

The Flyer



Official Newsletter Of The



The Flyer

The Official Newsletter of the Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club

JUNE 2023

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Front Cover: Tom Clancy caught this jumbo bream in our home waters of the Bellinger River. There are still fish to be caught even if it is winter.

As usual, the Flyer is full of photos of what our members get up to - not always with fish involved. If you are only reading this on a phone you are missing out on a lot of detail. Photos tell a story. Vaughn has been busy capturing the activities of the Tuesday Casters and for a bit of nostalgia you can see what Jim was up to in 1989.

We have quite a few important decisions to make at the club in the next two months and some of the newsletter is taken up with details of what has to be decided. The AGM is just around the corner and that also needs your attention. The Club is about fly fishing and having fun but sometimes the serious business of how the club is run has to be addressed.

A little less to read in this month's newsletter which is probably a good thing. Hopefully, we will have some stories and reports from members for the next edition.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

June 2023



Welcome to the June edition of our club newsletter, the "Flyer." From what I have seen of this edition, the Editor has again done a wonderful job.

It has been good to see photos coming in of our members enjoying our pursuit of fly fishing, whether it be chasing saltwater species in our area or having a last-minute shot at the trout before the curtain comes down on what has been an outstanding season.

The latest edition of the FlyLife magazine again contains articles which should be of interest to our members. The first "Drifting for Cod" by Joshua Hutchins, tells a tale of a few days drifting down a river in the New England area being guided by John Everett, a valued member of our club. It is certainly a good read and those who have had the experience of fishing with John know what a veritable wealth of knowledge he has of the area and its fish.

The second article which caught my eye was "Accessible Three" by Cherie Forbes. Cherie makes up the better looking half of BWC flies, a business that

most members would be aware of. Cherie is writing a three-part series on what she considers the "Bread and Butter" species for her area.

Fortunately for us the species listed are similar to what would be listed here with the possible addition of Blackfish in our area. (The last edition of FlyLife Cherie wrote about her pattern of a weed fly for Blackfish.) The series starts with Flathead to be followed by Bream and Whiting. The current article gives a very comprehensive coverage of chasing Flathead on a fly.

Our June Fly tying night will be covering the "Whiting Mesmeriser" by Shannon Kitchener which is outlined in the newsletter. Some of you will know Shannon from the Forster Fly Muster days.

At this stage I probably won't be seeing many of you until early July as we have a trip to the NT and Far North Queensland coming up in early June. All the best and tight lines - and may your health be better than mine.

Doug

From the Editor

Way back in the days before retirement, I used to be up with all the latest technology. I can remember being in the vanguard of using innovations such as Zardax for word processing and CU-SeeMe for video conferencing to name a few. If you know what I am talking about you are also of the age that finds it difficult to keep up now. Change is happening quicker and I am getting slower.

I mention technology as I have been looking at how AI could help with the production of the newsletter. For example, I just asked ChatGPT what AI is all about:

"AI stands for "Artificial Intelligence" and refers to the development of computer systems that can perform tasks that typically require human intelligence, such as recognizing speech, understanding language, making decisions, and recognizing objects in images or videos. AI involves the use of algorithms and statistical models to enable machines to learn from and make predictions or decisions based on data."

You may see a bit more material generated by AI creeping into the newsletter. You probably won't notice the difference to my mechanical style, but it will help fill the pages when we don't have any interesting contributions from members.

The other area where AI is becoming useful is in the upscaling of images. A lot of the photos I use in the newsletter come via Facebook or as messages and the resolution is very low. AI can now take those images and return them to full resolution. You will notice the difference if you are viewing the newsletter on a big screen. It is a little expensive to use on every photo at the moment, but it does give the option to make use of just about any image that has been sent in for the newsletter.



Obviously, the weather bureau was using the wrong AI program when they issued the weather forecast for the weekend of our May outing. Based on the predicted showers, we decided to cancel the trip. The day turned out to be perfect and I sat at home in brilliant sunshine and worked on the newsletter.

With winter upon us, it is getting harder to get up and get excited about a club outing. But, judging by the cover photo, this is a great time of year to catch those trophy fish. With an outing at Macksville and the chance to go to Lake St Clair on the calendar for June, I will be ignoring the weather forecast next time.

A final word on AI and editing newsletters comes from ChatGPT:

"It's important to note that AI tools are not perfect and should be used alongside human editing and input. Human editors are still better at understanding context, identifying errors that AI may miss, and ensuring that the content is well-written and engaging. Ultimately, a combination of AI and human editing is likely to produce the best results for a newsletter."

I hope AI never takes over from real human thought and effort, but if it can make the job of editor easier, I am all for it.

Editor

Club Executive 2022-23



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Club Contact Details

Please note the Club no longer
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All email contact should be to:
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June Meeting

Our June meeting will be held on Monday 19th at the North Beach Recreation and Bowling Club at Mylestom. The meeting will commence at **6.30pm**.

We are considering starting meetings half an hour earlier during winter to allow everyone to get home sooner. This will be discussed at our meeting and a decision is to be made.

The theme for the night will be knots. You can expect plenty of arguments. If you have a strong view, be ready to back it up with evidence in our "knot wars". We will be holding a head-to-head competition to determine the champion knot tyer. We will be using 2lb monofilament so if you want to win you had better practice your knot tying and bring your glasses.



The usual raffle will be run with all tickets retained to be used for the next major prize to be drawn at the July meeting. The prize will be a wooden landing net and fish smoker. The smoker has been donated by Mike Ferris and will come with everything you need to make your first batch of delicious smoked trout.



