

The *Flyer*



Official Newsletter Of The



February '24

The Flyer

The Official Newsletter of the Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club February 2024

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Front Cover: The Brassie Brothers (aka Jim and Mick) had fun catching Brassie Trevally over the holidays. I could tell you where they caught them but they might not be happy!

Club Executive & Committee 2023-24



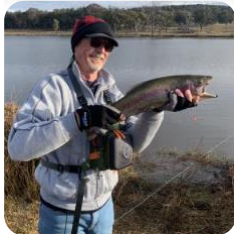
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President's Report

February 2024

Welcome to the new year. I hope everyone enjoyed the Festive Season. The Coffs Shire has seen an enormous number of tourists over the holidays which is wonderful for the economy but not so wonderful if you wanted to go and have a quiet fish. If you did brave the jet skis & the water skiers there was plenty of action with the Trevally to be had. For me the boat was tarped up & put to bed for a month, although I'm eager to get back out on the water again now the bulk of the tourists have departed.

Monday night 15th January we held a Committee Meeting & mapped out the Calendar of Events for 2024 with a good mix of Home Water events in our Local Waters plus a good variety of away events. We have a few ideas on away places being looked into for either this year or next year. If you are keen on any of the away events it is so important that you put your name on the Outings Sheets at the Monthly Meetings as they do fill up very quickly. For example, we increased the Dunmore Waters trip to two weekends away in July & both sheets are full with room on the waiting list in case someone pulls out. Get your name down just in case.

Jim Wray & Allan Ekert have just finished rewriting the "Fly Master Awards" Program & they have done a great job simplifying the species list for all the different levels & added 2 new levels with a Foundation Level for the beginners & a Platinum Level for those that have achieved their Gold Awards. Earning a Platinum will be a big task as it requires you to catch 4 legal length species that are on the list in one day. At the starting end of things, for the Foundation Level you need 3 species of any size over any period. Everyone in the club should be able to achieve this.

We issued some folders with the Fly Master Award program & Application Sheets at the last meeting. You can print this new program "February 2024 ver 1.2 from this Newsletter or give me a call and I will have them at the Club Meeting on February 19th at Mylestom Bowling Club. There is also a copy on our website here.

The "Group on One Day" targets (eg Bronze 2 species, Silver & Gold 3 species & Platinum 4 species) will give you something to aim for on our Home Waters days and will certainly open up our thinking on which fly to use for each particular species.

*Keep on casting
Glenn*

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Secretary's Report



Happy New Year! I hope you all had an enjoyable break over the festive season and had better luck fishing than I did.

Like Glenn, I also found the fishing challenging with all the tourists swarming all over my favourite fishing spots.

So far, I only have one fish on the board for 2024: a Brown Stingray I foul hooked with a Chartreuse Clouser. The challenge was not dissimilar to hooking and retrieving a tyre half buried in sand. Still, it's my first metre long fish on fly, being the only bragging right I can claim from this capture!

With the tourists finally leaving town, we can look forward to a bumper year of outings and events. The Committee met on 15 January 2024 to finalise the 2024 Club Calendar. We agreed on a good mix of home and away outings which we hope offers something for everyone.

The outings will fill up quickly so don't hesitate to put your name on the outing sheets at the next General Meeting on 19 February 2024.

The Committee also finalised the Club Code of Conduct, and I encourage you all to familiarise yourself with it. You can find a copy of the Code of Conduct on the back of last month's Newsletter or on our [website](#).

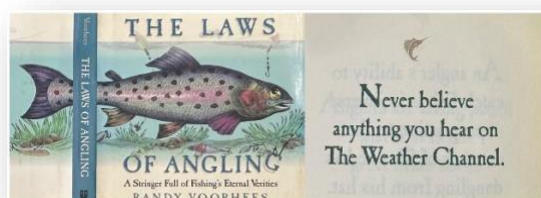
I'm sure you will find most of it is common sense. Some of it also serves a practical purpose, for example, signing in for club events so that you can be covered by the Club's public liability insurance or updating your contact information so we can keep you informed of Club news and events.

The Club's next Committee Meeting will be on 15 April 2024. Anyone wishing to raise matters for the Committee's attention can email me at coffscoastflyfishers@gmail.com.

Finally, I think we're all scratching our heads over the Bureau of Meteorology's three-month outlook issued last year. Its prediction for above average temperatures is playing out, but the BOM has since reneged on its forecast of average to below average rainfalls this summer.

It now forecasts average to above average rainfall over the rest of summer and total rainfall this summer is now at 88% of Coffs Harbour's average summer rainfall. Let's hope this rain keeps the Trout happy at Ebor.

Anthony



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From the Editor



When we started the club, we wanted it to be a place to share, learn and have fun. I think this month's cover shows we are having fun. As for the learning, take a look at what we are doing in fly casting, fly tying and the range of outings we have lined up.

The club has always been about sharing - sharing knowledge, sharing information and sharing the fun. In this month's newsletter, distant member Roger Clements has shared a trip report to Lake Eucumbene which I am sure you will enjoy reading. I'm hoping more of our members will share their fishing reports this year so if we can't get out there ourselves, we can enjoy the experience through the words of others.

When it comes to sharing fishing locations there is always a fine line between being open and giving exact locations and restricting information in the interest of protecting the fishery. In the case of large water such as Lake Eucumbene, it's not an issue. But when it comes to our small trout streams around Ebor, they need protecting and we have to keep the landowners on side. As a club we are happy to share, but not if it risks the fishery and the opportunities to fish there in the future. Even our local estuaries are under great pressure, especially at holidays times, and we need to be careful about protecting them too.

You will read later in the newsletter that I no longer make New Year's Resolutions. However, I do set some goals for the year for myself and the club. This year I have two goals I would like the club to achieve.

- I would like to see everyone with a Fly Master badge.
- I would like to see everyone progress a level in the Fly Casting Skills Development program.

You might disagree with these goals or you may have your own ideas of what the club should be doing, but without something to aim for, we end up being aimless. I will be working to achieve these goals this year and I hope you will be, too.

I've told you about my goals for the club, but **my** fishing goal for the year is to achieve a Platinum Fly Master award based on fish I catch in 2024. I've started by highlighting 10 species from [the List](#) that I have a chance of catching and I will be targeting them every opportunity I get. Hopefully, I will have my name in the Hall of Fame by the December newsletter.

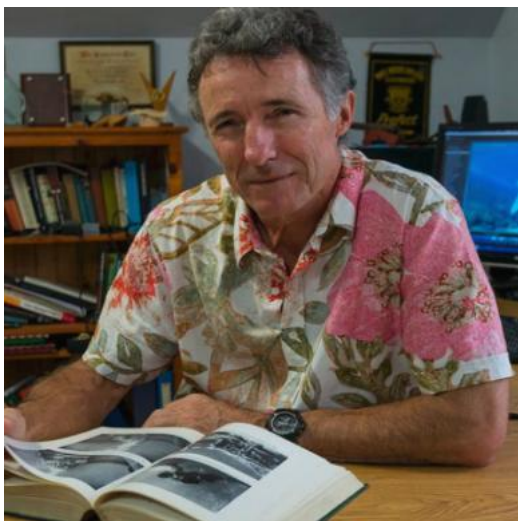
A new year is always exciting with the prospect of new places to fish, new species to catch and new skills to master. I hope you are as eager as I am to get started. Think about what you want to achieve this year and see how the Club can help you. Take a look at the calendar and see what you can get involved with. Get out and get fly fishing and have a great year.

Editor

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February Meeting

Our first meeting for the year will be on Monday 19th February at North Beach Recreation and Bowling Club at Mylestom commencing at 6.00pm. You won't want to miss this meeting as we have a special guest speaker who will be presenting a spectacular slide show of underwater photography. Dr Mark Spencer is a dentist practicing in Coffs Harbour but he has also been a long-term scuba diver and underwater photographer – exploring ocean shipwrecks, enjoying interaction with marine life and also venturing into flooded subterranean caves. His photography has been published in the journals of the National Geographic Society, Australian Geographic Society and various diving and photography magazine.



