

The *Flyer*



Official Newsletter Of The



The Flyer

The Official Newsletter of the Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club

FEBRUARY 2022

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Front Cover: You never know what you might see at Lake Keepit! Ray getting some help from the Club mascot (who now works in Coffs) with the Loch Keepit Monster in the background.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



February 2022

I hope the New Year is finding you all well or as well as could be expected under the circumstances.

Our final Casting Day for 2021 was well attended with the raffles being a big hit. Thank you to our supporters for the generous array of prizes that were on offer.

Just as an aside, I don't know how many of you read the Fly Life magazine but the latest issue contains several articles pertinent to our area and our opportunities for fishing. The first article is "Bread and Butter Basics" discussing Bream, Flathead, Luderick, and Tailor etc.

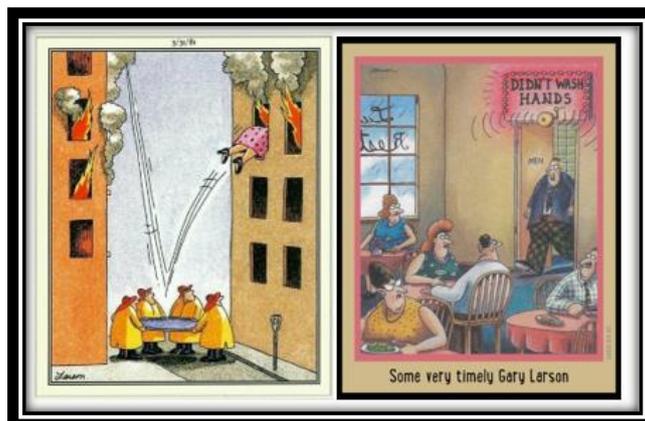
The second "Creek Techniques" is applicable to those of us who tramp around up on the tablelands. Thirdly "Stalking Ferals" is an article about the Wyaralong Dam in SE Queensland targeting Carp and to a lesser extent Tilapia.

The fourth one, "Weed bed Bass" delves into fishing for Bass in the Dams of the Hunter. Finally, "On the Beach" - fly-tying with Chris Beach covers the development and tying of the Donnie Brasco. This fly is a top fly for native freshwater fish. So, all up a most informative series of articles.

We have a lot going on this year which hopefully won't be impacted too severely by Covid. Our next General meeting will be Monday the 21st of February with Casting to resume on the 1st of March. We also have proposed a Fly tying evening on Monday the 28th of February. Also check the calendar for planned outings as there are a few sneaking up on us now.

All the best for the new year

Doug



From the Editor

The cover photo this month has a lot to say about the club. If you are looking for a place to have some fun then the Coffs Coast Fly Fishers is for you. Where else can you go fishing and have a banana as your Ghillie! And if you are thinking there are no fish in the photo, just take a look inside the newsletter and you will see what Ray had on the end of his line.

Coffs Harbour is the land of the big banana and it is obvious our club has to have a banana as our mascot. Some believe bananas bring bad luck. I'll leave it to you to decide but I think last year someone must have brought a few too many bananas to club activities. A combination of Covid restrictions and less than ideal weather patterns played havoc with our plans. Now I'm not a conspiracy theorist but until proven otherwise I'm suggesting less bananas this year.

The year is already off to a bad start with our January meeting being cancelled. Hopefully, things can only get better from now on. The plan is to push on with our calendar of events and make decisions on the run as conditions change. You will need to check the Mid-Month Updates and our Facebook Page regularly to keep up to date.

This is our seventh year of operation. From a handful of interested fly fishers we have grown to a group of 70 people wanting to share, learn and have fun. I hope we can survive the seven-year itch, Covid and bananas and go on to bigger and better things.



For those wanting to improve their casting, the regular Tuesday casting group will resume on 1st March at Mylestom. This year we are planning to have evening sessions for those who can't get there during the day. Make sure you read all the details in the newsletter and register your interest.

A fly tying night will be held this month to see if there is sufficient interest in making it a regular activity. We have interested fly tyers and now we need to get something off the ground. Read all about it on page 8 and register your interest.

To our all our members, thanks for sticking with us over the years and I hope the uncertainties of 2022 won't deter your participation. We may live in difficult times but you can be certain that we will be doing our best to put together a program of activities for everyone to get the most from their involvement in the club and fly fishing.

Editor

Club Executive 2021-22



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February Meeting

The Committee decided that we will go ahead with meetings this month despite the continued presence of Covid in the community. You will, of course, be required to be double vaccinated to enter the North Beach Bowling Club and abide by current requirements to wear a mask and socially distance.

Our February meeting will be held on Monday 21st at the North Beach Bowling Club at Mylestom. We will have a guest speaker in Ashley Donges from Bellingin Shire Council talking about aquatic weeds. The meeting will commence at 6.30pm with announcements and the raffle followed by Ashley's presentation. There will be no general meeting but there will be time to talk about any club issues and discuss the decisions of Committee.

The Committee will be meeting earlier at 5.30pm to discuss plans for the year. If you have any items for discussion, please get in contact with a committee member.

Raffles

Raffles provide the bulk of the funds that we need to keep the Club running. At our meetings we have a raffle for prizes to be won on the night and tickets are then held over for a chance to win a major prize each three months. Prizes for the raffle are donated or purchased at discounted rates from our supporters.



At our last meeting, Mo Tackle donated prizes and gift vouchers that were much appreciated by our members.



Mullet Master Garry with one of the prizes from the last meeting.

The first major prize for the year will be an SP wading staff from A1 FlyFishing. Everyone who wades rivers for trout should have one even if it is only to ward off the snakes. The lucky winning ticket will be drawn at our March meeting.