Tuesday Casting Group

Casting will continue this month on Tuesdays unless there is a need to cancel due to the weather or other circumstances. If you turn up at the Mylestom Cricket Oval at 10.00am to find no one there, check the Newsletter, Facebook or your emails or drive to the end of the road at the Café and see if we have moved to the shelter shed there.

The timetable is as follows:

9.45am - Arrive ready for 10.00am start.
10.00am - 11.00am How-to sessions and Casting
11am till 11.30am Morning tea
11.30 am till 12 noon More casting.

After casting you are welcome to join the group that goes to the café for lunch.



In June we will be:

- Casting at Mylestom on Tuesday 6th
- Casting at Mylestom on 13th
- Casting at Mylestom on Tuesday 20th
- Fishing (Venue to be decided) on Tuesday 27th

For more information on the Tuesday Casting Group, you can contact Allan on 0427457725.

Meeting Venue

Changes at the North Beach Recreation and Bowling Club have meant we no longer have access to our meeting place in the Billiards Room. We have been using the Osprey Room out the back but it is proving to be a little too small.

It has been suggested we look at alternatives to meeting at the Club in order to find somewhere more suitable. Finding another place has to take into consideration its centrality, the cost, and the amenities it provides. At our next meeting we will be discussing the alternatives and everyone present will have the opportunity to have their say and make their views known to the Committee. The Committee will be making the final decision. If you can't get to the meeting and want to put forward your ideas, please email, the Secretary or let any Committee member know.

Some of the suggestions put forward so far are listed below. There is room for other ideas, too. Give this some thought and be prepared to speak to your preferences. To guide the Committee, you will be asked to place these suggestions in order at our June meeting. The Committee will take this into account when it votes via email to resolve this issue. Here are some of the suggestions so far, in no particular order:

The Panorama Room at Coffs Harbour Showground



Mylestom Community Hall



Boambee East Community Centre



North Beach Recreation and Bowling Club Restaurant foyer



I'm sure there are other suggestions and we don't have to move if we don't want to. Give it some thought and let's find a solution that meets with the approval of the majority of members.

Fly Tying

The winner of the fly tying competition this month was Bill Anderson with his Tom Jones.



Brian Bevan (aka Pip) congratulating Bill for winning this month's competition with his Tom Jones fly.



The theme for next month's competition is a shrimp fly.

Our next fly tying night will be on Monday 26th June at **6.00pm** at the North Beach Recreation and Bowling Club in the Osprey room out the back. Anyone who is interested in learning about tying flies will be most welcome. This month we will be tying Shannon Kitchener's Whiting Mesmeriser. You can find the tying instruction later in the newsletter.



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.

Fly Master awards

When you become a Gold Fly Master you would think there is nothing more to do. Not so for David Lindsay who is continuing to add species to his list of captures and achieve more awards. Remember, you can receive as many awards as you like as long as you send in your list to Jim Wray at the club email address. You can't use the same species more than once but there are plenty to choose from and you can also go for a different three species in one day. We have the certificates and badges; you just need to fish harder and claim your awards.



David receiving his second Silver award from Fly Master Coordinator, Jim Wray.

Before Jim was a Fly Master, he was a Master on the 'Dark Side'. In the days when white socks and Bermuda shorts were regarded as fishing apparel, Jim caught this 151.8kg Blue Marlin off Coffs Harbour. It wasn't a record, but Jim already had an IGFA light tackle World Record for Mac Tuna (Kawakawa), a record he still holds to this day.

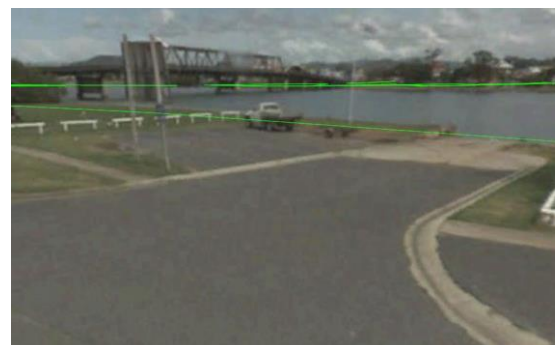


June Outings

Our June outing will be to Macksville on Saturday 10th June. Glenn will be coordinating this outing and you can phone him on 0409151270 to register or find out more.

A boat, canoe, kayak or SUP will make the fishing easier but there are land-based options if you want. We will be endeavouring to provide boat rides for everyone who wants one but you will have to register in plenty of time for Glenn to make this happen. There is no set starting time but someone will be at the boat ramp on the northern side of Macksville around 7.30am if you need help. There will be a sausage sizzle lunch at 1.00pm.

Macksville is on the Nambucca River and produces flathead, bream, trevally and the occasional giant herring. There is plenty of water to fish and hopefully a chance to add a new species to your list.



Lake St Clair Outing

The Hunter Valley Fly Fishing Club has an outing to Lake St Clair at Singleton over the weekend of 17th to 19th June. Last year they were kind enough to invite us to join them and several members attended. If anyone is interested in attending, please contact me by phone 0427457725 or email so I can let them know. At this stage we don't have any members who have expressed an interest in going.

Planning Ahead

We plan our club calendar at the beginning of the year knowing that changes will need to be made as the year progresses. Make sure you check the calendar each month to see the latest outings and activities.

