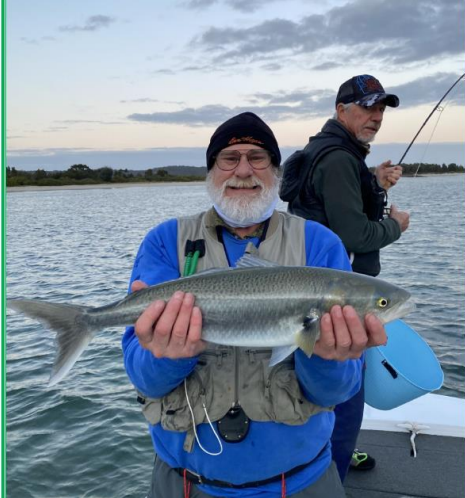


The Flyer



Official Newsletter Of The



The Flyer

The Official Newsletter of the Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club

DECEMBER 2022

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Front Cover: A lot of things happened at our Club over the year and these photos reflect just some of the highlights. Join in our activities for 2023 and you could be on the cover of The Flyer.

A busy month has resulted in the December edition of The Flyer being shorter than usual. The newsletter is early, too, so not everyone has had time to post their fishing photos or write reports. Thankfully, Nigel found time to write a report on his recent outing. You'll enjoy reading his story of how a group of club members got away for a few days at Ebor and caught lots of trout.

You are encouraged to take a look at the revised Grand Slam Awards and see if they motivate you to get our fishing over the summer months.

The next newsletter won't be published until February 2023 so there is plenty of time over summer for you to contribute some photos, stories or write an article.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

December 2022



Welcome to the final newsletter for 2022. A bit earlier than usual due to a pending fishing trip to the Apple Isle.

Many will be aware that this trout season has been one of the best in many years. The quality of fish and the outstanding condition of the streams has led to many making the trip to the tablelands. An unfortunate side effect of this is the tolerance of the landholders is beginning to wear a bit thin with people appearing on their property without seeking permission. If unsure about an area contact the landholder to seek permission. A concern I have as a landholder is that the biodiversity concerns that are held by some producers will cause a lockout to everyone if these Biodiversity rules begin to be enforced.

On a more positive note, both Jim and Allan have been working on the Grand Slam Awards. This award system is set up as a personal challenge so those of us who wish to further our scope of captures can record the species and work toward different levels of achievement. I'm sure

there will be a lot of discussion on this award system as we hopefully move towards its introduction.

From all reports the Keepit outing went well with all having a successful trip. The small carp are getting bigger and there are plenty of them. Might be an even better trip on offer next year!

Our Acting Secretary, Allan, Vice President Greg, Pip and myself assisted with a DPI Learn to Fly Fish Day at Evans Head over the weekend. Although the allocated numbers were booked out only a small group finished up attending. Ultimately it was a good day with all but one of the participants catching a fish on a fly. The word was from the participants that they were keen to continue with fly fishing so we wish them all the best.

Please check the calendar for the last couple of casting days for the year.

All the best for Christmas and the New Year.

Doug

From the Editor

I know it's not December yet but the newsletter has to go out early this month as I am off to Tasmania to get my fix of trout fishing. It's not just the trout I go for but a chance to catch up with good friends and visit some familiar places. I may not land many trout but I always enjoy the company and the challenge of trying to catch a wild Tasmania trout.



One thing I enjoy about fly fishing in Tasmania is the easy access to lakes and rivers and the lack of crowds. Recently I had my first fishing trip for the season to Ebor. Despite it being mid-week, there was plenty of evidence that the area is facing a lot of fishing pressure. With such a good season and the streams full of trout, people are coming from near and far to enjoy what the area has to offer. Unlike Tasmania, it's not easy to find public water or the owners of private land to ask permission. Many properties are owned by companies or the farmer no longer lives locally. As a result, not everyone is asking to enter private property to the unease of some landholders. There is no easy solution. As fishers, we want to be able to catch the trout that are put out for us. As farmers, they want to know who is on their property and what they are doing. Maybe we need to look at what happens in places such as Tasmania or New Zealand. In the meantime, I know our members do the right thing and seek permission if it is not public land. We need to educate all those who fish up there and do our bit to ensure we keep the farmers on side so we get to enjoy many more good seasons to come.

If you check the Hall of Fame you will see more names have been added to the casting awards. Jim Wray and I have been revising the Grand Slam fishing awards to make it easier and more interesting for people to participate. These awards are meant to be a fun challenge for everyone. There are no prizes, no disputes committees and they rely on personal honesty and abiding by the spirit of the awards. You can read all the details on page 27. Have a look and see what you can achieve. To make it easier for you to get started, the awards can be claimed retrospectively from the time you joined the club.

Finally, I would like to thank and all the members who have contributed to making this a great year at the Club. Special thanks to the committee who have done all the hard work to keep things running smoothly. Having spent the last few days sick in bed I have been truly grateful for the help and support of everyone to get this newsletter to press and cover the last couple of club events so I can get away on Thursday. I hope to have lots of photos for the next newsletter.

Editor

Club Executive 2022-23



President
Doug Urquhart
0458696138



Vice President
Greg Artlett
0427689400



Public Officer & Acting Secretary
Newsletter Editor
Allan Ekert 0427457725



Treasurer
David Small
0423112902



Assistant Secretary
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Committee
Tom Trefz
0423676624



Committee
Glenn Colquhoun



Committee
Michael Ferris
0428636858



Committee
Murray Robinson
0425277026

Position Vacant

Secretary

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

December Meeting

There won't be a December general meeting

... **but**

we will be having a Christmas get together on Tuesday 13th December **at Valla Beach**. This will take the form of a free sausage sizzle followed by a chance to socialize. The sausage sizzle will commence at 5.30pm but you can arrive any time you like during the day and fish with some of the Tuesday Casters who will be there from mid-morning. The evening will conclude when light fades at 8.00pm.

The usual raffle will be conducted with prizes drawn on the night. All the tickets will remain in the "barrel" for the major raffle which will be drawn at 6.30pm. The prize will be a timber fly tying workstation donated by Michael Ferris and a set of fly tying tools.

Make an effort to attend this last activity of the year. Family and friends are invited to join in. Bring some insect repellent and a fly rod if you want to fish. Free water and cordial will be provided if you let us know you are coming.



If you are coming to the Christmas Sausage Sizzle you **MUST** let us know so we can order enough food - if you don't let us know you will need to bring your own. You can email David Small (dnksmall@gmail.com) or text or ring on 0423112902.

