

The *Flyer*



Official Newsletter Of The



The Flyer

The Official Newsletter of the Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club

JULY 2022

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Front Cover: You've got to be happy with that! Kevin Buhler enjoyed his time at the *Try Fly Workshop* at Ebor.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

July 2022

Welcome to the July issue of the Coffs Coast Flyfishers newsletter.

For those who didn't hear or weren't present at the last club meeting - I was the lucky winner of the quarterly raffle prize. There is some value in writing out the tickets each meeting :). Thank you very much to Garry of A1 Fly fishing for the fly line as the prize. I selected one of his South Pacific Bass Bug lines in a #6 weight. I also purchased a #7 weight and a few other bits and bobs which I didn't know I had to have. Hopefully the next Bass season will be a little bit more conducive to fishing and not flooding as the past one was. Again, thank you to Garry for his ongoing support of the club. Also, later in the year Garry will be holding a Flats Workshop in conjunction with the club for those with a saltwater bent so check the club calendar for the date.

Our Club has quite a few supporters but we have avoided going down the sponsorship path. Sponsorship locks people in and locks people out and requires loyalty that not everyone agrees with. We don't tell our members which is best or where to buy but we do encourage them to look locally as they can find what they want and are supporting those who help the Club.

On the topic of supporters, MO Tackle is conducting in conjunction with the Club a Cast a Fly Rod Day to introduce a few more people to Fly fishing. More Fly Fishers means more business for all our supporters and potentially more members for the Club.

The casting group is punching through the casting skills levels - keeping Allan busy producing print outs of their achievements. Well done to all those who are progressing so well.

While on the topic of the last meeting a big thank you to Steve ... for assisting with the Resuscitation and First Aid talk. It's always good to have someone backing you up who knows what they are talking about.

Some of our members recently travelled to Lake St. Clair to link up with the Hunter Valley Fly Fishing Club to try and catch a Bass. Their Newsletter is an impressive piece of work which is worth downloading and perusing. All the stories and articles are worth reading and it may just inspire some journalistic input from our members.

Murray is investigating the possibility of a club trip to South East Qld in pursuit of Saratoga, Bass and possibly Barramundi. More to follow.

Hopefully I will be up to the Dunmore Waters trip and getting back into a few of the club activities.

See you all at the AGM - ready to take on a new job.

Doug



You mean to tell me you called me out here because your husband swallowed a fly.

From the Editor

Our Tuesday casting group is going from strength to strength. We had a visit this month from fellow CI Peter Sergeant from Wodonga who has been following our exploits and wanted to see what was happening for himself. He joined our group of a dozen members, and Ken from Port Macquarie, practicing picking up and laying down long lines and then helped assess everyone for their FFI Casting Skills Foundation Level. All were successful demonstrating just how far everyone has come. For those unfortunate people who still have to work, keep an eye on the calendar for October when we hope to have our twilight casting group going.

The weather was much kinder to us this month and we managed to conduct the Home Waters outing at Mylestom and a trip to Lake St Clair. After being rained out at Hinchinbrook I wasn't surprised when Lake St Clair suffered a fish kill and from the 4 Coffs members and about 25 from the Hunter Fly Club plus anglers from a Bass competition only one fish was caught - and it wasn't by me! I'm beginning to think I have eaten one too many bananas!

At our last Committee meeting we made some changes to dates for outings for the remainder of the year. Make sure you check the latest calendar when you are looking to see what is on. This month we have a casting day at the Coffs Showground held in conjunction with MO Tackle and the trip to Dunmore Waters. Looking further ahead, Murray is trying to organize an outing to Queensland early next year to chase bass, saratoga or even



barramundi. It will be an extend trip over a week and boats will be needed. If you have any thoughts let Murray know or contact any Committee member.

The Annual General will be held this month which means two things. First, membership fees are now due. Check out all the details on page 6. Second, it means we need people to fill Executive and Committee positions for the club to continue. If you have the time and passion to contribute to the growth of the club, please consider nominating. To nominate you need to complete a nomination form attached to this newsletter.

I won't be nominating for Secretary this year. It's time for some new blood and fresh ideas. It has been a pleasure working with so many people to get this club off the ground and now the time is right for some new directions. I'm happy to keep doing whatever I can to make the club work but a new Secretary with new ideas is needed.

by the Editor

Club Executive 2021-22



President
Doug Urquhart
0458696138



Vice President
Greg Artlett
0427689400



Secretary / Public Officer
Newsletter Editor
Allan Ekert 0427457725



Treasurer
David Small
0423112902



Assistant Secretary
Ray Phipps
0412525338



Club Captain
David Moppett
0411723221



Committee
Kevin Cosgrove
0438554843



Committee
Michael Ferris
0428636858



Committee
Murray Robinson
0425277026



Committee
Tom Trefz
0423676624



Committee
Brian (Pip) Bevan
0409469562



Committee
Walter Krainik
0439187380

Membership fees

Membership fees are now due. You must pay your fees before the AGM to be a financial member. If your fees are not paid by September your membership will lapse.