South Pacific Collapsible Wading Staff

Location: -Waders - Boots-South Pacific Collapsible Wading Staff

Product Information

SAFETY FIRST ! - Don't wade without one - The **South Pacific** collapsible wading staff folds neatly into a neoprene pouch with belt loop and D-Ring attachment so you can leave it clipped to you while fishing. Ideal for when you need it and don't want the inconvenience of carrying a 1pc wading staff all day.

A strong & sturdy sectional tubular aluminium wading staff, which automatically extends by means of an internal braided polymer stretch core. The ABS capped ferrules smoothly lock the sections into place.

Tuesday Casting Group

The Tuesday Casting Group recommences on 1st March. For those of you who are not familiar with the casting group, it is open to all club members and takes place each Tuesday morning from 10.00am to noon at the Mylestom Oval. We start right on 10 so most people get there earlier for a cuppa and a chat before we get down to business. If you are running late, we have a break at 11 for another tea or coffee. There is no cost but a donation of a gold coin is appreciated for the morning tea.



This year we are going to work our way through the FFI Fly Casting Skills Development Program. You can read all about it in Casting Around later in the newsletter. It is not as boring as it might seem and we will still be having our tackle talks and fun casting activities like golf and the commando course. The social aspect of Tuesday casting won't change and we will continue to have our regular fishing sessions.

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

Casting will continue each Tuesday unless there is a need to call it off when an email will be sent to all those who regularly attend. If you are thinking of attending for the first time, make sure you let us know and get your name on the email list.

The program for March is as follows:

Tuesday 1st Casting at Mylestom
Tuesday 8th Casting at Mylestom
Tuesday 15th Casting at Mylestom
Tuesday 22nd Fishing trip.
Tuesday 29th Casting at Mylestom

Tuesday Night Casting Group

For those who can't make it during the day we are going to try an evening session this year. The program will commence on 1st March from 6.00pm to 7.30pm and run over a few weeks. If there is sufficient interest that could be extended. The venue will be decided once we know if there is sufficient interest as we will have to book a park with lights. Like the day sessions, this would be a chance to catch up for a chat while providing an opportunity to develop your casting skills and fly fishing knowledge.

If you would be interested in attending these casting sessions you need to let us know. We will need enough people to make it worthwhile booking a venue. Once the numbers are known we can make more plans to go ahead.

To register your interest, you can put your name on the sheet at the next club meeting, or contact Allan by phone or text on 0427457725 or email allan.ekert@yahoo.com.au.

Tuesday casters who can't get enough casting practice are welcome to attend both sessions.

Committee

The club conducts most of its business through committee and the committee members work behind the scenes to keep things running smoothly throughout the year.

The committee meets each three months and more often if needed. Urgent business is conducted by email. The first committee meeting of the year will be held before the general meeting on 21st February. If you have any items for discussion, please get in contact with a committee member. Decisions made by Committee are presented at general meetings and minutes are made available for those who would like a copy.

February Outing

We have a bass outing planned for Saturday 19th February. President Doug will be organizing this so we can fish his creek and nearby properties. You will be able to fish from the bank (limited spots) or from a canoe or kayak. Those who want to venture further afield can travel to Warrell Creek or the Bellingen River.

At this stage the water conditions are not really ideal and a decision to go ahead will be made by the Committee closer to the date. If conditions are not suitable for bass, an alternate outing will be arranged - possibly to Valla Beach.

More details will be in the Mid-Month Update and posted on Facebook and our website.



Fly Tying

Fly tying should be part of any fly fishing club's activities. We have tried a few times to get some fly tying going as a regular club activity but for one reason or another it hasn't happened. We have some excellent fly tyers in the club and some new members wanting to learn.



To gauge interest, a fly tying night is proposed for Monday 28th February. Start time would be 6.30pm to 8.00pm. The venue would be North Beach Bowling Club or chosen based on the location of the majority of people wanting to attend.

The night would consist of a guest fly tyer demonstrating how to tie a particular fly. Participants would have the opportunity to tie the same fly with the help of the leader. Materials and hooks needed to tie the fly would be provided. Fly tying kits and vices would be available for those who needed them. This first session will focus on a relatively easy saltwater fly pattern - the gurgler. See Fly Tying on Page 21 for ideas.

To register your interest, you can put your name on the sheet at the next club meeting, or contact Allan by phone or text on 0427457725 or email allan.ekert@yahoo.com.au.

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 Saturday 19 th Tuesday Casting Group Resumes 1 st March Blue Water Outing/ Homewaters Saturday 26 th	Club Meeting Monday 21 st Mylestom Major Raffle Drawn
APRIL	Keepit Carp Trip Thursday 7 th to Sunday 10 th Home Waters 30 th April	No Club Meeting Monday 18 th due to Easter Holidays.
MAY	Fly Fishing Workshop Ebor Saturday 28 th TBC Homewaters Saturday 14 th	Club Meeting Monday 16 th Committee Meeting
JUNE	Homewaters Saturday 11 th Lake St Clair TBC	Club Meeting Monday 20 th Major Raffle Drawn
JULY	Casting Day TBC Flats Fishing Workshop TBC (Garry) Dunmore Waters Friday 29 th to Sunday 30 th	Annual General Meeting Monday 18 th
AUGUST	Swansea Salmon Classic TBC Mullet Mash Saturday 20 th	Club Meeting Monday 15 th Committee Meeting
SEPTEMBER	Gathering @ Gumma (Pip) Friday 9 th to Sunday 11 th Homewaters Saturday 24 th	Club Meeting Monday 19 th Major Raffle Drawn
OCTOBER	Homewaters Saturday 8 th Bass Bash Jackadgery Friday 21 st to Sunday 24 th (Michael)	Club Meeting Monday 17 th
NOVEMBER	Homewaters Saturday 19 th	Club Meeting Monday 21 st Committee Meeting
DECEMBER	Keepit Carp Caper Thursday 8 th to Sunday 11 th Christmas BBQ Tuesday 13 th Major Raffle Drawn	No Club Meeting

April/May Outings

Activities in April and May are dependent on what Covid restrictions will be in place at that time. The Department of Sport and Recreation Centre at Keepit and the Hatchery at Ebor are both Government controlled and may be closed on the dates we have planned.

