don't think I've seen the same cap popping up for a second time. And speaking of magazine articles, Tom has an item in the current FlyLife magazine titled "Getting Jiggy." For anyone who fishes shrimp patterns this article is a must read.

I got to thinking after reading this article about the sales of fly tying materials i.e. wing, dubbing, flash, eyes, legs etc. and how people, myself included, respond to these articles and decide to tie up a few but have to procure the gear first. So, I guess sales for the material required for a specific pattern would rise? Maybe, maybe not. I did read in the "Short Casts" section of the FlyLife magazine several years ago where a fly tier's wife had written in saying that her husband had tied up every fly from The Watson's Fancy column since its inception. Now that would take a variety of materials seeing as the magazine is now up to the 110th edition.

It's a long time since I have been to New Zealand but Garry Bennett's article really caught my attention and reminded me of how good the fishing is over there. If you are thinking of adding trout fishing in NZ to your bucket list you must read Garry's report and have a talk to him next time you see him catching all the mullet at Valla.

Anyway, enjoy our club's publication again put together in a most professional style by our Newsletter Editor and acting Secretary, Allan. Take a look at the excellent photos of the Ben's Falls trip and the Ebor Learn Fly Fishing days. Also check the calendar for upcoming outings, meetings, fly tying etc. There's certainly a lot going on and it is all on offer for the benefit of our members.

Until next time - tight lines

Doug

From the Editor

When the Club was formed in 2016, we decided it would be a place to share, learn and have fun. If you look through this edition of the Flyer you should see that we are living up to our mission.

Recent activities like the trip to Bens Falls Retreat and the sessions at Ebor, are examples of the club sharing and learning. On the cod trip John shared his knowledge and skills as a guide in the area to give us our best chance of catching fish. At Ebor, some of our experienced Trouties shared their experience with those starting out to catch a trout on fly. Both ventures were very successful because of members generously giving of their time to help others learn. As for the fun, you only need to talk to anyone who was involved to see that they had a great time and learnt a lot.

A common problem for our freshwater outings is access to fishing water. This is a particularly so for the Ebor area where public water is hard to find. When you do make the contacts and find waters you can fish, I would urge all club members not to publicize where they go. Landowners are becoming frustrated by people who hear about a river and think they can just walk on and fish. By all means share with trusted friends but let's not upset farmers by encouraging every Tom Dick and Harry to visit their property.

It's even getting to be a problem in New Zealand which you can read about in Garry's report from his recent trip. NZ is becoming so popular the locals are voicing their concerns about being unable to fish their rivers due to the influx of visitors. There are proposals in the pipeline to impose additional license fees for visitors who want to fish the more popular rivers. You will note that Garry has done his bit by not naming the river that saved their trip when everything else was in flood. If you are a frequent visitor to NZ you can read about the new licensing proposals later in the newsletter.



I'm still harping on about the Fly Master awards as I believe they are a big part of our club's charter to share, learn and have fun. No doubt, Tom had fun catching his gold masters fish but just as importantly he has gone to a lot of trouble to share the how, when and where. If you want to learn about catching fish on fly in our local waters don't read Tom's presentation in this edition ... STUDY IT! I expect a lot more club members will be receiving fly master awards in the near future and proudly wearing one of the new badges.

At our meetings we have a segment called "The Pitch." The idea comes from the ABC TV show, *Gruen* where advertising agencies are tasked with making a convincing ad for an unusual concept. You don't have to make an ad at the meeting but you can pitch an idea to the members for a club outing or activity. The fly tying competition and trips to Lake Borumba and Bens Falls are examples where members have pitched ideas that have come to fruition. If you have an idea for a club outing or activity, take advantage of "The Pitch" and convince others that they want to be involved.

If after reading this month's Flyer you are not convinced that our club is about sharing, learning and having fun then maybe this club isn't for you ... or maybe you don't read the whole newsletter and join in the activities we offer.

Editor

Club Executive 2022-23



President
Doug Urquhart
0458696138



Vice President
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0427689400



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Committee
Glenn Colquhoun



Committee
Michael Ferris
0428636858



Committee
Murray Robinson
0425277026



Club Contact Details

Please note the Club no longer
uses the email address
ccffc@tpg.com.au

All email contact should be to:
coffscoastflyfishers@gmail.com

April Meeting

Our April meeting will be held on Monday 17th at the North Beach Recreation and Bowling Club at Mylestom. Our guest speaker will be Anthony Heiser talking about the National Carp Control Program. Anthony has been involved in researching and reporting on the release of the carp virus for some years and he will bring us up to date on the current situation and the chances of finding carp at Lake Keepit when we plan to go there later in the year.



The meeting will commence at 6.30pm. There will be time to talk about any club issues and pitch ideas for future activities. The Fly Master award badges should have arrived and these will be presented to those who have reached the bronze, silver or gold level.

The usual raffle will be run with all tickets retained to be used for the major prize of a Redington indoor practice fly rod and a collection of fly tying materials which will be drawn on the night.



Committee Meeting

The committee will meet before the April meeting at the North Beach Club commencing at 5.00pm. The earlier starting time will allow for a full agenda and time to eat and be ready for the General Meeting to follow.

If you have any items for the agenda, please get in contact with the acting Secretary or any Committee member. Any member can sit in on a Committee Meeting. Decisions made by Committee are presented at general meetings and minutes are made available for those who would like a copy.

Tuesday Casting Group

Casting will continue this month on Tuesdays unless there is a need to cancel due to the weather or other circumstances. If you turn up at the Mylestom Cricket Oval at 10.00am to find no one there, check the Newsletter, Facebook or your emails or drive to the end of the road at the Café and see if we have moved to the shelter shed there.

The timetable is as follows:

9.45am - Arrive ready for 10.00am start.
10.00am - 11.00am How-to sessions and Casting
11am till 11.30am Morning tea
11.30 am till 12 noon More casting.

After casting you are welcome to join the group that goes to the café for lunch.



In April we will be:

- Casting at Mylestom on Tuesday 4th
- Casting at Mylestom on Tuesday 11th
This is Easter Tuesday and some people will be away, but there will still be casting at Mylestom for those who are looking for something to do.
- Casting at Mylestom on Tuesday 18th
- Fishing at Valla Beach on Tuesday 25th
Anzac Day falls on a Tuesday so this will be our fishing for day for those who are not involved in Anzac Day activities.

For more information on the Tuesday Casting Group, you can contact Allan on 0427457725.

Fly Tying

The winner of the fly tying competition this month was Steve Rampant with his very realistic Shrimp pattern.



It's great to see so many people having a go at fly tying and Pip is doing a terrific job coordinating and conducting the ballot. Not only is it creating a lot of interest, it is producing a lot more prizes for the monthly raffle.

The theme for next month's competition is a dry fly for trout - a chance for all the Trouties to show their skills.

On Monday 24th April we will be conducting another fly tying night. The session will commence at **6.00pm** at the North Beach Recreation and Bowling Club in the Osprey room out the back. Anyone who is interested in learning about tying flies will be most welcome. This month we will be tying an F Fly using CDC feathers.