Tuesday Casting Group

As this newsletter is going out early, you are reminded that on Tuesday 29th November the group is going to Valla Beach. You don't have to be a part of the group to join in on a fishing day. Anyone is welcome to come along. Just let us know so we can arrange enough food for the sausage sizzle lunch. Greg A is organizing the day at Valla so give him a ring or send a message on 0427689400 if you would like to attend

The Tuesday Casting Group will finish for the year on 6th December. This will be the last regular morning session at Mylestom. Casting will resume on Tuesday 7th March 2023.

On Tuesday 13th December there will be no morning casting session at Mylestom because of the Christmas get together which is at **Valla Beach** this year. Anyone who wants to come along to cast or fish is most welcome. Some people will be fishing from before lunch if you want to get there early.

To find out more you can contact Allan on 0427457725.

No January 2022 Meeting

There won't be a general meeting in January but the Committee will be convening via email to put together the calendar for the year. All members are welcome to contribute ideas by contacting any Committee member.

Fly Tying

Monday night fly tying sessions are finished for the year. If there is sufficient interest they will resume at the end of March 2023.

Don't forget the fly tying competition that begins next year. You can start tying your flies now (or when it rains during the holidays!) The fly to be tied for our first meeting in February 2023 will be a Bass fly.



December Outing

On Saturday 10th we will be having our last outing for the year. It been a long time since we visited our Homewaters on the Bellingen/Kalang Rivers due to poor water conditions and weather. Hopefully, this time the weather will be kind to us and we will be able to get on the water and start on the Grand Slam Awards.

You can launch wherever and whenever you like but someone will be at the ramp at Mylestom from 7.00am to give you hand if you need one. Low tide is 5.00am. We plan to meet back at the oval at Mylestom at 12.30pm for a sausage sizzle lunch (\$5).

For those without a boat or kayak there will be opportunities to be taken to some flats for wading. When you register make sure you indicate if you have a spare seat in your boat or you need a ride.

To register or for more information contact Allan on 0427457725. You must register if you want lunch.

Committee Decisions

The Committee convened via email in October to consider the following agenda. Where a vote was needed for approval, the agenda item was passed by the committee members who responded without dissent.

- The Secretary to send a sympathy card to the family of Kevin Cosgrove who passed away last Thursday. Kevin was the inaugural president of the club.

- Financial statement from the Treasurer.

Balance \$6885.37

A full financial statement was emailed to Committee Members and is available for anyone who wants a copy.

- Changes have been made to the Model Constitution by the Department of Fair Trading. We use this Constitution and as the changes are minor, we do not need to do anything at this time. The constitution is available from the DFT website or a copy can be emailed to you if you ask the Secretary.

- The Flats Workshop clashes with World Surfing Cup at Woolgoolga and Garry has decided to postpone until next year. A club outing to Darkum Beach Mulloway will be held instead.

- The Cod trip to Bens Falls Retreat has been booked for 10th -12th March 2023. Secretary is co-ordinator. Places to be limited to 8.

● The Keepit trip will go ahead from 9th to 12th November. Everyone will be responsible for their own accommodation as the Sport and Recreation Centre is not available.

● Our Facebook Page (not Group) has been made private. The group continues to be moderated by Jason to ensure the rules are followed. A copy of the rules can be found in the FB Group.

● Michael Ferris was thanked for his donation of a fly tying workstation for the next major raffle.

● Michael Piontek, Fisheries Compliance Officer Coffs Harbour, be asked to be guest speaker at our next meeting. Michael was previously stationed at Jindabyne where he fly fished the area extensively.

● The Tuesday Casting Group is going to Gordonville Crossing on 18th October.

● Our club has been asked to provide instructors for the NETAS Women's Breast Cancer Fly Fishing Workshop at Ebor. Allan and Doug have volunteered.



Club business is conducted by committee. Sometimes the Committee convenes via email. If there are contentious items on the agenda any Committee member can call for everyone to meet. Copies of the minutes from meetings can be obtained from the Secretary.

2023 Outings

Bens Falls Retreat Emmaville

There are no spots left for the outing to Bens Falls Retreat. If you would like to join John Everett and other club members on this weekend of fly fishing for Murray Cod you can be placed on the waiting list. Contact Allan on 0427457725. You will need to pay a deposit of \$50 to the Club (Direct Deposit if possible) to secure your place.

Direct deposit: [Bananacoast](#) Community Credit Union



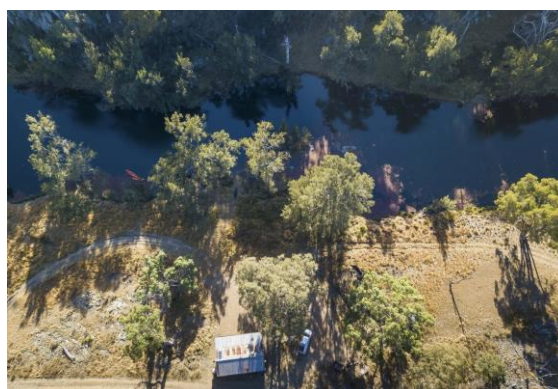
BSB 533 000

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 Cod trip.**



Co-ordinators: John Everett/Allan Ekert (0427457725)

Dates: Friday 10th - Sunday 12th March 2023

Accommodation: Cod Cabin, Bens Falls Retreat Emmaville northern NSW

[Bens Falls Retreat](#)

Places will be limited to 8.

Cost: Accommodation \$90 for weekend ... food and transport extra.

Fishing: Canoe and land-based fly fishing for Murray Cod on the Severn River.

Borumba Dam

The dates for the trip to Lake Borumba have been set (see below). Murray is organizing the trip and you need to get in touch with him to register your interest and find out more.

Co-ordinator: Murray Robinson (0425277026)

Dates: Sunday 12th February 2023 to Saturday 18th February.

Accommodation: Camping at [Lake Borumba Caravan & Campgrounds](#). Members will be responsible for booking their own accommodation.

Cost: The cost will depend on how many days you stay. Car and boat sharing will cut fuel costs.

Fishing: Boat based fishing at Borumba Dam in Queensland for Bass, Saratoga, Yellow Belly and Mary River Cod.

If you are interested in going you need to find someone to travel and share a boat with. Lake Borumba is approximately 550km from Coffs Harbour.



Raffles

Raffles are our main source of income. We are grateful for donations by members and our supporters in providing raffle prizes. I'd like to be able to list everyone who has donated items for the raffle but with my memory I fear I might leave someone out. If you have donated flies, fishing gear, or other items your generosity is much appreciated.