These are two of our most popular events during the year so we have our fingers crossed. At this stage we are assuming we will be able to go ahead but nothing is certain.

In the case of Keepit, we need to have an idea of how many people want to attend so we can secure a booking. Those interested in attending Keepit will need to register by our February meeting. Once numbers are known we will decide which lodge we will need to book (if any!)

To register your interest in the Lake Keepit trip, you can put your name on the Outing Sheet at the next club meeting, or contact Allan by phone or text on 0427457725 or email allan.ekert@yahoo.com.au. A deposit will be required once we are certain it will go ahead.

If you haven't been to Keepit before the following report will give you an idea of what happens. If you want further information talk to someone who has been before or get in contact to receive more details.

You will find registration sheets for all the outings and activities mentioned at the end of the newsletter. You don't have to send them in if you are attending the meeting or if you are making contact by phone or email.

Keepit Report

Late last year we had a club outing to Lake Keepit chasing carp on fly. Thirteen members ending up going, our biggest gathering yet. Fortunately, we were able to book The Quarters at the Department of Sport and Recreation Centre which accommodates up to 29 so we had plenty of space to spread out and great facilities.



Over the years we have been going to Lake Keepit the water level has ranged from 0.4% capacity to 100.8%. On this trip it started at 100%, dropped 5% and then rose 5.8% overnight. The changing water levels and the huge amount of water made finding fish a little trickier but it is a dam so they had nowhere to go and eventually we tracked them down.



This was the lake in 2018.



Most fishing at Keepit takes places from the bank. The name of the game is stalking, spotting and sight casting to individual fish. Boats are used to travel between bays looking for fish. This year, with lots of water, we had to travel to find the fish and protection from the wind.



Fishing from the bank was much more difficult this year with the water level up into the trees. Not only was the water high it was dirty from inflows and weed growth was prolific.



Bill worked the timber to find big carp lurking.

A trip such as this takes some organizing and a lot of co-operation and help from the members attending. The Committee sorted out the food and made sure everything ran smoothly. Members with boats towed them all the way up the mountain to make sure everyone had a chance to move around the lake to find fish. And when it came time to cook and clean up everyone took their turn.



This year the fishing was more difficult than in previous visits. There was more water for the fish to hide in and more weeds and obstructions in the water to make casting tricky. Fortunately, most of those who attended have been involved in the Tuesday casting Group and their improved skills shone through. Everyone on the trip caught fish, for some their first carp on fly.



Steve with his first carp on fly.



Nigel's first trip to Keepit saw him land his first carp on fly.



Ray has had a few trips to Keepit and didn't really need a Ghillie to catch his carp.... but Banana Man added a little colour to the photos.



A noticeable difference this year was the size of the carp. Usually, Keepit carp are in the 70 to 80 cm range with bigger ones present. This year there were a lot of smaller fish which didn't really matter as they still fought well and presented the same challenge to get them to eat the fly.

Greg has been going to Keepit longer than most club members, attending the first trip in 2018 and not missing a trip since. He doesn't miss out on fish either.



John put all his trout fishing skills and knowledge to good use to catch plenty of carp.

When it comes to selecting a fly for carp the possibilities are endless. It is more about being able to present the fly to the carp to make it look like food. Getting the weight right is probably more important than getting the right colour.

On occasions carp have been known to take dry flies especially when the white moths are on the water.



A fly box for carp will have a variety of patterns in a variety of sizes, colours and sink rates.



Jim regularly travels up from Forster to join our group and show us how to catch carp on double handed rods.

Brian, aka Pip, was also on our first trip and returned this year to show he could still catch them on fly.



We dragged Tom away from catching trout at Eucumbene to catch some carp on fly. They pull harder than any trout can!



A beautifully coloured carp, a club shirt and all the right gear - Murray has got the lot.



Glenn has caught plenty of fish on fly but still enjoys the challenge of catching carp ... and he caught plenty!

The annual outing to Lake Keepit is one of the best trips the club undertakes. There are always plenty of carp to catch and opportunities to practice casting and fishing skills. Spending a few days together provides time for people to get to know each other and have some fun.

The next trip is planned for April 7th to April 10th provided we don't have restrictions imposed due to Covid. If you want to go you must register your interest as soon as possible. We need at least 8 people and 4 boats to make it work. If more people want to go, we can use the larger accommodation so there is probably no upper limit.

If you haven't been yet I suggest you talk to one of the members who has been before. If this article hasn't convinced you I am sure they will. You never know, you might just be lucky enough to catch one of the rare two-horned species that can be found as you wander around this beautiful lake.



David had another successful trip to Keepit doing his bit to eradicate the feral carp from our waters, all on his trusty 3 weight fiberglass rod.





Fly Casting Skills Development

If you are one of the few regular readers of these articles you will have noticed I have been casting around for some time trying to find a skills development program that would be suitable to use with a club casting group. I wanted something that would teach fly casting in a sequential program of essential skills which would be fun to practice and directly related to fishing. Despite having tried, or looked at a number of programs, I never really found something that worked for me and caught the imagination of club members.

