

The *Flyer*



Official Newsletter Of The



The Flyer

The Official Newsletter of the Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club

JULY 2021

Contents

From the Editor	Page 3
Club Executive	Page 4
July Meeting	Page 5
July Outing	Page 5
Tuesday Casting	Page 5
AGM	Page 5
Upcoming Events	Page 6
Club Calendar	Page 7
Lake St Clair Report... Tom Trefz	Page 8
Lake St Clair Report ... Ray Phipps	Page 11
Flats Fly Fishing Workshop Poster	Page 14
Swansea Salmon Fishing Poster	Page 15
Mullet Mash Poster	Page 16
Gathering @ Gumma Poster	Page 17
Salmon at Last ... Jeff Yates	Page 18
Swansea Salmon Classic	Page 21
Casting Around	Page 23
Classifieds	Page 26
BWC Flies	Page 26
The Pitch	Page 26
Fly Tying	Page 27
Covid-19 Safety	Page 28
Our Supporters	Page 29
Membership	Page 30
Membership Form	Page 31

Cover: Club Captain Dave with a metre plus Queenfish from Hinchinbrook.

From the Editor

July is decision month. It's the time when we find out if enough people have decided to renew their membership or joined to keep the club going. It's time for the Annual General Meeting when we have to fill the Executive and Committee positions. It's time for you to decide if the Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club is going to continue for another year.

The good news is that 54 people have already joined or renewed their membership for the 2021-2022 year. If you are not one of them you have until the end of July to do something about it. If we don't hear from you by then your membership will lapse.

Clubs always have a turnover of membership as people's interests and circumstances change. We try to retain as many members as we can but for some people fly fishing isn't a lifelong passion. If you can't find something of interest in the program of events and activities in this month's newsletter maybe the club isn't for you.

I say this because this month's newsletter showcases many of the reasons why you should belong to the Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club. You will read some great fishing reports from members Tom Trefz, Ray Phipps and Jeff Yates which should inspire you to get out and fish more. There's another casting article that might help you catch more fish. You can find out about upcoming outings that you can get involved in. When the club was started our mission was to "share, learn and have fun" and I think this month's newsletter shows we are on track.



The guest speaker at our last meeting, John Everett, gave a very informative and interesting presentation on fly fishing for Murray Cod that was enjoyed by all those who attended. John has started working at MO Tackle in the fly section and will be able to assist club members with all their fly fishing requirements.

We are in a fortunate position in Coffs to have two local suppliers of fly fishing equipment in [MoTackle](#) and [A1FlyFishing](#). The Club doesn't advocate where you should buy your gear and happily promotes any business that supports us. When you are looking for products and services make sure that you consider the people who have helped us first.

July is decision month so please consider rejoining the club, taking on a role to keep the club going, or getting involved in more outings and activities. The more people we have involved the more we are able to share, learn and have fun.

Editor

Club Executive 2020-21



Doug Urquhart President
0458696138



Kevin Cosgrove Vice President
0438554843



Allan Ekert Secretary, Public
Officer and Newsletter Editor
0427457725



Walter Krainik Treasurer
0439187380



Rod Leane Assistant Secretary



Don Cummings Committee
0433157003



David Moppett Club Captain
0411723221



Glenn Colquhoun Committee
0409151270



Brian Bevan Committee
0409469562

July Meeting

Our July meeting will be held on Monday 19th at the North Beach Bowling Club at Mylestom starting at **6.30pm**. You are welcome to arrive earlier (about 5.30pm) to buy something to eat and drink.

This will be our Annual General Meeting. We didn't have an AGM last year due to Covid so this will be an important event. Please come along and participate.

July Outings

We have three outings planned for July.

On Saturday 10th there will be a Casting Day at Moonee Beach. This will commence at 10.00am and involve casting instruction aimed at the needs of those who come along. Beginners to experienced casters will be catered for and rods can be provided if required. Bring your own morning tea and lunch. You can fish Moonee Creek after lunch if you wish. For more information and to register contact Allan on 0427457725.

On Saturday 24th we will be conducting a Flats Fly Fishing Workshop at Woolgoolga. If you want to know more about how to fly fish our local estuary flats this is for you. Led by Garry Hambly from A1FlyFishing this will be a full day of instruction and information followed by time to fish the flats in the afternoon. The cost will be \$10 which will cover morning and afternoon tea and a sausage sizzle lunch. For more information and to register contact Garry on 02 6654 8777 or Allan on 0427457725

The third outing for the month will be over the weekend of 30th July to 1st August at Dunmore Waters private trout fishery near Guyra. There are still two places available if anyone is interested in attending. For more information and to register contact Allan on 0427457725.

Tuesday Casting Group

The Tuesday Casting Group will continue to meet during July (weather permitting). We will be including more fishing trips each month for members to put their new skills into action. Take note of the plan for each month to know where we are meeting.

Tuesday 6th July Casting at Mylestom

Tuesday 13th July Fishing trip.
To be decided at casting the week before.
Call David on 0411723221 or Allan on 0427457725 to check details.