Some people have already paid their fees or have credit from having paid twice last year. Please check your membership card or receipt before you pay.

If you can pay by direct deposit, you will make the Treasurer's job much easier. Remember our old Commonwealth Account is closed. Our account is now with BCU which is a division of Police & Nurses Limited.



BSB 533 000

Account Number: 02051766

Name: Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club Inc

Reference: Your surname

The fees are set at the AGM but there is a notice of motion that they remain the same so it is likely they will be:

Adult membership \$30

Family membership \$40

Concession membership \$20

Junior membership free

Distant membership \$10

**IT'S TIME TO
RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP!**

Club Positions

For the Club to continue we need to fill the following positions:

President
Vice President
Secretary
Assistant Secretary
Treasurer
Public Officer
Committee (at least 3 members)
Club Captain

Don't stay away from the AGM because you don't want to take on one of these positions. No one is going to railroad you into taking a position. Not everyone has the time to devote to club leadership. Just come along and be part of the democratic process that decides the future of the club.

You don't have to be on the Executive or Committee to help. You might want to assist with one of the many other jobs that make the club run smoothly.

Raffles
Catering
Publicity
Record Keeping
Welcoming
Co-ordinating Outings
Fly Tying
Facebook
Properties
Newsletter Editor

There are many aspects of running a club that go unnoticed until no one is doing them. Let's make sure we share the load and contribute where we can so that all the good things about the club can continue.

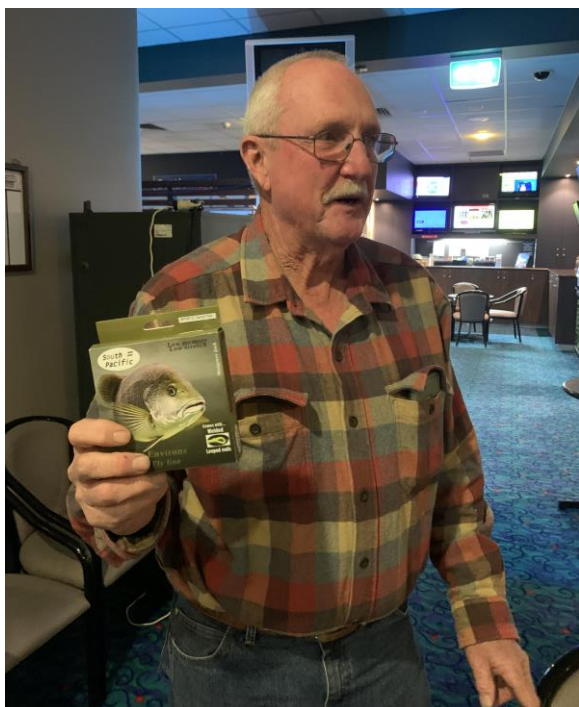
July Meeting

The next meeting on Monday 18th July will be the AGM. It will commence at 6.30pm at the North Beach Bowling and Recreation Club Mylestom. Following the AGM there will be a general meeting where upcoming events can be discussed.

The usual raffle will be conducted with prizes drawn on the night. The next major raffle will commence and all tickets will go in the barrel to be drawn at the September meeting. The prize for this major raffle will be a handmade fillet knife provided by Bill Anderson.



The last major prize was a fly line from [South Pacific](#) and it was won by President Doug. He chose a Bass Line, as you would if you lived on a bass creek.



Thanks to Garry Hambly from A1 FlyFishing for supplying the prize at a discount price to the Club. If you want a quality [South Pacific](#) fly line there are plenty to choose from at very competitive prices from:



Tuesday Casting Group

Casting continues this month. Anyone can join the Tuesday Casters. We meet at Mylestom most Tuesdays from 10.00am. To find out more you can contact Allan on 0427457725.

The progress being shown by members of this group is tremendous. It would be safe to say it's not because of the practice they do outside Tuesdays, but from the level of instruction they receive each week. Over the months the group has benefitted from the teaching of David Moppett, Garry Hambly and visits from Peter Glasson, John O'Shaughnessey and Peter Sergeant. Now, I think we have reached the stage where members are learning from each other. Look out Steve Rajeff!



Greg and Garry showing visiting Casting Instructor Pete how well they can cast.

The program for July is as follows:

- Tuesday 5th Casting Mylestom.
- Tuesday 12th Casting Mylestom.
- Tuesday 19th Casting Mylestom.
- Tuesday 26th Fishing at a venue to be decided.

Fly Tying Night

Our next fly tying night will be held on Monday 25th July at the North Beach Bowling and Recreation Club at Mylestom. We will be meeting out the back in the Osprey Room at 6.00pm. This month we will be tying a pheasant tail nymph. This is a very famous trout fly which works well everywhere, especially at Dunmore Waters,



You will need to register so that a material pack can be made up for you. The cost will be \$5. You can register at the next meeting or by contacting the Secretary.

For more information you can contact Allan on 0427457725.

MO Tackle Fly Tying

John Everett from MO Tackle will be running a number of fly tying sessions on Saturday afternoons over the coming months. A maximum of six seats will be available for each session. Starting time will be 2.00pm and the sessions will run for 2 hours. There will be a cost of \$15 per session for materials.