The first program I tried was *The Orvis Master Your Casting Program*. It was my favourite for a long time and you may have given it a go at some stage just to keep me quiet. It's a good program that will improve your casting skills and take you to a very high level if you follow it through. Unfortunately, too many people found it boring and repetitive and there are only a few club members out there with a certificate to say that it improved their casting. I still believe it is worth following if you are serious about learning loop control and accuracy. Even if you don't want to follow the Orvis Program, you should read the book by the author of the program, Jim Chapralis¹.

The next program I looked at was the *Sexyloops Essential Level Challenge*² developed by renowned fly casting instructor Paul Arden. I never got round to using the program as I felt it didn't offer the structure that I thought was needed to work in a club situation. No doubt, it would help anyone completing the challenge, become an accomplished fly caster and fisher. I think it would work best for individuals wanting to see if they are ready to go on to some form of fly casting certification. Details of the program can be found on the [Sexyloops](#) website.

Next came the Fly Fishers International *Fly Casting Skills Challenge*. It has many things in common with Paul Arden's *Sexyloops Challenge* but what sets this apart is the fact that it comes from an internationally recognized organization that has been involved in fly fishing and accrediting casting instructors for many years. It was designed for the experienced beginner caster, as well as intermediate and advanced fly fishers. It is meant to be a fun, voluntary way to study, practice and challenge yourself. It allows participants to measure progress with an option of receiving recognition for doing so.

I have used the Fly Fishers International *Fly Casting Skills Challenge* on and off over the last couple of years but it has failed to motivate club members to work their way through the program. That's probably more a reflection of my attempts to facilitate the program than the program itself. However, the fact that it didn't fit in with the structure of our regular casting sessions and didn't cater for complete beginners meant it fell from favour.

Late last year significant changes were made to the FFI *Fly Casting Skills Challenge*. A group of experienced and highly qualified instructors, including our own Brian Henderson MCI THMCI from just down the highway at Elizabeth Beach, undertook a complete rewrite. It is now called *Fly Casting Skills Development* and is a much more user-friendly program. It starts at the Foundation level, for true beginners who might be picking up a fly rod for the first time and progresses through 4 levels of Foundation, Bronze, Silver, and Gold. As each level of the *Fly Casting Skills Development* program (FCSD)³ is mastered, fly anglers will become more knowledgeable and accomplished fly casters. With better casting skills comes better fishing opportunities and this is where the new program shines. In the new program, skills and casts taught at each level, are directly related to fishing situations.



Fly Casting Skills Development

I'm keen to give this new version of the FCSD program a try this year with our regular casting group. It is also relevant to individuals who want a fun, self-paced way to become more knowledgeable and accomplished fly casters without joining a group or seeking help.

The new program starts with the new fly fisher in mind. The Foundation Level is for those picking up a fly rod for the first time or beginners with limited fishing experience. This level presents instruction and drills to establish foundation skills for learning to cast a fly rod and form a casting loop that takes the fly to the fish. This is where previous programs have fallen short. This program starts with basic skills such as how to assemble a fly rod, attach a reel, get the line out and form a loop.

As you progress through the levels the program addresses increasingly advanced fishing situations and the skills and knowledge needed to catch fish. It's not as daunting as you might think and most people should be able to complete the program in a reasonable period of time. It just takes practice and perseverance. To achieve the Bronze Level you only need to be able to cast to 50 feet and make accurate casts at 35 feet. Along the way you will be learning real fishing skills and develop the consistency needed to catch fish.

One of the great strengths of this program developed by Fly Fishers International is the access to resources. FFI has a Learning Center (or Centre if you are not American) which has instructional videos and information to support the program. Even if you don't get involved in the FCSD it's worth taking a look at what is available. The Center provides resources in the areas of fly casting, fly fishing, fly tying and conservation. You can visit the Learning Center here: <https://www.flyfishersinternational.org/Learn/Learning-Center-Resources>



You can follow the program on your own but help from a knowledgeable caster, or a FFI Certified Instructor can really make a difference. By participating in a club casting group you will have access to people who can help and speed up the learning curve. Besides, learning with others is more fun and motivational.

Keep in the mind, the *Fly Casting Skills Development* program is not about teaching casting. It is meant to be a fun, self-paced way of improving casting skills. Importantly, it is not a test and is not an instructor certification program. Achievement of any level does not imply or certify instructional skill. However, for anyone thinking of becoming a certified casting instructor it is an excellent pathway to follow to develop the casting skills that are required. There is no certificate at the end of the FCSD program just the satisfaction that comes from achievement and becoming a better fly fisher. Documentation and recognition for achieving a skill level is optional if you join FFI but it is not necessary.

This year I will be using the FCSD program as the basis for what we do in our club casting sessions. Whether it will be more successful than other programs I have tried only time will tell. A great deal of thought and effort has been put into revising the program by some of the best casting instructors from here and overseas. Now we have to see if it works in practice.

In the long run it doesn't matter which program someone follows to improve their fly fishing skills. The essential element is that it provides the motivation to stick at it. I believe the newly revised FCSD can provide that motivation and has the structure and resources to make it suitable for anyone to use. If you are genuinely interested in improving your fishing opportunities and fun on the water you should do something this year. You can join a club casting group or work on your own with one of these programs. It's up to you. Make 2022 the year that you do.