Tuesday 20th July Casting at Mylestom

Tuesday 27th July Casting at Mylestom



AGM

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday 19th July 2021 at the North Beach Bowling Club commencing at 6.30pm. Only financial members can vote or hold office. The agenda for the meeting will include:

Election of Office Bearers and Committee

President
Vice President
Secretary
Assistant Secretary
Treasurer
Club Captain
Committee (Executive plus 2)

The following notice of motions will be voted on at the AGM:

- eMembership should be abolished and replaced with Distant Membership. Anyone living more than 80km from Coffs can become a Distant Member. Distant membership will be \$10 which covers the cost of insurance.
- The newsletter should only be emailed to members (Full or Distant) and club supporters. Anyone interested in the club will be sent one newsletter but then must become a member to receive regular emails. The newsletter will still be made available on the club website.
- Membership fees for the 2021-22 year should be:

Adult Membership	\$30
Family Membership	\$40
Concession Membership	\$20
Junior Membership	free
Distant Membership	\$10
- The Club Account should be transferred from the Commonwealth Bank to BCU Bank.
- Future meetings should be held at the North Beach Bowling Club at Mylestom.

Please consider these matters and have your vote at the AGM. If you can't attend the meeting but want to have your thoughts aired please email or contact the Secretary. We don't have provision for proxy votes but we want all voices heard.

For the Club to continue we need to elect an Executive and Committee. These positions bring with them responsibilities and take some time but without people willing to take on these roles the Club can't exist. If you are interested in helping out in any capacity please nominate. Nominations will be taken at the meeting or you can nominate by email or by contacting the Secretary.

Upcoming Events

There are some great outings coming up in the next couple of months that you should try and attend. If you are into fly fishing there should be something to interest you. Make sure you mark the dates on your calendar and plan ahead.

☞ Flats Fly Fishing Workshop Saturday 24th July (see poster on page 16)

☞ Swansea Salmon Classic Friday 20th to Sunday 22nd August. (see poster on page 17 and article on page 23)

☞ Mullet Mash Saturday 28th August (see poster on page 18)

☞ Gathering @ Gumma Thursday 9th September to Sunday 12th September. (see poster on page 19)



Club Calendar

You will find the draft club calendar for the year on the next page. Make sure you keep up to date with the latest calendar - it changes every month.

If you would like to add an event to the Calendar we have a new segment at our meetings called "The Pitch". You can have the floor for 5 minutes to pitch your idea and see how many people would want to be involved. Convince enough people and we have a new outing for the Calendar.

Club Calendar 2021

Here is the draft club calendar for 2021. It is provided to give you an overview of what might happen and an opportunity to plan ahead. Check the monthly newsletter or website for the latest changes.

Month	Outings	Activities
JANUARY	No outing this month Casting at Mylestom at 5.30pm on Monday 18 th .	Club Meeting at Mylestom Monday 18 th
FEBRUARY	Home Waters Saturday 20 th Family fishing day with a focus on kids fishing for bream, flathead and mullet held at Mylestom. Tasmania 28 th Jan - 8 th Feb	Club Meeting Monday 15 th Committee Meeting
MARCH	Casting Day Saturday 6 th Tuesday Casting Group resumes Tuesday 2 nd Blue Water Outing Saturday 20 th	Club Meeting Monday 15 th North Beach Bowling Club Mylestom
APRIL	Keepit Carp Trip Sunday 11 th - Wednesday 14 th Home Waters Saturday 24 th	Club Meeting Monday 19 th North Beach Bowling Club Mylestom
MAY	Fly Fishing for Trout Workshop Saturday 22 nd	Club Meeting Monday 17 th Committee Meeting Major Raffle Drawn
JUNE	Lake St Clair Friday 18 th - Sunday 20 th	Club Meeting Monday 21 st
JULY	Casting Day Saturday 10 th Moonee Reserve Flats Fishing Workshop Saturday 24 th Woolgoolga Dunmore Waters Friday 30 th to Sunday 1 st August	Annual General Meeting Monday 19 th
AUGUST	Swansea Salmon Classic Friday 20 th to Sunday 22 nd Mullet Mash Saturday 28 th	Club Meeting Monday 16 th Committee Meeting Major Raffle Drawn
SEPTEMBER	Gathering @ Gumma Thursday 9 th Sunday 12 th Gumma Reserve. Fishing, Casting, Fly Tying	Club Meeting Monday 20 th
OCTOBER	Home Waters Saturday 31 st Ebor Weekend Saturday 23 rd Sunday 24 th	Club Meeting Monday 18 th
NOVEMBER	Bass on the Bellinger Saturday 20 th	Club Meeting Monday 15 th Committee Meeting Major Raffle Drawn
DECEMBER	Keepit Carp Caper Saturday 11 th Sunday 12 th	No Club Meeting

Lake St Clair

By Tom Trefz



Nestled in the foothills of the Mount Royal National Park, 25kms from Singleton is picturesque Lake St Clair. It is 16kms long, holds 283 megaliters when full, (almost half of Sydney Harbour). Although there were several boats fishing the same weekend as the Hunter Valley Flyfishing Club, due to the vastness of the water, there was little impact for the shore fishing. The camping facilities were spacious with clean toilets and showers. We arrived to meet two Rods from the HVFFC with a third pitching up later in the weekend. We helped them and Peter set up their trailers and two tents for the upcoming gathering.