You will need to register so that a material pack can be made up for you. The cost will be \$5. You can register at the next meeting or by contacting the Secretary.

Fly Master awards

The Fly Master awards program is gaining momentum as more people realize they have already achieved a level or are well on their way towards one. If you sit down with a copy of the fish species beside you and look back through your photos of memorable fish you have caught on fly, you will be surprised how many you can tick off the list. You don't have to make a presentation like Tom's but for those who enjoyed his talk at the last meeting you will realize just how many species are readily found in our local waters.

At the last meeting more members joined the Silver and Gold Club.



Glenn and Brian with their Silver and Gold certificates

It's not just about the silver and gold levels. As Tom pointed out in his presentation you have to start small to get to the trophy fish. If you haven't yet achieved a Bronze Fly Master award, take a look at the species you have to catch and start targeting them. I'd be surprised if there was anyone in the club who hasn't caught at least two or three of these on fly already.

Mullet (no size), Bream 25cm, Flathead 36cm, Bass 35cm, Herring (fresh or saltwater - no size), Trevally 30cm, Brown Trout 25cm, Rainbow Trout 25cm, Murray Cod 55cm, Golden Perch (Yellowbelly) 30cm, Silver Perch 25cm, Garfish 20cm, Redfin (no size), Tailor (no size), Dart (no size)

If you don't want to wait until you have caught all 5 species for an award there is the option for catching three fish in the one day. This would add a personal challenge to any of our club outings.

The list of species for each award is expanding as more people put forward their ideas for what they would like to target. It's all about setting personal goals and trying to achieve them. Take a look at the Hall of Fame to see where you are up to and aim for the next level. When you reach Gold, try for the Grand Slam of 3 species in the one day.

The badges should be here for the next meeting and will be available for everyone in the Hall of Fame who has achieved a Bronze Fly Master or above.

You can read all the details of the Fly Master awards [here](#).



April Outings

Homewaters

We have an outing to our Homewaters on the Bellinger and Kalang Rivers at Mylestom on Saturday 1st April. If you get to read this email in time you can still register by contacting Glenn Colquhoun on 0409151270

A boat, canoe, kayak or SUP will make the fishing easier but for those land based you will be taken by boat to the sandflats to fish. There is no set starting time but someone will be at the boat ramp around 7.00am if you need help or transport. We will meet up after fishing for a sausage sizzle lunch at 1.00pm.

Stuarts Point

A club outing is planned for Friday 28th to Sunday 30th April. The venue will be the caravan Park at Stuarts Point on the Macleay River. You can camp for the weekend or make a day trip.

Mike Ferris is the coordinator and you can contact him on 0428636858 to register or for more details.

Stuarts Point will provide opportunities to fish for bream, flathead, whiting, mullet, luderick etc. from the bank or boat.



Angler Access

The Ebor Learner Days were a great success and those who participated appreciate the opportunity to learn on the water from some of the more experienced Trouties in the Club. We were fortunate to be given access to one of the best trout streams on the mountain to run the program. I have deliberately not named the stream because the landowners are already under great pressure from people wanting to fish there. They do their best to regulate the number of people who ask to fish there but not everyone asks. The more the name of this and other streams are advertised, the more people want to go there.

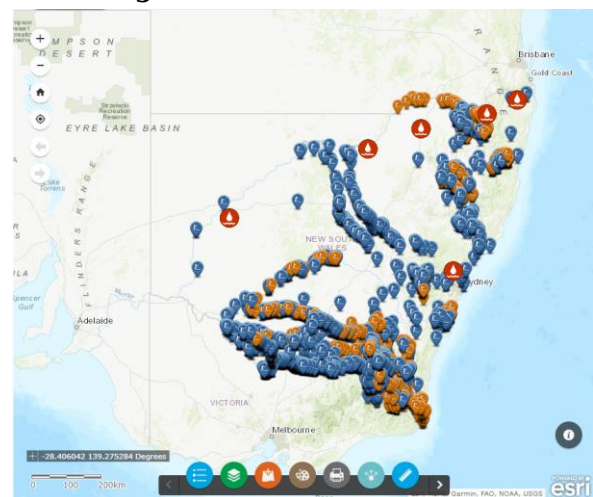
It's a dilemma with no easy solution. Fishers want to catch the fish that their licenses help pay for. Landowners want people to catch the trout too, but have to protect their properties, their stock and abide by strict biosecurity guidelines. When streams on private land are named in newsletters, social media and by individuals, landowners suffer an influx of visitors not all of whom do the right thing.

When a Club or an individual refrains from handing out information about streams on private land and contact details of the landowners, it might seem like they are being secretive and wanting to keep the information for themselves. It's not - it's actually about protecting the tenuous relationship between landowners and fishers and developing mutual respect to ensure continued access to the waters for everyone. Finding places to fish is about doing the groundwork and building up relationships.

Fortunately, in NSW, some of that groundwork has been done by the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) through the Angler Access Program. This website, provides thousands of locations across inland NSW where rivers, streams and lakes can be legally accessed for fishing. The map shows a number of public access sites in the Ebor area where you can fish for trout. Some of these are not well known and anyone looking for places to fish would do well to start here.

To view the map, visit the DPI website [at this link](#). You can also ctrl+click on the map below to zoom in on the Ebor area. Here you will find places to fish as well as more information about access rights and responsibilities.

NSW Angler Access website



Club Calendar 2023

The 2023 Club Calendar is provided to give you an overview of what might happen and an opportunity to plan ahead. It will change throughout the year as needed. Check the monthly newsletter or website for latest details.

Month	Outings	Activities
JANUARY	No outing this month No general meeting this month Committee Meeting Mon 16th	Committee Meeting Mylestom Monday 16 th
FEBRUARY	Seniors Week Try Fly Fishing Mylestom Tue 7 th Lake Borumba Sun 12 th to Fri 17 th (Murray) Bass Outing at Taylors Arm Sat 25 th (Doug)	Club Meeting Monday 20 th Mylestom
MARCH	Learn Fly Fishing at Ebor Sat 4 th Group 1 Tuesday Casting Group Resumes 7 th March Bens Falls Retreat Fri 10 th to Sun 12 th (Allan) Learn Fly Fishing at Ebor Sat 18 th Group 2 Fly Tying Mylestom Monday 27 th	Club Meeting Monday 20 th Mylestom
APRIL	Home Waters Sat 1 st (Glenn) Stuarts Point Fri 28 th to Sun 30 th (Mike) Fly Tying Mylestom Monday 24 th	Club Meeting Monday 17 th Committee Meeting Major Raffle Drawn
MAY	Home Waters Saturday 13 th (co-ordinator needed) Cast a Fly Rod Day Date & venue to be decided Fly Tying Mylestom Monday 29 th	Club Meeting Monday 15 th Mylestom
JUNE	Home Waters Saturday 10 th June (co-ordinator needed) Lake St Clair TBA Fly Tying Mylestom Mon 26 th	Club Meeting Monday 19 th Mylestom
JULY	Home Waters Sat 22 nd (co-ordinator needed) Dunmore Waters Friday 28 th to Sunday 30 th Fly Tying Mylestom Mon 31 st	Annual General Meeting Monday 17 th Major Raffle Drawn
AUGUST	Swansea Salmon Classic TBA Mullet Mash Saturday 25 th Fly Tying Mylestom Mon 28 th	Club Meeting Monday 21 st Committee Meeting Mylestom
SEPTEMBER	Bass Day Bellingen River Sat 9 th Gathering @ Gumma Thur 21 st to Sun 24 th (Pip) Fly Tying Mylestom Mon 25 th	Club Meeting Monday 18 th Mylestom
OCTOBER	A1 Flats Fishing Workshop Woolgoolga Sat 7 th TBC Grafton Bass Weekend Friday 20 th to Sunday 22 nd Fly Tying Mylestom Mon 30 th	Club Meeting Monday 16 th Mylestom Major Raffle Drawn
NOVEMBER	Home Waters Saturday 11 th (Co-ordinator needed) Keepit Carp Caper Thur 23 rd to Sun 26 th (co-ordinator needed) Fly Tying Mylestom Mon 27 th	Club Meeting Monday 20 th Committee Meeting Mylestom
DECEMBER	Home Waters Saturday 9 th (co-ordinator needed) Christmas Gathering BBQ Valla Tuesday 12 th	No Club Meeting Christmas Raffle Drawn