▷ The September meeting is going to be a buy/swap/sell meet. Start collecting any unwanted fly fishing gear now.

▷ The proposed date for the Gathering @ Gumma falls within the September School holidays. We may want to consider a less busy time.

▷ If the Grafton Bass weekend is to go ahead, we need to book accommodation soon. If you are interested put your name in the outings book as soon as possible. If we don't have sufficient numbers to book a house or cabin, it will just become a day trip.

▷ We have an opportunity to conduct a fly fishing workshop at the Dutton Trout Hatchery at Ebor. The proposed date is November 4th. If you want to participate as a learner or instructor let us know.

Discussion Points

Here are a few discussion points and decisions that need to be made. Give them some thought and have your say at the meeting or make your thoughts known to a committee member.

⇒ It has been suggested that we start our winter meetings half an hour earlier to enable everyone to get home sooner. It will also give us more time for the meeting that has to finish by 8.00pm

⇒ Our outing for July is listed as being on our home waters. A proposal was put forward that we hold it at Woolli for a change of scenery and to make it closer for our northern members.

⇒ We need guest speakers or activities for our monthly meetings. If you have ideas for what you would like to see happen, we need to know so we can plan ahead.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held in July. That means you need to start thinking about membership fees and elections.

☞ Memberships are due for renewal by the end of June. You will receive an email reminder soon. The Committee will be recommending that the fees remain the same as last year. If you can pay by direct deposit, you will make the Treasurer's life easier.

☞ The Annual General Meeting will be held in July. We will be looking to fill positions on the Executive and Committee. The roles and responsibilities of Executive and Committee are attached to the end of this newsletter as is a copy of the of the nomination form for anyone wishing to nominate for a position. Take a look and see if you can help keep the club running.

Club Calendar 2023

The 2023 Club Calendar is provided to give you an overview of what might happen and an opportunity to plan ahead. It will change throughout the year as needed. Check the monthly newsletter or website for latest details.

Month	Outings	Activities
JANUARY	No general meeting or outing this month Committee Meeting Mon 16th	Committee Meeting Mylestom Monday 16 th
FEBRUARY	Seniors Week Try Fly Fishing Mylestom Tue 7 th Lake Borumba Sun 12 th to Fri 17 th (Murray) Bass Outing at Taylors Arm Sat 25 th (Doug)	Club Meeting Monday 20 th Mylestom
MARCH	Learn Fly Fishing at Ebor Sat 4 th Group 1 Tuesday Casting Group Resumes 7 th March Bens Falls Retreat Fri 10 th to Sun 12 th (Allan) Learn Fly Fishing at Ebor Sat 18 th Group 2 Fly Tying Mylestom Monday 27 th	Club Meeting Monday 20 th Mylestom
APRIL	Home Waters Sat 1 st (Glenn) Stuarts Point Fri 28 th to Sun 30 th (Mike) Fly Tying Mylestom Monday 24 th	Club Meeting Monday 17 th Committee Meeting Major Raffle Drawn
MAY	Home Waters Saturday 13 th (Allan) Cast a Fly Rod Day Date & venue to be decided Fly Tying Mylestom Monday 29 th	Club Meeting Monday 15 th Mylestom
JUNE	Macksville Saturday 10 th June (Glenn) Lake St Clair Friday 16 th to Sunday 18 th Fly Tying Mylestom Mon 26 th	Club Meeting Monday 19 th Mylestom
JULY	Home Waters Sat 22 nd (co-ordinator needed) Dunmore Waters Friday 28 th to Sunday 30 th Fly Tying Mylestom Mon 31 st	Annual General Meeting Monday 17 th Major Raffle Drawn
AUGUST	Swansea Salmon Classic Friday 18 th to Sunday 20 th Battle of the Bread Fly (Mullet Mash) Saturday 26 th Fly Tying Mylestom Mon 28 th	Club Meeting Monday 21 st Committee Meeting Mylestom
SEPTEMBER	Bass Day Bellinger River Sat 9 th Gathering @ Gumma Thur 21 st to Sun 24 th (Pip) Fly Tying Mylestom Mon 25 th	Club Meeting (Buy/Swap/Sell Meet) Monday 18 th Mylestom
OCTOBER	A1 Flats Fishing Workshop Woolgoolga Sat 7 th TBC Grafton Bass Weekend Friday 20 th to Sunday 22 nd Fly Tying Mylestom Mon 30 th	Club Meeting Monday 16 th Mylestom Major Raffle Drawn
NOVEMBER	Fly Fishing Workshop Ebor Sat 4 th Home Waters Saturday 11 th (Co-ordinator needed) Keepit Carp Caper Thur 23 rd to Sun 26 th (co-ordinator needed) Fly Tying Mylestom Mon 27 th	Club Meeting Monday 20 th Committee Meeting Mylestom
DECEMBER	Home Waters Saturday 9 th (co-ordinator needed) Christmas Gathering BBQ Valla Tuesday 12 th	No Club Meeting Christmas Raffle Drawn



Battle of the Bread Fly 2023

Formerly known as The Mullet Mash, the inaugural **Battle of the Bread Fly** will be held on our home waters on the Bellinger River at Mylestom on:

Saturday August 26th



Start from the Mylestom boat ramp at 7.30 am.
Finishing at 12 noon. Lunch 12.30pm. Presentation 1pm.