Not knowing the water is as exhilarating as the act of fishing itself. I ventured out 30 metres from our van with my trusty 6wt and a black Hares Ear fly. I hooked my first bass on my second cast and was taken by surprise by how hard the 40cm fish fought. The weather was sunny with no wind, quite a perfect start to the trip and the fish were willing. The advice was to fish just on dark which is when I hooked six and landed five in the evening session, between 5pm-8pm. I was told they are on all night, but I had had enough fun.



Next day we woke to a windy, westerly, I estimated about 40kms/hour. Fellow Coffs Harbour member, Ray and his wife Helen arrived with their motorhome. Ray joined me just in time to see me lose a fish in the weed. It was tough with only two landed but catching seemed superfluous in the context of things.



Friday dawned with the wind still blowing so Ray and I went for a walk into the next bay which we hoped was a little sheltered. Ray opened his day with a stonker 45cm+ bass which put its head down in the weeds and with incredible patience he freed and landed it. He followed it up with another and I managed a couple myself which ended up being a great shared experience. Sue spent her time either socialising with the ladies or reading. She also rushed off a couple of little watercolour paintings while the rain and wind persisted. The lure of fishing holds her, not for the catch, but for the places it takes us.





Saturday morning was calmer but we were slow to go and by the time we were ready to leave with Allan having arrived the wind had picked up again. (Sorry Allan.) We fished two separate bays, with Ray the only one to touch a fish using an exotic Salmon fly. By the time we left for home the rain started. I persisted tirelessly on my own from 2pm till 4.30pm with fly changes eliciting no response but the fish are on their own programme. Luckily, on dark at 6pm I landed three. We joined the fishermen and their wives for a barbecue around a massive fire with plenty of fish stories, red wine and some guitar music. The Hunter Club made us feel welcome and handed out tips freely and I am sure they will do the same with the upcoming Salmon Classic at Swansea.



Lake St Clair Bass Fishing Weekend Reflections

By Ray Phipps

During the June fishing weekend with the Hunter Valley Fly Fishing Club at Lake St Clair we were made very welcome by all the members we met. They willingly volunteered tips and generously shared their knowledge with us. I thank them for that and look forward to fishing with them again in the future.

Throughout the weekend, the weather conditions were cold, wet and windy, or perhaps to put it another way just plain challenging. When Helen and I arrived late on Thursday afternoon, Tom and Sue had already been there for a couple of days and I found Tom fishing from the shoreline only metres from his campsite. He soon told me stories of the Bass he had already caught. This had me gearing up and fishing within half an hour of arriving.

Extremely strong winds on Friday made for difficult casting conditions and soon saw us searching for a shoreline that offered some protection. We each landed a couple of nice Bass that made the walking worthwhile.

Allan arrived late Friday evening, so the three of us fished together on Saturday morning, with Allan driving us to other locations around the lake. Thankfully the wind had eased and there were no longer white caps on the water. Just after lunch unfortunately the wind was replaced with quite heavy rainfall, Tom braved the rain and had a successful afternoon, while Allan and I took shelter from the elements.

By Sunday morning the ground was waterlogged and very slippery. Somehow Tom was able to escape from his waterside campsite and drive up the greasy hillside to the safety of solid ground. I'm still not sure how he made it. Despite the dirty weather, I had a very enjoyable weekend and will return there one day.

Some things I learned from the weekend:

- * Wet gloves don't keep your hands warm.
- * When packing, check that the rod tubes have rods in them. (*Ray always checks but the same can't be said for the Secretary - Editor*)
- * Thistles are not a fisherman's friend.
- * Thermal underwear is worth far more than it cost.
- * I need to reduce the number of false casts that I do.
- * Casting practice is a valuable investment.







Flats Fly Fishing Workshop

Saturday 24th July 2021

Woolgoolga Lake



Learn to fly fish the estuary flats with **Garry Hambly** owner of **South Pacific Fly Rods Australia**



Spend the day with Garry and other experienced club members covering:

- Casting techniques and tips.
- Reading the water and aligning the tides.
- Sight casting and blind casting applications.
 - Which fly & when ?
- Choosing Rods, Reels, Lines and Leaders to suit the flats.

The workshop will commence at **9.30am** in the **Woolgoolga Lake BBQ Reserve**, at the end of Lake Road, and finish by 4.00pm. The cost will be \$10 which will include morning and afternoon tea and a sausage sizzle lunch. For more information or to register contact:

Garry on 0412 271 365 or Allan on 0427 457725



Swansea Salmon Classic

Friday 20th to Sunday 22nd August 2021

Swansea NSW



If you want to try catching Australian Salmon on fly, the Swansea Salmon Classic is the event for you. Hosted by the Hunter Valley Fly Fishing Club, the Classic will be held this year from Friday 20th to Sunday 22nd August based at the Swansea Lakeside Caravan Park just south of Newcastle. You will need a boat, or a friend with a boat, as the Salmon move about in the channel and you need to be mobile to find them.