Make an effort to attend this first meeting of the year to see Mark's presentation and also to get back into the routine of club activities. You will be able to put your name down for coming events, enter the fly tying competition, find out about the revised Fly Master Awards and hear some fishing reports. And there will be time to catch up and buy some raffles tickets. Be there at 6.00pm for a great night.

On the subject of raffles, the winners of our Christmas Raffle were:

The two night stay at [Nambucca Waterfront Hideaway](#) generously donated by Mick and Sharon Cannon was won by:

John Starr

John Everett from Mo Tackle donated gift vouchers which were gratefully appreciated and won by:

Bill Kerr

Thanks to Jeff Hawkins at Ebor Falls Tackle and Outfitters who donated a gift voucher which was won by:

Greg Artlett

An additional prize was drawn on the night which was generously donated by Bill and Gwen Kerr. "The Big Fish" Christmas fishing shirt was won by

Ray Phipps

Thanks to our generous supporters and everyone who sold and bought tickets, the club raised \$585.00.

The major raffle for the first 3 months will be a platted lanyard donated by Bill Anderson, a Trevor Hawkins print donated by distant member Ben Nieuwerth and a wooden fly box. A big thank you to these members for their support. These items will go as one prize to the winning ticket drawn at our April meeting. Meanwhile we will have our regular monthly raffle drawn on the night with prizes and all tickets will be kept to go in the draw for the major prize in April.

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Fly Tying Competition

The fly tying competition is underway and the first flies will be judged at our February meeting. The aim is to encourage fly tying and to have people tie flies ready for upcoming outings.

The competition side of things is meant to be fun. The winner will be judged on its simplicity, creativity and proven fish attracting qualities. The fly to be tied for the February meeting will be a surface fly for Bass.



Flies tied by Bill Anderson



Flies tied by Jason Stratford

If you want to enter you have to tie at least two flies both of which become the property of the club.

The winning fly will be selected by popular vote at the meeting. In the spirit of fun and fairness please abide by the following rules:

- ☛ You must be a financial member of the Club to enter.
- ☛ You must tie the fly yourself.
- ☛ You can't enter the same fly a second time.
- ☛ You must submit two samples of the fly to be kept by the Club. Entries are to be given to Pip Bevan before the start of the monthly meeting.
- ☛ The winner will be the fly with the most votes by members at the meeting.
- ☛ Members who enter a fly in the competition can receive one raffle ticket for every one they buy. If a photo of the fly is posted on our Facebook page, they can get an extra raffle ticket.

Brian Bevan (Pip) will be coordinating the competition and you can contact him on 0490469562 for further information.

The flies to be tied in 2024 are:

- | | |
|------------|------------------------|
| February: | Bass Fly (surface) |
| March: | Cod Fly |
| April: | Estuary Fly |
| May: | Trout Dry Fly |
| June: | Shrimp or Crab |
| July: | Trout Wet Fly |
| August: | Surf Candy |
| September: | Bread Fly |
| October: | Bass Fly (sub surface) |
| November: | Carp Fly |

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Fly Tying Night

Our first fly tying night will be on Monday 26th February at 6.00pm at the North Beach Recreation and Bowling Club in the Osprey room out the back.

This month we will be tying Cod flies. All the materials and hooks you will need will be supplied at a cost of \$5 if you register early enough. We are capping the group at 12 but if you don't register in time, you can still come along and bring your own materials. You can register by contacting Allan on 0427457725.

You can find out about this Cod fly and see the tying instruction later in the newsletter.



Tuesday Casting Group

The Tuesday casting group won't recommence until 19th March. However, we are having a casting day at Port Macquarie on Monday 5th February. This will be a day when we join with the Hastings Fly Fishing Club for their regular casting session. If you are interested in going, we can car pool and share the travel costs. Please contact Allan on 0427457725 if you want to go. I will have room for a couple and if others are prepared to take their cars we can take more. We would need to leave Coffs about 8.00am and would be home mid-afternoon. More details when you get in contact.



When our regular Tuesday sessions resume, we will again be working on the Fly Casting Skills Development program. We now have 40 members who have reached the Foundation Level, 22 who have achieved Bronze, 4 Silver and 2 Gold. You can find out more about the FCSD [here](#) and see those who has achieved a level listed in the [Hall of Fame](#).

February Outing

On Saturday 24th we will be having our first outing for the year. We will be fishing our home waters on the Bellinger/Kalang Rivers. Hopefully, the fish will still be there after the floods 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.

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Committee Meeting

The Committee met during the holidays and a summary of decisions made is listed below. A copy of the minutes and the financial statement is available if you contact the Secretary.

- A calendar of events to start the year was put together and is included later in the newsletter.
- The treasurer presented a balance sheet for the month and all accounts were passed for payment. Our current balance is \$7,512.33
- Accounts presented were approved for payment.
- Approval was granted to purchase additional badges for the Fly Master Awards.
- Quotes for a club banner and new business cards are to be sought.
- Brian Bevan presented a list of flies to be tied for the fly tying competition. This is included in the fly tying section of this newsletter.
- The draft Code of Conduct included in last month's newsletter was adopted.
- A revised Fly Master awards program was approved for implementation. A copy is at the end of the newsletter.

Fly Master Awards

The Fly Master awards have been revamped with two new levels added and changes made to the other three levels. The Foundation Fly Master award only requires three different species of any size caught over any period of time since becoming a club member. Effectively, this is a badge that everyone in the club can have ... and it's free.

To extend the challenge for some of our more experience members, the Platinum Fly Master Award has been added. The qualifying lengths have been extended and the list of fish to be caught have been increased.



There have been changes made to the Bronze, Silver and Gold levels reducing lengths and making the groups to be caught on one day easier.

You still have to register your captures with Jim Wray who is the registrar for the awards and will record captures. If you want to claim an award you just email Jim at coffscoastflyfishers@gmail.com with the name of the award you are claiming and the details regarding species, size, and date captured. This is based on honesty and you don't have to provide proof if you haven't got photos.

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These awards are also open to our Distant Members with the same requirements for claiming. Certificates will be emailed but the badge will be mailed to you free of charge (you have to get something from your membership fee!)

Recipients of Fly Master Awards will receive a badge, a certificate and be listed in [The Hall of Fame](#).

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

- ◆ There are two ways to gain an award: Catch a number of species in a day or a number of species over any period of time.
- ◆ Fish species and lengths get more difficult as you move through the levels as do the number of species to be caught on one day.
- ◆ 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 are updated regularly. If you want to add a species or change a length, talk to Jim.

	Group on one day	List over any period
Foundation		3 fish of any size from the list
Bronze	2 species per group	3 legal size fish from the list
Silver	3 species per group	4 legal size fish from the list
Gold	3 species per group	5 legal size fish from the list
Platinum	4 species per group	6 legal size fish from the list

Our aim is to have everyone in the club with a Fly Master Badge. All you have to do is decide if you want to go for the number of species in a day or accumulate the number of species over time. Then, make a plan and go fly fishing.

Club Calendar

The 2024 Events Calendar is published on the next page. It's a living document and changes each month as adjustments are made to the program. Make sure you keep up to date throughout the year by referring to the latest calendar and read the newsletter and check our website for changes that occur.

In a perfect world we wouldn't plan our outings until we had a favourable weather forecast, a rising barometer and good bite times from the fishing almanac. Unfortunately, this makes it impossible to plan far enough ahead to give people time to arrange their busy lives. Our events calendar is mapped out for the whole year to give you an idea of what we are hoping to do. It will give you time to plan around events you want to attend. Sometimes, these will change, but we try to stick to our plan especially with extended trips.

If you want to attend an outing or get involved in an activity, you need to register your interest. This can be done through putting your name in the Outings Folder or contacting the coordinator or a member of the Executive. Registration is important so that you are covered by club insurance, and the organizer knows who will be attending. It helps with ordering food for catering and organizing boats when needed.