The following dates have been scheduled and are ready to be booked!

Bream Flies: Saturday July 9th 2-4pm

Bass Flies: Saturday August 13th 2-4pm

Surf Candies: Saturday September 10th 2-4pm

Please note: We have trout flies, Murray Cod flies, foam flies plus many more to offer in the near future! We are also open to suggestions with what people want.

Contact John Everett at MO Tackle on 02 6652 4611 for more information or to book at place.

Flies for Sale

Paul Fedeles, who last month gave us some clues on fishing Dunmore Waters, has for sale packages of flies and a leader that worked for him at Dunmore. For anyone who doesn't tie flies this would be any easy way to get the right flies from an expert fly tyer.

Handmade, camouflaged, braided tapered leader

Eight proven flies

(2) Pheasant Tail Nymphs with centipede legs

(2) Bloomfield Grubs with white rubber legs

(2) Bead head buzzers

(2) Orange Bead head nymphs

\$25 plus \$5 postage

To Contact Paul email:

pfedeles0302@gmail.com



Dunmore Waters

All places are now taken for the Dunmore weekend from Friday 29th to Sunday 30th July. Payment of the remaining \$200 should be made by the July meeting. Please pay by direct desposit if you can to the Club's BCU Account. **Do not** pay Dunmore direct. Further information for those going will be sent out soon.



Cast a
Fly Rod Day

COFFS HARBOUR SHOWGROUNDS
SATURDAY 16TH JULY 12-2PM



Cast A Fly Rod Day

There will be a casting day on Saturday 16th July. It will be held at the Showground in Coffs. It is being run in conjunction with Mo Tackle and is aimed at introducing new people to fly fishing as well as providing some casting tuition for members. You can come along and participate in the activities or you might like to help in the organization of the day. Mo Tackle is providing food and refreshments and we are providing the workers. If you can spare a few hours from about 11.00am to 3.00pm your help would be appreciated. We need people to cook the sausages, hand out publicity material for the Club and help any beginners that come along. Please get in contact if you can help. If you just want to come along and cast bring your rod and join the fun.



Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club, in conjunction with Mo Tackle and Outdoors will be holding a **“Cast a Fly Rod Day”** on **Saturday 16th July** from **12noon till 2.00pm** at the Showgrounds in Coffs Harbour opposite the Mo Tackle Store.

There will be a **FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE** and **REFRESHMENTS**, with plenty of fun and conversation to be had. No need for any fly-fishing experience, in fact, we would love to have plenty of people that are wanting to try **‘casting a fly rod’** for the first time!

Come along and try casting a fly rod, bring your own rod and have your casting analyzed, get all your questions answered and meet some fellow fly fishers. No need to book - just join us between 12noon and 2pm at the Showgrounds and you will get expert advice and an opportunity to learn more about casting a fly rod.

- Free sausage sizzle
- Meet John Everett from Mo Tackle’s fly fishing department
- Try a fly rod
- Get a short introductory lesson on fly casting
- Have your casting analyzed with the Sage Casting Analyzer
- Cast some different fly rods
- Try a different fly line on your rod
- Learn how to setup your outfit for the species you are chasing
- Have your casting questions answered by an internationally certified casting instructor

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Coffs Coast Fly Fishers or Mo Tackle for more information.

Coffs Coast Fly Fishers

Allan Ekert - 0427 457 725

Mo Tackle & Outdoors

John Everett - 66524611



Committee Decisions

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

- A financial statement from the Treasurer was presented. Our balance at 20th June 2022 was \$6,517.10. The Treasurer stated that the Commonwealth Bank Account has now been closed.
- The \$4\$ fish stocking program was discussed. See page 11 for more details.
- Brian Bevan reported that the supplier was not able to provide the bucket hats in time for the meeting and he will follow up on the order.
- Members are to be advised to complete nomination forms when seeking a Committee or Executive position at this year's AGM.
- The date for the Grafton Bass Outing has changed to 14th, 15th, 16th October with Mike Ferris looking into suitable accommodation in Grafton.
- The Flats Workshop to be run by Garry Hambly of A1 FlyFishing will be held at Woolgoolga on Saturday 29th October.
- The Hunter Valley Fly Club's Salmon Classic is planned for August 19th/21st which clashes with our date for the Mullet Mash. The Mullet Mash has been changed to Saturday 27th August.
- Brian Bevan has agreed to co-ordinate the Gumma outing again this year and the dates will be Friday 9th to Sunday 11th September.
- The issue of having outings at Mylestom when we don't have enough boats was discussed. No easy solution was found but it was decided that we should try some land based outings at places like Red Rock, Valla Beach or Stuarts Point.
- It would appear there is enough interest in another trip to Keepit this year with the dates changed to November 9-13. Expressions of interest to be sought at the next meeting to determine what accommodation we will need to book.
- Murray Robinson reported on his research into a suitable venue for a northern dams outing to be held in February 2023. Member's ideas are to be sought before a decision on venue and date is made by the September meeting.
- The Home Waters outings on 24th September and 8th October will be cancelled due to too many other commitments in those months.
- Issues with our Facebook Group being joined by people without any interest in fishing or wanting to use it for commercial purposes were discussed. It was resolved that we wait until the next meeting to see what members want to do.
- The following Notices of motion will be presented at the A.G.M.
 - a. That the Club Captain should be on the Committee.
 - b. That the fees remain the same for next year.

