

The Flyer



Official Newsletter Of The



December '23

The Flyer

The Official Newsletter of the Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club December

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Front Cover: Our members caught some great fish on fly this year and these photos reflect just a few of the highlights. Join in our activities for 2024 and you, too, could be on the cover of *The Flyer*.

Club Executive & Committee 2023-24



President
Glenn Colquhoun
0409151270



Committee
Doug Urquhart
0458696138



Vice President
Greg Artlett
0427689400



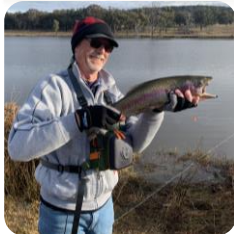
Committee
Murray Robinson
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Secretary
Anthony Heiser
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Committee
Jim Wray
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Treasurer and Public Officer
David Small
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Committee
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President's Report



December 2023

Hard to believe that Christmas is almost upon us again. That old saying “The Older You Get, the quicker the Years Go By” certainly seems to ring true.

Welcome to our new Club Members and we hope you enjoy the Meetings and the events that the club provides.

A big thank you to David Faircloth and Alacia Cockbain for their talk on the wonderful work that the Ozfish volunteers do on cleanup and regeneration of vegetation along our rivers and streams to help our fish species. Unfortunately, I was away and missed that meeting.

Plenty of activity happened during November with the Tuesday Casting group where 1 Silver award and a lot of Bronze awards were handed out ... photos will be in this newsletter. On Tuesday 14th, casting had fantastic numbers when 22 starters turned up for the 9 Hole Fly Casting Golf Course that was designed by Jim Wray & Allan Ekert ... with some very unusual holes to say the least. Thank you to Jim and Allan for a very entertaining morning.

Saturday the 11th saw a change of venue for our Home Waters outing due to the big Urunga Flathead Competition being held. We switched to a fresh water event at Gordonville Crossing instead. 16 members was an outstanding attendance and for the first time at a Home Event everyone caught fish. Plenty of Herring and 3 Bass were caught and released on the day, followed by a well-deserved lunch of hotdogs under the shade of a huge fig tree. So good to hear one of our newest members, Andrew, say he was so happy to put some of the things he'd learnt from Allan's Tuesday Casting into play and catch fish.

Ticket books are available for our big Christmas Raffle which will be drawn at our last event for the year, the Christmas Gathering at Valla on Tuesday 12th December. Whether you come down early for a fish or after work, come along and enjoy a BBQ at the Valla Lions Park.

There are three great prizes for the raffle. 1st prize is a 2 day stay at Mick & Sharon Cannon's AIRBNB on the water at Hyland Park. This prize must be taken mid-week during March 2024. Thank you Mick & Sharon for your generous support. 2nd prize is an open order to the value of \$100 dollars kindly donated by MO Tackle & Outdoors. John Everett will look after your needs in the Fly Fishing Dept and if he hasn't got it in stock chances are he can source it for you. 3rd prize is a \$50 open order at Ebor Falls Tackle & Outfitters. Thankyou Jeff for your generous donation. If you are heading to Ebor during Trout Season, call in and say Hi to Jeff and let him know you're a member of CCFFC.

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Secretary's Report

Club Meetings will resume on the 19th February 2024 at the Mylestom Bowling Club. A Committee Meeting will be held in January to set out the Events Calendar for 2024. If any members have ideas on where and when we can hold an event, please let a committee member know.

Jim and Allan have put a lot of hours into getting the Fly Master Award Program up and running. Participation has been a bit slow, so we have issued a folder with everything you need to know along with the data forms with extra pages to “file” your Award Certificates. If you missed the meeting, let Allan or Jim know and they will answer any questions you have and give you a folder. Over the Xmas break will be a good time to start and we have plenty of badges for all levels.

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year to everyone.

Glenn



Welcome to the first day of Summer and the countdown to Christmas! Glenn and Allan have covered pretty much all you need to know Club-wise for December and January elsewhere in the Newsletter, so I'll be brief.

Looking ahead to the New Year, the Club needs to finalise the 2024 calendar. The Committee will meet to discuss the 2024 calendar on 15 January 2023. Members with ideas for the calendar can pitch their idea to a committee member or drop us a line at coffscoastflyfishers@gmail.com.

One outing I hope is included in 2024 is the homewaters outing on the Bellinger River at Gordonville Crossing. The river and scenery was stunning. In addition to catching a new species on Fly (the humble Herring!), another highlight for me was seeing Freshwater Catfish nesting sites for the first time.

Freshwater Catfish are listed as Threatened, although I did not know one was permitted to catch them in the Bellinger River. I've since learnt that one may keep Freshwater Catfish caught in rivers east of the Great Dividing Range.

If you are targeting Catfish, they are an eligible species for the Bronze Masters Award and have a minimum length of 30 cm. If you are west of the Great Dividing Range, restrictions apply, so please check the list of western dams where catfish may be taken at [Freshwater bag and size limits \(nsw.gov.au\)](http://www.nsw.gov.au).

Talking about fishing rules, the annual closed season on Murray Cod has lifted. Remember, Murray Cod has a slot limit of 55 cm to 75 cm and a bag limit of two fish.

North of the Tweed in Queensland's eastern waterways, you may come across a similar species called Mary River Cod. You may recall this species came up during the game of Fish Bingo at our November Meeting.

Mary River Cod is an eligible species for the Gold Fly Masters Awards. If you do encounter a Mary River Cod in Queensland, there is a 60 cm minimum size limit and no take in all Queensland waters except in the several dams where there is a possession limit of one fish. For more information, see [Mary River cod | Recreation, sport and arts | Queensland Government \(www.qld.gov.au\)](http://www.qld.gov.au).

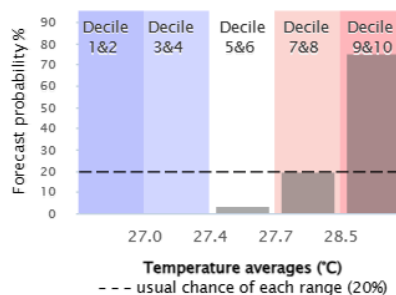
Finally, with summer finally here, the Bureau of Meteorology's three-month outlook for December to February is a 99% chance of above average temperatures (> 27.5°C) and a 75% chance of unusually warm temperatures (> 28.5°C). It is a similar story with Ebor of 98% chance of above average temperatures (> 22.8°C) and a 78% chance of unusually warm temperatures (> 23.6°C).