You will need to arrange your own accommodation and food. If you plan to stay at the Swansea Lakeside Caravan Park you will need to book soon as it fills quickly.

For more information or to register, contact:
Jeffs Yates : jeffandlynnyates@bigpond.com
Or David on 0411723221 or Allan on 0427457725.



Mullet Mash 2021

Calling all club members to be a part of the 2nd Annual Mullet Mash held on our home waters on the Bellinger / Kalang Rivers.

Saturday August 28th



Bimini (shotgun) start from the Urunga boat ramp closest to the bridge at 7.30 am
Finishing @ 12 noon Lunch 12.30 Presentation 1pm

This will be a friendly competition with all fish to be photographed on a brag mat or similar measuring device. Absolutely no fish, alive or deceased, will be eligible. Random prizes will be awarded – not necessarily for the biggest or most fish. The judge's decision will be final - no exceptions. All entries are as individuals - no teams considered.

Cost \$5 per person, this includes 2 flies, sausage sandwiches for lunch, bread for burley.

Boat captains will be teamed with other member based around experience and ability. The goal is for the more experienced member to share knowledge and guide the other to a memorable event.

Catching Mullet on fly is highly addictive and fantastic sight casting fun. It's not unusual for large numbers to be caught with a possible by catch of Bream and other species.

Long leaders /tippet 4lb on the lightest rod you own is the weapon of choice. The club has suitable outfits available to lend - first in best dressed. Contact the secretary to book a club rod.

Nobody will be left on their own to flounder. At the briefing at 7.15am bread for burley will be distributed and information on where to fish will be supplied. Anyone who isn't 100% confident in the process will be looked after and teamed with a member who is.

If it's not the best fun you've had in a long time we will refund your entry fee.

You MUST register for this event by 16th August
contact: David on 0411723221 or Allan on 0427457725



Gathering @ Gumma

9th - 12th September 2021

Calling all club members to gather at Gumma Reserve via Macksville from Thursday 9th to Sunday 12th September. Enjoy a day, weekend, or four days of fly fishing, casting and fly tying. Fish, cast, tie, learn and socialize with fellow club members.



Fish Warrell Creek and the Nambucca River from the bank, by boat or by kayak.
Target species on fly such as bream, flathead, whiting, bass and trevally.

The club will provide for morning and afternoon tea each day and a sausage sizzle on Saturday night.

Bring your own food and camping equipment if you intend to stay. Come for the day or stay for a while. The reserve has toilets, cold showers, a boat ramp and picnic tables. There is no cost for day visits. Camp sites are \$14 single or \$18 double per night. There are no bookings so get there early if you want to pick your camp site. Club members will be on site from Thursday morning. For details of the Reserve see: https://www.nambucca.nsw.gov.au/cp_themes/default/page.asp?p=DOC-BEO-78-63-34

As well as opportunities to fish some of the best waterways in our district, you can learn more about fly tying and casting from experienced members. Paul Fedeles ties flies commercially and he will be on site Saturday afternoon sharing his extensive knowledge. Casting instructors will be attending and willing to help beginners and those wanting to learn more. Local members will be sharing their knowledge and ensuring everyone knows the best places to fish.

Come and join in this club outing to catch fish on fly, and share, learn and have fun. Bring your boat, canoe, kayak, SUP or fish from the bank.

You MUST register for this event.

contact: Brian (Pip) on 0490469562 or Allan on 0427457725

Salmon at Last!

By Jeff Yates

We are trying to make up for lost time, with 2020 being a write off due to the Covid lockdown and general socialising rules governing the outbreak, interfering with our social activities. This all meant less time on the water and fewer fishing trips with mates. But this year we have been determined to make up for lost time.

A few reconnaissance trips and asking questions of the locals, had us thinking that the salmon season at Swansea was hot to trot. Last week we saw several pods of limited numbers that were fickle and finicky, and spooked outside the range of a decent cast. Another day I had a report of a massive school just inside the heads. Peter decided that we should give it a run on the weekend, hopefully the weekend warriors have not got our intel!