Events Calendar 2024

Month	Outings & Activities	Meetings
JANUARY	No outings in January	Committee Meeting Mylestom Monday 15 th 5.30pm
FEBRUARY	Casting Day Port Macquarie Monday 5 th (Allan) Home Waters Mylestom Saturday 24 th (Glenn) Fly Tying Mylestom Monday 26 th (Cod fly)	Club Meeting Monday 19 th Mylestom 6.00pm Fly Tying Competition Bass Fly (surface)
MARCH	Tuesday Casting Group Resumes 19 th March Bass Day Taylor's Arm Saturday 9 th (Doug) Cod Trip Ashford Saturday 23 - Monday 25 th (Chris) Fly Tying Mylestom Monday 25 th (Estuary fly)	Club Meeting Monday 18 th Mylestom 6.00pm Fly Tying Competition Cod Fly
APRIL	Easter 29 th March – April 2 nd School Holidays 15 th – 26 th April Stuarts Point Saturday 6 th (Mick) Fly Tying Mylestom Monday 29 th (Dry trout fly)	Club Meeting Monday 15 th Committee Meeting 5.00pm Major Raffle Drawn Fly Tying Competition Estuary Fly
MAY	Ebor Saturday 4 th (Allan) Fly Golf Day Mylestom Sunday 12 th (Allan & Jim) Home Waters Saturday 25 th (Anthony) Fly Tying Mylestom Monday 27 th (Shrimp or crab fly)	Club Meeting Monday 20 th Mylestom 6.00pm Fly Tying Competition Dry trout fly
JUNE	Macksville Saturday 22nd Fly Tying Mylestom Monday 24 th (Wet trout fly)	Club Meeting Monday 17 th Mylestom 6.00pm Fly Tying Competition Shrimp or Crab
JULY	School Holidays Monday 8 th – Friday 19 th July Home Waters Saturday 6th Dunmore Waters Friday 19 th to Sunday 21 st Dunmore Waters Friday 26 th to Sunday 28 th Fly Tying Mylestom Monday 29 th (Surf Candy)	AGM Monday 15 th 6.00pm Major Raffle Drawn Fly Tying Competition Wet trout fly
AUGUST	Swansea Thursday 22 nd – Sunday 25 th (Allan) Northern Beaches Drummer Saturday 10 th (Murray) Fly Tying Mylestom Monday 26 th (Bread Fly)	Club Meeting Monday 19 th Committee Meeting Mylestom 5.00pm Fly Tying Competition Surf Candy
SEPTEMBER	School Holidays Monday 30 th September – Friday 11 th October Battle of the Bread Fly Moonee Beach Saturday 14th Fly Tying Mylestom Monday 30 th (Bass Fly)	Club Buy/Swap/Sell Meet Monday 16 th Mylestom Fly Tying Competition Bread Fly
OCTOBER	Brushgrove/Grafton Saturday 12 th (Glenn) Kempsey Bass Trip Saturday 26 th (Mick) Fly Tying Mylestom Monday 28 th (Carp Fly)	Club Meeting Monday 21 st 6.00pm Mylestom Fly Tying Competition Bass Fly (sub surface)
NOVEMBER	Keepit Carp Caper Wednesday 6 th – Sunday 10 th (Tom) Cania Gorge QLD Saturday 23 rd – Saturday 30 th (Glenn) Fly Tying Mylestom Monday 25 th (Anything Goes)	Club Meeting Monday 18 th Committee Meeting 5.00pm Major Raffle Drawn Fly Tying Competition Carp Fly
DECEMBER	School Holidays Monday 23 rd December – Thursday 3 rd Jan Home Waters Saturday 7th Christmas Gathering BBQ Valla Tuesday 10th	No Club Meeting Christmas Raffle Drawn

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Eucumbene

By Roger Clements



It's Friday 8th December and I slept badly in anticipation of the run to Lake Eucumbene this morning. This was to be a special trip as son Paul, an inveterate lure caster, expressed an interest in the fly. A visit to the Flyfisher in South Melbourne set him up with the gear and a lesson with Darren Asquith of Untamed Flies and Tackle on the Benalla oval to teach the basics had him all set. We didn't travel in convoy but agreed to meet in Adelong for lunch.

Most of my packing was completed last night and it only remained to have breakfast and fill the car 'fridge. A slight overcast promised a glare-free trip. Padding around the house like a cat-burglar it was finally time to steal the dawn and drive deserted streets with that little familiar frisson of anticipation - 550km ahead of me.

Tom would have left way earlier at 4am with a long 960km drive. Despite my trip being half of his, I take seven hours, minimum. It's a three pee trip with a stop in Adelong for a much anticipated lunchtime coffee and a shared bowl with Paul, of potato wedges, sweet chilli and sour cream. Happens every time - half an hour on the road I'm mentally going through my checklist - have I forgotten anything? Despite having a comprehensive list on my computer.

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Once off the Hume the Snowy Mountains Highway unrolls before me - Adelong, Tumut, past Blowering Dam and up the winding Talbingo mountain road until, passing Yarrangobilly Caves I'm finally on the Snowy Mountains plateau - open snow gum plains with vistas of the Snowies on the horizon. From here the trip seems to fall away and I'm soon refuelling at Adaminaby ... almost there.

Tom arrives miraculously only minutes after me and we gear up for an evening session. He is into the groove in no time and, despite my feeling a bit ragged from the drive, we are into a familiar routine. As usual, Paul is overstocked and enlisted Tom to lug an enormous car fridge into our accommodation - we never go hungry (or thirsty)!

The fish seem to come on about seven, seven thirty and shut down around nine - at least that is when a careless back-cast puts a birds-nest in your leader!

I have resolved to fish gentleman's hours - predawn 'till sunup and breakfast, then a meal at five and fish from 6pm 'till full dark. Daytime for fly tying, reading and catching up with friends in camp. My 81st birthday is just around the corner and I must learn to pace myself.



Most of our fishing is using a selection of wet flies - nymphs from #16 to #12, Mrs Simpson, red and black Fuzzywuzzies, #12 black Woolly Buggers work well.

Later in the season when they are boofing on mudeyes a small black Muddler or similar mudeye surface pattern retrieved slowly brings a spectacular strike. During the daylight hours a #16 nymph or a #12 black foam beetle do the trick. There have been prolific midge hatches but none while we were there.

The lake was at 61% according to the Snowy Hydro website - a drop of 2% from November, but at least the fish were taking insects instead of drowned worms around the edges. Didn't see any tadpoles but the frogs were in full song after dark.

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Tom has phenomenal polaroiding eyesight and we had a couple of midday sessions - I simply get sunburned and frustrated, not to mention hungry and leg-weary (note to self - do more walking)! Paul shared a session with another Fryingpan regular, Paul Harvey, who took him under his wing, Paul polaroided a beautiful brown which turned out to be the largest of the trip!



We caught a mixture of browns and rainbows - all in good condition. There were a few undersized rainbows about. They seemed to react more strongly to being hooked than the bigger fish.

I judge my fish in inches and pounds but make no attempt to weigh or measure them - I have no idea how big the fish were or how much they weighed - as long as we kept one for the smoker each day. Delicious red-fleshed and oily they take 20 minutes to hot-smoke whole for a mouth-watering lunch.

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My aim this trip was for tighter loops and no wind knots and I was reasonably successful in that regard. I found an incredibly useful website by Capt. Chris Myers of Orlando Fly Charters:

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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TAyj9KF_MQE&list=PLDAQkJ6j5owrnQ_jdD8woC3IbjH-XCd2G

41 videos covering every fly casting mistake (and I'm guilty of most of them) and how to correct them. Well worth the visit.

The weather was variable, as it usually is at that elevation. Anything from stinking-hot days to a tremendous thunderstorm and downpour, dead calm glass-outs to cold southerly winds and a boisterous northerly which raised whitecaps and muddied the edges.

Some evenings were dead. You would wonder if there were any fish in the lake until an ant-fall brought rises all over the place - the surface came alive. One night there were what appeared to be Bogong Moths everywhere - they seemed to be emerging from the meniscus but maybe that was an illusion. We were bombarded as soon as we switched on a headlight.



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Most memorable fish? For me a pre-dawn sortie along the lake edge, slapping down a foam beetle on a movement not four feet from the shore, with an immediate take by a lovely brown.