The three-month outlook for rain suggests we will get average or slightly less than average rain for both Coffs Harbour and Ebor but only a 20%-25% chance of an unusually dry summer.

If you're planning a trip to Ebor over summer, the December monthly outlook appears more favourable compared to January.

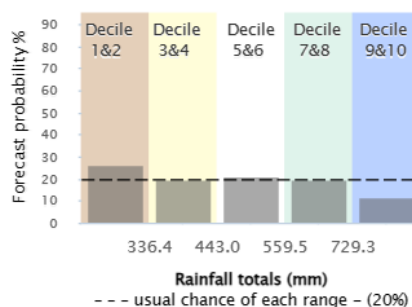
Outlook for December to February at Coffs Harbour

Maximum Temperature	
Historical median	27.5 °C
Chance of unusually cool (< 27.0°C)	0 % ★★★
Chance of above median (> 27.5°C)	99 % ★★★
Chance of unusually warm (> 28.5°C)	75 % ★★★



Outlook for December to February at Coffs Harbour

Rainfall	
Historical median	499.7 mm
Chance of unusually dry (< 336.4 mm)	26 % ★★★
Chance of above median (> 499.7 mm)	33 % ★★★
Chance of unusually wet (> 729.3 mm)	12 % ★★★



I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and I look forward to seeing lots of fishing photos on Facebook and in the next Newsletter.

Anthony

From the Editor



I'm not big on rules especially in regards to fly fishing. There are so many to remember and they sometimes get in the way. One of the rules of casting involves removing slack before making a cast ... but I make a roll cast with lots of sack in the line. I'm told when dry fly fishing to make a drag-free drift ... but then I skate a caddis across the surface and catch a trout. American General, Douglas MacArthur once said: "Rules are mostly made to be broken and are too often for the lazy to hide behind." I like his thinking.

But I know rules are important. I spent my whole working life imposing rules on kids who just wanted to have fun. Without rules there would be chaos. Imagine a classroom where everyone did as they pleased! Sometimes I didn't even have to imagine it!

When Jim and I started working on the Fly Master awards we tried not to get bogged down in rules. We wanted people to catch fish and be rewarded for their efforts. It was all about the challenge and having fun. You'll find we have had to put in place some rules but our intention is for members to enter into the spirit of the awards and submit their captures honestly. Don't let the rules stop you from getting involved. Jim and I want you to succeed.

The subject of rules came up in our committee meeting last month. We realized we don't have any rules. Rules are necessary to ensure fairness, safety, and harmony within a club. The committee is in the process of putting together a Code of Conduct so that we can all enjoy everything the club does. Take a look at our first draft attached to the newsletter and let the committee know your thoughts.

The other subject the committee has been working on is the calendar of events for next year. With so many places to go and things to do, fitting it all into a twelve month calendar is not easy. Many events need to be planned well in advance. I think our calendar works pretty well considering all the logistics that are involved. We try to plan something for everyone and make sure there are a variety of short and longer trips involving fresh and saltwater fly fishing. If you have any thoughts about the calendar, please contact a committee member and pitch your idea. Some outings are so popular they will always be on the calendar but there is always room for something new.

Holidays are approaching and it's time to take a break from regular routines and relax and unwind. Enjoy the festive season and what it means to you. Christmas is a special time and I hope you get to enjoy all those things that make you happy. This will be the last newsletter for the year and the next edition of the Flyer will be in your inbox in February 2024.

Editor

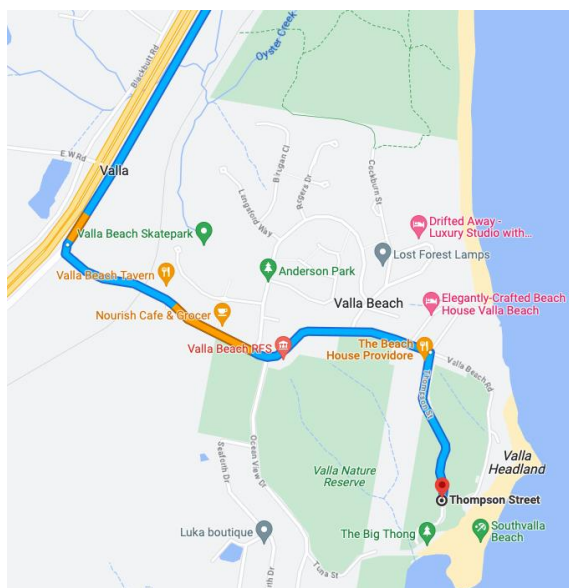
December Meeting

There won't be a December general meeting but we will be having a Christmas get together on Tuesday 12th at **Valla Beach**. This will take the form of a BBQ followed by a chance to socialize. The gathering commences at 4.00pm but you can arrive any time you like during the day for a fish. The free BBQ will commence at 5.30pm and the evening will conclude when light fades at 8.00pm.

Our Christmas Raffle will be drawn so make sure you return all your tickets sold or unsold. You can win one of three great prizes consisting of a two day stay at [Nambucca Waterfront Hideaway](#) and open orders at Mo Tackle and Ebor Falls Tackle and Outfitters.

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. The BBQ and soft drinks is free to members who register via the Outings Sheet or directly with President Glenn on 0409151270.

Remember it is being held at the Lions Park at Valla Beach Recreation Reserve.



Raffles

Raffles are our main source of income. We purchase some prizes but most are donated by generous member and supporters. 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. Prizes for our Christmas raffle are coming from club members and our supports.

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 encourage 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 club so keep them in mind when looking for goods and services.

The winner of this month's major raffle was Brian Mighell. Brian takes home for Christmas a fly box full of flies tied by members of the Club. Thanks to everyone who tied the flies to fill the box.