Dollar For Dollar Fish Stocking

by the Editor

The Dollar for Dollar Native Fish Stocking Program is a Recreational Fishing Trust funded program which provides matching funds to stock native fish into rivers and dams across NSW.

Members of our club have expressed an interest in getting involved in this program and using some of our funds to support the stocking of fish in our local area. We have been in contact with the NSW DPI Fisheries to find suitable venues for us to stock. Without any local dams, and rivers that have a self-sustaining population of native fish, our options are limited.

We have also been inquiring about the stocking of saltwater fish such as flathead, mulloway and bream. These programs are not yet part of the \$4\$ program as stocks of fish are not reliably available at this stage. When the time comes for stocking saltwater species in our area our club will be considered.

Recently I was involved in the stocking of bream in the Bellingen River at Mylestom. These fish were produced by Southern Cross University as a trial and 4,000 fry were released by NSW DPI Fisheries at Mylestom.

These bream were all around 5cm and will take a few years to reach maturity. They were released at several sites which offered suitable protect in the form of structure and deep water.



Club Calendar 2022

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

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



Mullet Mash 2022

Calling all club members to the Annual **Mullet Mash** held on our home waters on the Bellinger River at Mylestom.

Saturday August 27th



Start from the Mylestom boat ramp at 7.30 am.
Finishing at 12 noon. Lunch 12.30pm. 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.

Cost \$10 per person, this includes:

4 suitable flies, sausage sandwiches for lunch, bread for burley.

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 bi catch of Bream and other species.

Members are asked to team up in boats to take advantage of being able to fish anywhere in the Bellinger/Kalang Rivers. If you don't have a boat and can't find a ride let us know and we may be able to arrange something. Those without boats will be ferried to various land based spots. Inexperienced fly fishers will be helped by members sharing their knowledge and skills.

If you need help with gear the club has suitable outfits available to lend - first in best dressed. Contact the secretary to book a club rod. Long leaders /tippet 4lb on the lightest rod you own is the way to go.

At the briefing at 7.15am, bread for burley will be distributed and information on where to fish will be supplied.

You MUST register for this event

Contact: Greg on 0427689400 or Allan on 0427457725



Gathering @ Gumma

9th - 11th September 2022

Calling all club members to gather at Gumma Reserve via Macksville from Friday 9th to Sunday 11th September. Enjoy a day, weekend, or a few 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 facilities for morning and afternoon tea each day and a sausage sizzle on Saturday night. There is no cost unless you want to camp overnight.

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 \$15 single or \$20 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. For details of the Reserve see:

https://www.nambucca.nsw.gov.au/cp_themes/default/page.asp?p=DOC-BEO-78-63-34

Fish some of the best waterways in our district. 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

Fishing Reports

The weather was much more settled for the month and many people got out fishing. Our two outings went ahead as planned although the four members who went to Lake St Clair arrived to find there had been a turnover in the dam water and many bass were killed. Despite the best efforts of our members, 20 or 30 from the Hunter Valley Fly Fishing Club and a bass competition, only one fish was caught for the weekend. Interestingly, the fish kill also occurred in nearby Glenbawn Dam at the same time. You can download the excellent newsletter from the [Hunter Valley Fly Fishing Club](#) for a full report on Lake St Clair. It must be very disappointing and frustrating for members of the Hunter Fly Club who regularly stock Lake St Clair.



Not even the members of the Hunter Club who regularly fish St Clair could find fish that were alive and willing to take a fly. Jeff did have us going for a while when he told us about the three beauties he got up the back of the dam.



They would have gone well with fresh fish! Jeff is the editor of the Hunter Fly Club newsletter and you could never say his publication is a lemon!



They say the grass is always greener on the other side of the hill and back on our Home Waters there were a lot more fish caught. Our local outing to Mylestom went ahead and saw a number of different species landed. It's good to see the river return to its usual colour and the fish are gradually responding.

Despite Brian's best efforts to jinx the day with a banana, everyone caught fish and enjoyed a great day. Ray organized perfect weather and topped it off with the BBQ he arranged for lunch.