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For Tom, the last fish of the trip - 6.30pm with a moderate northerly opening up the waves to late sunlight. Even I could see into the edge, but it was Tom who spotted the rainbow. The fish saw him at the same time, didn't spook, but moved into deeper water. Tom covered it with a #12 nymph heavily weighted with wire that I had tied that afternoon, two strips and it was on - spectacular!



And for all of us - the look on Paul's face as he held that magnificent brown.

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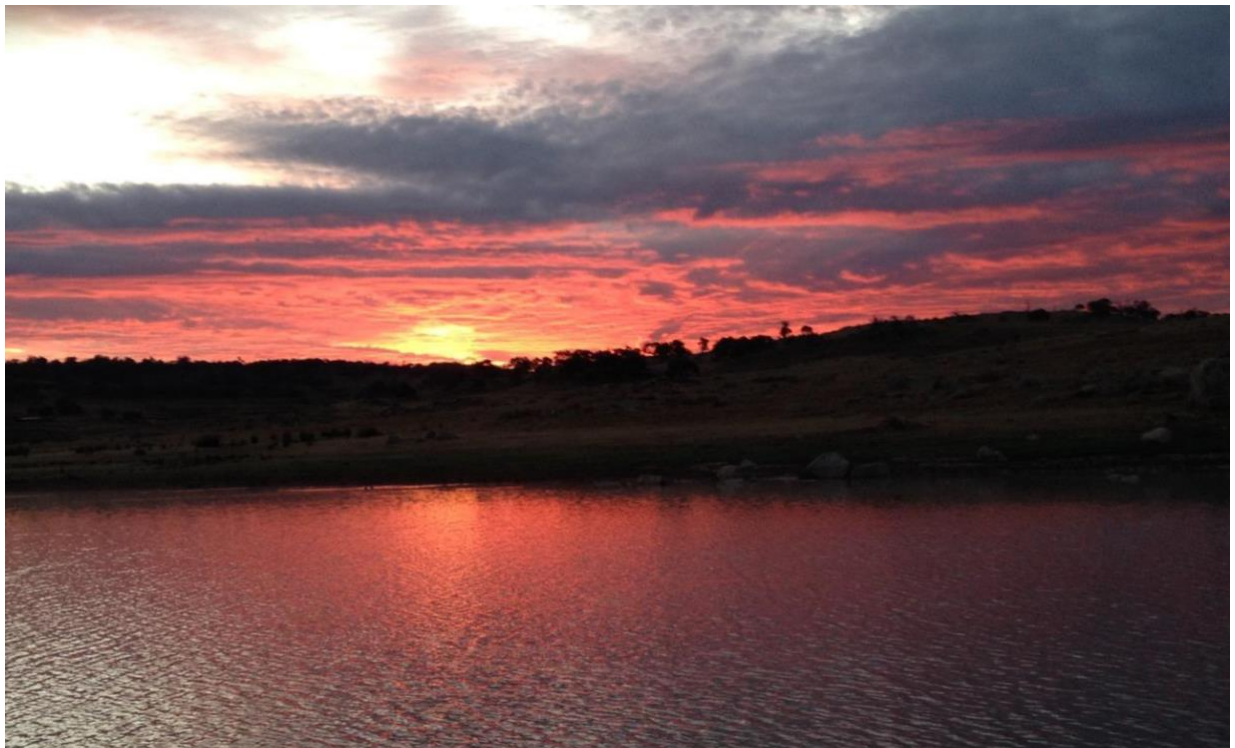
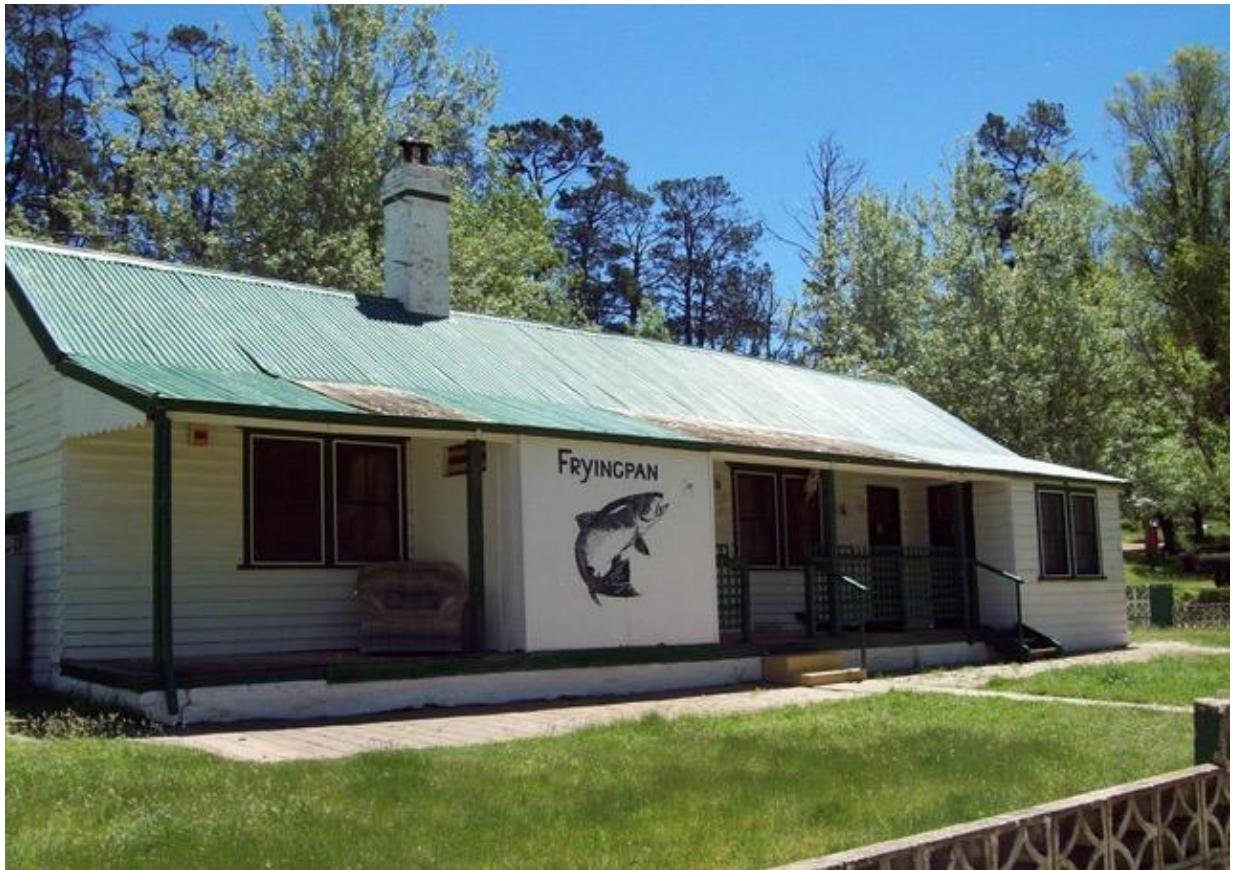
Lake Eucumbene is at an elevation of 1200 metres above sea level with an Alpine climate. Expect any type of weather regardless of season. We stayed on the Fryingpan arm on a working beef and sheep property run by Steve and Leanne Mackay.



Accommodation is in ex Snowy Mountain scheme two-room huts, one of four bunk rooms in the original homestead, or one of three caravans with permanent annexes. Caravan sites available. Power and hot showers provided.

738 Fryingpan Road, Fryingpan, NSW 2630. ph 02 6453 7275 Contact Leanne for bookings on fryingpan2@activ8.net.au

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By Roger Clements

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Fishing Reports

You would think there would be lots of fishing reports after such a long holiday period, but hordes of tourists, rain and family commitments have kept most of us off the water. Those who have ventured out did manage to find some fish and a few people have shared their trip pictures and fly tying exploits on Facebook. If you missed them, here are a few to let you know what our members got up to during the holidays.



Soon to be Platinum Fly Master, Mick, found plenty of trevally and avoided the tourists with his 4.00am starts.



Mick had to deal with hungry sharks which seem to be in the river in greater numbers than previous years, including reports of bronze whalers.