Presentation by:

Tom Clancy



Gold Fly Master Award



Option 2 for the Gold Fly Master

Each fish from the following list will receive a Gold award. **Five** Gold awards will lead to a Gold Fly Master award. The fish can be caught over any period of time

- Archer fish 27cm
- Australian Salmon 55cm
- Barra 100cm
- Bass 50cm
- Bonefish 50cm
- Bonito 50cm
- Bream 35cm
- Carp 75cm
- Dart Common 30cm
- Flathead 85cm
- Garfish 35cm
- Jungle Perch 30cm
- Kingfish 80cm
- Long Tom 70cm
- Luderick 40cm
- Mackerel Barred 100cm
- Mackerel Spotted 85cm
- Mahi Mahi 80cm
- Mangrove Jack 45cm
- Mary River Cod 60cm
- Milkfish 60cm
- Mulloway 70cm
- Murray cod 80cm
- Permit 50cm
- Queenfish 100cm
- Saratoga 60cm
- Snapper 50cm
- Sooty Grunter 40cm
- Tailor 45cm
- Tarpon 45cm
- Threadfin Salmon 90cm
- Trevally 50cm
- Trout (any) 50cm
- Tuna (any) 50cm
- Whiting Sand 30cm

* species available in Coffs Coast/ New England region



Qualifying fish from the last 12 months:

- Australian Bass
- Rainbow Trout
- Mulloway
- Whiting
- Giant Trevally
- Snapper
- Tuna



Australian Bass
50 cm



- **Where:** Bellinger River, upstream of Thora
- **When:** early October
- **How:**
 - 6 weight
 - Floating line; 12ft tapered leader ending in 10lb fluorocarbon
 - Size 4 bass vampire (black and purple, with red eyes)
 - From a kayak, casting into bankside structure
 - Short, fast strips punctuated with long pauses



Mulloway
75 cm



- **Where:** Bellinger River, Fernmount region
- **When:** mid November
- **How:**
 - Bottom of the tide at first light
 - 8 weight
 - Floating line; 14ft tapered leader ending in 16lb fluorocarbon
 - Olive 2/0 'jig shrimp'
 - Boat based, casting towards banks between 2-3m deep
 - Medium strips punctuated with medium pauses – keep it near the bottom



Giant Trevally
70 cm



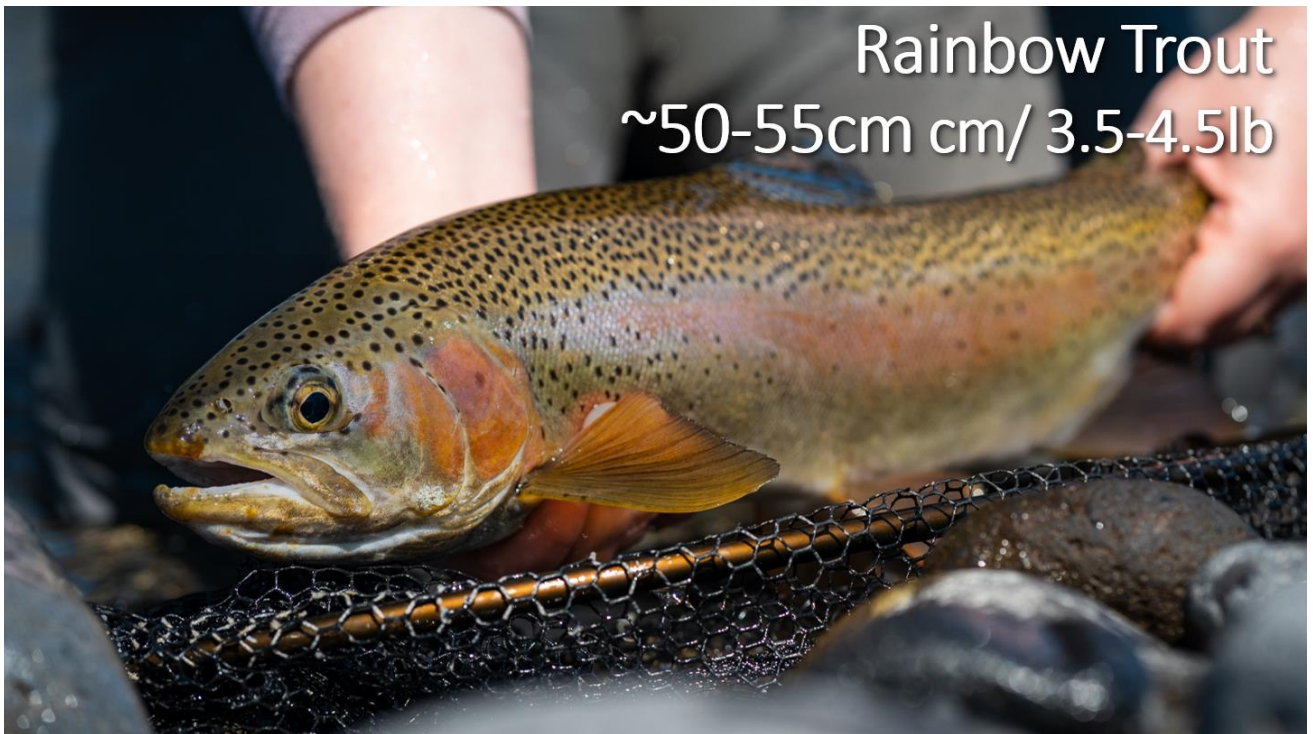
- **Where:** Bellinger River, 'Trevally Alley'
- **When:** early November
- **How:**
 - 8 weight
 - Floating line; 14ft tapered leader ending in 16lb fluorocarbon
 - Olive 2/0 'jig minnow'
 - First light, boat based, casting towards banks between 1-2m deep
 - Large, fast strip punctuated with medium pauses