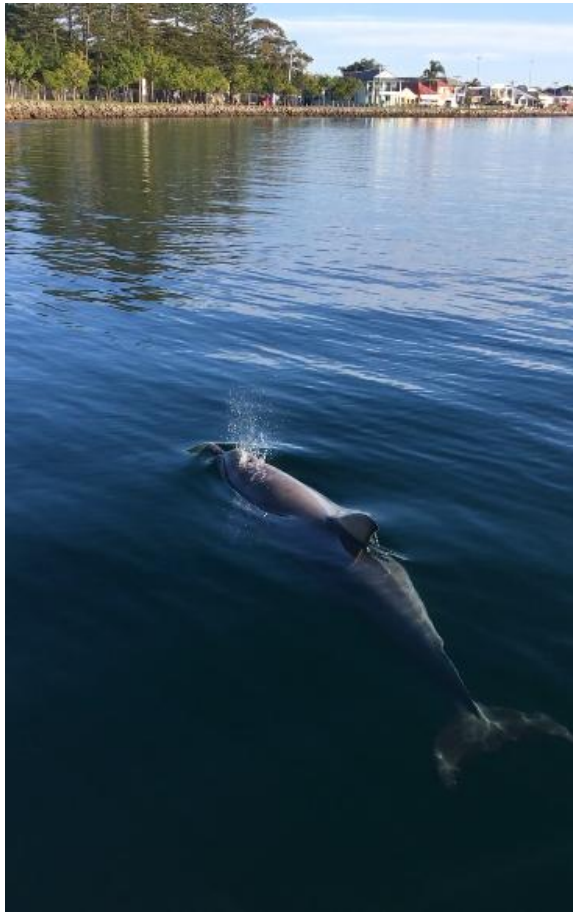
I had to decline a Friday trip due to child minding duties, also a Saturday and a Sunday (sounds like a broken record), meanwhile Peter picked up Fred to help crew the Quinnie and share in the spoils.

They started out on a crisp, clear and still Sunday morning, arriving at an already busy Blacksmiths ramp. With the main parking area full, they left the car and trailer at the overflow park. Soon on the water, they headed to usual haunts before discovering a large school of salmon off Lucy's breakwater around 7am. The school departed the channel towards Moon Island accompanied by a rather large bronze whaler shark, sizing up his breakfast. Peter and Fred fished to the school all the way from Lucy's, south of Moon Island, then between the bombies to around the front of the island. Considering each fish takes around 10 to 15 minutes to land, they did extremely well to land half a dozen fish each by coffee time.

Just under the Swansea Bridge, the Tides café has a new wharf, a long overdue fixture after 2 years of having to tip toe over the oysters and scale the sea wall. There to greet the fellas was the resident dolphin who put on a skilful show of riding the boat's bow wave, before departing to deeper water. Over a coffee they decided to ring me.



I was supervising several grandkids, getting them ready for a bushwalk to Glenrock lagoon, when the call arrived. *Fish everywhere, you should be here!* As quick as a flash, I handed over the reins of responsibility to my son, and said I'd be back soon. Into the car and off to Swansea, bemoaning the fact that I had no rod, reel, flies, hat or polaroids with me. For someone who normally prides himself on being super organised for a fishing trip, I did have a minor panic attack, but Peter assured me that he had a spare rod and reel in the car and I found a baseball cap in the boot.



Waiting at Blacksmiths wharf, Peter and Fred soon had me kitted out, life jackets secured and we were headed back out through the heads. You never had to look for the fish, just the boats corralling a 2ha school east of Moon Island. Most of the skippers were obliging enough for spin fishermen, but the occasional cowboy thought it was kosher to troll right through the middle of the feeding school ... weekends attract a lot of mugs! Anyway, this was not going to put us off. I fished hard with borrowed gear, missing quite a few strikes before hooking up on a nice fish. 15 minutes later I landed the fish minus the reel handle as its screw stripped and left me hand lining the Salmon to the net. Apparently, the handling exercise was repeated later as Peter was stripping fly line from his other reel to get kinks out. When he got to the backing, a Salmon hit and the backing knot broke. He was left holding the fly line with the fish thrashing on the end of the leader. Fred came to the rescue with a freehand nail knot, meanwhile Peter was handling the big Salmon

like an adapt hand liner. A hectic couple of moments, but all worked out in the end.



Peter got a call from Brad who had coffees and pies waiting at the wharf. I satisfied my need to be connected to a 2021 salmon, so we hurried back to our mate for a snack and shift change. We had a quick chat, before I departed to resume my child minding duties. The boys continued with the action at Moon Island for few more hours before Brad decided that his already crook back wasn't getting any better. I rang him later and he raved about the trip, not a mention of the back, so take a lesson from that, a successful fishing trip is always good medicine!



Now, that leads me to the Salmon Classic invitation to be held on the weekend of 21st and 22nd of August. Get your names in to me, and make your accommodation arrangements before camping places are all taken. Remember, this is not like previous years, when our hard working Cherie catered for your every need to make your weekend enjoyable, this will be full on fishing and make your own catering arrangements. We will meet up at the Swansea Workies for Saturday night if you aren't too buggered from landing fish.



Can't wait to be there!

2021 Swansea Salmon Classic
Sat 21st and Sun 22nd August

This year's Swansea Salmon Classic will be a low key event, and people will have to organise their own accommodation and meals, with the exception of Saturday night, when we can have a bistro meal and catchup at the Swansea Workers Club if you choose. I will give as much detail as possible for you to make informed decisions on what suits you most. The cost to attend will be \$zero, but you will have to buy your own meals from the bistro (around \$20 last year).