During the year we have received continued support from [A1FlyFishing](#) and [Mo tackle](#) aka [Fishing Tackle Australia](#). We are grateful for this support and encourage members to look locally when they are in the market for fly fishing gear.

We also appreciate the support of the North Beach Bowling and Recreation Club at Mylestom where we hold our meetings and fly tying. Regular attendees at club meetings or fly tying nights are encouraged to join the club and support the local community.



Take a look at the other supporters on our Supporters Page who have helped us in one way or another. They have gone out of their way to back our fledgling club so keep them in mind when looking for goods and services.

Club Calendar 2022

Here is the draft club calendar for 2022. It is provided to give you an overview of what might happen and an opportunity to plan ahead. Dates and changes will be added throughout the year and late changes will be in the Mid-Month Update and posted on Facebook and our website.

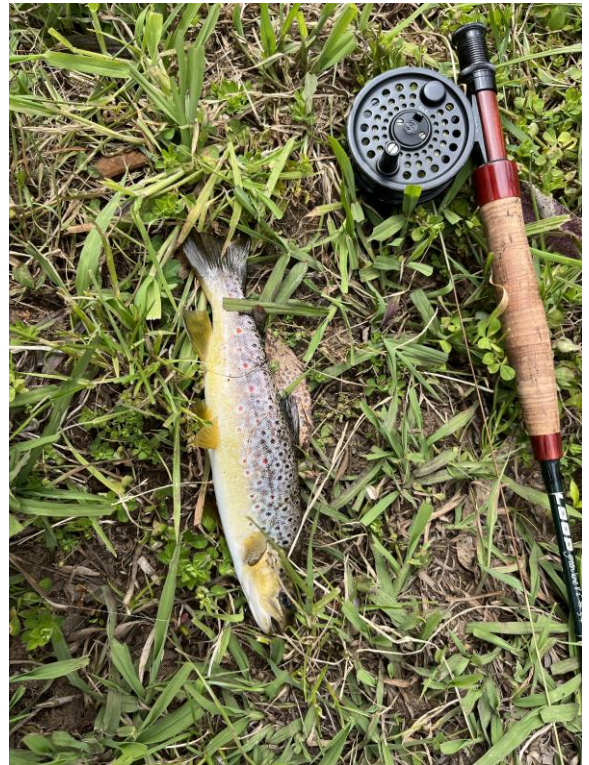
Month	Outings	Activities
JANUARY	No outing this month Meeting/Casting at Mylestom Oval at 5.30pm on Monday 17 th .	Club Meeting at Mylestom Monday 17 th
FEBRUARY	Bass Outing at Taylors Arm (Doug) Saturday 19 th	Club Meeting Monday 21 st Committee Meeting
MARCH	Casting Day at Dorrigo Saturday 19 th March Tuesday Casting Group Resumes 1 st March Homewaters Saturday 26 th March	Club Meeting Monday 21 st Mylestom Major Raffle Drawn
APRIL	Keepit Trip Wednesday 6 th to Saturday 9 th April Fly Tying at MO Tackle Tuesday 26 th 6.00pm Home Waters Saturday 30 th April	No Club Meeting Monday 18 th due to Easter Holidays. Committee Meeting Tuesday 19 th
MAY	Home Waters Saturday 14 th May Try Fly Fishing Family Day at Ebor Saturday 28 th Fly Tying at Osprey Room Monday 30 th 6.00pm	Club Meeting Monday 16 th
JUNE	Home Waters Saturday 11 th June Lake St Clair Saturday 18 th Sunday 19 th	Club Meeting Monday 20 th Major Raffle Drawn Committee Meeting
JULY	Casting Day Saturday 16 th 12noon - 2.00pm Dunmore Waters Friday 29 th to Sunday 30 th	Annual General Meeting Monday 18 th
AUGUST	Swansea Salmon Classic 19 th /20 th /21 st Mullet Mash Saturday 27 th	Club Meeting Monday 15 th Committee Meeting
SEPTEMBER	Gathering @ Gumma Friday 9 th to Sunday 11 th	Club Meeting Monday 19 th Major Raffle Drawn
OCTOBER	Grafton Bass Weekend Friday 14 th to Sunday 16 th Tour of Grafton Fisheries Centre Friday 14 th A1 Flats Fishing Workshop Woolgoolga Sat 29 th	Club Meeting Monday 17 th Committee Meeting
NOVEMBER	Keepit Carp Caper Wednesday 9 th to Saturday 12 th	Club Meeting Monday 21 st
DECEMBER	Home Waters Saturday 10th Christmas BBQ Tuesday 13 th	No Club Meeting Major Raffle Drawn

Fishing Reports

Trout are still the flavour of the month with members finding plenty to take the fly around the Ebor area. If you want to catch a trout, this is the season to do it. And why wouldn't you like to catch a trout when these beautiful browns are on offer.



Jim and John have been at it again catching and releasing lots of browns and rainbows from one of their favourite streams.



Not to be left out, Jason has also been tempting plenty of fish with his secret version of the F fly (not so secret now!)





Jim and I set ourselves the goal of achieving the **Silver Masters** award by catching a brown trout, rainbow trout and freshwater herring on the same day. An early morning start soon had the first part of the mission accomplished.



We both went on to catch a rainbow and brown trout from the same stream which saved a lot more driving around. Some of the streams around Ebor are predominantly rainbows, some predominantly browns and others have a mixture. I heard a whisper from the Hatchery that some of the Brook trout they have may find their way into local streams. If they do, it will be a good opportunity to chase the **Gold Masters** award.

Here's an interesting mini report from Anthony's recent fishing trip to Ebor. I think the answer to his question might be small and black.