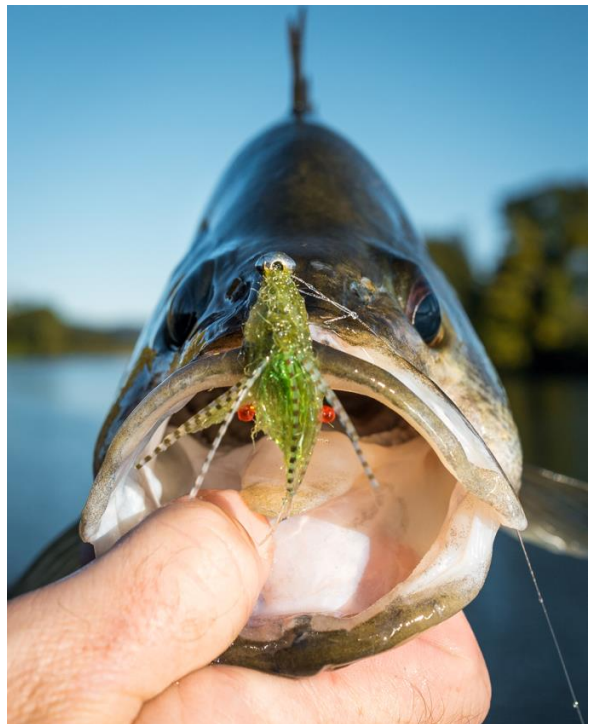
Just to disprove my theory about bananas, Brian landed the most fish on the day with a number of flathead like this.



Anthony has got the bream, mullet and flathead dialed in on fly and never seems to miss out.



Tom Clancy, who will be our guest speaker for the August meeting, went further up the Bellingin River and found some quality bass and jewfish.



I'm sure everyone will be looking forward to Tom's presentation.



Someone we haven't seen around the club for a while since he began working in the hospital, is John Coleing aka JC. A quick trip up the mountain found this little fellow right in the middle of the town in Dorriggo. It doesn't have to be a big trout to take your mind off work!

Sometimes it doesn't pay to take your mind off things as David Lindsay found out at Hinchinbrook recently. David got the tides wrong and had a long wait to get home.



When he was afloat again, he was able to find a few of the species that Hinchinbrook is famous for.



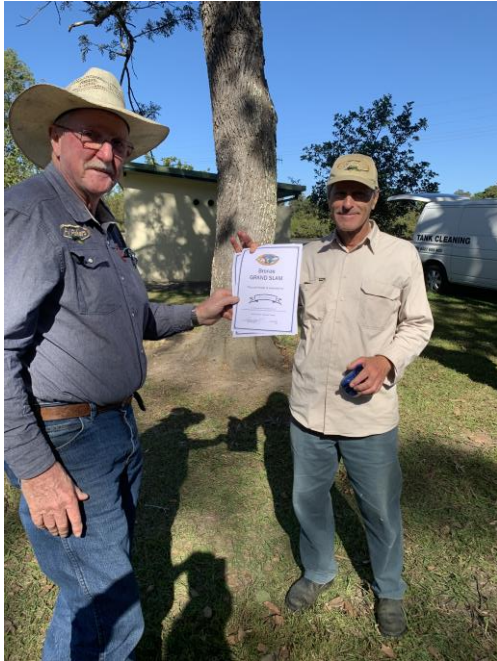
Back home, Glenn has been getting among the luderick again and adding to his list of unusual captures.



According to the experts on Facebook this is a black trevally, black rabbitfish, black spinefish or "happy moments" and quite poisonous.

New Inductees in the Hall of Fame.

President Doug has been kept busy presenting certificates to new inductees into the Hall of Fame.



Garry recently achieved his Bronze Fishing Grand Slam.

On the casting front, it's great to be able to announce that sixteen members have accomplished all seven skills in the Foundation Level of the FFI Fly Casting Skills Development program and will receive their confirmation certificates at the next meeting.



All the names appear in our Hall of Fame on page 24. You don't have to come to Tuesday Casting to work your way through the FFI Fly Casting Skills Development program. Just ask for a booklet and work on your own or come along to one of our Saturday sessions.

HALL OF FAME

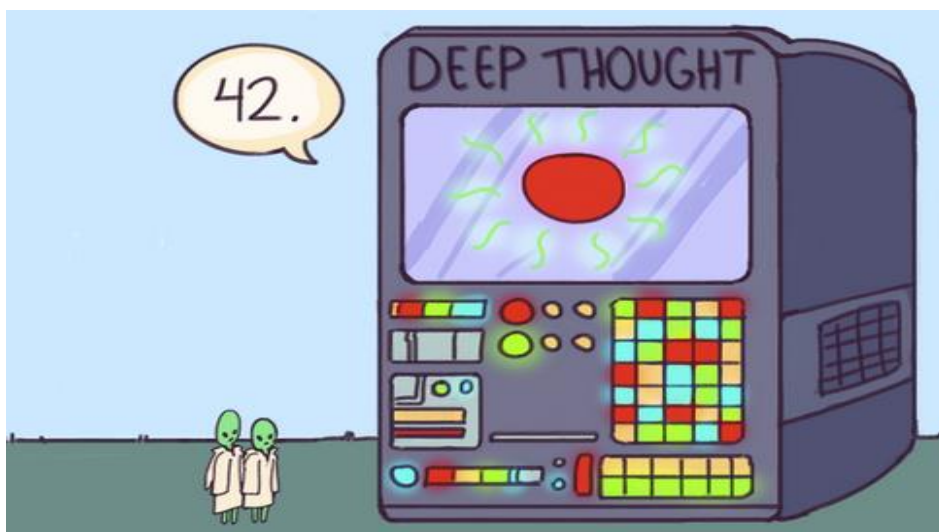
The Hall of Fame aims to encourage members to improve their casting and fishing skills. Not everyone wants or needs the incentive of the awards and achievements and that's OK. Many members have already achieved their bucket list of species and have reached a high level of casting. Some of the more experienced members have many meritorious captures to their credit but don't want the recognition. Did you know one of our members holds a World Record? Whatever you think of the Hall of Fame, I hope you support the idea behind it. We should all aim to improve and set goals to go further.