Fly Tying Competition

The fly tying competition and regular monthly fly tying sessions have finished for the year. A big thanks to Pip for running the competition which has encouraged many members to improve their fly tying skills. The flies entered in the competition have been used as raffle prizes at our meetings and put to good use by members.

Last month's competition was a free choice and gave the trouties and salties a chance to tie their favourite flies. The winner was Brian Bevan who tied a scrimp fly. Pip's name will once again be entered in the Hall of Fame and you can see all the winners for the year [here](#).

Tuesday Casting Group

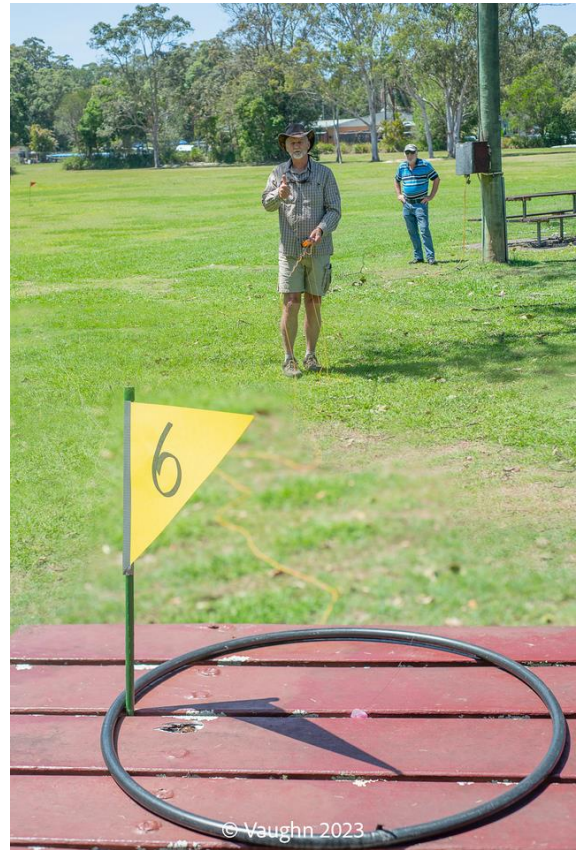
The Tuesday casting group has finished for the year and will resume on 19th March 2024. It might seem like a long break, but with Christmas and the hot summer weather, it will give everyone time to go to the beach and relax before we get back to work for the new year.

You don't have to stop casting during the holidays and it will be a good time to put in that extra practice that is needed for you to reach the next level in the Fly Casting Skills Development program. We ended the year with 18 people reaching the Bronze level and receiving a confirmation certificate. A special

congratulation to Mike Ferris who became the second member in the club to gain the Silver award. You can find out more about the FCSD [here](#) and see those who has achieved a level listed in the [Hall of Fame](#).



After all the hard work that went into achieving these awards, we finished the year with a fun day of fly golf.



We finished off with a morning tea of muffins and delicious cake and cream provided by Wal's wife Maureen.



December Outing

On Saturday 9th we will be having our last outing for the year. It been a while since we visited our home waters on the Bellinger/Kalang Rivers. Hopefully, the fish will still be there and we will be able to get a few on fly and work on our Fly Master awards.

Those with boats can launch wherever and whenever you like but someone will be at the ramp at Mylestom from 7.00am to give you a hand if you need one. We plan to meet back at the oval at Mylestom at 12.30pm for a free hot dog for lunch.

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 Glenn on 0409151270. You must register if you want lunch.

Committee Meeting

The next Committee meeting will be held on Monday 15th January 2025 at the North Beach Recreation and Bowling Club commencing at 5.00pm

A summary of decisions made at the November Committee meeting is listed below. Most business is conducted through the committee to leave meetings open for guest speakers and other activities. Any member can join the committee at the Annual General Meeting and all members are informed of decisions through the newsletter and are welcome to sit in on meetings. A copy of the minutes and the financial statement is available if you contact the Secretary.

▷ The treasurer presented a balance sheet for the month and all accounts were passed for payment. Our balance as at 19th November was \$7,425.70.

▷ The Christmas Gathering was discussed and the details finalized. It was agreed that the Club provide food and soft drinks at no cost to members.

▷ There wasn't enough time to discuss the Calendar of Events in detail so it was decided to hold a special Committee meeting in January. Anyone with ideas for activities next year should contact a committee member or they are welcome to sit in on the meeting.

▷ Outings that have been suggested for 2024 include: Kunderang, Bellmurrah Homestead on the Macleay near Bellbrook, Glenn Innis cod trip, Nymboida River, Yamba or Evans Head, Northern Dams and Eucumbene.

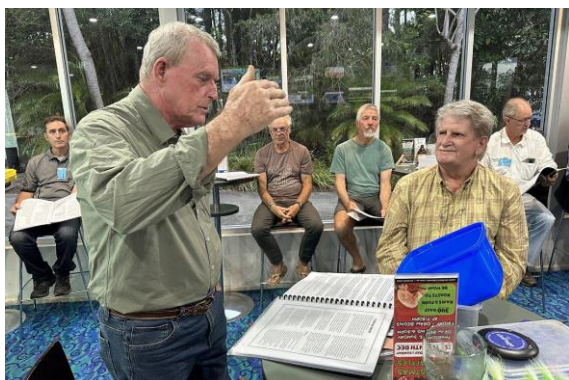
▷ Possible projects for 2024 were discussed including: Mylestom Mini Muster based around a casting and social fishing weekend, Gone Fishing Day grant, Trout workshop at Ebor Hatchery and a combined casting day with Hastings Fly Club.

▷ The idea of providing an honorarium for the Secretary each year was discussed. Anyone taking on the secretary's role should not be out of pocket for incidental stationery and printing. A motion will be presented to the AGM for a decision.

▷ The Committee is putting together a Code of Conduct for all members. We don't have a written policy addressing these issues. This will be finalized at our January meeting. A draft copy of the Code is attached to this newsletter for your consideration.

Fly Master Awards

At our November meeting, Jim stepped up as a last minute speaker and gave us an update on the Fly Master Awards. These awards are designed to encourage members to improve their fly fishing skills and catch more fish on fly.