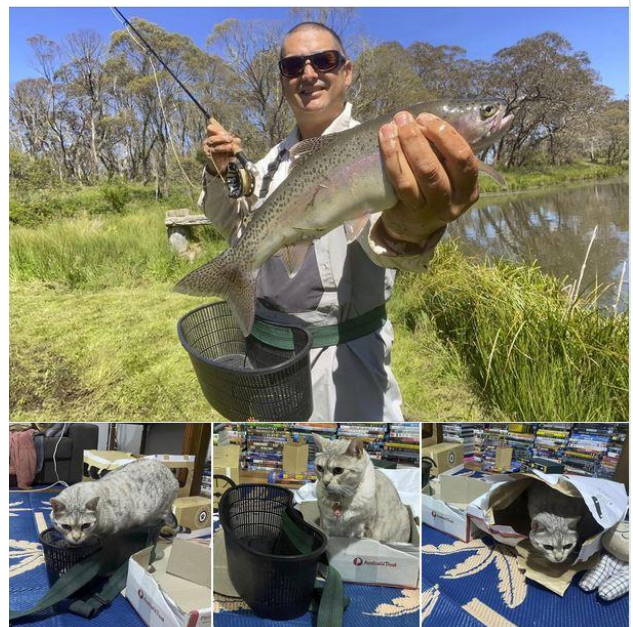
Saturday afternoon storm trout! The water was suddenly boiling with Trout as the storm hit as I was walking back to my car so I quickly re-rigged my fly rod and started casting away. Yet somehow, I only managed to get one trout during that feeding frenzy. Tried dry flies, dry fly and nymph combo, just the nymph and out of desperation, my Black Tinsel Woolly Buzzer that usually saves the day. This one was caught on a nymph just below the dry fly so I kept returning to this set up but, apart from that one fish, they ignored everything I threw at them. The water boiled everywhere and some were occurring within a metre of where I was casting from the bank! Will have to do some reading and picking people's brains to understand what those Rainbows were after. But I've already learnt something new as this was the first time I've tried fishing a nymph under a dry fly.

Anthony



Anthony Heiser
November 19 at 1:05 PM · 🌐

Thank you Brian Julian from the Hastings Fly Club for the awesome stripping basket. I finally got to test it today and it works great. My cat Yuki was also thrilled when it arrived in the post, she couldn't resist hopping inside the stripping basket and the packaging it arrived in.



LITTLE STYX RIVER CABIN EXCURSION

6-9th November 2022

By Nigel Smith

The group consisted of Gary and Murray, for Sunday night. Bill and Nigel for the 3 nights and Steve, Monday and Tuesday nights.

Having decided to have a fish at Jocks Water on the way up, the old van was parked behind the safety rail and a boggy trail was taken to the hole visible upstream from the road. Not long into the session, a Suzuki Jimny pulled up and a loud voice called out

"Nigel!!". Murray and Gary got themselves organised and they too ventured through the mud to join me. They had fished Coutts Water earlier with no success other than seeing one or two very spooky fish. We swapped a few stories and Gary gave us a few tips on upstream fishing with dry flies. They ventured off, though not before Gary landed a nice fish he targeted after a rise. I decided to stay put at the hole, it had been productive in the past, there were fish rising which kept my interest.

A few hours later they returned, having had a great fish. Murray, much to his delight had caught his first wild trout. It was the largest fish of the trip and he didn't have to launch a cast the length of a tennis court to do it!! Good on you Murray, well done! Gary caught 3 as well.



I broke my seven piece travel rod at the second join from the tip, not much luck is being had with these. On this occasion we think the join had come loose and a quick, not so hard flick to free the fly from some vegetation was all it took to snap it.

They headed to the cabin, my desire to land a fish kept me casting. Some nice strikes were observed but no hooks were set.



Bill was already at the cabin, he'd had a productive day too, having landed a fish, coupled with plenty of interest from surface feeders in the Guy Fawkes at Ebor.

The rain set in overnight at the cabin, this was not an issue. The lodging was very comfortable with a double gas burner, a great hot water shower and flushing loos. Comfortable bunks were provided, without bedding or pillows. There was a drum style fire in the cabin also. We only lit this on Tuesday night as Bill and I had got caught out in torrential rain late in the afternoon.

On the Monday, Gary and Murray fished Coutts Water on their way home, for one each on wet flies.



Bill and I decided to spend the morning fishing the Styx River downstream from the hut. The sun was out most of the day. Bill landed one, whilst I ventured into some stretches accessed with great difficulty and managed to land eight fish on a mix of dry and wet flies.

We had lunch back at the hut then drove into Ebor and fished the Guy Fawkes around Ebor. A further two were landed by myself. Bill had plenty of action but none in the landing net.

An indication of how refreshed nature is after such a prolonged dry spell in the past, was the extraordinary number of flying insects about so early in the season, there were damsel flies, dragon flies, white mayflies and caddis flies among others.

The fish were enjoying this aerial feast. They were most active when the white caddis flies touched down. Fish were also seen launching themselves out of the water if the caddis got within reach.

We stopped at Fuss Pots for coffee and a bite to eat. We both agreed, they make great coffee and the chocolate muffins are other worldly. It's great to see them trading again.

Steve arrived latish on Tuesday. To our surprise he was fishing with a classic split cane 4 weight rod, handmade by his brother. It was a 7 footer so worked perfectly in the heavily vegetated surrounds of the Styx River.

That evening we enjoyed a stir fry and retired early to the sound of rain on a tin roof.

Bill also kindly presented us with some royal wulff flies he had tied.

The next morning, we took a vehicle and turned right at the entrance to the huts. Ray had mentioned that this track led further down the Styx River. We got to the river's edge after a steepish descent on a dirt road, there were many signs of people having camped in the vicinity.



Bill and Steve fished downstream, Bill caught two fish on wet flies, Steve and I had no luck. Fishing had taken me up river where the pools were smaller with broken water separating them. We agreed the area had probably been heavily fished. Some pools that surely would have held trout didn't produce any interest.

Fishing aside, it was great to explore some new country. The river was remarkably clear. As we were leaving, two fisheries staff pulled up. They were there to survey fish stocks in the river. Interestingly, they were using electrical shock to stun the fish so they could record their size and condition, among other things. The fish were stunned just long enough to record these statistics.

After lunch back at the cabin, we again fished the Styx river down from our accommodation. Steve and I got into some rugged areas and both netted 3 each. At one point white caddis flies were milling around in huge numbers. White dry fly patterns and red and black patterns worked well. Bill landed a fish.

The skies opened, by the time we got back to the cabin we were very wet and beginning to get just as cold. The hot shower was welcome. The fire made light work of drying all our clothes too.



That evening some good stories were shared, a very welcome steak and salad meal devoured along with a few games of Rummikub were enjoyed. Bill was the champ!

The next day we parted company after coffee and muffins, again at Fussy Pots in Ebor. Bill headed off for the club outing at Lake Keepit. Steve and I fished the Guy Fawkes at Ebor. Steve landed one.

The few days up at the Little Styx River Cabins were a great experience for us all to hone our trout fly fishing skills. There were trout showing interest on each outing. A fly change, putting new tippet on, or replacing a short tapered leader all helped to produce results.