One person who set himself the goal of getting better at casting is David Moppett. Starting as one of the original Tuesday Casters, David has helped many members improve their casting skills and is now ready to become a qualified instructor. In two weeks' time he will be examined for his Fly Fishers International Casting Instructor's Certificate. There is no doubt David has mastered all the skills and is ready for this exam. He will be required to complete a written test, a practical test of his casting skills and to demonstrate his teaching ability in front of two highly credentialed examiners. It is a daunting experience and not everyone passes. I am sure David will and I am sure everyone in the Club wishes him well.



How Long is a Piece of String?

There are some questions in life and fly casting that can't be answered easily. Douglas Adams knew that when he wrote the *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*.¹ In this comedy science fiction radio play/book/tv series/movie, he set about trying to answer the ultimate question of life, the universe, and everything. He created a fictional supercomputer called *Deep Thought*, specially built for this purpose which took 7.5 million years to compute and check the answer. According to *Deep Thought*, the answer to Life, The Universe and Everything is ... 42.



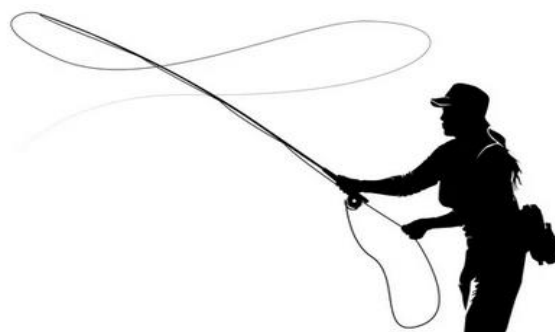
If only I could answer every question about fly casting with such precision and simplicity! My go to answer for many questions I am asked about fly casting is: How long is a piece of string? Some questions about fly casting defy a precise answer. Casting a fly rod has so many variables that for the most part, the answer always depends. This month I want to look at some of the many aspects of fly casting that can't be measured empirically and why I answer lots of questions with: How long is a piece of string?

There is one precise figure in fly casting that could have been computed by Douglas Adam's *Deep Thought*. That number is ... 30. It was chosen by the then AFTMA (American Fishing Tackle Manufacturer's Association) - now named AFFTA (American Fly Fishing Trade Association) to create a standard to measure the weight of fly lines. The AFFTA fly line standard dictates that the physical weight of the first 30 feet of a fly line (excluding the level tip) confirms to an industry standard for the given line rating. So, for example, this would make all 5 weight fly lines weigh more or less the same for the first 30 feet.

It used to be that you could buy a fly line from any manufacturer knowing that any 5 weight line would weigh the same. So, when someone asked what line to put on a 5 weight rod the answer was 5. However, manufacturers now go their own way and you will find lines that are labelled 5 weight might vary by as much 30 grains (measuring fly lines in grains is another standard we have inherited from America). Nowadays if I am asked what line to put on a rod, I have to ask: how long is a piece of string?

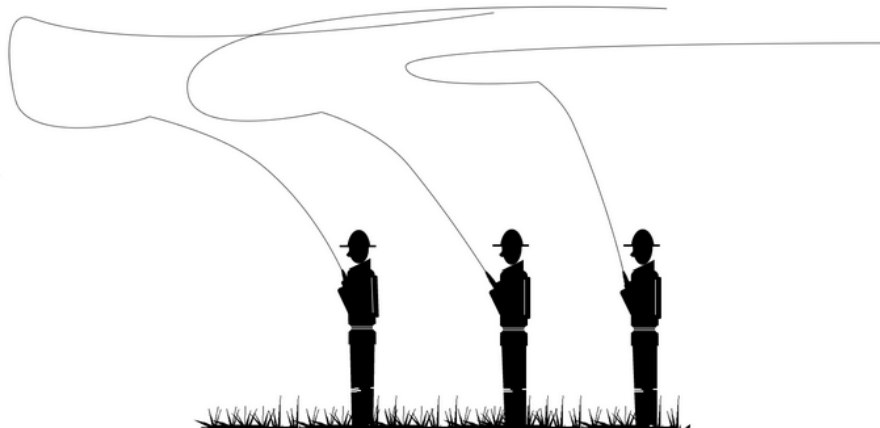
The number 30 is important in fly casting because it represents the length of fly line at which a fly rod is supposed to perform at its best. There is no standard for fly rods but they are labelled according to the weight of the first 30 feet of fly line that loads (bends) the rod. Using a 5 weight as an example, the AFFTA standard says that the first 30 feet should weight between 134-146 grains. A manufacturer who wants to make a 5 weight rod finds a blank that loads best with 30 feet of line weighing between 134-146 grains. In theory, it should be easy but manufacturers, trying to outdo each other, have started making stiffer rods and heavier lines but still using the old numbers. These days you can buy a line labelled 5 weight but it might weigh as much as the 7 weight standard. No longer can I answer a question about matching a fly line to a fly rod with a simple answer. I have to say: How long is a piece of string?