There are no prizes and the only recognition will be a listing in [The Hall of Fame](#) and a club certificate and badge. This is not a competition but is encouragement for members to reach their personal fly fishing goals.

Jim is the registrar for the awards and will record captures. If you want to claim an award you must email Jim at coffscoastflyfishers@gmail.com with the name of the award you are claiming and the details regarding species, size, and date captured and date you joined the club. This is based on honesty and you don't have to provide proof if you haven't got photos. If you don't abide by the spirit of the awards, you are only cheating yourself.

Next year we are planning to introduce a Platinum level for those who need a challenge once they reach Gold level. You can always just aim for a second Gold, but why not go for the ultimate Platinum level! Talk to Jim if you have some ideas.

The full details of the awards can be found on our [website](#) but here is an Executive summary:

- There are two ways to again an award: Catch three species in a day or 5 species over any period of time.
- Fish species and lengths get more difficult as you move through the levels.
- There are rules to make it fair for everyone but it all comes down to individual honesty and abiding by the spirit of the awards.
- The list of species and lengths change constantly. If you think you've earned an award, talk to Jim and your capture may qualify.

At the last meeting Vaughn was presented with his Bronze Fly Master Award by President Glenn.



Club Calendar 2023

Month	Outings	Activities
JANUARY	No general meeting or outing 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 (Allan) Cast a Fly Rod Day Date & venue to be decided Fly Tying Mylestom Monday 29 th	Club Meeting Monday 15 th Mylestom
JUNE	Macksville Saturday 10 th June (Glenn) Lake St Clair Friday 16 th to Sunday 18 th Fly Tying Mylestom Mon 26 th	Club Meeting Monday 19 th Mylestom
JULY	Home Waters Sat 22 nd (Allan) 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 Friday 18 th to Sunday 20 th Fly Tying Mylestom Mon 28 th	Club Meeting Monday 21 st Committee Meeting Mylestom
SEPTEMBER	Battle of the Bread Fly (Mullet Mash) Saturday 2 nd Gathering @ Gumma Thur 7 th to Sun 10 th (Pip) Fly Tying Mylestom Mon 25 th	Club Meeting (Buy/Swap/Sell Meet) Monday 18 th Mylestom
OCTOBER	Home Waters Sat 7 th (Anthony and Allan) Fly Fishing Film Festival Tues 10 th 6.30pm Sawtell Fishermans Reach Weekend Fri 20 th to Sun 22 nd (Mike) Fly Tying Mylestom Mon 30 th (Bill ... carp flies)	Club Meeting Monday 16 th Mylestom
NOVEMBER	Home Waters Saturday 11 th (Glenn) Keepit Carp Caper Tues 21 st to Sun 26 th (Tom) Fly Tying Mylestom Mon 27 th	Club Meeting Monday 20 th Committee Meeting Major Raffle Drawn
DECEMBER	Home Waters Saturday 9 th (Anthony) Christmas Gathering BBQ Valla Tuesday 12 th	No Club Meeting Christmas Raffle Drawn

Fishing Reports

By the Editor

If you look at the cover of this month's newsletter you will see that over the year our members have caught a wide variety of fish on fly. Some were captured on our regular club outings and others on solo trips. Some came from close to home while others required a lot of travel.

One of the good things about belonging to a club is you get to meet a lot of experienced fly fishers who have fished for many different species in many different parts of the world. Ours is a club focused on learning and what better way to learn than to go on an outing or trip with someone who has been there and done that.

Glenn mentioned in his President's report a comment he heard from a new member who was excited to put some of the things he'd learnt from Tuesday casting into practice and catch fish. The fish didn't need to be huge to make them memorable. When everything comes together and you start landing those first few fish on fly, you probably don't realize that it is you who has been hooked.

Our outing for November was moved to the upper Bellinger River where we targeted Bass and Freshwater Herring. Gordonville Crossing is ideal for new comers and those who don't have kayaks. There are usually plenty of Herring and the access to the water is easy. A record number of members attending and everyone caught fish. Here are a few photos from the outing. If you didn't go this time, hopefully the pictures will encourage you to join us next time we go there.



The river is not very wide the further you go upstream and the kayak is better parked on the shore while you fish the likely spots.



The Bass were hard to find but Glenn found plenty of hungry Herring willing to take a fly.



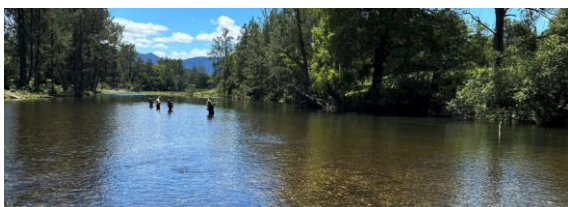
Fishing doesn't get any better than floating down the Bellinger River with a fly rod in hand.



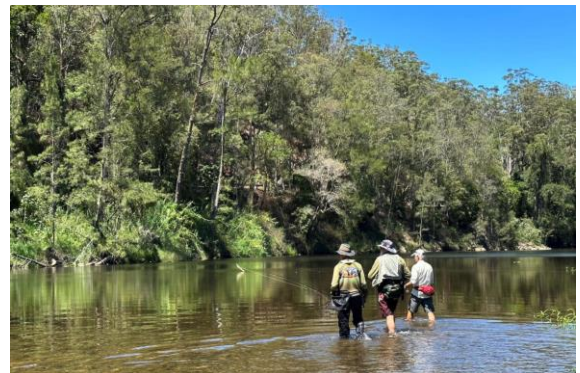
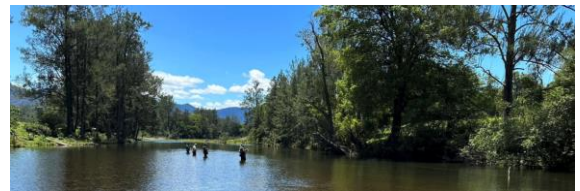
The water is so clear you can almost imagine you were in New Zealand ... a place Nigel knows well.



Freshwater Herring don't grow big but when they jump you can imagine what it would be like to connected to a giant tarpon.



Garry enjoyed catching this Herring on fly.



When I saw this photo, it reminded me of another photo of three friends on our Club website. Friendships and exploring beautiful rivers are good reasons to belong to a fly fishing club.