This will be a fun competition with anglers only able to use bread flies. All fish caught to be photographed on a brag mat or similar measuring device. Absolutely no fish, alive or deceased, will be eligible. There are no prizes except for the glory of being a winner. The judge's decision will be final. Categories to be fished for:

Biggest mullet, biggest bream, most unusual bi-catch,
most different species, smallest fish on a bread fly, most fish on bread fly

Cost \$10 per person. This includes:
4 bread flies, sausage sandwiches for lunch, bread for burley.

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 or kayak and can't find a ride let us know and we will ferry you to various land-based spots. Inexperienced fly fishers will be helped by members sharing their knowledge and skills.

There will be a briefing at 7.15am at the boat ramp at Mylestom where bread for burley will be distributed and information on where to fish will be supplied.

You MUST register for this event by Monday 21st August.

Contact: Allan on 0427457725



Monday 18th September 2023

North Beach Recreation and Bowling Club, Mylestom



Buy/Swap/Sell from 5.30pm – 7.30pm

This is a regular club meeting night but the only business will be buying, selling and swapping. Bring your unwanted fly and general fishing gear to sell or swap. Bring you money (cash only) to find a bargain. Come for a chat. Come for a meal. Make sure you are there.

For more information phone Allan on 0427457725

Fishing Reports

This month we say goodbye to one of the best ever trout seasons around Ebor, and from all accounts in most other places in NSW. From midnight on Monday 12th June all trout streams will be closed and re-open on the October long weekend. Trout dams remain open to fishing throughout the year.



This photo from Facebook sums up what the season has been like. The message got out that the fishing was good and people came from near and far to join the fun. Many of our members took the opportunity to hone their trout fishing skills.



Anthony with one of many rainbows he caught over the last season.



Ebor is a put and take fishery and thanks to the work of the staff at the Dutton Trout Hatchery at Ebor and the local stocking groups, a lot of trout have been put into the streams. It's up to us to make sure we only take what we need for a feed and put the little ones back to grow bigger for the next season.,



As the first of the winter frosts set in, it's time to concentrate on the local estuaries.



Glenn has been getting amongst the winter bream and flathead.



There are some big hungry bream around at the moment if you can find them.



Paul, and father Garry, have the mullet dialled in at Valla. Look out for them in the Battle of the Bread Fly.



It only took one fly casting lesson and Emma was able to catch her first bream on fly.



Lake Keepit

by the Editor

Why do you need so many fly rods? So you can sneak a seven piece fly rod into your travel bag when you are going on a sight-seeing road trip.

I've just come back from a week touring southern Queensland and central western NSW. The itinerary included a stopover at Lake Keepit. As I just happened to have a fly rod with me, I managed to get in a couple of hours fishing.

Now I have fished Keepit many times and up until the last couple of years there were always plenty of big carp to be caught.



In the last two years the dam has gone from near empty (0.4%) to overflowing. This has changed the fishery with large number of small carp now present.

On this trip I only fished the area in front of the Tourist Park so it may be different the further you get away from the activity of people, boats and birds. I found plenty of small carp which were great sight fishing targets. They were easily spooked and required a perfect presentation to get the eat. I ended up catching about 30.



If the small carp were spooky, the slightly larger ones were really playing hard to get. Not only did they head off into deeper water the moment they saw the rod move, they were very choosy about the fly they wanted. Jason's ever reliable Humphrey fly didn't work on a number of occasions when the cruising fish, with their mouths opened, were focused on insects on the water.



If you intend going to Keepit in November don't count on the big easy fish of years gone by. The carp that are there are smaller but will test your spotting, casting and stalking skills to the limit. I'll be going because there is no better way to hone your trout fishing skills while having so much fun.

P.S. The Sport and Recreation Centre is not taking bookings for Kilpara Lodge so the Club trip will be based at the Caravan Park where everyone will have to make their own accommodation arrangements.

Tuesday Casters

We had twenty two members turn up at Mylestom Oval last week (admittedly Tom and Roger only called in to tell us they were going fishing and didn't need to practice!) The others had an enjoyable day in the brilliant sunshine playing casting games. Thanks to Vaughn's camera, some of the casting was captured in photos that tell the story of what happens most Tuesdays.







Fishing Knots

There is a saying that if you can't tie knots, tie lots. However, relying solely on the quantity of knots rather than the quality can lead to more problems than solutions.

Fly fishers constantly argue about the best knot to use. There are hundreds of fishing knots for tying on hooks, attaching lines to reels, joining lines together, or creating loops. I'm not going to enter the argument about the best knot. Everyone has their favourite and can't be persuaded that there is anything better.

If you come to our June meeting night we will be talking about knots. No doubt there will be friendly discussion and banter about the best knots to use for fly fishing. There will be claim and counter claim about the relative strength of favourite knots. To settle the argument, we will be having 'knot wars'. Members will get the chance to pit their knot against those of others. It won't be conclusive because there are so many variables but at least we might get some idea of who can tie the strongest knots on the night.

If you want to see a more scientific approach to testing knots, you might want to watch this video from RIO Products with a comparison of seven different knots for tying on a fly.