¹Master Your Fly Casting!: . . . And Have Fun Doing It. Paperback - February 1, 2006
By Jim C. Chapralis

²Sexyloops Essential Level Challenge
By Paul Arden
[Here is the PFD of the Challenge.](#)
[Here is the PDF of the Marking Portion only.](#)

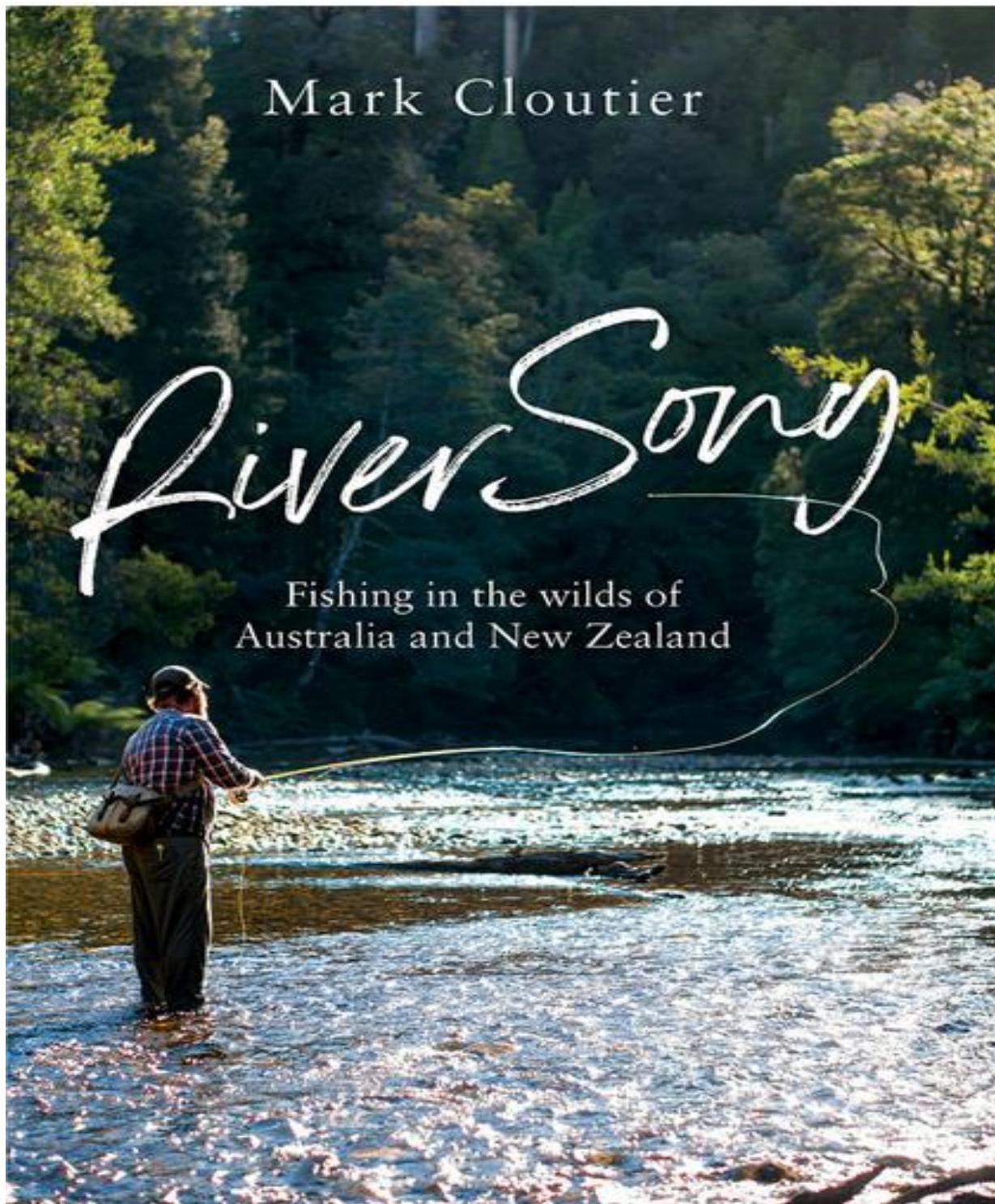
³The new Fly Casting Skills Development Program [Fly Casting Skills Development](#)
(flyfishersinternational.org)



Mark Cloutier

River Song

Fishing in the wilds of
Australia and New Zealand



Book Review

With all the wet weather over the holidays I'm sure we all spent some time reading. Brian Bevan (aka Pip) got a copy of Mark Cloutier's "River Song" and enjoyed reading it when he couldn't go fishing.

After you have read Pip's book review you may like to read it too. I have a spare copy that I am happy to share with anyone who would like to borrow it. Contact the editor.

River Song

Book Review

By Pip Bevan

Mark Cloutier an Australian author reminiscing his travels to our Trout waters on the mainland, Tassie and New Zealand. Mark will get all your travelling bugs suppressed while you are stuck at home on a hot summer's day.

He starts with his local Victorian streams, Nariel Creek in the Kosciusko National Park with the anticipation of a Kossie dun hatch early summer. A large coloured buff Compara Dun was his first choice to catch the small jumping trout as a hatch has started.

Victoria has many well stocked and wild trout streams, these are his favorites that he fishes and keeps going back to. The Swampy Plain River, Thompson's River, Ogilvies Creek hoping for a Brookie, but wild rainbows did not disappoint, Nungar Creek in the high plains, the Kiewa and West Kiewa Rivers where browns loved his Royal Wulff.