It was great putting into practice what we had been instructed to do on Tuesday casting lessons. Casting in vegetated areas was the most challenging part of the weekend, especially on the Styx River. Believe me, there are a few trees and bushes burdened with flies and nylon! All just out of reach!!

The weather was kind to us too, with most rain falling in the evenings and generally light winds.

Thanks goes to Bill for organizing the accommodation.

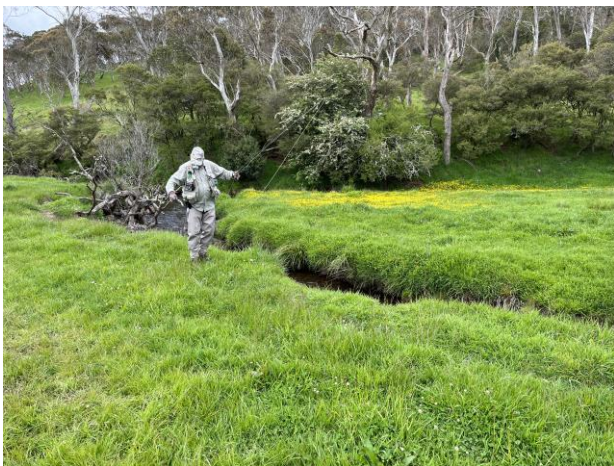
Nigel

Fishing Reports (cont)

The trout photos keep coming as more and more members get their chance to visit Ebor and experience one of the best seasons of recent years.



David S seems pretty pleased with his first trout on fly ... and why wouldn't he be!



Here are three little videos from Ebor each with a story to tell. Nigel wrote about the number of white caddis moths on the stream. The first video will show you what they were like. Ctr+Click on the photo below to watch the video.



The second video is of Garry catching a trout with his first cast. It's not always that easy. Ctr+Click on the photo below to watch the video.



The third video is all about releasing a trout so it swims away alive and well. Let the fish regain its strength before it swims out of your hand. Don't pull it backwards. Ctr+Click on the photo below to watch the video.



Just to prove our members are not fixated on trout, Ray, David S, Greg A, Greg B, Pip, Bill and Jim H went to Keepit for a few days to chase carp. Unfortunately, I couldn't make it and it looks like I missed a great trip. Everyone caught fish and some were big enough for a Silver Award in our Grand Slam Awards program. It looks like the carp have grown over the winter or the bigger ones have started to come back to shore. From the reports I have had, everyone had a great time and want to do it again. Thanks to Ray for being the trip co-ordinator.



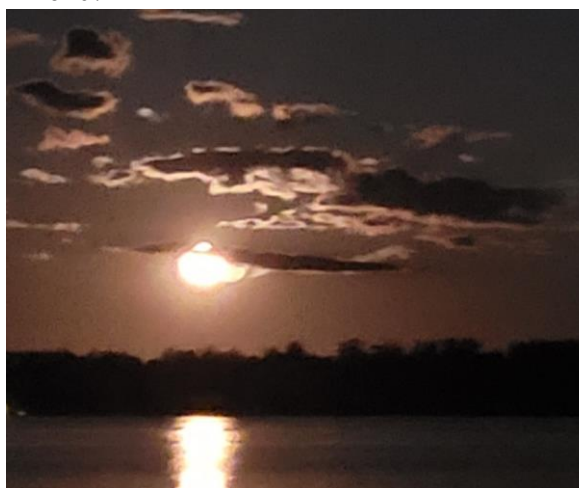
Ray's becoming a Keepit tragic and always enjoys pitting his wits against the wily carp.



Bill with the biggest carp of the trip and one long enough to qualify for the Silver Award.



More carp from Greg and Bill which qualify for the Silver Award.



With the Sport and Recreation Centre being unavailable, the Caravan Park became Carp Central.



The high water level meant it was a short walk from the tents to the boat for the day's fishing.



Or you could drive!



To round out our fishing reports, here are a couple of photos of fish that weren't caught locally. David L has been at Hinchinbrook tormenting the Barra but this is one of several tarpon he managed to catch on fly. Not as big as the ones in Florida but they jump just as much.



Jim has ventured to Proserpine where he got sick of catching Barra on lures and decided to do it the hard way. 82cm of Barra on a pink thing. If he didn't have a crook casting shoulder before he probably has now.





Efficient Fly Casting

This month's Casting Around is a repeat, or encore as they prefer to say in the television world, of an article I first wrote about in 2015. If anyone read it, I am hoping their memory is as bad as mine. You might think I am recycling this article because I am off to Tasmania and don't have time to come up with something new this month. That may be partly true, but what made me remember it, and consider it worth repeating, was that I recently met someone at a fly fishing workshop who was a good caster but wanted my advice on how they could improve. On watching their casting, the only help I could suggest was to be more efficient.

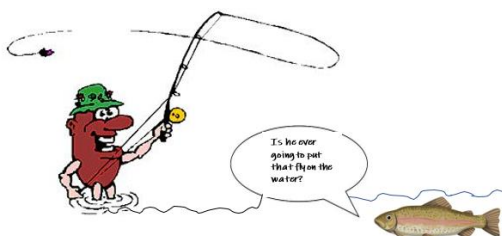
The dictionary defines efficient as “achieving maximum productivity with minimum wasted effort or expense.” So efficient fly casting is all about doing more with less. Why we should do this and how we can go about achieving it is the subject of this month's *Casting About*.

As a casting instructor when you are asked to help a beginner you can be confident that you can make a difference. However, when a more experienced caster asks for advice, it is a different story. Experienced anglers usually cast well and at first glance there doesn't appear to be much you can do to improve their casting. But the fact that they have asked for help brings with it the expectation that you can make a difference. So, what can an instructor do to help these people? My answer is to make them more efficient.

The aim of the game in fly fishing is to catch a fish. To do this you have to deliver a fly in such a way that your prey will be fooled into eating the artificial offering and be hooked and landed. The ultimate success comes from making one cast and catching one fish. For most of us this goal is rarely achieved. We catch fish but if we added up the number of

casts, we make for each fish the ratio of casts to fish would resemble the odds of a rank outsider in the Melbourne Cup. Put simply, as fly fishers we are not very efficient.

Most fly fishers make many more false casts than they need. Sometimes it is because they have to lengthen the line with false casts. Sometimes they need several false casts to remove slack line and load the rod. Sometimes it is to make sure a dry fly will float. Sometimes it's because they need to adjust their aim. But sometimes it's because the practice of false casting has become so ingrained, they think they must go back and forth several times before the line will unroll. No matter what the reason we all make too many false casts. To achieve maximum productivity with minimum wasted effort, deliver the fly with the least number of false casts possible. One back cast with good rod loading can be just as productive as five false casts.