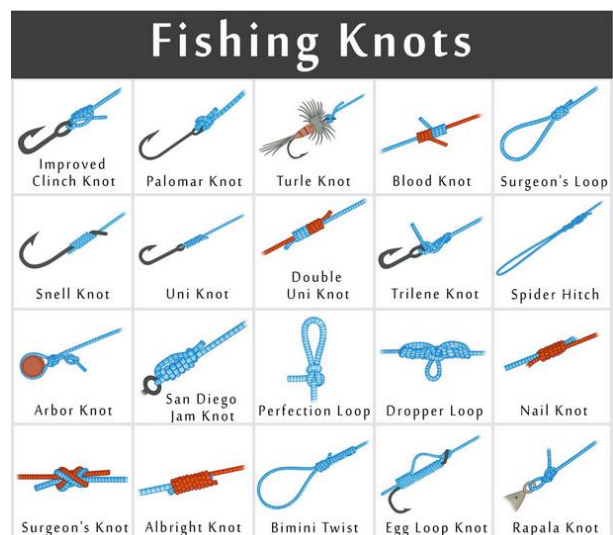


The RIO video list seven different knots but there are many more to choose from. I asked my friend ChatGPT how many different knots are there and it had the same difficulty as I would have found.

It's difficult to give an exact number, as new knots are often being developed, and different sources may classify knots differently. However, here are some common fishing knots:

1. Improved Clinch Knot
2. Palomar Knot
3. Uni Knot (also called the Uni-Knot or the Duncan Loop Knot)
4. Double Uni Knot
5. Blood Knot
6. Surgeon's Knot
7. Nail Knot
8. Albright Knot
9. Bimini Twist
10. Dropper Loop Knot
11. Perfection Loop Knot
12. Double Surgeon's Knot

These are just a few examples, and there are many more knots used in fishing. Additionally, anglers may also develop their own variations or modifications of existing knots.



When it comes to choosing the best and strongest knot to use there are a few key factors to keep in mind. Often it is the way the knot is tied that determines its ultimate strength. I asked 'Chat' (we're becoming good friends now) to help out again with some pointers for tying a knot correctly. Chat's thoughts were the same as I would have come up with but only took a fraction of a second to produce and were much better written. Here's Chat's key points on how to tie a strong fishing knot:

Choose the right knot: Select a knot that is suitable for the type of line you are using and the specific fishing application. Some knots work better with certain types of lines, such as monofilament or braided lines. Research and practice different knots to find the ones that work best for you.

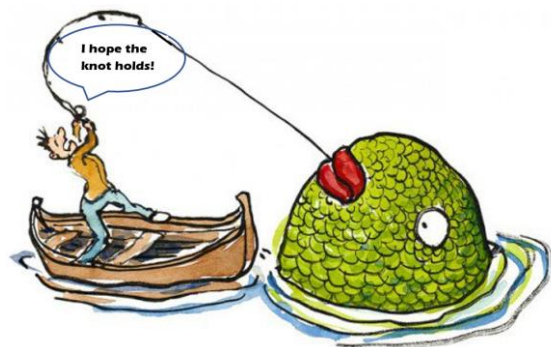
Wet the line: Before tightening the knot, wet the line with water or saliva. This helps lubricate the line, allowing the knot to slide and cinch properly. It also prevents friction and heat build-up, reducing the chances of the line weakening or breaking during the tying process.

Ensure proper wraps: When wrapping the line around itself or other components, make sure to create the correct number of wraps as specified for the specific knot you're tying. Insufficient wraps may result in a weak knot, while too many wraps can create unnecessary bulk and affect the knot's strength.

Maintain tension: Throughout the knot-tying process, keep a consistent tension on the line. This ensures that the knot is tightened properly and securely. If the tension is too loose, the knot may slip or

come undone. If it's too tight, you risk damaging the line or weakening the knot. Test the knot: After tying the knot, give it a thorough inspection. Gently pull on both ends of the line to ensure that the knot holds and doesn't slip. If the knot slips or shows any signs of weakness, untie it and try again.

Practice and experience: Like any skill, tying strong fishing knots takes practice. Spend time familiarizing yourself with different knots and practicing tying them until you feel confident in your technique. With experience, you'll become more efficient and proficient in tying strong knots.



In fly fishing we spend a lot of time and money on rods, reels, lines and flies but often don't spend enough time on knots.

We practice casting (sometimes!) but rarely practice tying knots. If you want to be an effective fly fisher you need to develop a repertoire of reliable knots and become proficient at tying them securely and confidently.

I would like to thank Chat for helping with this article and saving me a lot of typing. Chat's full name is "Chat Generative Pre-trained Transformer." It refers to the specific variant of the GPT (Generative Pre-trained Transformer) language model developed by OpenAI for conversational purposes. ChatGPT is trained on a vast amount of text data and is designed to generate human-like responses in a conversational context.



For those who travel regularly to New Zealand to fly fish, there will be a new Designated Waters Licence which will add to the cost to fish some locations.

The proposal is coming from grass root concern that locals cannot get access to their fisheries due to the number of foreign visitors.

What is the Designated Waters Licence about.

In March 2023, the New Zealand Fish & Game Council proposed a new fishing licence category called the Designated Waters (DW) Licence. This licence category has been developed to help manage angling pressure on a small number of sensitive fisheries.

After consultation with anglers and stakeholders, the New Zealand Council recently voted in favour of implementing the DW Licence for the 2023/24 fishing season.

How will the Designated Waters Licence work?

Subject to final approval, the Designated Waters Licence will work differently for resident and non-resident anglers.

For resident anglers, the DW licence will:
 Be available as a full-season licence.
 Cost \$5.00 per Fish & Game region.
 Not restrict the frequency in which resident anglers can access fisheries that are classified as Designated Waters.

For non-resident anglers, the DW licence will:

Be available as a daily licence.

Cost \$40 per DW licence.