Glenn put his boat away for most of the peak holiday season but still managed to find a trevally or two. If you are looking for something different to add to your species list, you can ask Glenn about his Moses Perch.



If you are looking for a fly to use to chase the trevally you can't go wrong with a shrimp of surf candy. Here are some shrimp Jason tied.



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John tied these to catch some trevally and to use as samples for his fly tying class at Mo Tackle during the holidays.



When the trevally started chasing baitfish and jelly prawns on the surface, Jason found these NYAPs worked a treat.

Christmas is the peak period for Bass and Doug, who lives on a Bass stream, made the most of it.



Jason tied his version a little smaller but the trevally liked them just as well.



This photo of one of Doug's bass reminded me of a song from the sixties sung by Tommy Steele ...*What, a mouth, what a mouth. What a North and South?*

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Not to be outdone by Doug, Jason caught a few bass on Vince's loudmouth popper.



Anthony found time after work in Canberra to catch a redbfin on fly ... another species to add to his list. Back home, he managed a flathead on the ever reliable clouser and somehow hooked and landed a stingray ... stingrays don't count for the Fly Master Awards!



After joining the club when it was first formed, Eduardo moved to Yamba and then went back to Spain for a few years. It's good to see he has returned, rejoined the club, and started fishing his old haunts again. And the trout are still there to be caught.



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Holidays are all about family and friends and catching fish. When you have soon to be Platinum Fly Master, Jim, as your skipper you can't miss out.



A Cautionary Tale

By the Editor

If you are wondering about the lack of background in the cover photo of this month's newsletter it's because I'm becoming a little more protective of our local waters. Club members are happy to share where they are catching trevally like these, but unfortunately, during the holidays there are lots of people about who use social media to find out where to fish. That's not a bad thing and I do it myself, but unfortunately, these people often don't understand basic fishing etiquette.

A case in point happened the other day when we were on the water for the first time after the flood and after we hoped most holiday makers had gone home. The trevally were not to be seen so we sat near some baitfish waiting and hoping for action.

After a very long wait (and a cup of coffee) a few big trevally hit the surface scattering the baitfish. We started moving towards them with the electric motor hoping to get in range before they moved on.

Unfortunately, at that moment another boat was racing down the river and saw us and the fish. With 70hp on the back it was easy for them to beat us to the spot and start throwing big lures with their spinning rods. By the time we got there the fish had disappeared so we left the lure tossers casting in vain.

We didn't want to go too far away from the baitfish so we headed for the nearby flats where we could see fish moving and positioned the boat to intercept. As we waited, Vaughn was worried about the noise the electric motor was making ... but the electric wasn't running. When we looked up, we saw the lure tossers had launched a drone and had it hovering a few metres above the approaching fish. The fish scattered and we were no more to be seen. By this time the water skiers had arrived and that was the end of any chance of finding the fish again.








We live in a fishing and boating paradise and as much as we would like to have it to ourselves, there is room for everyone. I'm happy to share with those who have an understanding of fishing etiquette.

Unfortunately, people who find out about the special places and species we have in our area don't always have the same attitude to sharing and fishing.

I'm not suggesting we become secretive about our fisheries ... besides, nothing is secret these days with the internet and modern technology. I intend to be a little more careful about the information I put out there through the newsletter and on social media so that people have to go through the same learning processes as I have. When you put in the time and effort to learn about a fishery you don't like to be gate crashed by people who have no basic fishing etiquette.

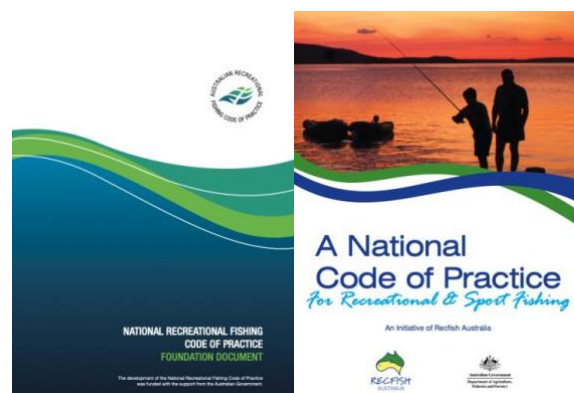
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There are no written rules or code of conduct for targetting pelagic fish which we often see breaking the surface as they hunt down baitfish. But for those who regularly chase trevally, tuna, salmon, tailor etc. there are unwritten rules or etiquette that most boaters follow. Here is what I like to do. Your view may differ and, as you may have gathered from my cautionary tale, not everyone agrees with me. In the interest of starting a conversation and maybe making more people think about the subject, here are my rules of etiquette when chasing surface fish from a boat. See if you agree.

-  The first boat on the scene has right of way.
-  If there are too many boats, find another school of fish or wait your turn.
-  When joining other boats don't approach too close to the school of fish and put them down.
-  Give other boats room to make their back casts or cast their lures.
-  Stay far away from any boat hooked up to a fish.
-  Approach the fish on an electric motor, or better, still drift into them with no motor.
-  Don't troll through the school.

Our club is all about sharing but we should be careful with what we share and how we share it. Club members with an understanding of fishing etiquette are not the problem. When information is used from our social media, the newsletter or word of mouth, by people with no fishing etiquette, we put at risk the sustainability of our local fisheries.

Our club doesn't have a code of practice or code of conduct for fishing. It's something we may want to consider in the future. A code of conduct is all about treating fish humanely, looking after our fisheries, protecting the environment and respecting the rights of other. We need to do these things if we want to look after our fishery and ensure it has a future. There are code of conduct documents out there and here are a couple worth reading:



One day the club may consider adopting or adapting one of these documents for our members. In the meantime, I have too much fishing to do, not to mention writing editorials for the newsletter, to put together a document that no one will probably read. And as for those whose lack of etiquette annoys me on the water, they probably would ignore it anyway!



'Old School' photo courtesy Jason and Logicus Images.

Casting Around



New Year's Resolutions

I've long since given up making New Year's Resolutions. They were either too unrealistic to be attainable or too simplistic to be worth achieving. They usually involved vague statements about health, wealth and well-being that I had no way of accomplishing. Now, my only New Year's Resolution, is to have none.

Nevertheless, the start of a new year provides an opportunity to reflect on the past, and think about what could be done to improve the future. It's a time to start making positive changes for a better year ahead. It is a time to set goals and map out a plan for achieving them. They might not be resolutions, but at this time of the year, these goals give direction and a purpose for the coming twelve months. They may not involve written statements or Key Performance Indicators but they are as important as New Year's Resolutions and much more motivating.

I may not make New Year's Resolutions but I do create a plan for what I want to do in the year ahead, especially when it comes to fly fishing. These days, it's more about where I want to go and what species I'd like to catch than how I want to get better at casting. That's not to say I don't need to improve my casting. There is always room to do something better and prepare for the challenge of fishing for new species in new locations. If you don't plan to improve you never will. But this *Casting About* is not about me. This is for all fly fishers who want to get better at casting and need a New Year's Resolution to help them on their way. Even if you didn't make a New Year's Resolution, I am going to suggest a fly fishing one that is never too late to add to your goals for the year. From rank beginner to seasoned professional, there is one New Year's Resolution that will make you become a better fly fisher. In the spirit of wanting to help, not criticize, I suggest your New Year's Resolution should be to get a lesson and practice.



I found this cartoon on Facebook before Christmas. It really grabbed my attention. It made me think of how we often look for the quick and easy solution to our problems, especially when it comes to fly fishing. With US\$1000 fly rods on the shopping list, what better way to improve your casting! No need for New Year's Resolutions when a new fly rod will solve all your problems. Well, let me tell you, it doesn't work that way.

A new fly rod will do two things to improve your casting. It will motivate you to use it more, and make you more confident. It may be less prone to wobble off track, but it won't be more accurate. It may be made from aircraft grade super graphite but it won't cast tighter loops. It may have the latest in slick guides but it won't cast any further. You take aim, make the loops and the long cast. If you don't know these things no new rod is going to help you. When you finally come to this realization, you are ready to line up at the other window and follow a New Year's Resolution that will make a difference to your casting. There is no substitute for lessons and practice.