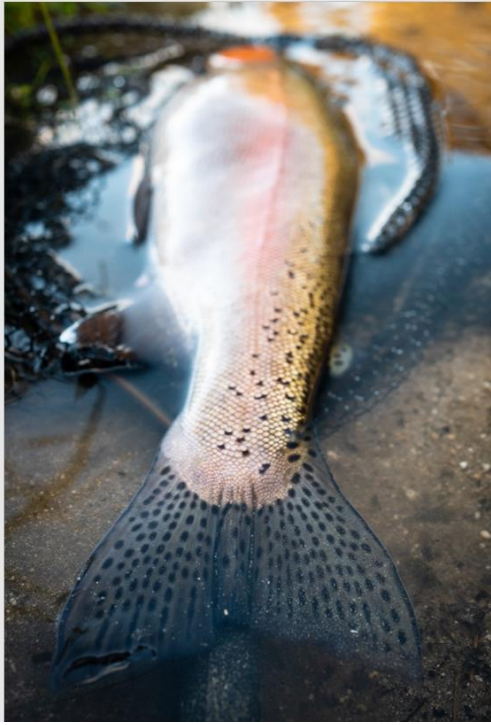


Tuna (yellow fin)
65-70 cm



- **Where:** Pig Island/South Coffs Island
- **When:** Late December
- **How:**
 - 10 weight; sinking line; 6ft tapered leader ending in 20lb fluorocarbon
 - 2/0 synthetic chartreuse clouser
 - Mid afternoon, top of the tide, casting towards the island wash
 - Large, fast strip punctuated with medium pauses





-
- **Where:** Hinemaiaia River, North Island NZ
 - **When:** September
 - **How:**
 - 6 weight
 - Floating line; 12ft tapered leader ending in 4X tippet
 - Size 14 hare and copper, size 10 stonefly, 4mm soft egg
 - Central North Island winter spawn run
 - Ensuring flies get down to the bottom quickly and drift naturally

Whiting
32 - 35 cm

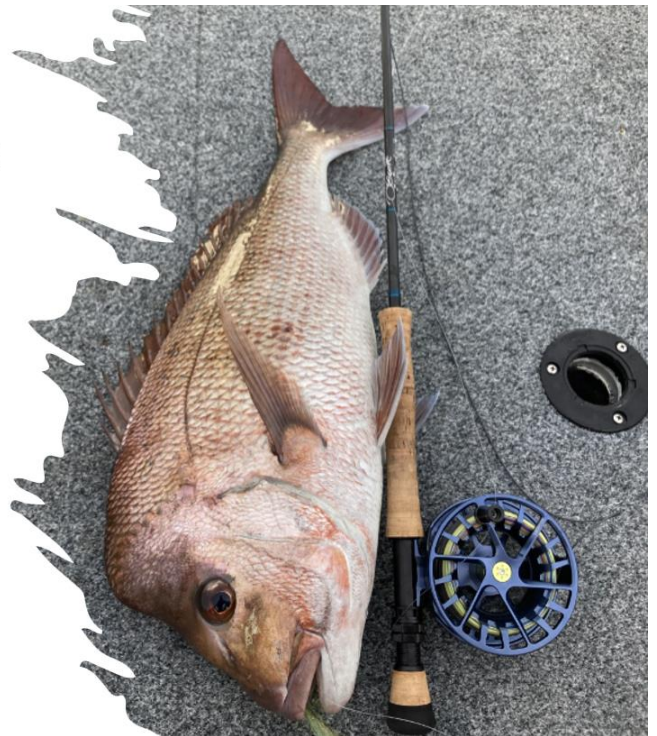




- **Where:** Woopi Lake
- **When:** Mid November
- **How:**
 - 6 weight; floating line; 9ft tapered leader ending in 10lb fluorocarbon
 - Various surface flies – own patterns & SK Skipping Prawn
 - Second half of the incoming tide
 - Constant, small, fast strips. No pauses even when fish chasing

Snapper -78 cm

- **Where:** Pig Island/South Coffs Island
- **When:** late November
- **How:**
 - 10 weight; sinking line; 6ft tapered leader ending in 20lb fluorocarbon
 - 2/0 synthetic chartreuse clouser
 - Mid afternoon, top of the tide, casting towards the island wash
 - Large, fast strip punctuated with medium pauses





Takeaways

- Fish as 'stealthy' as you can get away with
 - Leader (length and strength)
 - Flies ('sparseness'/transparency, proportions and weight)
 - Presentation (be conscious what your fly is doing underwater at all times)
- Focus on one species or system and master that instead of spreading yourself too thin
 - (e.g. for me - Woopi Lake and Bellinger River)

Thanks
&
Questions?

*You have to catch a lot of small fish before
you catch the big ones!*



One More Time

By Garry Bennett



The author with a beautiful NZ wild rainbow

Not since March 2020 had Paul and I ventured to Mollie's Cabin in Lumsden - Southland N.Z., only to be shown the door back home early as Jacinta locked down for COVID.

Expecting more of the same fishing this time - lazy browns of various sizes sliding across the slow current to sip a well presented blue dun or #16 pheasant tail nymph - we were to have an entirely different experience - mainly as a result of poor weather conditions.



Tranquillity on the Mataura River

We had the fastest processing ever at Queenstown airport as the usual "Do you know about didymo?" from Quarantine was followed by "Where will you be fishing?" and a final "Tight lines boys," before we were on our way to the hire car in less than 10 minutes. "Is this the same N.Z.?" we were asking ourselves.

Mollie's Cabin is still excellent - so central to some great river fishing. Early rise the next day and straight to our favourite Mataura River beat - first on the river! We were disappointed this day with just the odd rise, no hatches and very few visible fish which showed almost no interest in our dries or nymph droppers. Had it been overfished in recent weeks? Paul dropped the only interested fish - a small brown which sheepishly took a pheasant tail. By the time we left in the afternoon all the beats on this section of the river were occupied - Sunday afternoon is often popular with locals.



The weather changes quickly in New Zealand

100 ml of heavy rain that night changed things significantly - the Mataura, Waikaia, Aparima and Oreti reversal resembled milk chocolate next morning as the rivers rose dramatically. We still attempted a fish at Cattle Flat on the Mataura but did not expect anything really, so were not disappointed - we were blown off the river the afternoon by a 25km Nor Westerly.

Desperate measures were called for on a calm Tuesday morning so we headed in the direction of Mavora Lakes, hoping that the Te Anau catchment would give us a better chance to break the duck! We passed over the Mararoa River on the highway and stopped for a look. It was grey with dislodged didymo - not a good sign!

We found a small river close to Te Anau which looked pretty clear and decided to give it a shot. Best decision of the trip!! To our surprise, although quite small, it held big, fit rainbows - all 4-5lb - the only fish we saw and caught - all on a green humpy - a great highly visible dry fly resembling a blowfly which looks fantastic when being swallowed by a hungry mouth.