Be quantity restricted. Non-resident anglers will be able to purchase a maximum of five DW licences per region, per season.

At a recent Southland Fish and Game Council meeting, the Council considered and discussed Southland's pressure-sensitive fisheries and decided to propose the use of DW licencing on the following river reaches:

The Oreti River and all tributaries upstream of the Mossburn Bridge (State Highway 97).

The Mataura River and all tributaries upstream of the Waikaia River confluence.

.....

The Designated Waters Licence will not stop most dedicated trouties going to New Zealand as it is such a great fishery. There are plenty of other places to fish without going to the popular access points. It's not about the money but the principle of Aussie/Kiwi relationships that will concern many fly fishers in this country.

What would happen if such a scheme was introduced to manage angling pressure on the sensitive fisheries around Ebor? Can you envisage signs like this being erected on the Waterfall Way?





Flies

It's winter and the shorter, cooler days lend themselves to tying flies. I used to think I was saving money by tying my own flies but thousands of dollars later I have discovered it is far cheaper to buy them. But tying flies is not just about saving money. There is nothing better than fooling a fish into eating a fly you have tied yourself. When you tie a fly yourself, you can tweak its shape, colour, size and the materials you use to give it the look and movement you want. Once you have found a "killer" pattern you can tie it on and fish with confidence.

There are other advantages in tying your own flies that can't be counted in dollars. You will find out you have plenty of friends when you go on a fishing trip with a supply of your hand tied flies - especially when they work better than anything they can buy in the shops. It also pays to take along your fly tying gear on a trip so you can match the hatch with just the right fly when the fish become fussy.

Then there are the therapeutic benefits of sitting in front of a vice and creating something with your hands. Fly tying is relaxing. These days you will pay big money for therapists, counsellors and activities to help you feel better. Tying flies is an exercise in mindfulness that can help you deal with the stresses of life while filling up your fly boxes ready to go fishing.

Whether you tie flies to find the perfect pattern or just to relax, you end up having more flies than you can ever use. Every winter since I started tying flies, I have always added to my collection. No matter how many flies I try to lose to trees, snags, fish and friends, I always seem to end up with a net increase. And that leads to the dilemma of how best to store and organize such a growing stock.

It's not just about the number of flies you need to store, but how to organize them systematically. Should they be arranged according to type, use, size or maybe colour? Should they be stored in fly boxes, tackle boxes or containers. Every winter I discover the ultimate solution. Every summer I decide there has to be a better way. Much has been written about fly storage so I am not going to dwell on that now. Ultimately, you need to find a solution that meets your needs and stick to it.



By now you are probably wondering how all this relates to casting. Well, the whole concept of casting a fly rod revolves around flies. We don't call it fly fishing with a fly rod for nothing. The type of fly you use determines the rod, line, leader and tippet you buy. And the flies dictate how you cast them.

And that leads me to the point of this month's article. I am often asked questions by newcomers about what rod to buy. My answer always revolves around what fish they want to catch and what flies they will be using to do it. It is the fly that attracts the fish and hooks it. Once you establish what fly you are going to cast, it is possible to determine the rod that will be needed. You can land many fish species on any fly rod but you can't cast every fly on every rod.

We all began our fly fishing journey with one rod and the decision was a compromise based on the type of fishing we had in mind. Trout fishers selected something in the 4-6 weight range that would cast small dry flies, nymphs and streamers. Saltwater fishers selected something in the 6-10 weight range that would cast large flies with bulk and weight. There are of course rods beyond these ranges but their purpose is still dictated by the size of the fly to be cast. A skillful angler can land most fish on a 1 weight rod but a skilled caster would struggle to cast a GT fly more than a couple of metres on such a rod.

The one rod policy soon becomes problematic when we need to consider the different scenarios of lake, river, estuary and ocean. That's what makes answering the question about what rod to buy so difficult. A 4 weight rod will work well in rivers or estuaries but for saltwater flats and oceans you might need an 8 weight. When confronted with questions from a beginner of what rod to buy, most instructors will point to the middle of the road 6 weight as a starting point.

Flies not only dictate what rod we should use they also determine how we cast the rod. The way that you cast a midge is different to the way you would cast a grasshopper. Casting poppers requires a different casting stroke to punching clousers into the wind. You have to adapt your casting to suit the flies you want to fish. Just the other day I found myself on the bow of a boat trying to cast heavy jig head flies backhand with the wind on my casting side. The only safe way to deliver the fly was to lob the fly behind me and then lob the fly forward. It was ugly and tiring but it worked. I could have taken the easy way out and used a lighter rod, but the right fly was more important than the right rod.



"So you prefer a rod with a lot of backbone..."

The late, great Lefty Kreh has some very good advice for those who are still limited to one rod for their fly fishing (and if you haven't heard of Lefty I'm not sure why you are reading this!) He suggests that by having multiple fly lines we can make that one rod perform to suit our needs. By using lines that are 1, 2 or even 3 weights below the rod's stated rating we can deliver small flies delicately. By overlining the rod with heavier lines, we can

deliver larger flies over longer distances. Most fly rods these days will handle a range of line weights which can be selected to cast any fly you might have in your fly box. Too often we think of putting a line on a rod to make the rod work easier and cast further. Think of the flies first and you might come up with a different solution to lining your rod.