Paying for a fly casting lesson is problematic for some. It may not be as much as a new top of the line fly rod, but it still makes a dent in the wallet. If you are on a strict budget straining to keep up with the cost of living, fly casting lessons are on the bottom of the list of necessities. On the other hand, those who can easily afford a \$1000 fly rod can find it difficult to admit the new rod isn't going to overcome all those self-taught bad habits.

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If you can afford it, I highly recommend getting a paid lesson or lessons. You will get one-on-one instruction from someone who has made it their business to teach. The important part is making sure the person you are paying is qualified and able to help with your particular needs at your particular stage in learning to fly cast. There are plenty of instructors out there but I suggest you look for someone who has formal training and is credentialed by a reputable organization.

One of the foremost groups in fly casting education is [Fly Fishers International](#). Although American based, they operate in 44 countries around the world including Australia. One of their goals is to train and certify casting instructors who are required to pass stringent written and performance tests. They have a list of certified instructors on their website [here](#).

I'm sure you are aware by now that I don't make my living by giving fly casting lessons. Although I am a certified casting instructor with FFI, I don't make money from it. When I suggest you get a paid casting lesson, I'm not trying to drum up business for myself. I believe there is often more to be gained from paying for a casting lesson than buying more rods. Coming from someone with too many fly rods you may find that hard to believe, but I always plan to spend some time and money with a Master Casting Instructor on a regular basis. You never stop learning.

If you decide you don't want to get a paid lesson, for whatever reason, there are other ways you can improve your fly casting. If you are a DIY sort of person you can read a book or watch a video and teach yourself. You can get some help from someone you know who has a fly rod. A lot of people start out this way but, eventually they hit a wall when wrong information and bad habits limit their progress and they admit defeat and look for help.



Must be something wrong with this rod!

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There is another way to get lessons and practice. And it is free if you belong to The Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club or are a member of Fly Fishers International. It's called the [Fly Casting Skills Development \(FCSD\)](#) program and is a fun way to improve casting skills for all fly fishers in a self-paced fashion. It was developed by highly qualified casting instructors who fish as well as cast. You can do it on your own or you can join a fly fishing club and enjoy the company of others as you learn. There are lots of resources to help you progress through the levels and you can be assured that the videos and notes will teach the right way to go about learning to cast.



Fly Casting Skills Development

The Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club uses the FCSD program as the basis of its regular casting sessions. The group is led by certified casting instructors and provides a balance of practice, skill development and fun activities. If you are a club member you should take this opportunity to achieve your New Year's Resolution and get a lesson and practice.

With a new year ahead many of us will be lining up at the window to buy a new fly rod. After all, you can't have too many rods. But don't think a new rod is going to solve all your casting problems. The guy sitting at the window selling casting lessons knows he will eventually get your business. Even if you are not prepared to pay, there are ways and means for you to make your, New Year's Resolution come true. For all of us, the message is clear: get a lesson and practice.

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Mo Tackle Fly Tying



FLY TYING Sessions Q1 2024

- Shrimp Flies - Saturday February 10th 2-4pm
- Estuary Flies - Saturday March 9th 2-4pm
- Larger Flathead Flies - Saturday April 13th 2-4pm

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

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Fly Tying

By the Editor

Fly tying begins this month although many people have been busy over the holidays filling fly boxes and experimenting with different patterns. Our first club fly tying night will be on Monday 26th February.

John Everett's fly tying sessions at Mo Tackle have already started for the year and you can find out more about them [here](#).

We were talking about vices at John's fly tying day last month. If you buy a basic vice, it is not likely to be rotary and probably uses a clamp to hold it to a table.



The advantage of a rotary vice is that it allows you to rotate the fly to work on it from all side without having to take the fly out of the jaws.



The disadvantage of a clamp vice becomes apparent when there is no table to clamp it to or the table is thicker than the clamp. It also provides flexibility when you want to work away from a table.

You can't do much if your vice is non rotary but if it is a clamp style you may want to add a pedestal base. Our master craftsman, Doug, has made a few which he is selling for \$25 each. Get in touch with Doug on 0458696138 if you are interested.



Our club fly tying night is Monday 26th. This month we are tying a Murray Cod fly in readiness for our cod trip next month (if you are interested in the trip to Ashford you should contact Chris as soon as possible to register).

I have chosen a Black'n'Barred for our fly tying night. It's not a beginner's fly, but with the help of the experienced fly tyers in the group, everyone should be able to cope.

I am indebted to Gordon Macdonald for allowing us to use this article which first appeared in [Fishing Monthly Magazine in March 2009](#).

Gordon has a wealth of knowledge in all areas of fishing. From his early years chasing barramundi on handlines on his parent's

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cattle property in Northern Queensland and sneaking out of his boarding school dorm to chase fish before school, through to targeting world records in SEQ, Gordon has tried his hand at just about every type of angling challenge you could imagine along Australia's East Coast and several overseas destinations. Gordon has also written numerous articles for most of the major fishing publications over the years.

Editor



Black'n'Barred

By Gordon Macdonald

Ed Given was the first angler to tie the Black'n'Barred pattern, and many other similar variations have followed over the years. They have been used in both freshwater and saltwater environments to catch everything from bass and Murray cod to tarpon and barramundi.

This full-bodied pattern exhibits bulk, contrast, movement and silhouette properties in the water, making it ideal for a host of species in a multitude of situations.

It has been the prototype or inspiration for many other similar 'Thing' patterns, including

Graeme White's Pink Thing and the coloured clones, such as Chartreuse Things, Purple Things and Orange Things. So popular and productive are these patterns that they are basic necessities for the product range of any commercial tier, and almost a certainty to be in the box of any serious flyfisher.

FEATURES

Physical features of the Black'n'Barred are attributes that separate it from other flies and promote it as a handy pattern for a broad array of species. The bulkiness of its overall profile sees it pushing a lot of water when stripped. Many species of fish, especially those in freshwater environs, can detect this presence, which naturally allow them to hone in on the fly easier.

The black silhouettes well, especially in the generally murky water of billabongs, impoundments and river systems where this fly is readily used for barramundi, Murray cod, threadfin salmon, mangrove jack and other species. The barred effect of the fly is similar to that of many bait species when frightened and also gives some contrast.

One of the special attributes of natural materials is that they possess a lot of movement in the water. The hackled tail will move enticingly and almost make it appear to propel the fly. The Zonker skin (rabbit fur) collar will even waft in the water when the fly is at rest and looks a little like the gills of the fish as it breathes when the fly is stripped. Traditionally this pattern was tied with only natural materials although the introduction of various mylar and tinsel products added a little lifelike flash to the pattern.

TEASE ME

Stripping this fly with a series of short, sharp strips will have the materials pulsating and wafting enticingly, which is enough to tease

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most species into striking. Between strips, the fly will sink in a head down fashion and will then change direction quickly and swim up when it is stripped.

This erratic swimming action creates a lot of interest from many species and the fly regularly gets eaten as it sinks. Really short, sharp strips can almost make the fly dance in one spot, which is ideal when working snaggy areas and trying to entice species such as mangrove jacks, barra and cod out from the cover.

A long, slow single-handed strip is a good technique for really shallow flat areas at the mouths of rivers when threadfin, barra and several other tropical dwellers are feeding during the flood tides.

TYING

Eye:	Real-Eyes Plus nickel/chartreuse
Flash:	Krystal Flash pearl
Body:	Saddle hackles medium black (x8)
Ribbing:	Grizzly hackle natural (saltwater grade)
Collar:	Zonker strip cross-cut black
Finish:	Flex-cement

(1) Place the hook securely in the vice and attach the thread with a jamb knot (or similar) just behind the eye of the hook. Wrap the thread around the hook to lay down a bed of thread to about half the length of the hook shank. Place the eyes on top of the hook shank just behind the eye of the hook and tie on securely with a figure of eight wrap.