A green Humpy did the trick

There were several bigger fish which we just couldn't stop - a 6lb tippet can only do so much.



Two hands on the net says something about the size.

Next day brought calm weather again - back to a different beat on the same river again - Groundhog Day. After netting 5 big fish we both acknowledged "it doesn't get much better".



It doesn't get any better than this!



The look of contentment when father and son strike a red-letter day in New Zealand.



Good to see the Coffs Flyfisher's hat in NZ



The wading and casting is much easier than Ebor



A big rainbow from a small stream

What differences did we notice from our 2020 trip?

- * Far fewer tourist coaches on the roads - only saw 4 in 6 days on their way from Queenstown to Milford Sound.
- * Huge numbers of camper vans on the roads.
- * Cycling is BIG in this area since established cycling paths have appeared between Queenstown and Mossburn. Most cafe parking areas resemble bike shops!
- * Staffless, cashless petrol stations operating 24/7.
- * Petrol now averages \$2.40 per litre in Lumsden and Mossburn and \$2.58 per litre near Queenstown airport. A fishing licence is \$250.
- * An increasing number of gate signs on established beats saying "no angler access!" - disappointing.

What did we learn on this trip?

- * Be prepared to travel according to the weather for the best fishing - even the so-called legendary rivers such as the Mataura can disappoint if the weather is against you. Conditions vary greatly from one catchment to another.
- * It takes a fair bit of walking to access the most productive runs and pools on the smaller rivers. Fitness is handy.
- * Good gear and strong tested knots are essential. A 5 weight rod gives great sport with big strong rainbows.

* Even a couple of amateurs can enjoy some of the best fishing with a little planning and stealth - guides can be an expensive luxury.

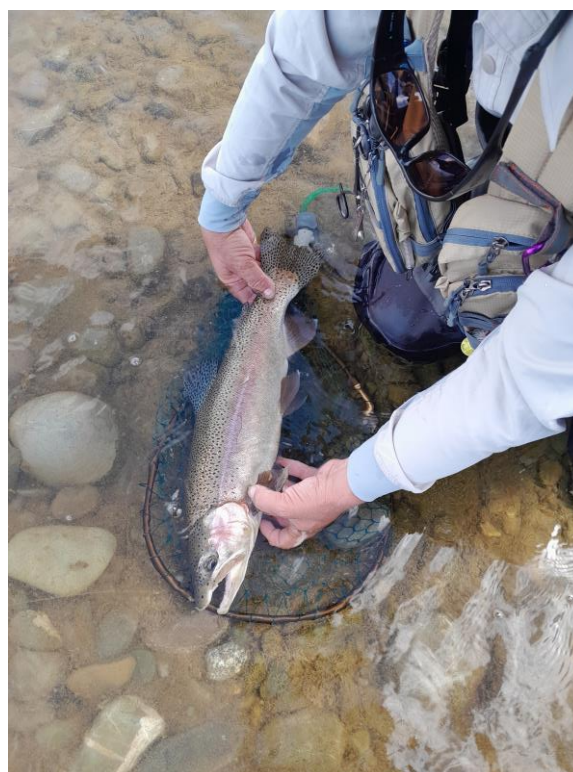
* Mullet fishing in Deep Creek can definitely hone your trout fishing skills.

* Try to avoid February in this area - Crowded and according to the local 4 Square proprietor in Lumsden - "fisticuffs on the river bank" as parties drop in on occupied beats.

* Paul still reckons the Bracken Hall venison pies with plum sauce are the best!

* We now have far greater respect for large, fit, wild rainbows.

* Southland is not always about brown trout. Three golden days from 6 is enough to keep us keen - we'll be back!



*Report
by Garry Bennett*

*Photos
by Paul & Garry Bennett*



MOTACKLE & OUTDOORS



FLY TYING *Sessions*

Murray Cod - Saturday February 18th 2-4pm
Surf Candies - Saturday March 25th 2-4pm
Poppers - Saturday April 15th 2-4pm

- Learn to tie flies
- Improve your fly tying skills
- Learn new fly patterns
- Meet other fly fishermen
- Share you skills with others

\$15*
PP

***ENTRY FEE WILL COVER ALL MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT NEEDED TO TIE WITH
THERE ARE ONLY 6 SEATS PER SESSION - TO SECURE A SPOT PLEASE CONTACT JOHN
ON 6652 4611 - FLY@MOTACKLE.COM.AU OR DROP IN TO MOTACKLE & OUTDOORS**

Fishing Reports

Ebor Learner Days

The learn to fly fish days at Ebor were about gear setup, stream craft, entomology and how to go about catching a trout on fly. The days were about learning how to do it with no expectation that trout would be caught.

However, with the calibre of "guides" we had available, fish were caught and everyone went away having had a trout take their fly. Those who didn't actually land a fish realized just how much learning has to take place to be successful. By my quick calculations we had about 120 years of experience in our instructing team so those new to the game should understand the long learning curve ahead of them.



Steve's persistence paid off to catch this rainbow.



Bill with the best rainbow of the day



Ray with the results of good teamwork



David admiring a little rainbow from a little stream

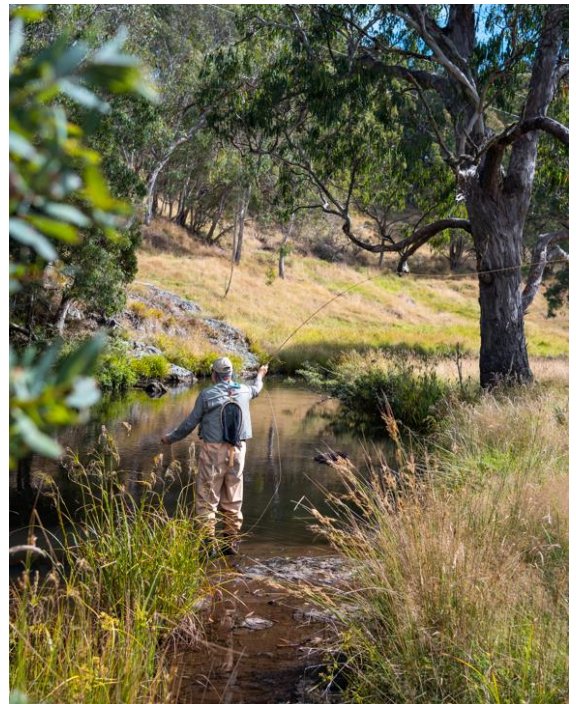




Anthony has a few trout from Ebor under his belt but he still learnt a few important lessons about dry fly fishing.



Greg quickly made the transition from Mullet Master to Trout Whisperer at Ebor.



Bens Falls Retreat

When John Everett pitched the idea of a trip to Bens Falls Retreat to catch Murray Cod on fly, he had no difficulty getting enough starters ... in fact a few people missed out. John has lived and guided in that area for many years and his experience was to prove invaluable.

Having someone who has caught fish in the area you are fishing and recommends tried and true flies gives you great confidence. Unfortunately, that confidence didn't translate to fish for everyone. But the combination of magnificent scenery, great company and good accommodation meant everyone enjoyed themselves and were glad they went.