When you first learn to fly cast, you will be told to pull about 30 feet of fly line off the reel and start casting. If the rod and line match, this should make the rod bend and perform at its best. With that much line bending the rod, you have to learn two essential elements of casting. First you must pause at the end of each cast to allow the line to unfurl. Second, you must move the rod in an arc sufficient to make the rod tip travel in a straight line path. Once you have determined the length of that pause and arc you will start making effective loops. But what if your line doesn't conform to the standard weight? What is you want to learn to cast with 40 feet of line? The length of the pause and arc will vary and that's why it is not possible to quantify the time of the pause or the degree of the arc. When I'm asked how long do I pause I answer: How long is a piece of string?



If I had Douglas Adam's *Deep Thought* computer I could probably enter the line weight, the ERN of the rod (Effective Rod Number²), the length of line, the wind speed, the height of the caster, the length of the caster's arm and a few other factors to come up with how long the pause should be. The answer would probably be 42. In reality, there is no way to tell someone how long they should pause when casting. It's as long as a piece of string and changes every time the length of line changes. This is one of the fundamentals of fly casting. The pause will vary with the length of line being cast. The longer the line the longer the pause. Long line - long pause. Short line - short pause.

The same applies to the length of the casting arc. Stroke and Arc are often confused and used interchangeably. Arc is the distance the rod tip moves. The stroke is the distance the rod hand moves from start to stop. This is another of the essentials of fly casting. If we want to make the rod tip travel in a straight line path to produce narrow loops we must use the correct casting arc. The casting arc has to match the flex in the rod which is determined by the weight of the line. Too wide a casting arc for the amount of bend will open up the loop. Too narrow an arc will cause a tailing loop. Trying to tell someone how to do this by degrees or clockfaces doesn't work. The answer is short line - short stroke - long line - long stroke. And the answer to how long is short and how long is long is ... how long is a piece of string!



There are many other variables in fly casting that can only be answered by how long is a piece of string. How long should you pull the line when double hauling? How big should the D loop be in a roll cast? How much line should you shoot into a back cast? You can see why my favourite answer is how long is a piece of string. There is no substitute for getting out there and trying these things and working out the answers for yourself. A casting instructor can help but don't look to me if you want a definitive number. Maybe *Deep Thought* knows, but for me the answer is always: how long is a piece of string.

¹. Douglas Adams (1952-2011) was an English writer and the author of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. To find out more: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qa2vDmgiEaM>

². ERN / Effective Rod Number is part of the Common Cents System which provides a relative measure of intrinsic power of a rod. A measure of the force required to load (deflect) the tip of a rod a distance equal to one third of its length.

Grand Slam Awards

To encourage members to improve their fly fishing skills, a series of awards is being implemented. These **Grand Slam Awards** have four levels (like the casting program) and members are can achieve an award by meeting the criteria listed. The fine details are still being worked out but if you want to get started, this is what you have to do:

Foundation Grand Slam.

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

The following three fish species must be caught on fly over the calendar year:

Mullet, Bream and Flathead.

Can be caught over any number of days
Must be photographed with some means of verifying the date
Fish do not have to be legal size but if undersize **MUST** be released unharmed.



Bronze Grand Slam

Any three fish species from the list below must be caught on fly on the one day:

Mullet, Bream, Flathead

Must be caught on the one day
Must be photographed with some means of verifying the date
Fish do not have to be legal size but if undersize **MUST** be released unharmed.



Silver Grand Slam

Any three fish species from the list below must be caught on fly on the one day.

Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout, (Redfin, Herring or Bass)

or

Bass, Bream, Trevally

or

Whiting, Flathead, (Bream or Luderick)

Must be caught on the one day

Must be photographed with some means of verifying the date and length.

Fish have to be legal size.



Gold Grand Slam

Any three fish species from the list below must be caught on fly on the one day.

Carp, Murray Cod, Yellowbelly

or

Rainbow, Brown, Brook Trout

or

Mangrove Jack, Bass, Bream

or

Salmon, Luderick, Kingfish

or

Dolphin Fish, Tuna, Mackerel

or

Queenfish, Barramundi, Permit

or

Tailor, Salmon, Dart

Must be caught on one day

Must be photographed with some means of verifying the date and length

Fish must be legal size.