Cut 10 to 15 strands of Krystal Flash that are at least three times as long as the hook shank and attach them to the top of the hook shank just behind the eye of the fly. Wrap down to half way along the hook shank and then wrap back again so that the thread is just behind the eye of the fly. Whip finish but do not cut

away the remaining thread. Add some Flex-cement to the thread areas.



(2) Take four saddle hackles that are similar in length and cut them about 1cm back from the butts. Hold these on one side of the fly with the shiny side (convex) of the hackle facing outwards and start securing with fairly light wraps. Gradually increase the tension of the wraps until the hackles are firmly tied in place and positioned as shown.

Next, do exactly the same for the other side so you now have four hackles evenly positioned on each side. Add a little Flex-cement to the thread.



(3) Cut a single grizzly hackle that is around two-thirds as long as the saddle hackles. Place this with the darker side facing out and tie in just behind the eye of the fly. Do the same on the other side.

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When all hackles are tied in position, securely wrap a thread section of around 5-7mm behind the eye with light wraps, as shown, to make an easy tie-in area for our next material. Whip finish at the rear of this tie-in area but do not cut away the remaining thread. Cover this threaded section with some Flex-cement.



(4) Cut a small arrow shape in the skin at the end of your Zonker. Tie it down at the rear of the thread-covered section with a few wraps and then advance the thread forward with wraps to just behind the eye of the hook. The hair on the Zonker strip should face towards the tail of the fly.



(5) Start wrapping the Zonker, make each wrap just lap the last and preening the hair towards the rear of the fly before wrapping over it. It will probably require around three full wraps to create a good collar and get up to just behind the eye of the fly.

(6) Wrap the thread over the skin of the Zonker to tie it down and trim away the excess when secure. Do several further wraps with the thread just behind the eye of the fly as you preen the hair backwards. Whip finish and cut away the remaining thread. Add a little flex-cement to the thread.



Your Black'n'Barred is now ready to catch you some great fish.

Gordon Macdonald

Here are some more examples of a Black'n'Barred:



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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

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





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'Shaughnessy
Steve Rampant
Murray Robinson
David Small
Phill Stever
Doug Urquhart
Jim Wray
Glenn Colquhoun
David Lindsay
Bill Anderson
Vaughn Hagelstein



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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'Shaughnessy



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HALL OF FAME

GOLD

FISHING GOLD FLY MASTER

David Lindsay
Tom Clancy
Glenn Colquhoun
Brian Mighell
Allan Ekert

CASTING GOLD LEVEL

Allan Ekert
John O'Shaughnessy



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HALL OF FAME

PLATINUM

**FISHING
PLATINUM FLY
MASTER**

Mick Cannon
Jim Wray

**FFI CERTIFIED
CASTING
INSTRUCTOR**

Allan Ekert
Garry Hambly



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Fly Tying Competition Hall of Fame



HALL OF FAME



FLY TYING COMPETITION WINNERS 2024

- February: Bass Fly (surface)
- March: Cod Fly
- April: Estuary Fly
- May: Trout Dry Fly
- June: Shrimp or Crab
- July: Trout Wet Fly
- August: Surf Candy
- September: Bread Fly
- October: Bass Fly (sub surface)
- November: Carp Fly

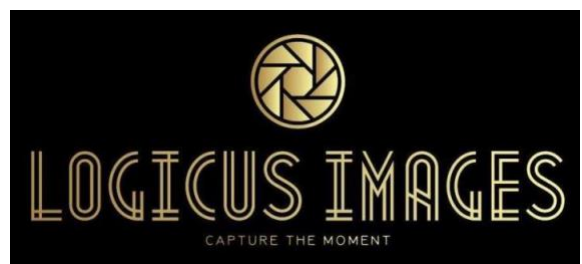
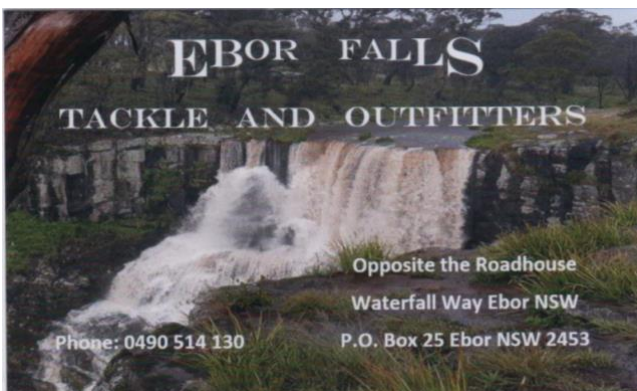
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Our Supporters

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



North Beach
Recreation & Bowling Club



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. 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.**

2. **In cash** or by **cheque** at the next meeting or fly tying night. (cheques) made payable to Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club Inc.

3. By cheque posted to:

The Secretary
Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club
PO Box 4068
Coffs Harbour Jetty 2450

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.

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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.

Coffs Coast Fly Fishers Fly Master Awards

February 2024 Ver 1.2

The Fly Master Awards are being implemented to encourage members to improve their fly fishing skills and catch more fish on fly. They are not meant to be competitive within the Club but to provide motivation and recognition for members to achieve their individual fly fishing goals.

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

The **Foundation** and **Bronze** levels are about beginners fishing in our local waters for bread-and-butter species. The **Silver** and **Gold** levels broaden the level of difficulty and encompass all of Australia and Oceania. The **Platinum** level is for those who want the ultimate challenge.

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

Catch and release is encouraged. There is no need to take a fish anywhere to be measured. A photograph, or better still a photograph on a brag mat, is ideal but your word will be accepted. These awards are based on challenging yourself and the satisfaction that comes from achieving a fishing goal.

Jim Wray is the registrar for the Fly Master Awards and will record captures. If you want to claim an award you must email Jim at coffscoastflyfishers@gmail.com with details. The email should include the name of the award you are claiming or aiming for and the details regarding species, size, and date captured and date you joined the club. A photo is not essential if you don't have one. You do not need to wait until you've acquired sufficient eligible captures to submit a claim. Jim will record your captures as you submit them until you are eligible to claim your award.

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

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Overview:

To achieve an award, you have two options. You can choose to catch a group of fish in one day or a number of fish over any period of time while you are a member of the club.

The groups and fish lengths will become more challenging as you progress through the levels.

You can achieve as many awards at a level as you like but you must submit different groups or fish for each award.

When you register a capture on fly you must decide which award your are aiming for. Once registered, a fish or group cannot be moved to another level.

Legal lengths refer to NSW but if a capture is made interstate or internationally the legal length there applies. Total length (legal length) is measured from the snout to the tip of the tail.

Summary:

There are five Fly Master awards.

To achieve the **Foundation Fly Master** award any three fish from the list must be caught on fly over any period of time. If not legal size, they must be released. It is suggested that members wanting to catch their first fish on fly target local species such as **Mullet, Bream, Flathead, Trout, Herring and Bass.**

To achieve the **Bronze Fly Master** award any group of **2** species must be caught on one day or **3** legal size species from the List over any period of time.

To achieve the **Silver Fly Master** award any group of **3** species must be caught on one day or **4** legal size species from the List over any period of time.

To achieve the **Gold Fly Master** award any group of **3** species must be caught on one day or **5** legal size species from the List over any period of time.

To achieve the **Platinum Fly Master** award any group of **4** species must be caught on one day or **6** legal size species from the List over any period of time.

	Group on one day	List over any period
Foundation		3 fish of any size from the list
Bronze	2 species per group	3 legal size fish from the list
Silver	3 species per group	4 legal size fish from the list
Gold	3 species per group	5 legal size fish from the list
Platinum	4 species per group	6 legal size fish from the list

Rules:

- To claim an award, you must be a financial member of the Club at the time of capture.
- To be eligible, a species must have been caught in Oceania.
- All fish have to be caught on a fly which has been cast with a fly rod (no trolling).
- There are no stipulations regarding rod weight, rod length or tippet size.
- All measurements are to be to the nearest centimetre and measured from the snout of the nose to the end of the tail.
- Retrospective claims for an award can be made from the time club membership started.
- Proof of capture in the form of a photograph is ideal but your word will be accepted. All undersize fish and protected species must be released.
- A group of fish must be caught on one calendar day.