Not all the cod were as hungry as this one.



John broke the ice with a small cod.



Kevin's only new to fly fishing but he knew what to do.



You needed a Raptor or a Jimny to get into the place.



Tom takes his fishing seriously and is a seriously good flyfisher!





You had to be a bit of a mountain goat to get around at Ben Falls Retreat.

Fishing in New Zealand extra \$50 a day?

Report from NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers



New Zealand Fish & Game is proposing a new freshwater fishing licence for non-resident anglers who fish in 'Designated Waters', to 'manage angling pressure in sensitive fisheries'. A number of fisheries would be named as Designated Waters, and any angler wishing to fish these fisheries would be required to hold a 'Designated Waters' licence.

For non-resident anglers this would be additional DAILY licence...even though visiting anglers already need to have a Whole Season Licence at a cost of \$250.00 (much higher than the resident licence which costs just \$145.00).

It is proposed that the additional daily licences for Designated Waters will cost between \$35-50 per day. They will be set for a nominated calendar day (not a 24 hr period).

Non-resident anglers would only be able to buy three to six Designated Waters licences in each Fish and Game region each year, and then they would have to fish in another Fish and Game region where they could purchase

additional Designated Waters licences. But note that if you have a favourite stream, you will now only be able to fish in it three to six days in a year.

Resident anglers would only need to purchase a Designated Waters Licence at a cost of \$5 and that would cover them for the full season. It's not clear if resident anglers need a licence for each Designated Water or whether that covers all of them.

It's not clear how non-resident anglers would book fishing days in the Designated Waters, how they would nominate the days, how far ahead they could book, whether they could cancel or transfer bookings in case of bad weather or other unforeseen events, or whether they could get credits for licences bought but not used. (The NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers twice tried to contact NZ Field & Game to double check these details but didn't get a response.)

The 'Designated Waters' seem likely to be the waters that are currently classified as 'Backcountry' waters, and which currently require an additional Back Country Licence on top of the annual licence (but that Backcountry is currently available without any additional fee.)

Those Backcountry waters are:

Wellington

- Rangitikei River
- Whakaurekou River

Nelson/Marlborough

- Goulter River
- Matakitaki River
- Travers River
- Wairau River

West Coast

- Karamea River
- Mokihinui River

North Canterbury

- Hope River
- Hurunui River, Upper & South Branch
- Waiau River

Central South Island

- Ohau River

Otago

- Caples River
- Dingle Burn
- Greenstone River
- Hunter River
- Lochy River
- Nevis River
- Pomahaka River
- Wilkin River
- Young River

Southland

- Clinton River
- Ettrick Burn
- Upper Oreti River
- Worsley River

Final decisions on which rivers/streams to classify as Designated Waters will be made by regional Fish & Game Councils and will apparently be reviewed annually. There are more details at <https://fishandgame.org.nz/freshwater-fishing-in-new-zealand/designated-waters-licence-proposal/>

To sum up, non-resident anglers are not only charged twice the licence fee as locals to fish, but they will be charged extra daily fees and will be restricted to fewer days fishing in each Designated Waters region.

NZ Fish & Game has more details at this link and a consultation survey for New Zealanders: <https://newsletter.fishandgame.org.nz/t/y-DD88CE46454D911D2540EF23F30FEDED>.

Fishing Flies

What happens when a computer whizz meets an organized and meticulous planner and takes up fly fishing? You get a spreadsheet setting out all the flies you need to tie and the fish you are going to catch with them. David Small has put this spreadsheet together so he can go about tying the most common flies he needs for the most common fish he will encounter in a systematic way. All the species are available locally and the fly patterns are not that difficult to tie. It doesn't look like many but I think there may need to be a few more columns when it comes to different colour combinations and sizes.

If you want to be as organized as David, you can download the spreadsheet from [here](#) or ask David for a copy.

FISHING FLIES SHORT-LIST

FISHFLY	Bass	Bream	Carp	Black Drummer (Rock Shucker)	Patehead	Herring	Lutereid	Margrove Jack	Muke	Muloway	Tairā	Trevally (Shiv)	Tout (Ewe)	Tout (Flounder)	Whiting (Sand)
Bread	X	X		X					X						
Beet Vampire	X														
Clover								X		X	X	X			X
Crazy Charlie		X										X			
Crickler	X														
Decayver								X			X				
Dangler								X							
Humbly			X												
Pink Thing						X									
Popper	X	X						X				X			
Phantom		X								X					X
Spit Candy		X									X	X			
Ward				X			X								
Woolly Buzzer			X		X							X			
Woolly Worm			X												
Wormy Spunmy			X												X
Trot Flies - Dries														X	X
Royal Wulf														X	X
Parachute Adams														X	X
Hopper														X	X
F Fly														X	X
Elk Hair Caddis														X	X
Trot Flies - Nymphs														X	X
Pheasant Tail Nymph														X	X
Hare & Copper Nymph														X	X
Bead Head Nymphs														X	X



April Fly Tying

The fly we will be tying for the April 24th fly tying night is the CDC F Fly. Those who attend the Monday night fly tying sessions should watch the video at the end and collect any of the materials they might have. The Club will provide the CDC feathers, dubbing and hooks for those who register.



The F Fly is one of the simplest and deadliest fly patterns. Designed by Marjan Fratnik, it is an all-round Trout & Grayling fly pattern. With its large flay delta wing silhouette it can be used to represent many caddis, mayfly, and midge species.

Materials

Hooks: Tiemco 100 or equivalent standard dry fly hook sizes #18 to #12

Body: Hare's ear (imitating mayflies and caddis) or dark brown seal's fur (imitating ants)

Wing: Natural CDC feathers - 3-5 feathers

Thread: Brown 8/0

Step 1



Lay down a thread base.

Step 2



Dub on some Hare's Ear to create a thin dubbing rope. Use dubbing wax to make it easier to get a thin rope of even consistency.

Step 3



Dub a thin tapered body stopping just short of the hook eye.

Step 4



Take 3-5 CDC feathers and align the tips and tie in so that they form a wing that just overlaps the bend of the hook.

Step 5



Cut off the ends. Build up a neat thread head over the top of the tips and whip finish and there you have it - the CDC F-Fly.

F-Fly Video Instructions: Watch Me Tie This Pattern



CDC refers to the 'Cul de Canard' feather, translated from French as "Duck's bottom".

Cul de Canard makes an ideal Dry Fly dressing as the feather is remarkably light yet strong and most importantly traps air to aid buoyancy.

CDC Feathers surround the preen gland of many waterfowl and duck. This gland protrudes like a small lump, at the back of the bird, slightly ahead of the tail. Waterfowl preen and waterproof their feathers with oil secreted from their preen glands. While the natural oils in the feather assist in repelling water, it is the actual structure of the feather itself which gives it buoyancy, the barb fibres on the feathers that trap air bubbles. CDC feathers will lose their floatation if

they become matted, soiled or by the addition of gink type floatants, so this should be avoided. The air bubbles remain trapped within the barbed fibres even after they are submerged. This creates CDC's superb natural buoyancy and allows it to float beautifully without the need of artificial floatants almost indefinitely, however drying the fly with the occasional squeeze in an amadou patch, or similar is recommended.