Mick and his wife Sharon made a trip to Aitutaki, which is the second most-populated island in the Cook Islands. A long way from the Bellinger River, Aitutaki is the place to go if you want a tropical holiday and a chance to catch big bonefish.



Ray and Helen are another husband and wife team currently on a trip to the Snowy Mountains. Here are a couple of photos that explain why they love it so much down there.



The weather forecast frightened a few people from going to Lake Keepit and I was one of them. From the photos and reports I have, the weather wasn't as bad as predicted and carp were caught. I plan to head to Keepit on 5th December if anyone is interested in going. This is not an official trip and you will need to make your own arrangements. Let me know if you will be there.



There was rain about at Keepit but nowhere near what they were predicting. It's supposed to improve in December.

The sun did come out and although the water was weedy there were carp to be caught. This one put a bend in Greg's fly rod.



Doug had this one take him into the backing.



Tom managed to catch this one of many on a woolly worm.



The weather threw a spanner in the works for our Lake Keepit Trip. The highlight of this trip is being able to polaroid carp and watch them eat the fly. The predicted rain and storms would have made that difficult so some decided to postpone. Tom, as coordinator, did a sterling job making sure everyone was aware of what was going on and rearranging everything. He is obviously better than most of us at reading weather forecasts. I'm disappointed I didn't go now, especially as I missed the dinner provided by Tom and Sue. Thanks Sue.

Our outings calendar is finished for the year. In the meantime, if you want to go fishing there is plenty on offer in our local waters ... just ask Glenn and Pip.



If you want to go fishing during the holidays you can use our [Facebook Group](#) to let people know and ask if anyone wants to join you. Remember, these will not be official club outings and will not be covered by club insurance.

Greg Artlett is keen to continue fishing over the holidays and will be going to Valla most Tuesdays until casting resumes. You can contact Greg on 0427689400 if you would like to join him

Casting Around



Troutie vs Saltie



I'm a "troutie." Not an old-school, traditionalist but, none the less, a trout fly fisher through and through. I'm not a "trouty" (if you search for that word, I hope you will agree.) Being a troutie tells you a lot about a person's approach to fly fishing but it does not define where they fish. I fish the salt more than I fish in the fresh these days. Although I am a troutie, I still enjoy saltwater fly fishing especially those aspects that relate to being a troutie.

You can tell the difference between a troutie and a saltie in many ways but is not always as evident as in the photos above. Rather than create an argument about what is different, maybe I can define a troutie by what I enjoy so much about fly fishing for trout.

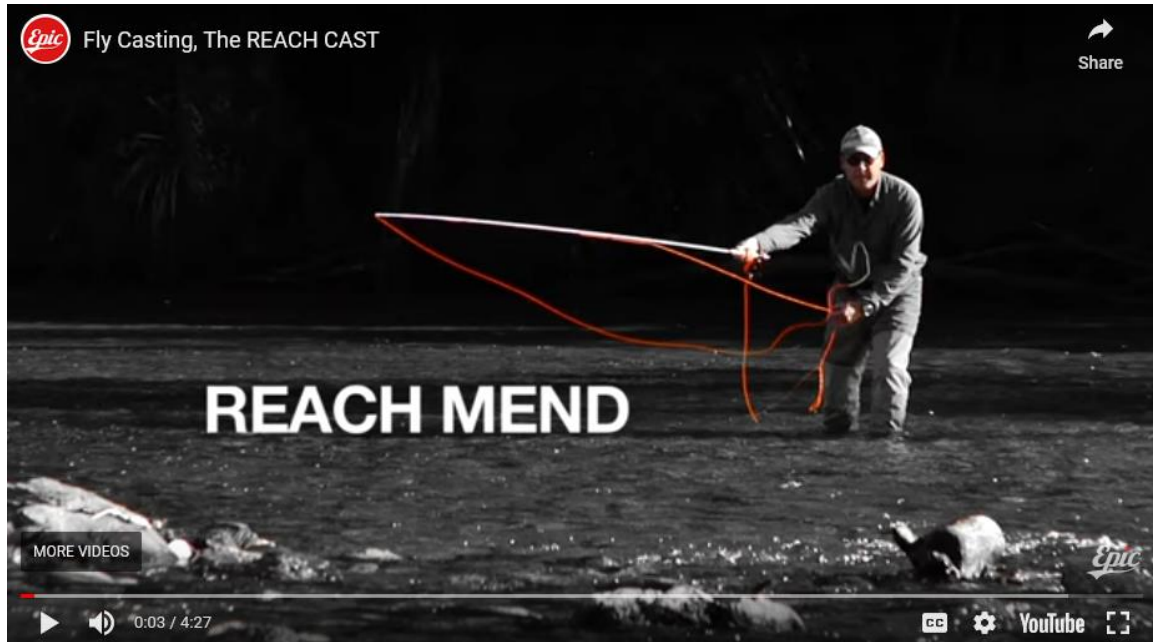
I love fly fishing for trout because it can be such a visual experience. From spotting the fish to watching it take the fly, it all unfolds before your eyes. All this happens in some of the most beautiful places on earth. I enjoy the challenge of hunting, stalking and matching the hatch. Trout might have a brain the size of pea but it's big enough to outwit me if I am not on my game. And I enjoy working on my game. Whether it be improving my casting skills or tying a fly that is going to tempt that fussy trout, there is always something new to learn. Fly fishing began in pursuit of trout, grayling and other freshwater species hundreds of years ago and it is important to me to be part of that tradition. Even though I don't have a tweed jacket and deer stalker hat, I am a troutie.

Saltwater fly fishing has its attractions many of which align with my troutie instincts. I have learnt to enjoy fly fishing in the salt. I'm not arguing that one form of fly fishing is better than the other but when I have a choice, I know where my heart lies. I will never miss an opportunity to fly fish in any water for anything that swims, but I am a troutie at heart.