Eventually, we come to realize the necessity of having more than one rod. You can throw a clouser on a 3 weight or make gentle presentations with an 8 weight but why make life difficult for yourself when there is a rod designed for the job. With the quality rods that are available today at reasonable prices it makes sense to have a variety of fly rods to cope with the range of flies we want to cast and the manner in which we want to deliver them. Golfers could play with just one club but how many do?

Casting flies is what fly fishing is all about. When you go fishing think about the flies first. Don't be afraid to paint a picture in your mind of the flies you want to use and how you want to present them. Use the imagery to select the rod and line to make the perfect the cast. We should use visualization more in fly fishing. Good golfers visualize a shot before they make it. We can use visualization too. Picture how the fly is cast, how it lands and how the fish takes. It doesn't always go to plan but you will be surprised how many times it does and how your casting and catching will improve.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND
WHY FLY FISHERS NEED
SO MANY RODS.



June Fly Tying

The theme for the fly tying competition this month is a shrimp. Shrimp Flies imitate one of the most common forage sources in saltwater. You could have easily tied a shrimp fly for the Estuary category of our fly tying competition earlier in the year.

Shrimp are crustaceans (a form of shellfish) with elongated bodies that swim to get around. Although we often refer to prawns as shrimp, they are actually different species - but that doesn't stop us from using the names synonymously.

Shrimp flies come in a multitude of shapes, sizes and colours depending on what species they are imitating. They are effective on bream, flathead, whiting, bonefish, permit, and even carp. If you fish the estuary flats then a good selection of shrimp flies is a must.

The particular fly we are going to tie this month is the Whiting Mesmeriser. Whiting are notoriously difficult to catch on fly. They sometimes eat poppers off the top and other times will chase down a weighted Crazy Charlie or Gotcha. The 'Mesmeriser' doesn't exactly look like a shrimp but its shape, colour and action will fool a whiting into eating it as one. It's also relatively simple to tie unlike some shrimp patterns.

One person who has made it his mission to catch whiting on fly is Shannon Kitchener. Shannon is a well-known Australian fly fisher, fly tyer, and guide. Those who have been to the Forster Fly Muster will remember watching Shannon tie whiting flies and talk about the fishing methods that he and Brian Henderson were working on.

The 'Mesmeriser' has been in Shannon's line up for a couple of years, tweaking the pattern to ensure that it consistently delivered Whiting on fly in a flats fishing

scenario. The step-by-step instructions and photos that follow are not from Shannon but he has checked them and despite my rough and ready efforts, they have received his nod of approval.



Materials

Hook: Gamakatsu SL45, size 8

Thread: Pink waxed 6/0

Bead: Tungsten Dumbbells that are 4mm x 6mm

Underbody: Pearl Chenille

Wing: Silver Tinsel



Place the hook in the vice.



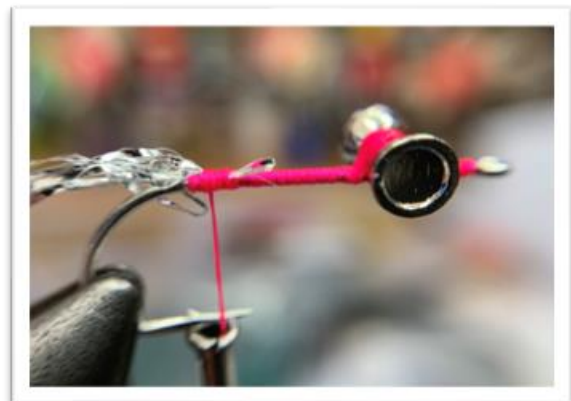
Introduce the thread.



Bind in the dumbbell eyes.



Tie in the silver chenille opposite the barb.



Wind the chenille forward and secure in front of the dumbbells,



Turn hook upside down or rotate vice.



Introduce a clump of silver tinsel.



Tie off and trim.



Build up a head, tie off and seal with head cement.



The finished product.



The 'mesmerizer' is not the only fly Shannon uses for whiting. On the surface he uses poppers, pushers and sliders to mimic the action of fleeing prawns. The skipping prawn is

probably his go to pattern now. If you want to see how Shannon ties this pattern you can click on the video below. You will also see why we are not tying this fly on Monday night because of the time and materials it takes.



The 'Mesmerizer' was developed to imitate the small shrimp, crabs and worms that whiting eat on the bottom. The use of beads to get the fly down and sparkle to attract the fish's attention set this fly apart. A lot of prototypes were tied before settling on the Whiting Mesmerizer.



Fishing the Whiting Mesmeriser

The key to its success, is keeping the fly on the sandy flat to allow it to 'puff' up sediment as the fly is stripped along. Whiting are inquisitive by nature. They will hone in on the moving target but it's still up to you, the angler, to fish the fly to get the eat.

If you want to find out more about the fly and how to fish it, look out for Shannon's article in FlyLife Magazine Issue 85 Spring 2016. If you want to buy the finished fly, you can purchase them from [BWC Flies](#) or you can also buy the materials in kit form to tie yourself. We will be using materials from BWC Flies in our fly tying group on Monday night.

CLUB SHOP



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



The original fishing shirts from Darwin. None available. We need a minimum order of 35 to get new stock. The cost would be about \$80 each.



A few Club caps in stock ... \$15 each.
Can order more if needed.



A few Club Hats in stock ... \$20 each. Can order more if needed.



Boat stickers in stock ... \$10 each. When they're gone no more will be printed.



Club Patches. None in stock but more can be ordered or better still take your garments to Nambucca T-shirts and have the logo directly embroidered for \$10.