F Flies can be tied with synthetic materials and as such are quicker and easier to tie. They can be just as effective as those tied with CDC and have the added advantage of not becoming saturated as quickly. Jason ties an excellent synthetic F Fly and uses them successfully around the Ebor area.





From the Sublime to the Ridiculous

This month, in the space of a few weeks, I have found myself going from the sublime to the ridiculous. One day I was casting a 6ft bamboo fly rod on a mountain trout stream with 3lb tippet and a size 18 Parachute Adams. The next I was scrambling through gorge country carrying a 10 weight rod ready to cast a size 6/0 Light Horseman in search of a Murray Cod. Such is the diversity of fly fishing opportunities available within a few hours' drive of where I live on the mid north coast of NSW. The fishing might be sublime, but sometimes the contrast in fish species, flies, tactics and tackle can be ridiculous.



Before all the fanatical cod fly fishers out there want to cut up my tweed jacket and deerstalker hat to make bigger and uglier flies, I am not suggesting fly fishing for Murray Cod is ridiculous. Far from it. Catching Murray Cod on fly is just as rewarding and challenging as catching any trout on fly. It is the ridiculous difference in scale that has me thinking this month. From big fish and big rods to big flies, everything about cod fishing is big. Even the countryside is big.



I enjoy throwing tiny flies on lightweight rods in wee trout streams. At my age, I can't say I enjoy wielding 10 weight rods and oversize cod flies while trying to stay upright on slippery rocks. Being a casting instructor, I know what to do when it comes to casting big flies, but the reality of having to do it isn't a lot of fun. When the fish are co-operative, it doesn't seem like hard work, but making so many casts and retrieves with nothing happening can soon lose its appeal.

So, in this month's do as I say, not do as I do article, I want to tell you about what you can do if you are a Troutie like me and want to catch a cod on fly. This is not going to be about where to go or what flies to use. I'll leave those details for someone with more experience. This is about the casting and how you can throw something the size of a bird far enough to catch a cod. Here are my ten points for casting big flies to big fish.

1. Choose the right fly rod. The old idiom that you shouldn't bring a knife to a gunfight holds true for fly casting for cod. Murray Cod can grow to a length of 1.8m and weigh 110kg. When you are casting heavy lines and big flies to big fish, you need a rod built for the job. You could probably land a cod on a trout rod but you are not going to be able to cast the big flies that cod like to eat. Cod fishing is the realm of the 8 to 10 weight fly rod.
2. If you want to throw cod flies, you need the right fly line that's made specifically with this in mind. These lines are designed with a shorter, heavier, more aggressive head and taper for turning over big wind-resistant flies. You could use a standard

weight forward line but there are now a number of lines available such as Outbounds, Outcasts, Big Nasties, Predators and Titan Tapers to name a few, which make moving mass easier and quicker. If you don't have one of the specialist lines, you can try up-lining your rod as most modern rods will handle the extra weight.

3. Use an appropriate leader. A shorter leader transfers energy quicker from the fly line to the fly, thus resulting in quicker, more efficient turnover. There is no need for taper and 4 or 5 feet is usually enough. Use stiffer and heavier line which will prevent large flies from twisting and handle the fight when a big cod comes along.
4. Don't make too many false casts. False casts waste time and energy. Every false cast brings the potential for the fly to catch a tree or hit you in the back of the head. You need a few false casts to get the line out but then you need to shoot the rest. This is where the specialist fly lines come into their own.
5. Slow down and make wider loops. By widening the casting arc and opening up loops there is less chance of getting a tangle or having the fly breaking the tip of a fly rod. There is a good case for choosing a slower action fly rod to help in this process.
6. Learn to make a constant tension cast, also known as Belgian or Oval Cast. You can find plenty of YouTube videos to help you do this. With the Belgian cast the rod travels in a smooth, open path that doesn't completely stop until the end of the forward stroke. Not stopping keeps constant tension on the line and prevents a heavy fly from snapping around and shocking the line. It's much safer too.



7. Don't worry about how your cast looks. If you expect to make narrow loops and have the fly sail through the air like a trout fly you are going to be disappointed. Cod don't care how the cast looks or lands. Get the fly on the water no matter what it takes.
8. Use the roll cast pick-up. If you don't know how, YouTube is your friend. Cod flies are bulky and many are designed to get wet and sink. You need to be able to get your fly to the top of the water before re-casting. Sometimes this needs a couple of roll-cast pickups but you must have the fly and line on the surface to make a successful cast.



9. Avoid making sudden changes of direction. Abrupt changes of direction will lead to being hit in the head. Think smooth. Learn some single handed spey casts or maybe try a spey rod.
10. Try a double handed rod. I did and found I could cast further with less effort using an overhead cast. Getting the big flies to the surface and making a roll cast was messy and loud but it did prove useful. Trying spey casts with the double hander was less effective as any water-born cast would see the fly sink before the cast was launched.

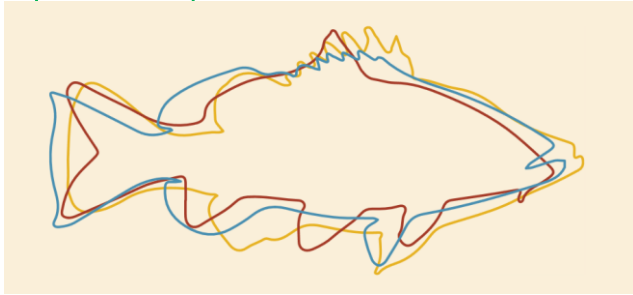
That's my ten points to consider if you want to cast big flies to big fish. The key is to slow everything down, widen your loops, and avoid sudden changes in direction. You should learn the Belgian Cast and you must learn to make a roll cast pickup. Catching a cod on fly requires you to think carefully about your casting. My only success with cod so far has come from the convenience of a boat and targeting smaller fish where downsizing my fly, line and rod avoided having the problem of casting ridiculous flies. I haven't given up on the idea of doing it the hard way and trying for a bigger fish. I just need to spend more time practising with the right gear and getting fit enough to tackle the gorge country where they live. Or I could go to Copeton Dam in the middle of winter in the middle of the night where the really big fish live and add freezing fly lines to the challenge.