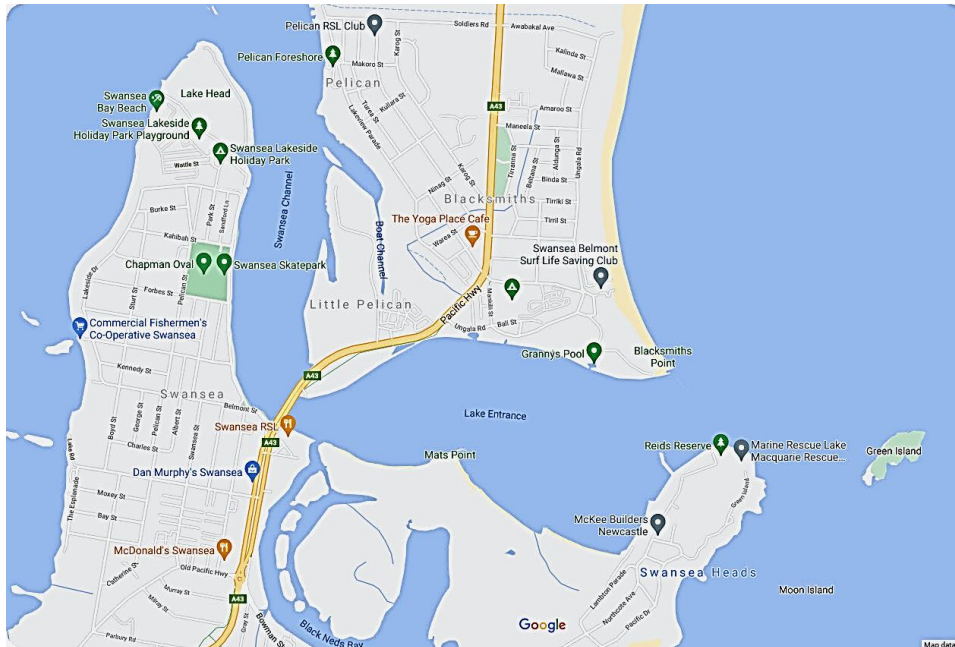


Fishing

That's what we're here for. The salmon usually work between Swansea bridge and Green or Moon Island (depending on your map), at various times of the tide. Bring a boat or a buddy with a boat and abide by all normal water navigation rules. If you have a spare seat, you will make somebody's day. Put it out there on email. Protocol dictates that you must not drive through the middle of a salmon school. Have respect for your fellow fishermen and don't spook the fish. One other thing, I encourage all to share information on flies, (give a few excess ones away), tackle and locations as we all like to catch fish. This is particularly for the benefit of those members who have not fished here before.

The 2 main boat launching ramps are at Blacksmiths, over the road from the Holiday Park, and at Swansea, outside the Lakeside Park. Both are easily accessible.

Gear :- 8 or 9 wt rods with intermediate lines and 20lb tippet, just in case a few big green backs come in. Many flies work, and the fish will be feeding on small anchovies, white bait and eyes. Bring a range of Surf Candies to 75mm, smaller polar fibre flies or miniature Candies.



Accommodation

I have spoken to both caravan parks and they have plenty of accommodation both camping and cabins at the moment, but you will need to book soon. Let them know that you are with the Hunter Valley Fly Fishing Club and they will try and group you together in the park.

You take care of your own booking, whether camp or cabin.

Swansea Lakeside Holiday Park	Blacksmiths Beachside Holiday Park
1 Dobinson Drive	30 Gommera St
Swansea	Blacksmiths
0249712869	0249712858

Saturday night

There is a good bistro at the Local Workies with courtesy buses if required to both caravan parks. I suggest we have a meal and a catchup there, at say, 7pm on the Saturday night, but I will have to book us in well in advance. Pay for your own meals.

What I need to know:-

- Who is coming
- What club are you with
- What days are you attending
- Where are you staying
- Do you want to be booked in for the Saturday night bistro

Swansea Workers Club
 9 Rawson St
 Swansea
 0249711377

My contact details are
 Email:- jeffandlynates@bigpond.com for details of your stay
 or
 Mobile:- 0427002766 in emergencies



Doing It in the Dark

I don't like fly fishing at night. I have enough problems during the daytime without the added complication of having to do it in the dark. But if you want to catch fish sometimes you have to do it at night. Fish such as Bass and Trout don't like bright sunshine so if you want to catch them you have to fish when they are most active.

I'm not going to write about how to catch fish at night. You would be better off asking some of the more experienced night time fly fishers. These days I prefer sight fishing and I don't go out after dark. That's not to say I don't fish the early morning and late evening, but once the sun sets I'm usually thinking of going home.



Casting a fly during the day or night is fundamentally the same. If you can cast a fly well enough to catch a fish in the daylight you can do the same at night. There are, however, a few things you should consider if you want to do it in the dark. Without going into the detail of how to fish in the dark, this month I want to talk about how to cast in the dark.

First, I must touch on some obvious equipment issues you need to consider. During the day most people fish wearing sunglasses. When the sun goes down, the sunglasses come off. You should never cast without eye protection especially at night. A pair of clear plastic safety glasses will do the job if you have not reached the stage in life where you have to wear glasses all the time. When I am not wearing my prescription glasses I use a pair of cheap yellow sunglasses at dawn and dusk.