Before this degenerates into an endless debate on trouties vs salties, I had better get on with the substance of this month's *Casting About*. I want to tackle how fly casting is different if you want to be a troutie. The art of fly casting involves the same mechanics no matter which species you are chasing or where you fish. However, beyond the five essentials of making a cast, there are many aspects of casting that are needed for success as a troutie. Whether you belong to one camp or another, or have your feet firmly planted on both sides, I hope you find something of interest here. It's not about trouties being better but about what you can do to improve your chances if you go fly fishing for trout.

If you want to be a troutie I believe the style in which you move the fly rod is important. Most trouties move the rod in the vertical plane while salties tend to use a more horizontal stroke. Either style can produce an efficient and effective cast. However, the vertical casting stroke is crucial in trout fishing because of the need for accuracy and to keep the back cast high. Trout streams are usually narrow and often enclosed by banks and bushes. By casting in the vertical plane these obstacles can be avoided. As for accuracy, you only need to look to the world of competitive fly casting to see the effectiveness of casting in the vertical plane. You do need to be able to make horizontal casts for trout in tricky situation and you can be accurate, but if you want to have consistent success on a trout stream you need to be able to cast in the vertical plane.

There are several unique casts and mends that a trout fly fisher must learn to be successful. These fall under the heading of presentation casts and are designed to deliver a fly to a trout in such a way that it will eat it like natural prey. A pea brained trout knows the difference between an insect floating naturally down the river and an artificial fly being dragged on the surface. To present flies realistically you need to be able to cast and mend the line so the fly drifts naturally. Learning which cast to use and how to perform it will make you a better troutie. If there is just one presentation cast that every troutie should learn it's the reach mend. Technically it isn't a cast as the line is moved after the rod stops so that it is repositioned to allow a drag free drift. The following video is worth watching if you want to be a successful troutie and make a reach mend.



The reach mend is just one of many presentation casts that a troutie must have in their arsenal. Learn the curve cast, wiggle cast, tuck cast, parachute cast, shock cast, steeple cast, bow and arrow cast, and others if you are serious about fly fishing for trout. If you don't know how to make these casts you will find lots of books and videos to help you.

Being able to make short casts is a must for a troutie and it's not easy. Adding a long leader to the equation makes it even harder. A cast under 20 feet requires lots of practice to be able to turn over a 15-18 foot leader and be accurate. Long leaders are needed in many trout fishing scenarios because that pea-brain animal has such good eye sight. No matter what colour fly line you are using, the trout is going to see it unless you use a long leader. Getting a drag free drift and keeping your fly line away from the fly will increase your chances of success. A troutie should practice shorts casts often and leave throwing full fly lines to the salties.

If you are serious about being a troutie you will have a fly rod, or rods, designed to suit your style of fishing. In the salt, distance is king. In the fresh it's all about accuracy and presentation. You can probably use the one rod to do both (the ubiquitous 6 weight) but a true troutie will have at least one rod that is designed for casting small flies delicately. In my case, I have a number of rods for fishing for trout including rods made from bamboo, glass and graphite. Each material brings its own inherent properties which help make the cast. Finding the rod to match the environment in which you are fishing is part of the appeal of fly fishing for trout. If you want to be a successful troutie, you will have to consider the right rod for the job.

Salties practice and use the saltwater quick cast because their prey moves frequently and unpredictably. A trout's movement is easier to anticipate. This means you usually have more time to make the cast. What makes life more difficult for a troutie is that you might only get one cast. Every time you cast to a trout the chances of it taking your fly diminish until it is finally spooked and swims off. To be a successful troutie you need to make that first cast count and make it with a minimum of false casts.

Someone wrote about what a difference a fly line makes and no one knows this more than a troutie. You can use any appropriate weight line for trout fishing but if you want to give yourself the best chance of success you need to choose the right line. Like selecting a fly rod, deciding what fly line to use for trout comes down to the where and how you fish. I remember being warned that if I went to New Zealand with a bright coloured fly line it would be taken off my reel and dyed before I entered the country. Apart from colour, the taper of a fly line makes a difference. The need for presentation casts, long distance mends, short cast, or lots of roll casting will dictate what taper will work best. Just as you need a number of different fly rods, a troutie will need a corresponding number of fly lines.

Being a troutie is not just about the casting. Trouties dress differently, use different gear and have a different approach when fishing in the salt. One is not better than the other and these days most fly fishers happily fish in the fresh and salt. I remember once being told at a trout club meeting that they don't fish in the salt because it would mean having to wash everything after use. I guess if you have such great trout fishing at your doorstep you can afford to think this way. Where you live plays a big part in your attitude to trouties and salties. How you cast is more important. I spend more time fishing in the salt these days because it is my closest water. I've learnt to cast more quickly, more horizontally and longer. But when I get the chance, I head for my happy place where trout live and I can indulge in all the practices and traditions of a true troutie. I even wear my vest.



Fly Tying

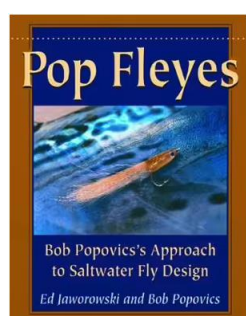
By the Editor

Fly tying has finished for the holidays and will resume on March 25th 2024. That doesn't mean you have to stop tying. You can always find some time to slip away from family activities and tie up some extra flies for when you can get out fishing. If you are keen, John Everett will be continuing his fly tying sessions at MO Tackle (see page 27) in January.

Although I will be spending my holidays tying trout flies for New Zealand, I will make sure I find time to top up my box of surf candies. This is my go-to fly for trevally and many other species in our local waters. It's also the fly that John will be tying at his January session at Mo Tackle.

As with all my flies, they are quick and nasty ties that never resemble the original but, fortunately, seem to get the job done. I failed plasticene modelling in kindergarten so I hate building up the resin body of a surf candy. If you want to know how to use UV resin, I suggest you register for John's workshop. I have got my name down already so you might want to get in quick if you want a place.

If you would like to know how to tie the original surf candy, I recommend you go to the source and read Bob Popovic's book, "Pop Fleyes." I have a copy if you would like to borrow it.