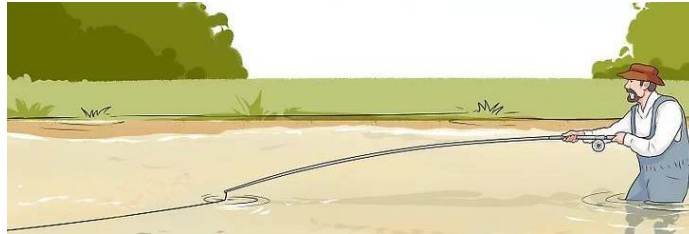
If you have watched competition anglers in action you will have been impressed with the number of fish they manage to catch. For them the formula is simple. The more time the fly is on/under the water the more chance of catching a fish. You won't see them making beautiful loops over and over again before delivering the fly. Efficiency is their mantra. Get the fly to the fish as quickly as possible with the minimum of wasted effort. Of course there are other factors that contribute to being a good competition angler but efficiency is essential for success.

We can all achieve more efficiency in our casting by using less power. Good casting technique combined with modern rods and lines enables us to do more with less. You don't need to "bust your underpants" as the great Lefty Kreh would say to get the line out. You will be surprised by how little power is needed to form good loops and for the line to unroll. If the first step to becoming more efficient is less false casting, then the second step is to use less power.



Greater efficiency can be achieved if we use the right equipment. In fly fishing some people equate this with the most expensive rods, reels and lines available. Top of the range tackle is good to use but you can be efficient using any gear. The important thing to remember is to match the equipment with the task. Too many people are inefficient because they use the wrong rod or line. For example, if you want to cast big flies in windy conditions over long distances you have to put away your favourite ultra light twig outfit. A balanced rod, reel and line appropriate to the task at hand will always be more efficient. And don't forget to maintain the equipment in good order. Time spent cleaning and lubricating lines can add distance to your cast with no extra effort.

One area of equipment in fly fishing that is catching on at the moment is double handed rods. Here is a case where more is less. By using two hands you are effectively halving the effort needed to cast a rod. More hands mean less work. Longer rods and specialized lines also create greater efficiencies. With spey casts there is no need for false casting. With one or two rod movements the line can be launched great distances with minimum effort. Spey casting originated in Scotland so you know there would be no wasted effort or expense with anything invented by the Scotts.



Talented athletes in all forms of sport know how to use their bodies efficiently. They will always use the minimum amount of effort to achieve maximum productivity. The same applies to fly fishers. We cast with our whole body. If we don't get our technique right *inefficiencies* can occur. Too much body movement wastes energy. Too little body movement means we are not taking advantage of all the energy that can be applied. Imagine a fast bowler standing at the crease and bowling. I could bat against someone like that. Now add the run up, bending of the back, shoulder turn and follow through and I would be running for cover. To cast efficiently we have to learn to use our bodies efficiently. Athletes use coaches and video to improve the efficiency of their movements and I think we probably need to do the same if we truly want to improve.

Efficient fly casting requires eliminating errors. Experienced casters don't make many errors but often they are not aware of the few they do make. Having someone watch your casting can be a great help. Common errors that can rob your cast of efficiency include, tailing loops, slack line and bad tracking. If you are experiencing problems in any of these areas you will be using more energy than is needed to complete your cast. I have written about all of these before so once you know you are having a problem in this area it is easy to find a solution. You will be surprised how much easier it is to cast if you eliminate errors.

When it comes to helping someone to be an efficient fly caster probably the most important skill that can be taught is that of double hauling. Just as the use of double handed rod is about more power from less input, so too is the double haul. Although not a difficult skill it can take some time to learn and put into practice. However, once mastered, it will make a huge difference to your casting. Learning the double haul is too big a subject for this article but for those who have not yet added this to their repertoire it is worth the effort. Once you can double haul you are well on your way to being an efficient fly caster.

You don't have to be an efficient caster to catch fish. But if you want to catch more fish and want to do it with less effort following these steps to efficient fly casting will help. As we all get older, we need to find ways we can continue to fly fish as our bodies slow down. Learning to be an efficient fly caster now will help us fish longer into the future.

Garry's Corner

Garry Hambly - Owner & Founder of South Pacific Fly Rods Australia



What's the difference between tippet and leader?

Simply put, tippet is a piece of line material that is tied to the thin end of a tapered leader, to which the fly is then attached.

Why use tippet?

Well frankly, you don't need to use tippet. Your fly can be tied directly to end of a tapered leader. Tippet is optional and sometimes unnecessary but, in some cases, it is definitely an advantage.

Standard tapered leaders. The thinnest, or weakest end, of a tapered leader has an X-rating, and/or lb breaking strain rating. The last 18 inches or so of a standard tapered leader finishes parallel, or level. This 18 inch section allows for the tie on-&-off of flies without affecting the breaking strain of the leader. Once this level section is used-up, the tapered leader's strength consequently increases.

A couple of decades ago, it was hard to find a leader selling for under \$10, but these days I'm selling leaders in 10-packs for \$2 each! When leaders were a \$10 investment, rather than using up the level-line-end of the leader every time a new fly was tied on, tippet added length-of-life to your \$10 tapered leader.

So I don't need tippet right? Well, not really.

There are advantages in adding tippet in certain situations. A good example is the bite tippet. As the name suggests, fish with abrasive mouths or teeth need to be accounted for and this is where an abrasive material such as fluorocarbon can be added onto the leader as tippet. This provides the best chance for that toothy critter to stay attached to your fly. The same goes for underwater hazards you may encounter when fighting fish, such as oysters and barnacles, wood structures, rocks, coral, or any other similar hazard.

An additional advantage of fluorocarbon is, fluorocarbon material is also less visible in water adding an advantage when approaching spooky or shy fish.

I'll just use fluorocarbon tippet. Well maybe, or maybe not.

Fluorocarbon is a more robust material, but it is also stiffer and sometimes can be a hindrance in presenting flies to shy fish such as trout, where it's imperative to have your dry fly undisturbed in the drift. This is where a mono filament, or co-polymer, has its advantages.

In some cases where the fish are especially shy, a longer length of tippet of perhaps, up to 4 or 5 feet attached to your 9ft standard leader, offers you another advantage by keeping your fly line further from the fish.

Sometimes tippet is all you need.

There are cases where a tapered leader is not required at all, and a length of tippet is all that is necessary.