It goes without saying that you are going to need a torch. As tempting as it might be to use the torch to watch your loops ... don't. Fish feed at night because it is dark so a flashing light is going to spook any fish in the vicinity. A good head torch is essential at night but get one with a red light for those occasions you forget to face away from the water when you switch it on. A torch is also essential for tying on flies ... along with the magnifying glasses I now carry. And as for tying on flies, I always make sure I have the fly I intend to use tied on well before I venture out at dusk or dawn. Sometime it's a bit of a gamble knowing which fly to tie on but it is a bigger gamble for someone like me trying to tie a fly on in the dark.

You might not consider line management as casting but you will never be able to fly fish if you don't learn how to handle the fly line. Wading a river, walking a lake shore, standing on the bow of a flats skiff or walking a beach all require you to do something about the line you have stripped from your reel to cast. Doing it in the dark brings added complications. The use of a stripping basket or clipper stripper can make life much easier. If you are stationary you can get away with dropping the line at your feet and making repeated casts but if you want to be mobile you need a line management device. Once you get used to using a stripping basket regularly it becomes automatic and it doesn't matter whether it is day or night.



Watching your loops when casting is important. At night this becomes much more difficult and you have to rely on your other senses to know if your loops are good. The ability to feel the rod load and hear the movement of the rod and line comes with time spent casting. You can practice during the day by covering your eyes and learning to judge

distance and direction by feel and sound. Listening for the fly landing on the water will also give you a good idea of how well you formed those loops. If you are using a double fly rig you should listen for the sound of the two flies hitting the water one after another. You need to be able to feel the line pull tight in your hand as the fly nears the water. If there is slack and the fly lands in a heap your casting is not as good as it could be and you will probably end up with a tangle. It's too late to practice the night you go fishing, so make a point of doing something about it the next time you practice.

Still on the subject of loops, it's not a good idea to try for those narrow loops that you strive for when going for distance. At night you could be fishing with large flies and you want to avoid hitting your rod or throwing tailing loops. Make your loops wider and smoother and you will spend more time fishing and less time untangling. There is often less wind at night so the need for narrow loops and high line speed is reduced. You don't need to cast those long distances you do during the day as the fish move close to shore under the cover of darkness. Slow down and relax. Concentrate more on being smooth and throwing slightly wider loops. Using a slower action rod can help. The ability to vary the size of your loops is something you should practice - before you go fishing at night.

It can be a good idea to put markers on your fly line to aid with casting and retrieving in the dark. It's not much use using a texta colour but you can tie a piece of wool or place a drop of UV resin on the line in strategic places. Many fly lines these days have tactile reminders so that you can tell when the head is out of the tip or when it is time to lift and recast. Being able to tell how much line you have out when you can't see it will avoid hitting those trees behind (you did look before you started didn't you?) and help with accuracy when you are casting at the sound made by a fish.

Casting is about timing, technique and rhythm and nowhere is this more important than when casting in the dark. If you can't see or hear your quarry you need to cover as much water as possible and the temptation is to strive for as much distance as you can. The more water you cover the more chance you have of finding a fish. Unfortunately, when you push your casting to the limit you forget about the smooth application of power and shock the rod. One of the main causes of wind knots is not the wind but the overpowering of the rod. Combine this with too short a casting stroke because you can't watch your back cast unfold and you will inevitably end up with a tailing loop. And who wants to be untangling lines and leaders in the dark!

Fishing at night can be more productive than fishing during the day but you still have to be able to cast. Casting in the dark can be more difficult and needs to be practiced before you go. Time spent preparing, practicing, and learning to manage your line will pay dividends when you do it in the dark.

Classifieds

Club Captain Dave has access to as new, extremely good condition, Scientific Angler and Rio fly lines 7/8 weight. \$30 each. Sink tip, intermediate, weight forward, full sink, depth charge lines. Limited number, be quick ring Dave 0411 723 221.

BWC Flies

Brett and Cherie from BWC Flies are supporters of our club and now that they are opening a shop they would like to extend a 10% discount to our club members. The new shop is in Tuggerah on the Central Coast at Unit 8 5 Joulé Place Tuggerah 2259 (not far off the express way). If you use the code **ccffc10** when at the shop or ordering online you will get 10% off (with the exception being gear that's already marked down in price.)

You can contact:

Brett Clarke 0408622959

Cherie 0415380927

<https://bwcflies.com.au/>

The Pitch

As already mentioned, we have a new segment in at our meetings when members can “pitch” an idea to see if others would like to get involved.

Brian Bevan, better known as Pip, has been building his own flats skiff made from aluminium and wood. It's only 8ft long and would be ideal for fly fishing estuary flats and creeks. It can be easily rowed, poled or a small electric motor could be used. Build cost would be around \$300.

Club Captain Dave is keen to have a go at making one similar to this and “pitched” his idea at the last meeting. If you would be interested in joining with Dave to build your own skiff give Dave a call on 0411 723 221



Fly Tying

A few years ago the New England Trout Acclimatization Society (NETAS) initiated a fly fishing day for women recovering from Breast Cancer. Some of our members have been involved helping the women learn to cast and catch a trout on fly.