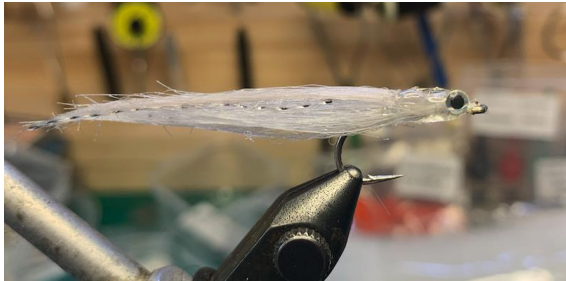
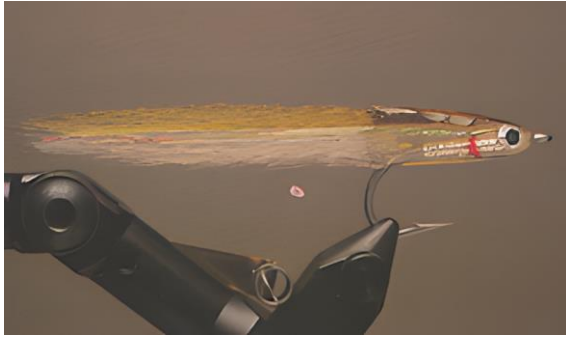


I have to declare that the next few paragraphs have been written with help from my friend ChatGPT.

"Bob Popovics is a renowned American fly tier and angler known for his innovative fly patterns. In the 1970's he invented the "Surf Candy" This highly effective saltwater fly mimics small baitfish, making it attractive to a variety of predatory saltwater species.

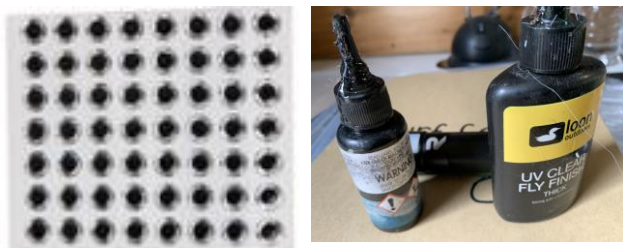
Here are some key features and details about the Surf Candy fly:

1. **Simplicity:** One of the notable aspects of the Surf Candy is its simplicity in design. It typically consists of a sparse arrangement of materials to imitate the slender profile of baitfish. The minimalistic design is intended to mimic the translucent appearance of small fish in the water.
2. **Materials:** The original Surf Candy pattern often involves using epoxy and synthetic materials. The body is commonly made of a synthetic fiber like EP (Enrico Puglisi) Fibers or similar materials, while the head is coated with epoxy to provide a realistic and durable finish.
3. **Translucency:** The use of translucent materials in the Surf Candy pattern is designed to mimic the way light passes through small baitfish, creating a realistic appearance in the water. This can be particularly effective in clear or shallow water where the fish have a good view of the fly.
4. **Variations:** Over time, anglers and fly tiers have created many variations of the Surf Candy, incorporating different colors, sizes, and materials to match specific baitfish species or local conditions."



No prizes for guessing which one was tied by Bob Popovic.

Here is my step-by-step guide on tying a rough and ready Surf Candy. You can customize the hook size, colours and materials based on your preferences and the specific baitfish you're trying to mimic.



Materials:

Hook: Saltwater hook (I use short shank size 2-6 most of the time)

Thread: Clear monofilament or a thread that matches your body color

Tail: Synthetic fibers (e.g., Kinky Fibre)

Flash: Optional flash materials (e.g., crystal flash)

Body: White. Grey, pink or chartreuse synthetic Kinky Fibre or similar materials (but you can use your favourite colours)

Eyes: Stick-on or adhesive eyes

UV Resin

You will need a UV torch to harden the resin.

Instructions:

1. Secure the Hook:

Start your thread near the eye of the hook, and create a thread base along the shank, stopping just above the hook barb.



2. Tie in the Tail:

Cut a small bunch of synthetic fibers (Kinky Fibre) to the desired length for the tail. The tail length can vary based on personal preference, but it's typically about twice the length of the hook shank.



3. Add Flash (Optional):

If you want to include flash materials for added attraction, tie a few strands on either side of the tail. This step is optional and depends on your preference.

4. Create the Body:

Tie in a slightly larger bunch of synthetic fibers at the base of the tail. These fibers will form the body of the fly. Secure them along the shank, moving towards the hook eye.



5. Tie in Eyes:

Attach the stick-on or adhesive eyes on either side of the hook shank, positioning them near the head. Make sure they are securely attached.



6. Build the Body:

Using UV resin build up the body to make the profile you want to achieve.



7. Cure the Resin:

Cure the resin with a UV light and leave in the sun to harden. You can coat the resin with head cement if it remains tacky.



8. Final Touches:

Once the resin is hardened, trim any remaining stray fibers, and your Surf Candy is ready to fish.



Here are some general tips on how to fish a Surf Candy thanks again to ChatGPT:

“1. Matching the Hatch:

Pay attention to the local baitfish in the area you're fishing. The Surf Candy is designed to imitate small baitfish, so choosing colors that closely match the prevalent forage can increase your chances of success.

2. Retrieve Techniques:

Vary your retrieve speed and style. Experiment with slow, steady retrieves, quick strips, or a combination of both. Mimic the erratic movements of injured or fleeing baitfish to trigger predatory strikes.

3. Depth Control

Adjust your retrieve speed and the sinking rate of your fly to control the depth at which the Surf Candy swims. Some fish prefer to strike from below, so having the ability to vary the depth can be crucial.

4. Use sink tip Intermediate Lines:

A clear sink-tip floating/intermediate line allows for great versatility in presenting the fly different depths.

5. Target Structure:

Fish around structure such as sandbars, jetties, rocks, and other underwater features where predatory fish might lie in wait for passing baitfish.

6. Adjust Fly Size:

Match the size of the Surf Candy to the size of the baitfish in the area. If you notice larger baitfish, consider using a larger fly, and vice versa.

7. Be Observant:

Pay attention to the behaviour of the fish and any signs of feeding activity. Look for birds

diving, fish breaking the surface, or other indicators that can guide your approach.

8. Fish Different Retrieves:

Change your retrieval patterns regularly. Sometimes a sudden burst of speed or a stop-and-go retrieve can trigger strikes from curious or aggressive fish.