When fishing with sinking fly lines, presentation is not key, but having your fly at the same water depth as your sinking line is paramount. In these cases, often a shorter leader of straight tippet material, will have your fly closer to your fly line, rather than high above your fly line. This is a typical scenario when fishing ocean species such as pelagics with fast sinking lines, where it's only necessary to have perhaps 4-5ft of 20lb-50lb of level fluorocarbon material.

I produce a Hard fluorocarbon for this very application. It's ideal for tackling boisterous toothy critters that are hell-bent on dragging your fly over the horizon!

In conclusion, tippets ain't tippets.

There isn't any hard and fast rule on tippets, except perhaps when it comes to World Record Tippet Classes. It's more a matter of addressing each situation, applying the best tippet material, length and breaking strain, without spooking or losing a fish.

Below is the South Pacific Tapered Leaders and Tippet within my product range.

If you are still unsure on the best choice for your situation, give me a call on 0412 271 365 and let's talk it through together.

Gaz



CLUB SHOP



Short sleeve dress shirt with logo. None available but we are sourcing a similar shirt which will cost about \$40 each.



The original fishing shirts made by Big Fish 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 \$5.

To order from the Shop contact the Treasurer or the Secretary

Grand Slam Awards

The Grand Slam Awards are being implemented to encourage members to improve their fly fishing skills and catch more fish on fly. These **Grand Slam Awards** have four levels (like the casting program) and members can achieve an award by meeting the criteria listed. They are not meant to be competitive withing the Club but to provide motivation and recognition for members to achieve their individual fly fishing goals.

The awards are designed to give every member the chance to progress through the levels from **Foundation** to **Bronze**, **Silver** and **Gold** no matter where they live or what they fish for. To this end, the list of species is broad, providing those who fish freshwater, saltwater, estuaries, lakes or oceans something to target.

The **Foundation** and **Bronze** levels are about beginners fishing in our local waters for bread-and-butter species. The **Silver** and **Gold** levels broaden the scope of fish to be targeted, the level of difficulty and encompasses the whole of Oceania.

Once the **Foundation** and **Bronze Grand Slam** Awards have been obtained, the next goal is to achieve either a **Silver** or **Gold Masters** award.

There are no prizes and the only recognition will be a listing in **The Hall of Fame** and a club certificate. There are rules designed to make it fair for everyone but it all comes down to individual honesty and people abiding by the spirit of the awards.

Catch and release is encouraged but if fish are of a legal size they can be kept for a meal. There is no need to take a fish anywhere to be measured. A photograph, or better still a photograph on a brag mat, or verification by a fishing partner is sufficient to record a capture. Your word will be accepted ... unless you try to claim that you caught a 100cm Barramundi in Coffs Creek in 1955!

If fish are going to be released, they should be kept wet and put back in the water as soon as possible. Always handle fish with wet hands or gloves and don't keep them out of the water for too long to take a photo.

Jim Wray has been instrumental in putting these awards together and has volunteered to be the person to contact for further information and to claim an award. Jim will record captures and ensure names go into The Hall of Fame and certificates are organized. If you want to claim an award you must email Jim (jimwray2@hotmail.com) with a photo, or the name of a witness or any other proof you may have. The email should include the name of the award you are claiming and the details regarding species, size, and date.

The following rules, species lists and measurements are not set in stone and will be revised from time to time as seen fit by the Committee. All lengths are arbitrary and have been selected specifically for use by our club and not any state or national records. If you would like to add a species or group you can submit your proposal to the Committee for consideration.

Rules

To claim an award, you must be a financial member of the Club.

To be eligible, a species must have been caught in Oceania.

All fish have to be caught on a fly which has been cast with a fly rod (no trolling). There are no stipulations regarding rod weight, rod length or tippet size.

All measurements are to be to the nearest centimetre and measured from the snout of the nose to the end of the tail.

Retrospective claims for an award can be made from the time club membership started. Proof of capture must be submitted in the form of a photograph, or failing a photo, the name of a witness or any other proof you may have.

Members must be familiar with the legal length of fish in the region in which they are fishing and release all undersize fish and protected species.

You can only achieve one **Foundation** and one **Bronze** award.

To achieve the **Foundation** level, you have to catch all three species listed with no time limit. The fish do not have to be legal size but must be released if they are not.

To achieve the **Bronze** level, you have to catch all three species listed **on the one day** and they must be of legal length.

To achieve the **Silver Masters** you can choose to catch three legal size fish species on the one day from any of the groups provided **or** catch five different fish species of a specified length (or over) from the list provided. Option 1 only requires one group of fish to be caught on the one day to receive the **Silver Masters** award. Option 2 will result in each capture receiving a **Silver** award. Five Silver awards will lead to a **Silver Masters** award.

To achieve the **Gold Masters** you can choose to catch three legal size fish species on the one day from any of the groups provided **or** catch five different fish species of a specified length (or over) from the list provided. Option 1 only requires one group of fish to be caught on the one day to receive the **Gold Masters** award. Option 2 will result in each capture receiving a **Gold** award. Five Gold awards will lead to a **Gold Masters** award.

You can achieve as many **Silver Masters** or **Gold Masters** awards as you like but each one must contain different species and groups.

Foundation Grand Slam

This is for someone just taking up fly fishing and goes hand in hand with the Foundation Level of the Fly Casting Skills Development program.

The following three fish species must be caught on fly.

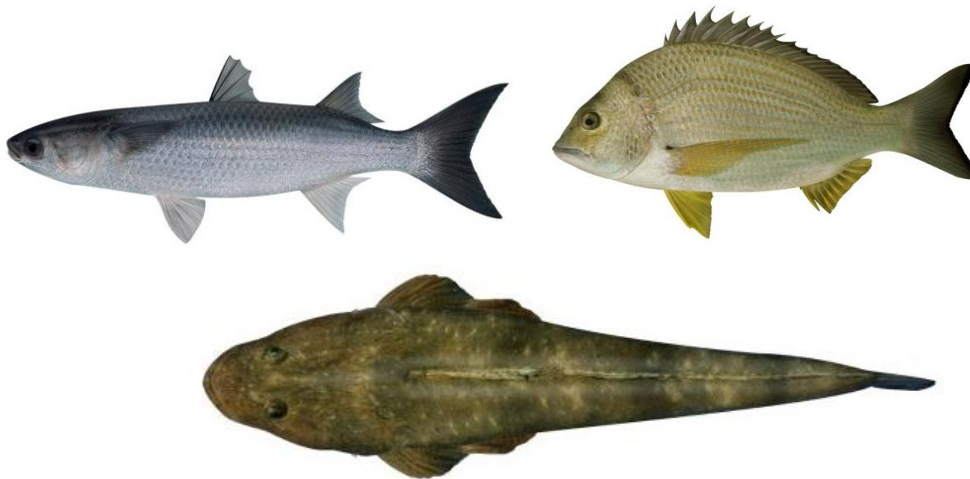
Mullet, Bream and Flathead.