HALL OF FAME

FISHING

Foundation Grand Slam

Ray Phipps
Michael Ferris
Greg Artlett
Jum Hyatt
Brian Mighell
Garry Bennett
Anthony Heiser

Bronze Grand Slam

Greg Artlett
Jim Hyatt
Brian Mighell
Michael Ferris
Ray Phipps
Garry Bennett
Anthony Hesier

CASTING

Foundation Level

Bill Anderson
Greg Artlett
Garry Bennett
Mick Cannon
Michael Ferris
Ken Holley
David Lindsay
Brian Mighell
Stephen Mitchell
Murray Robinson
Nigel Smith
Doug Urquhart
Jim Wray
Ray Phipps
David Small
Steve Rampant

Bronze Level



HALL OF FAME

FISHING

Silver Grand Slam

Gold Grand Slam

CASTING

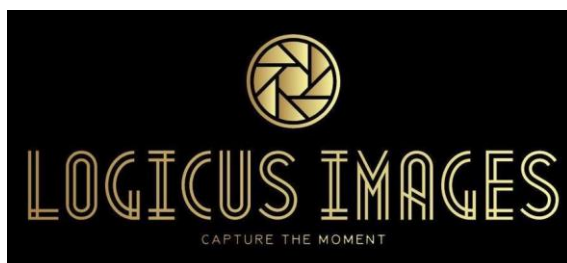
Silver Level

Gold Level

Allan Ekert

Our Supporters

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



Flies by Fedeles



<http://flytyerman.blogspot.com>

Membership Fees

Membership Fees are as follows:

Adult membership \$30

Family membership \$40

Concession membership \$20

Junior membership free

Distant membership \$10

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

Family membership is available for a group of two or more persons related by birth, marriage, de facto relationship or adoption who live together.

Concession membership is available to pension card holders (including disability support and aged), Centrelink and Veterans Affairs cardholders

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

Junior membership is available to anyone attending primary or secondary school.

Fees can be paid:

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

2. **By cheque** posted to:

The Secretary
Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club
11 Butterfly Close
Boambee East
NSW 2452



3. **Direct deposit:** Bananacoast Community Credit Union



BSB 533 000

Account Number: 02051766

Name: Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club Inc

Reference: Your surname

When depositing, make sure you include your surname in the Reference section. e.g. **Ekert Membership**.

Club Contact Address

Our official email address is cfffc@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

Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club Inc.

Membership Form

I apply for Membership or Renewal in the following membership category (*tick appropriate box*):

Adult \$30 Family \$40 Concession \$20 Junior - Free Distant \$10

Please fill all information below:

Name: _____ DOB: _____
Address: _____ Town: _____
Postcode: _____ Home Phone: _____ Mobile: _____
Email: _____
Emergency Contact: _____ Phone: _____

For Family Membership please complete the details below:

Name: _____ DOB: _____ Relationship: _____
Name: _____ DOB: _____ Relationship: _____
Name: _____ DOB: _____ Relationship: _____

By signing below you agree to abide by the Constitution, rules and safety regulations of the Club.

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Legal Guardian if for Junior member: _____ Date: _____


The club uses photographs taken by members or of members in the newsletter, promotional materials, on the website and on our Facebook Page. If you do not want your photograph to be used, tick here.

Phone numbers and email addressed are shared by club members to co-ordinate club outings and for safety purposes. If you do not want your details shared, tick here.

This signed Membership form must be given or sent by email or post to the Club together with payment of annual Club fees. Payment can be made by cash, cheque, or direct deposit.

Post signed form and cheque to:

The Secretary.
Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club
11 Butterfly Close
Boambee East
NSW 2452

 Bananacoast Community Credit Union
Ltd and Police & Nurses Limited

Direct Deposit:

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

Notes

Club Membership Definitions:

Concession membership is available to; Pension Cardholders (including Disability support and Aged), Centrelink and Veterans Affairs Cardholders.

A family is a group of two or more persons related by birth, marriage, de facto relationship or adoption who live together.

Junior membership is available to anyone attending primary or secondary school.

Distant membership is available to anyone living more than 80km from Coffs Harbour. Distant Members are entitled to all the benefits of club membership and are covered by public risk insurance.

Fees:

Our preferred method of payment is Direct Deposit. When making a **Direct Deposit** please ensure you include in the Reference: your **Surname** so the payment can be identified by the Club Treasurer and a receipt issued.

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

Completed Membership Forms:

Can be scanned and emailed to the Secretary at ccffc@tpg.com.au.
Can be hand-written and handed to the Secretary at a meeting or event.
Can be posted to the Secretary at the above address.

All information supplied will be held in Club records and will only be available to financial Club members, if approved by the applicant as indicated on their Membership Form.

Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club Inc.

Nomination form for the election of executive office bearers and committee members for the year 2022 -- 2023

Note: nominees, proposers and seconders must be financial members of the Club.

I, (*print name*)Signature.....date.....

wish to nominate (*print name*).....for the position of
(place a cross or tick before the nominated position)

- _____ president
- _____ vice president
- _____ secretary
- _____ assistant secretary
- _____ treasurer
- _____ club captain
- _____ committee member

I, (*print name*) second the above nomination

(*signature*)date

=====

I (*print name*).....accept nomination for the above position

(*signature*).....date.....

=====

Please return the signed nomination form by post or email to:

The Secretary,
Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club Inc.
11 Butterfly Close
Boambee East NSW. 2452

email: ccffc@tpg.com.au