Allan

National Carp Control Plan

By Anthony Heiser



I have been following the release of the Carp Virus in Australia for a number of years and have done a lot of research on Cyprinid Herpesvirus. I have also written a few articles for members of the Canberra Fisherman's Club where I am a member. If you are interested in the current state of play you need to read the [National Carp Control Plan \(NCCP\)](#) which was publicly released on 3 November 2022. It's a 120page document so you may prefer to read my summary of the Plan [here](#). My main conclusions are:

- Future release of the virus is uncertain - more work needed
- NCCP confirms CyHV3 still has potential as a Carp Control Measure
 - 40-60% reduction of Carp expected
 - Expect the virus to be effective over a ten year period
 - Adult carp in initial outbreak, after the first year or two, less outbreaks and juvenile Carp
 - No risks to humans and mammals
 - Research confirms virus only affects Carp but more research recommended
 - Environmental and water quality risks associated with Carp deaths are challenging but manageable
- Should this go ahead, two years of planning to take place before the virus is finally released

- Therefore, still years away
- Virus to be released in MDB first, then highland and coastal waterways
- Estimated cost of initial virus release in Murray and Murrumbidgee systems \$190 million over three years
- Does not include pre-harvesting and other stuff etc
- Total cost of initial virus release could be \$705 million
- While waiting for decision on the virus, there are other things we can do to address the Carp population.
 - Habitat restoration
 - Restocking of native fish
 - Improving water quality
 - Addressing unsustainable harvesting of water from MDB

If you would like to read some of my earlier articles written for the Canberra Fisherman's Club you will find them here:

[Canberra Fishermans Club - Koi Herpes Virus - Q & A \(canberrafishos.com\)](#) (2016)

[Canberra Fishermans Club - Feedback from the National Carp Control Plan stakeholder workshop, Canberra, 19 February 2018 \(canberrafishos.com\)](#) (2018)

[Canberra Fishermans Club - Carpageddon: Will it work? \(canberrafishos.com\)](#)(2019)

Anthony

CLUB SHOP



Short sleeve dress shirt with logo.
Currently taking orders. \$45 each. \$10 postage.



The original fishing shirts 100% cotton. No longer available in Darwin. None available. We need a minimum order of 35 to get new stock. The cost would be about \$80 each.



A few Club caps in stock ... \$15 each.
Can order more if needed.



A few Club Hats in stock ... \$20 each. Can order more if needed.



Boat stickers in stock ... \$10 each. When they're gone no more will be printed.



Club Patches. None in stock but more can be ordered or better still take your garments to Nambucca T-shirts and have the logo directly embroidered for \$10.

To order from the Shop contact the Treasurer or the Secretary



HALL OF FAME

FISHING

FOUNDATION FLY MASTER

Ray Phipps
Michael Ferris
Greg Artlett
Jim Hyatt
Brian Mighell
Garry Bennett
Anthony Heiser
Rod Ryan

BRONZE FLY MASTER

Greg Artlett
Jim Hyatt
Brian Mighell
Garry Bennett
Anthony Heiser

CASTING

FOUNDATION LEVEL

Bill Anderson
Greg Artlett
Garry Bennett
Mick Cannon
Michael Ferris
Ken Holley
David Lindsay
Brian Mighell
Stephen Mitchell
Murray Robinson
Nigel Smith
Doug Urquhart
Jim Wray
Ray Phipps
David Small
Steve Rampant
Mark Flook

BRONZE LEVEL

Greg Artlett
Bill Herd
John Starr
Greg Baxter
Ray Phipps
Doug Urquhart
Jim Wray
Mark Flook
Garry Bennett
Bill Anderson
Michael Ferris
Murray Robinson



HALL OF FAME

FISHING

SILVER FLY MASTER

Tom Clancy
Jim Wray
Glenn Colquhoun
Brian Mighell
Allan Ekert
John Starr
David Lindsay

CASTING

SILVER LEVEL

GOLD FLY MASTER

David Lindsay
Tom Clancy
Glenn Colquhoun
Brian Mighell
Allan Ekert

GOLD LEVEL

Allan Ekert

FLY TYING COMPETITION WINNERS 2023

February:	Bass Fly	Glenn Colquhoun
March:	Estuary Fly	Steve Rampant
April:	Trout Fly Dry	
May:	Trout Fly Wet	
June:	Shrimp	
July:	Salmon & Bread Fly	
August:	Clouser	
September:	Foam Fly	
October:	Carp Fly	
November:	Anything Goes Fly	

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

Family membership \$40

Concession membership \$20

Junior membership free

Distant membership \$10

The membership year runs from 1st July to 30th June.

Membership fees will be halved if joining after December

Family membership is available for a group of two or more persons related by birth, marriage, de facto relationship or adoption who live together.

Concession membership is available to pension card holders (including disability support and aged), Centrelink and Veterans Affairs cardholders

Distant membership is available to anyone living more than 80km from Coffs Harbour.

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:** Bananacoast Community Credit Union



BSB 533 000

Account Number: 02051766

Name: Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club Inc

Reference: Your surname

When depositing, make sure you include your surname in the Reference section. e.g. **Ekert Membership.**

Club Contact Address

Our official email address is

coffscoastflyfishers@gmail.com

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

Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club Inc.

Membership Form

I apply for Membership or Renewal in the following membership category (*tick appropriate box*):

Adult \$30 Family \$40 Concession \$20 Junior - Free Distant \$10

Please fill all information below:

Name: _____ DOB: _____
Address: _____ Town: _____
Postcode: _____ Home Phone: _____ Mobile: _____
Email: _____
Emergency Contact: _____ Phone: _____

For Family Membership please complete the details below:

Name: _____ DOB: _____ Relationship: _____
Name: _____ DOB: _____ Relationship: _____
Name: _____ DOB: _____ Relationship: _____

By signing below you agree to abide by the Constitution, rules and safety regulations of the Club.

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Legal Guardian if for Junior member: _____ Date: _____

The club uses photographs taken by members or of members in the newsletter, promotional materials, on the website and on our Facebook Page. If you do not want your photograph to be used, tick here.

Phone numbers and email addressed are shared by club members to co-ordinate club outings and for safety purposes. If you do not want your details shared, tick here.

This signed Membership form must be given or sent by email or post to the Club together with payment of annual Club fees. Payment can be made by cash, cheque, or direct deposit.

Post signed form and cheque to:

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



Bananacoast Community Credit Union
Ltd and Police & Nurses Limited

Direct Deposit:

BSB: 533 000
Account No: 02051766
Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club Inc
Reference: **Your surname**

Notes

Club Membership Definitions:

Concession membership is available to; Pension Cardholders (including Disability support and Aged), Centrelink and Veterans Affairs Cardholders.

A family is a group of two or more persons related by birth, marriage, de facto relationship or adoption who live together.

Junior membership is available to anyone attending primary or secondary school.

Distant membership is available to anyone living more than 80km from Coffs Harbour. Distant Members are entitled to all the benefits of club membership and are covered by public risk insurance.

Fees:

Our preferred method of payment is Direct Deposit. When making a **Direct Deposit** please ensure you include in the Reference: your **Surname** so the payment can be identified by the Club Treasurer and a receipt issued.

Fees can be paid in **Cash** or by **Cheque** at a meeting or club outing.
Cheques to be made payable to **Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club Inc.**

Completed Membership Forms:

Can be scanned and emailed to the Secretary at coffscoastflyfishers@gmail.com

Can be hand-written and handed to the Secretary at a meeting or event.

Can be posted to the Secretary at the above address.

All information supplied will be held in Club records and will only be available to financial Club members, if approved by the applicant as indicated on their Membership Form.