There is no time limit to achieve this and fish can be caught over as many days, weeks or months as necessary.

Must be verified with a photograph or by a reliable witness.

Fish do not have to be legal size but if undersize **MUST** be released unharmed.

You can only receive the Foundation Grand Slam once.



Bronze Grand Slam

This level is for those who have started fly fishing and need a goal when we have a Club outing or when fishing alone. The list of species remains the same but the goal is to catch one of each on the same day.

Mullet, Bream, Flathead

Fish must be caught on the same day.

Must be verified with a photograph or by a reliable witness.

Fish must be legal size.

You can only receive the Bronze Grand Slam once.

Silver Masters

When you can cast well, have caught numerous fish on fly and are ready for a challenge, the **Silver Masters** is for you. To achieve the **Silver Masters** you can choose to catch three legal size fish species on the one day from any of the groups provided **or** catch five different fish species of a specified length (or over) from the list provided. Option 1 only requires one group of fish to be caught on the one day to receive the Silver Masters award. Option 2 will result in each capture receiving a Silver award. Five Silver awards will lead to a Silver Masters award. You can achieve as many Silver Masters awards as you like but each one must contain different species and groups.

Option 1 for the Silver Masters - Catch **any three** legal size fish from one of the following groups **on the one day**:

Group 1. ...**Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout, Herring, Bass, Redfin**

or

Group 2. ... **Bass, Bream, Trevally, Tailor**

or

Group 3. ...**Whiting, Flathead, Bream, Luderick**

Option 2 for the Silver Masters - each fish from the following list will receive a Silver award. Five Silver awards will lead to a **Silver Masters** award.

Archer fish 25cm

Australian Salmon 30cm

Barra 65cm

Bass 40cm

Bonefish 40cm

Bonito 40cm

Bream 30cm

Carp 60cm

Dart Common 25cm

Flathead 60cm

Garfish 30cm

Giant Herring 70cm

Jungle Perch 25cm

Kingfish 65cm

Long Tom (Crocodile/Barred) 60cm

Luderick 35cm

Mackerel Barred 75cm

Mackerel Spotted 50cm



Mahi Mahi 60cm
Mangrove Jack 35cm
Mary River Cod 50cm
Milkfish 50 cm
Mulloway 50cm
Murray cod 50cm
Queenfish 80cm
Saratoga 50cm
Snapper 45cm
Sooty Grunter 30cm
Tailor 35cm
Tarpon 35cm
Threadfin Salmon 60cm
Trevally 40cm
Trout (any) 35cm
Tuna (any) 30cm
Whiting Sand 25cm



Gold Masters

The Gold Masters is for those who are after the ultimate challenge. The species remain almost the same but the level of difficulty is more demanding. To achieve the **Gold Masters** you can choose to catch three legal size fish species on the one day from any of the groups provided **or** catch five different fish species of a specified length (or over) from the list provided. Option 1 only requires one group of fish to be caught on the one day to receive the Gold Masters award. Option 2 will result in each capture receiving a Gold award. Five Gold awards will lead to a Gold Masters award. You can achieve as many Gold Masters awards as you like but each one must contain different species and groups.

Option 1 for the Gold Masters - Catch all three legal size fish from one of the following groups on the one day:

Group 1. ... **Carp, Murray Cod, Yellowbelly**

or

Group 2. ... **Rainbow Trout, Brown Trout, Brook Trout**

or

Group 3. ... **Mangrove Jack, Bass, Bream,**

or

Group 4. ... **Salmon, Tailor, Kingfish**

or

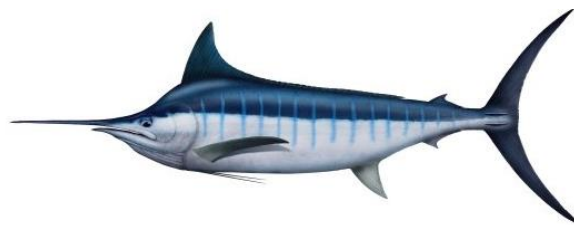
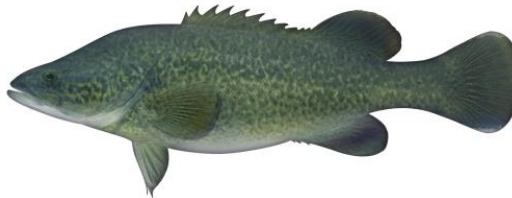
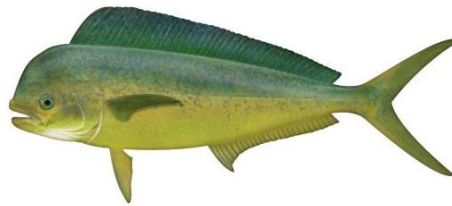
Group 5. ... **Mahi Mahi, any two Tuna species.**

or

Group 6. **Queenfish, Barramundi, Golden Trevally**

Option 2 for the Gold Masters - each fish from the following list will receive a Gold award. Five Gold awards will lead to a **Gold Masters** award.

- 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 (Crocodile/Barred) 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
- 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
- Any legal length billfish species photo in water with fly attached





HALL OF FAME

FISHING

Foundation Grand Slam

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

Bronze Grand Slam

Greg Artlett
Jim Hyatt
Brian Mighell
Michael Ferris
Ray Phipps
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

Bronze Level

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



HALL OF FAME

FISHING

Silver Grand Slam

Gold Grand Slam

CASTING

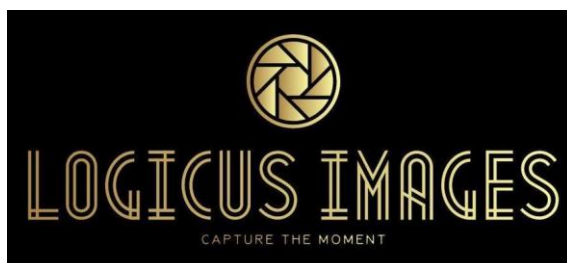
Silver Level

Gold Level

Allan Ekert

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

Family membership \$40

Concession membership \$20

Junior membership free

Distant membership \$10

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

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.