The day is always well received by the women as a chance to get out and experience something new and relaxing. As part of the experience each participant is given a box of trout flies that have been tied by volunteers interested in contributing to the day. Again, some of our members have been involved in this.

The Womens Fly Fishing Day is being held again this year and the opportunity is there for anyone who would like to tie flies. The Club has a supply of hooks and materials (mainly dubbing) that has been generously donated by Barry Ryan which is available for you to use. Just contact the Secretary if you want materials.

If you want more details and information of where to send your flies the following article by Peter Gibson will set you on the right track. Peter has enlisted the support of the FlyLife Forum members each year and as a result all the participants receive a box of flies.

Over the past couple of years the FlyLife Forum members have been behind an important gift to women who participate in a breast cancer recovery fly-fishing day at the Dutton Trout Hatchery, Ebor, NSW. Each year we have jointly tied a set of flies for each of the women who participate. The physical exercise of learning how to cast a fly rod is apparently a very useful exercise after breast cancer surgery. And the emotional support that the gift from fly fishers - total strangers to the women - has proved to be a huge boost to them.

This year the clinic will be on Saturday 6 November. We expect about 15 women to be there, so we want to assemble 15 fly boxes packed with flies.

As in the past few years, we'd appreciate anyone tying a set of flies. It would be great if we could mostly get sets of 15 identical flies so that the boxes all look similar, but anyone who finds that a bit tedious is always welcome to send us a mixed set of 15. Once received, the flies will be divided between 15 brand new boxes and given to the women at the start of the day.

We also include a note of the names of the fly tyers or clubs who contribute the sets, and in the past we have also included personal notes of encouragement to the women that many of you have sent. I am sure that most of you will have had family or friends who have been affected by breast cancer, and will understand the challenges that the women are dealing with.

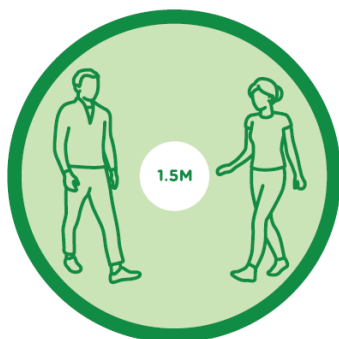
I will need the flies by the start of October so that I can sort, pack into boxes and get to the organisers well before the day.

Please post them to me at Peter Gibson, PO Box 537, Paddington, NSW 2021. Email me or phone if any queries (petergibson@petergibson.com.au, 0425 211 313).



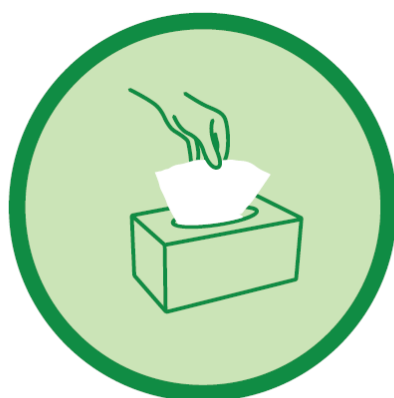
Covid-19 Safety Policy

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.

- During this time many people are refraining from shaking hands and hugging. If you are a gregarious person you might want to check the body language of the person you are approaching to gauge their feelings on this matter. Not shaking hands or touching during this time shouldn't be seen as being unfriendly.



Wash your hands regularly
with soap and water.

- You must register and sign in with your phone number for all club activities. If you have the COVIDSafe app active that would be another safeguard.
- When food and drink is part of a club activity you should consider bringing your own crockery and cutlery. For the immediate future, the club will be using disposables.

BE COVIDSAFE

Our Supporters

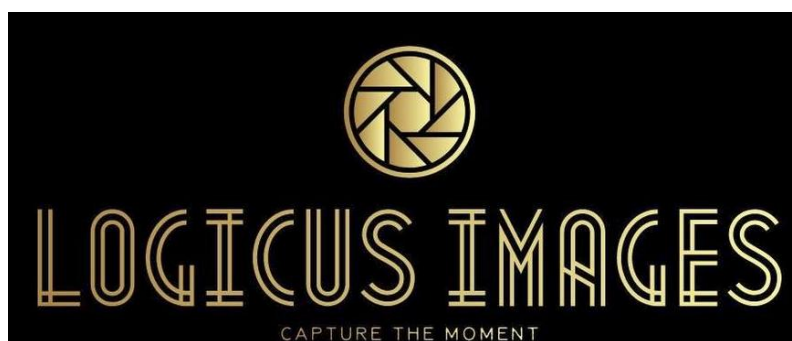
These people have all helped our club in one way or another. When you are looking for products and services make sure you consider them first



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 senior cardholders, 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:

BSB 062-678

Account Number: 10333424

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 323 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

Direct Deposit:
BSB: 062-678
Account No: 10333424
Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club Inc
Reference: **Your surname**

Notes

Club Membership Definitions:

Concession membership is available to; Senior Cardholders, 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.

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

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 in their Membership Form.