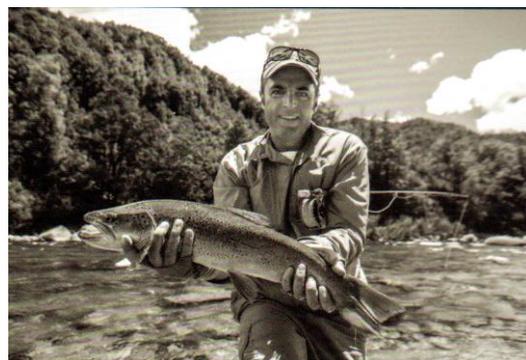
When Mark got his chance, he crossed to Tassie, a mecca for trouties. Streams, rivers and lakes all get a mention, The Hugel and Serpentine Rivulet - snake streams to be wary of walking their banks. Little Pine one of his favorites, Lake Kay catching browns with a seal's fur nymph under a possum emerger. Lake Ina - more browns on red tags. Lake St Clair, Shadow Lake and Forgotten Lake all worth the walk.

Then he crosses the ditch to NZ North Island. Albert Burn a small stream off Lake Wanaka, The Sabine River, a sister river to D'Urville River made famous by "A River Somewhere" near Rotoroa.

A quick plane ride to Nelson on the South Island and the Buller, Wairau, and Maruia rivers were the target for wild large brown trout. A bead headed nymph under an indicator accounted for a few. The Wairau was next followed by the Maruia River - more browns and being guided to them made the trip a winner with his wife.

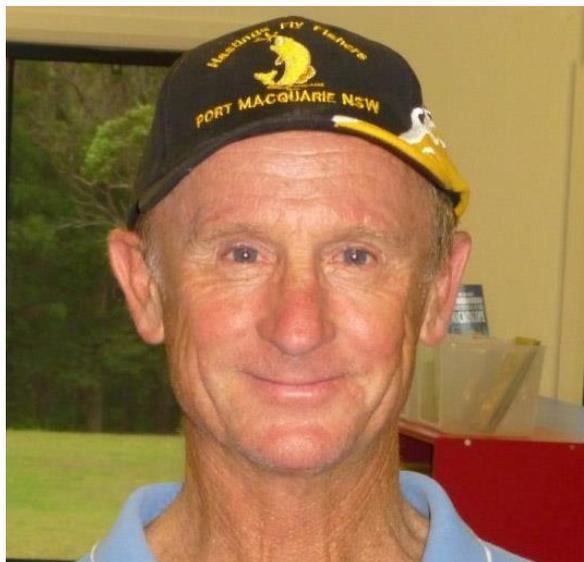
On the road again this time NSW, and Tooma, Murrumbidgee, Eucumbene were his targets to round off a trout fix during the Pandemic.

His last port off call back to Tasmania was the Meander River above the beautiful town of Deloraine with an ugly hopper fly with a pheasant tail nymph underneath he fished this amazing water for feisty little browns.



Fly Tying

Our guest fly tyer this month is John O'Shaughnessy from the Hastings FlyFishers (and also a Distant member of our club).



John is known to many of our members as he often travels up from his home at Lake Cathie to attend our Tuesday casting group. As well as being an excellent caster, John is an innovative fly tyer. He is obsessed with trying to catch whiting on fly and has had more success than most people. Anyone who has tried to catch whiting on fly knows there is no fly that will do it every time. The JOS Gurgler is as near as John has come to perfecting the whiting fly but even after so many years he is still experimenting.

The JOS Gurgler

John O'Shaughnessy



Recipe:

Hook - Size 8 Mustad 34007 stainless steel ("O'Shaughnessy" of course) are what I am using at the moment. Experiment with sizes if you like.

The original hooks I used were Mustad short shank, wide gape size 9 stainless steel. Can't find them these days.

Thread - Fluorescent pink seems to be the best but I might be superstitious.

Tail - Polar fibre, Chartreuse seems to be the most attractive to fish. "Ocean green" is also good. Orange "fish fuzz" also works fairly well. Strangely enough I haven't had much success with shrimp coloured polar fibre. The chartreuse and shrimp colours seem to be the least prone to matting of all the colours, including olive, black and white. Could be something to do with the dyes used.

Antennas - crystal flash or alternatively "Glitzy UV tinsel" which can be found in most fishing shops.

Eyes - burnt 20lb mono

Foam - Originally used closed cell from hockey shin guards. That is the right density to weight ratio. I still have some of that and also have some off cuts of similar density from Clark Rubber, though I haven't seen that sort of thing there for a long time now.

Step 1 --- Tie in the polar fibre up to bend in the hook and add crystal flash antennas. The amount of polar fibre re thickness and length can vary. Flies with 4cm to 5cm lengths of polar fibre protruding from the hook get more hits especially on the drift. Shorter lengths may get more hook---ups but definitely are not as appealing to the fish. I've tried very small stinger hooks but the fly doesn't seem to move as well. See photos 1 and 2.



Photo 1



Photo 2

Step 2 --- Burn mono for eyes and tie in so that they protrude out a short distance. Not too far but they should be exposed when the foam is tied in as in picture. See photos 3 and 4



Photo 3



Photo 4

Step 3 --- Cut the foam so that it's about 5mm thick and 2 cm long and 9mm wide. The foam I use is in a sheet, which is 9mm thick. That thickness of the sheet provides the width of the cut foam used on the fly.



Photo 5

Cut the foam as shown in the photo. Also taper some thickness off the part of the foam that is tied along the shank. This enables the fly to be less buoyant at the back and sit hook down in the water a bit like a mayfly emerger. The tail, antennas and eyes sit under the water at about a 30degree angle. The wedge of foam at the front sits above the water. Tie in the foam at the bend of the hook as in the photo. If you happen to cover the eyes just cut the offending bit of foam off after tying. See photos 5 and 6. Photo 7 shows where I have roughly tapered the foam.