Groups:

The groups have been chosen to give members something to aim for on club outings and when fishing alone. They start with species that can be caught locally and move on to more challenging groups which will require preparation, planning and travel.

There are no groups for the **Foundation Fly Master** as this award is aimed at beginners catching their first fish on fly.

Bronze Fly Master award: Catch all 2 legal size fish from one of the groups on the one day:

Bronze Group 1 ...	Flathead, Bream
Bronze Group 2 ...	Bass, Herring
Bronze Group 3 ...	Trevally (any two species)
Bronze Group 4 ...	Luderick, Mullet
Bronze Group 5 ...	Brown trout, Rainbow trout
Bronze Group 6 ...	Whiting, Flathead

Silver Fly Master award: Catch all 3 legal size fish from one of the groups on the one day:

Silver Group 1 ...	Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout, Herring
Silver Group 2 ...	Garfish, Bream, Trevally (any)
Silver Group 3 ...	Flathead, Trevally (any), Tailor
Silver Group 4 ...	Mullet, Bream, Luderick
Silver Group 5 ...	Any three species of Trevally (e.g. Gt, Brassy, Big Eye)
Silver Group 6 ...	Mulloway, Flathead, Bream

Gold Fly Master award: Catch all 3 legal size fish from one of the groups on the one day:

Gold Group 1 ...	Redfin, Yellowbelly, Murray Cod
Gold Group 2 ...	Rainbow Trout, Brown Trout, Brook Trout
Gold Group 3 ...	Mangrove Jack, Flathead, Bream
Gold Group 4 ...	Salmon, Tailor, Dart
Gold Group 5 ...	Mahi Mahi, Kingfish, any Tuna species.
Gold Group 6 ...	Queenfish, Barramundi, Mangrove Jack
Gold Group 7 ...	Mangrove Jack, Barramundi, Trevally (any species)

Platinum Fly Master award: Catch all 4 legal size fish from one of the groups on the one day:

Platinum Group 1 ...	Murray Cod, Yellowbelly, Carp, Redfin
Platinum Group 2 ...	Rainbow Trout, Brown Trout, Brook Trout, Redfin
Platinum Group 3....	Mullet, Tarpon, Bream, Trevally (any species)
Platinum Group 4....	Drummer, Tailor, Luderick, Bream
Platinum Group 5 ...	Mahi Mahi, Kingfish, any two Tuna species.
Platinum Group 6	Queenfish, Barramundi, Mangrove Jack, Trevally (any species)
Platinum Group 7 ...	Three Trevally species, Tarpon

The List:

Achieving an award by capturing the number of required species from the List is less stressful than catching a group in a day. Groups are for those who want to push themselves to catch a number of species in a short timeframe and achieve an award quickly. If working towards an award by capturing the number of species over any period of time, members can submit species as they are caught and the registrar will keep track of progress.

The list comprises those species which can be caught on fly in our local waters or throughout Oceania. It will be revised from time to time as new species are added and lengths updated. Members are welcome to submit new species and groups to be included to the registrar for consideration.

The list is in alphabetical order to help you locate the information about legal lengths and sizes. Unless stated otherwise, legal lengths relate to NSW. Where a fish is caught interstate or internationally, legal lengths in that jurisdiction must be adhered to.

Superscripts ⁽¹⁾ are used where additional information is needed regarding legal lengths, slot limits and variations across states, territories and international destinations.

The List

Species	Foundation	Legal Length	Bronze Length	Silver Length	Gold Length	Platinum Length
Archer fish	Any	None	20cm	25cm	27cm	29cm
Australian Salmon	Any	None	35cm	40cm	50cm	55cm
Barramundi	Any	55-58cm	55cm	65	75	85
Bass	Any	35cm	35cm	40cm	45cm	50cm
Big Eye Trevally	Any	None ¹	20cm	25cm	30cm	35cm
Blue Bastard	Any	None	Any	Any	40cm	50cm
Bonefish	Any	None	30cm	35cm	40cm	45cm
Bonito	Any	None	30cm	35cm	40cm	45cm
Billfish (any)	Any	None	Any	Any	Any	Any
Bream	Any	25cm	25cm	30cm	33cm	38cm
Brook Trout	Any	25cm ²	25cm	35cm	40cm	50cm
Brown Trout	Any	25cm ²	25cm	35cm	40cm	50cm
Carp	Any	None	45cm	55cm	65cm	75cm
Catfish	Any	30cm	30cm	35cm	40cm	45cm
Coral Trout	Any	38cm	38cm	40cm	45cm	50cm
Dart Common	Any	None	20cm	25cm	30cm	35cm
Drummer	Any	30cm	30cm	35cm	38cm	40cm
Emperor Spangled	Any	45cm Qld	45cm	50cm	55cm	60cm
Estuary Perch	Any	35cm	35cm	40cm	45cm	50cm
Flathead	Any	36cm	36cm	40cm	50cm	70cm ³
Frigate Mackerel	Any	None	25cm	28cm	32cm	35cm
Garfish	Any	None	23cm	25cm	30cm	35cm
Giant Herring	Any	None	30cm	40cm	50cm	60cm
Golden Perch (Yellowbelly)	Any	30cm	30cm	35cm	40cm	45cm
Herring (freshwater)	Any	None	15cm	20cm	25cm	30cm
Jungle Perch	Any	35cm	35cm	38cm	40cm	45cm
Kingfish	Any	65cm	65cm	70cm	75cm	80cm
Lesser Queenfish	Any	None	25cm	30cm	35cm	40cm
Long Tom (Crocodile/Barred)	Any	None	30cm	35cm	40cm	45cm
Luderick	Any	27cm	27cm	30cm	33cm	35cm

Species	Foundation	Legal Length	Bronze Length	Silver Length	Gold Length	Platinum Length
Mackerel Barred	Any	75cm	75cm	80cm	85cm	80cm
Mackerel Spotted	Any	60cm	60cm	65cm	70cm	75cm
Mahi Mahi	Any	60cm	60cm	65cm	70cm	75cm
Mangrove Jack	Any	None	25cm	30cm	35cm	40cm
Mary River Cod	Any	60cm Qld	60cm	65cm	67cm	70cm
Milkfish	Any	None	40cm	45cm	50cm	60cm
Moses Perch	Any	None	25cm	28cm	33cm	38cm
Mullet	Any	None	20cm	23cm	27cm	30cm
Mulloway	Any	70cm	70cm ³	75cm	80cm	85cm
Murray Cod	Any	55cm	55cm	60cm	70cm	75cm ⁴
Permit	Any	None	35cm	40cm	45cm	50cm
Queenfish (species not listed)	Any	50cm Qld	50cm	55cm	60cm	65cm
Rainbow Trout	Any	25cm ²	25cm	35cm	40cm	50cm
Redfin	Any	None	20cm	25cm	30cm	35cm
Saratoga	Any	50cm Qld	50cm	55cm	60cm	65cm
Silver Perch	Any	25cm ⁵	25cm	27cm	30cm	35cm
Silver Trevally	Any	30cm	30cm	35cm	40cm	45cm
Snapper	Any	30cm	30cm	33cm	38cm	40cm
Sooty Grunter	Any	28cm Qld	25cm	30cm	33cm	35cm
Tailor	Any	30cm	30cm	35cm	40cm	45cm
Tarpon	Any	None	25cm	30cm	35cm	40cm
Threadfin Salmon	Any	40cm Qld	40cm	45cm	50cm	55cm
Trevally (species not listed)	Any	None ¹	40cm	50cm	60cm	70cm
Trigger Fish	Any	None	25cm	30cm	35cm	40cm
Tuna (species not listed)	Any	None	40cm	50cm	60cm	70cm
Whiting sand	Any	27cm	27cm	30cm	32cm	35cm

¹ No size limit on Trevally in NSW except Silver Trevally 30cm

² Except in trout spawning streams 50cm

³ All Dusky Flathead outside the 36cm to 70cm size range are to be released unharmed.

⁴ Murray Cod smaller than 55cm, or bigger than 75cm, must be released unharmed.

⁵ Silver Perch are vulnerable species and can only be taken from listed dams.