To order from the Shop contact the Treasurer or the Secretary



HALL OF FAME

FISHING

FOUNDATION FLY MASTER

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

BRONZE FLY MASTER

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

CASTING

FOUNDATION LEVEL

Bill Anderson Phill Stever
Greg Artlett Garry Germon
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

BRONZE LEVEL

Greg Artlett
Bill Herd
John Starr
Greg Baxter
Ray Phipps
Doug Urquhart
Jim Wray
Mark Flook
Garry Bennett
Bill Anderson
Michael Ferris
Murray Robinson



HALL OF FAME

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

CASTING

SILVER LEVEL

GOLD LEVEL

Allan Ekert

GOLD FLY MASTER

David Lindsay
Tom Clancy
Glenn Colquhoun
Brian Mighell
Allan Ekert

FLY TYING COMPETITION WINNERS 2023

February:	Bass Fly	Glenn Colquhoun
March:	Estuary Fly	Steve Rampant
April:	Trout Fly Dry	Doug Urquhart
May:	Trout Fly Wet	Bill Anderson
June:	Shrimp	
July:	Salmon & Bread Fly	
August:	Clouser	
September:	Foam Fly	
October:	Carp Fly	
November:	Anything Goes Fly	

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



Membership Fees

Membership Fees are as follows:

Adult membership \$30

Family membership \$40

Concession membership \$20

Junior membership free

Distant membership \$10

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

Membership fees will be halved if joining after December

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

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

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

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

Fees can be paid:

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

2. **By cheque** posted to:

The Secretary
Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club
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

coffscoastflyfishers@gmail.com

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.

Nomination form for the election of executive office bearers and committee members for the year 2023 -- 2024

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: coffscoastflyfishers@gmail.com

Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club Inc

Roles and Responsibilities



The President

It is the duty of the President to:

- (a) Represent the Club in a positive light at all levels of the community
- (b) Ensure that the association adheres to its constitution and rules
- (c) Conduct meetings dealing with agenda items
- (d) Determining that a quorum is present in order to commence a meeting
- (e) Ensure all members have the opportunity to speak, addressing the meeting through the Chair
- (f) Preserve order throughout the meeting and keep discussion and decision making relevant and within time
- (g) Sign minutes of the previous meeting after they have been confirmed

Vice President

It is the duty of the Vice President to deputize for the President whenever he or she is unable to perform their duties.

- (a) Represent the Club in a positive light at all levels of the community
- (b) Ensure that the association adheres to its constitution and rules
- (c) Conduct meetings dealing with agenda items
- (d) Determining that a quorum is present in order to commence a meeting
- (e) Ensure all members have the opportunity to speak, addressing the meeting through the Chair
- (f) Preserve order throughout the meeting and keep discussion and decision making relevant and within time
- (g) Sign minutes of the previous meeting after they have been confirmed

Secretary

It is the duty of the secretary to:

- (a) Keep minutes of the meeting either by themselves or delegated to a minute taker
- (b) Record the names of members present at meetings
- (c) Ensure all correspondence and official records of the association (other than financial records) are up to date, accurate and in order
- (d) Assist the President to organize meetings and ensure they run smoothly
- (e) Ensure that meeting papers (agenda, correspondence and previous minutes) have been distributed

Assistant Secretary

It is the duty of the Assistant Secretary to:

- (a) Support the Secretary by taking minutes of committee, general and annual general meetings.
- (b) Undertake other duties in support of the Secretary as and when required.

Treasurer

It is the duty of the treasurer to:

- (a) Ensure that all money due to the association is collected and received and that all payments authorised by the association are made
- (b) Keep books and accounts showing the financial affairs of the association, including full details of all receipts
- (e) Ensure an annual budget is prepared and expenditure reviewed regularly.
- (d) Organize and present the annual balance sheet and accounts to members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

The committee

- (1) The committee is to consist of:
 - (a) the office-bearers of the association, and
 - (b) at least 3 ordinary committee members, **one of whom should be the Club Captain**, each of whom is to be elected at the annual general meeting of the association.

- (2) The office-bearers of the association are as follows:
 - (a) the president,
 - (b) the vice-president,
 - (c) the treasurer,
 - (d) the secretary.
- (3) A committee member may hold up to 2 offices (other than both the offices of president and vice-president).

The Committee is the decision making body of the Club. Urgent decisions can be made by the Executive (president, vice-president, treasurer, secretary) to be ratified at the next meeting. The Committee can ask a General Meeting for a view on any matter before making a final decision.

It is the duty of the Committee to:

- (a) Control and manage the affairs of the Club within the rules of the constitution.
- (b) Exercise all the functions that may be exercised by the association, other than those functions that are required by this constitution to be exercised by a general meeting of members of the association.
- (c) Perform all the acts and do all things that appear to the committee to be necessary or desirable for the proper management of the Club.

The Public Officer

It is the duty of the Public Officer to:

- (a) Act as the official contact for the Club
- (b) Notify Fair Trading of any change in the association's official address within 28 days
- (c) Collect all association documents from former committee members and deliver the documents to the new committee member.
- (d) Keep custody of any documents as required by the constitution.

Club Captain

The Club Captain is to be elected at the AGM and should be a member of the Committee.

It is the duty of the Club Captain to:

- (a) Encourage a high level of involvement from all members
- (b) Help improve all members' skills in fly fishing
- (c) To assist the Committee with club outings and public events
- (d) To promote the club

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 coffscoastflyfishers@gmail.com

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.