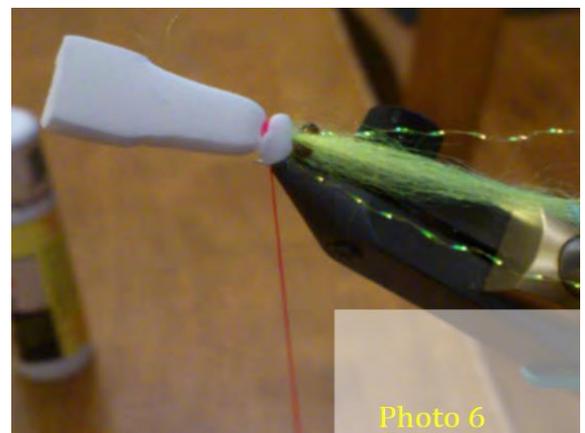


Photo 6



Photo 7

Step 4 --- Bend the foam up to give yourself room to dub in the hairy legs along the hook shank. Human hair is a bit difficult to handle but manageable if only a small amount of dubbing wax is used. I'm not sure I should have said that. See photo 7

Step 5 --- Tie in the other end of the foam next to the hook eye at the place where the foam changes into a wedge shape, see photos. I try to estimate the length of foam used so that I need to squeeze and stretch the "on shank" part a little to position the narrow part of the wedge just in front of the hook eye. That way the foam along the hook isn't as buoyant and the front part of the fly will sink. There is a balance, of course, as you don't want the fly to hang in the water too far towards the vertical. At least I think you don't. It certainly won't jump as well.



Photo 8

The proportions in the photos are pretty close. The wedge section should be 8mm to 10 mm long, no longer for this size hook. The length has an effect on how much the leader will twist. See photos 8 and 9



Photo 9

Step 6 --- Apply a couple of coats of hard as nails or similar to thread areas, allow it to dry and then go fishing. See photo 10.



Photo 10

The build has evolved a little over the last 10 or so years just through general tying. The present version seems to function efficiently but I'm not sure it catches more fish. Then again, I haven't been fishing as often as previously. See what you can come up with.

Fishing the JOS Gurgler

I first made this fly back around the turn of the century (I like saying that) to replace the small Dahlberg divers that I had begun using to fish for bream. They were too fiddly and time consuming to tie and didn't last long.

I had been obsessed with catching whiting on fly since the late 80s with mixed success but had never used surface style flies on the coast other than for bass and maybe mullet during white ant hatches. The great revelation occurred while fishing the gurgler over a shallow bank in the lake in a very strong wind when there were prawns about. I was having fun dapping the gurgler across the waves making it jump etc. when a whiting left the water to try for it in midflight. I caught several in the same way in that session and have been taking them off the top with it ever since.

It's primarily a whiting fly, but is also effective on bream, tailor, long toms and occasionally flathead. I have also caught herring, mullet, blackfish and I think Pete caught bass on it among other things. I've caught a few terns as well. They can be a nuisance by picking up the fly and dropping it out of the strike zone.

A strong tippet is needed to lessen twisting of the leader when casting and retrieving. I generally use 12lb or 15lb mono tippet on a 9 or 10 ft leader. The fish don't care. Use a loop knot. Also check Morsie's leader recipe. I've been using it lately and they work well. A simpler one that's OK is a metre of 30lb, a metre of 25lb, a metre of 20lb and couple of feet tippet of 15lb or even add a length of 12lb onto that.

The retrieve doesn't need to be fast. Sometimes whiting respond better to a constant series of bloops. Sometimes just a couple of initial "here I am" bloops will get them interested enough to find it and hit it on the drift. The shape of the foam causes the fly to do little jumps just like a prawn.

The polar fibre has great movement in the water and the fly's silhouette is a fair representation of a prawn. Often fish will drag it under the surface. Keep retrieving and it will be taken. It wobbles around attractively when retrieved under water. I haven't yet tried it on a sinking line in impoundments. It might be good for perch or trout.

It is most effective when prawns are about but I have had great sessions sight fishing for them in the middle of winter in very shallow water with a decent wind wave, the windier and stormier the better. I once rigged the gurgler, for an occasional spin fisher, about 3 ft behind a bubble float on a spinning rod. It was even more effective. The fish were aggressively attracted to the commotion caused by dragging the bubble float through the water and then fought over the fly. No subtlety at all. He bagged out several days running.

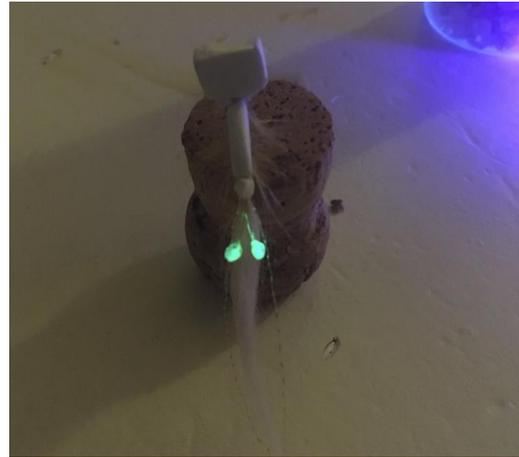
Sometimes whiting can be found up the lake in shallow, very calm water, with backs and tails showing digging in the silt. I have had more success at those times dropping a very small sinking shrimp pattern into the little silt cloud caused by their rooting around. The gurgler is very effective fishing for bream in the shallows up to about waist deep. Land the fly along a drop off or depression and give it one little bloop. Wait 15 to 30 seconds for a swirl near the fly. Then give it another little pull and all being well a bream will hit it. Bream seem to take a little while to locate it. Tailor, sometimes behave in a similar fashion. Mostly it is almost impossible to keep it off them.

Don't know why black fish have eaten it but maybe the tail looks like green weed waving about.

Hope all this makes sense.