9. Fish During the Right Conditions:

Time your fishing trips with the optimal conditions. Many saltwater species are more active during dawn and dusk, and tides can also influence fish activity.”

Don't be afraid to experiment, but above all, learnt to cast a long line and the surf candy will work for you. It did for Brian and Chris.



Editor



FLY TYING *Sessions* 2023 - 2024

- Trout Flies - Saturday October 10th 2-4pm
- Bass Flies - Saturday November 18th 2-4pm
- Surf Candies - Saturday January 13th 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**

Club Shop



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



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 \$10.

To order from the Shop contact the Treasurer or the Secretary



HALL OF FAME

FOUNDATION

FISHING

FOUNDATION FLY MASTER

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

CASTING

FOUNDATION LEVEL

Bill Anderson	Phill Stever
Greg Artlett	Garry Germon
Garry Bennett	Kallum Jones
Mick Cannon	Vaughn Hagelstein
Michael Ferris	Andrew Cummins
Ken Holley	Chris Russell
David Lindsay	David Barclay
Brian Mighell	Graeme Baldwin
Stephen Mitchell	Glenn Colquhoun
Murray Robinson	Andrew Cummins
Nigel Smith	Allan Ekert
Doug Urquhart	Wal Franklin
Jim Wray	Mark Gawne
Ray Phipps	Garry Germon
David Small	Bill Ker
Steve Rampant	Grant Jennings
Mark Flook	Peter McGrath
David Lindsay	Duncan Sadler
Bill Herd	Phill Stever
David Small	
John Starr	



HALL OF FAME

BRONZE

FISHING BRONZE FLY MASTER

Greg Artlett
Jim Hyatt
Brian Mighell
Garry Bennett
Anthony Heiser
Doug Urquhart
Ray Phipps

CASTING BRONZE LEVEL

Greg Artlett
Bill Herd
John Starr
Greg Baxter
Ray Phipps
Garry Bennett
Allan Ekert
Mick Cannon
Mike Ferris
Wal Franklin
Stephen Mitchell
John O'Shaunessey
Steve Rampant
Murray Robinson
David Small
Phill Stever
Doug Urquhart
Jim Wray
Glenn Colquhoun
David Lindsay
Bill Anderson
Vaughn Hagelstein



HALL OF FAME

SILVER

FISHING SILVER FLY MASTER

Tom Clancy
Jim Wray
Glenn Colquhoun
Brian Mighell
Allan Ekert
John Starr
David Lindsay (2)
Doug Urquhart
Murray Robinson
Bill Anderson
Garry Bennett
Paul Bennett

CASTING SILVER LEVEL

Murray Robinson
Mike Ferris
Allan Ekert
John O'Shaunessy



HALL OF FAME

GOLD

FISHING GOLD FLY MASTER

David Lindsay
Tom Clancy
Glenn Colquhoun
Brian Mighell
Allan Ekert

CASTING GOLD LEVEL

Allan Ekert

FLY TYING COMPETITION WINNERS 2023

February:	Bass Fly	Glenn Colquhoun
March:	Estuary Fly	Steve Rampant
April:	Trout Fly Dry	Doug Urquhart
May:	Trout Fly Wet	Bill Anderson
June:	Shrimp	Pip Bevan
July:	Salmon or Bread Fly	Jason Stratford
August:	Clouser	Allan Ekert
September	Foam Fly	Doug Urquhart, Bill Anderson
October:	Carp Fly	Bill Anderson
November:	Anything Goes Fly	Pip Bevan

Our supporters

These people have helped our Club in way or another. When you are looking for products or 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
PO Box 4068
Coffs Harbour Jetty 2450

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
PO Box 4068
Coffs Harbour Jetty 2450

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.



Draft Code of Conduct

Members of the Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club Inc. have rights and responsibilities. These form the basis of our Code of Conduct which is agreed to by signing the membership form.

Rights: Members have a right to:

- be treated fairly, equally and with respect by everyone in the Club.
- be free from all forms of harassment and discrimination.
- be informed of all Club events and activities.
- voice their opinions, requirements and suggestions on the conduct of the club through the Committee.

Responsibilities: Members must:

- respect the rights of other members and the people with whom the Club interacts.
- not physically or verbally harass others.
- not behave in a manner that adversely affects the reputation of the Club.
- not share any confidential information or disclose information about the Club or members to non-members, outside agencies, or commercial enterprises in any form.
- treat other members, guests, and people with whom the club interacts, with fairness, courtesy, mutual respect and appreciation for diversity.
- comply with all fishing, boating and safety regulations, licensing and requirements.
- seek consent from other members before publishing their videos, pictures and other media (including in print form or posting on social media).
- co-operate with trip conveners and register and sign in for all club events if they are to be covered by club public risk insurance.
- notify the Secretary of any changes to address, phone number, emergency contact, or other pertinent information.

Breaches of this Code of Conduct:

Any member not behaving in accordance with the terms of the Code of Conduct may be subject to disciplinary action.

Members of the Executive, or event co-ordinators, can warn an offender that they are in breach of club rules. Failure to comply could result in a request to rectify the situation, a verbal warning or being asked to leave the activity. Continued non-compliance will be investigated by the Executive and an appropriate course of action will be taken which may include a written warning, suspension or revocation of membership.

Membership Form

Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club Inc.

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 addresses 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 Membership Secretary
Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club
11 Butterfly Close
Boambee East 2452

Direct Deposit:

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

Notes

Club Membership Definitions:

1. Concession membership is available to; Pension Cardholders (including Disability support and Aged), Centrelink and Veterans Affairs Cardholders.
2. A family is a group of two or more persons related by birth, marriage, de facto relationship or adoption who live together.
3. Junior membership is available to anyone attending primary or secondary school.
4. 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:

1. 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.
2. Fees can be paid in **Cash** or by **Cheque** at a meeting or club outing.
3. Cheques to be made payable to **Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club Inc.**

Completed Membership Forms:

1. Can be scanned and emailed to the Secretary at coffscoastflyfishers@gmail.com
2. Can be hand-written and handed to the Secretary at a meeting or event.
3. Can be posted to the Membership 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.