[John O'Shaughnessy](#)

Never one to rest on his laurels, John has been at it again with a few variations of the JOS Gurgler. He is rewriting his article adding a few variations and his latest tying instructions. Thanks to John and the Hasting Fly Fishers for allowing us to use the original article here. By the time we hold our first fly tying night we should have a copy of the new instructions.

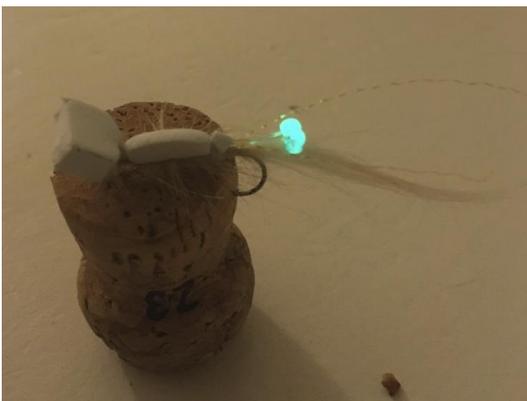


The midnight gurgler!



Redfin and mullet versions with rubber legs and barred tail. The barred material works really well.

[John O'Shaughnessy](#)



Classifieds

Wanted to Buy

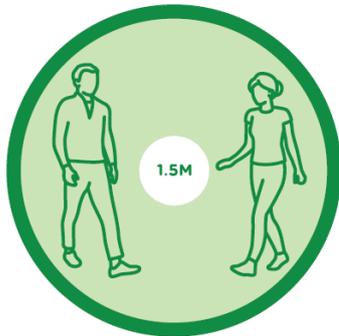
Greg Artlett is looking for a 4 weight fly rod to buy if anyone has one for sale. He would prefer something between 8 and 9 feet in length and at an entry level price.

You can contact Greg on 0427689400



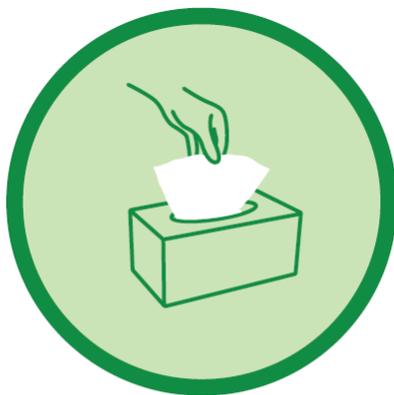
Covid-19 Safety Policy

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



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

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

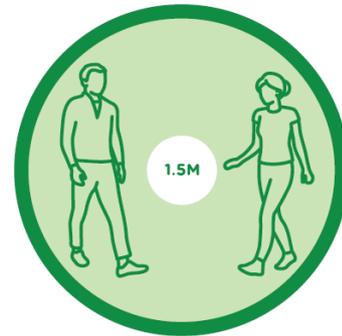


Stay at home and
self-isolate if you are unwell.

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

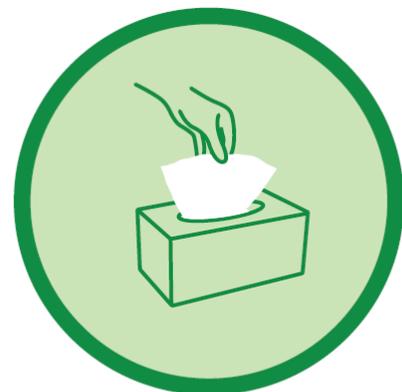
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Our Supporters

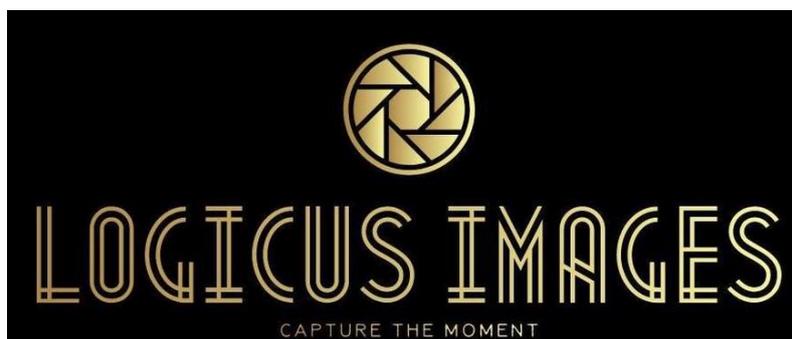
These people have all helped our club in one way or another. When you are looking for products and services make sure you consider them first



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:** BCU Credit Union
BSB 533 000

Account Number: 02051766

Name: Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club Inc

Reference: Your surname

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

Ekert Membership.

Club Contact Address

Our official email address is ccffc@tpg.com.au.

Our mailing address is:

The Secretary

Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club

11 Butterfly Close

Boambee East

NSW 2452

Electronic Contacts

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

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

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

Our Facebook Page can be found at:

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

We have a **Facebook Group**. If you are on FB all you need to do is search for Coffs Coast Fly Fishers and ask to join the Group. Currently there are 348 members in this 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 ccffc@tpg.com.au.
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.



Lake Keepit April 2022

Thursday 7th April to Sunday 10th

Venue: Lake Keepit Sport and Recreation Centre via Tamworth

Target Species: Carp on fly

Food and accommodation costs approximately \$200-\$250 depending on numbers and accommodation (Kilpara Lodge or The Quarters)

We need to have an idea of how many people want to attend so we can secure a booking. If you are interested you need to register by our February meeting. Once numbers are known we will decide which lodge we will need to book (if any!) and work out costs.

Name	Comments
1	Have a boat, taking a camper, need help with transport, need to borrow rods, will self cater etc.
2	
3	
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