

The *Flyer*



Official Newsletter Of The



The Flyer

The Official Newsletter of the Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club

MARCH 2022

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Front Cover: Jim Wray knows his way around most of the Ebor trout streams but he only had to go as far as the Guy Fawkes River with its easy public access to find this colourful brown.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



March 2022

Another month has flown by and another outing has unfortunately been cancelled. It's pretty difficult to pull the right rein when setting an outing date with the weather in the end being the deciding factor. Saturday the 19th was set to hold the Bass outing but unfortunately the storms in our area on the 18th and then more rain in the early morning of the 19th made the decision to cancel the correct one. A couple of members ventured out for a look Sunday afternoon and had a fish from the bank - canoes and kayaks were out of the question with high water and high flows. Since then, we have had almost nonstop rain virtually wiping out any chance of a bass fish for the next few weeks.

The author of one of the articles in the FlyLife magazine that I mentioned in my last report attended our February club meeting. I would like to welcome Tom and hope that we provide him with some positive material for his articles and he enjoys the mateship which abounds in our group.

Tuesday casting is going to be conducted both morning and evening for a few weeks to see how well both times are patronised. Casting this year is going to be run on the FFI Fly Casting Skills Development Program. This means that if any members wish to, they can work their way through the program achieving Bronze, Silver and Gold levels. Or they can just turn up for a cast and a chat!

Fly tying nights are starting up again. Once again, how well the evening is patronised will decide as to whether or not it will continue. Our previous evenings were very well supported so let's hope that continues.

Please check the calendar to see what outings are coming up and what may interest you.

Stay safe and tight lines

Doug

From the Editor

We are the Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club. However, you will have noticed that many of our activities and outings are based around Mylestom/North Beach. There are a number of very good reasons for that. Mylestom is actually the geographic centre of our membership which stretches from Woolgoolga in the North to Macksville in the South and Dorrigo in the West. The Bellinger and Kalang River system is the major waterway on the Coffs Coast and provides a wide variety of fishing opportunities. We have access to a great meeting venue free of charge and the nearby oval provides a base for our casting activities. Maybe we should have called ourselves the North Beach Fly Fishing Club - but no one would know where to find us.



Many people get into fly fishing because they want new challenges. It's not necessarily about competition but about striving to learn more and achieving new goals. At some stage in life, fishing becomes more about fulfilling a bucket list than filling a bucket. If you are one of the people ready to set yourself a new challenge you may be interested in two programs we are running this year.



Our casting activities this year will be centred on the FFI Fly Casting Skills Development program where members can work toward goals for improving their casting skills. As a level is achieved there is acknowledgement of progress which should also lead to better success on the water.

On the water we are introducing a similar program of awards for members achieving a Grand Slam of fish species caught. There will be a number of awards that you can work your way through as your fishing (and casting) skills improve. You can read about the Grand Slam Awards in the newsletter and see if you want to take up the challenge.

There are lots of things happening at the club this year so I hope you get involved. If you have ideas for activities or outings get in contact with a committee member. The club exists to share, learn and have fun and this will only happen with your participation.

Editor

Club Executive 2021-22



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March Meeting

Our March meeting will be held on Monday 21st at the North Beach Bowling Club at Mylestom. Start time is at **6.30pm** to allow for the early closing time of the club. Some members will be arriving earlier (from 5.00pm) to have a pizza and drink.

Guest speaker for the night will be Glenn who will be talking about his trip to the Tumut River and Jindabyne.

We will be having our usual raffle and the major raffle prize of a South Pacific Collapsible Wading Staff will be drawn. There won't be a formal meeting but there will be time to discuss upcoming events and any issues.



March Outing

Our March outing on Saturday 26th has been changed from Bluewater to Estuary. We don't have sufficient members with Bluewater boats so it has been decided to have an outing on our Homewaters at Mylestom. There is no set starting time but we will meet up at the Oval for lunch at 1.00pm.

This will be a great opportunity for those wanting to get a start on the Grand Slam Awards. Target species will be bream, mullet and flathead.

You must register for this outing so you can be contacted with further details. You can email ccffc@tpg.com.au or call Allan on 0427457725.

Tuesday Casting Group

Casting sessions resume Tuesday 1st March. Anyone is welcome to attend. Rods will be available for those without. The venue is the park in Mylestom opposite the boat ramp. For more information you can contact Allan on 0427457725.

9.45am - Arrive ready for 10.00am start.
10.00am - 11.00am How to sessions and Casting
11am till 11.15am Morning tea
11.15 am till 12.15 pm More casting.

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

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

The program for March is as follows:

- Tuesday 1st Casting Mylestom
- Tuesday 8th Casting Mylestom
- Tuesday 15th Casting Mylestom
- Tuesday 22nd Casting Mylestom
- Tuesday 29th Fishing at Valla Beach

We will be following the levels of the FFI Fly Casting Skills Development Program. Everyone who attends will be given a booklet and DVD outlining the program.



Fly Casting Skills Development

Tuesday Night Casting

There will be a trial Tuesday night casting program for those who can't make casting sessions during the day. The first session will commence on Tuesday 1st March from 6.00pm to 7.30pm and run over five weeks. If there is sufficient interest that could be extended. The venue will be the tennis courts at Mylestom (next to the North Beach Bowling Club). This group will also follow the FCSD program and will be given a booklet and DVD. Tuesday Night Casters will be able to borrow a reel and fly line so they don't have to use their good lines on the concrete courts. For more information or to register your interest call Allan on 0427457725.



Dorrigo Casting Day

On Saturday 19th March there will be a casting day to be held at Dorrigo from 9.00am to 1.00pm. The venue will be the Dorrigo Recreation Reserve and the indoor stadium. The day is open to all members but is aimed at reaching out to new members from the plateau. Coastal members would be welcome to help out or participate in the workshop. All levels of casting will be catered for including juniors and beginners. Rods will be available or you can bring your own. Morning tea will be provided. There is a cost of \$5 (juniors free) and you must register by 17th March. For more information or to register contact John Starr on 0427572777 or Allan on 0427457725 email ccffc@tpg.com.au

Fly Tying Night

Unfortunately, the deadline for the newsletter precludes any report from the fly tying session planned for Monday 28th February. There will be another fly tying night on Monday 28th March. By then we should have an idea of where we are going and how many more sessions members want. If you are interested you can contact Allan by phone or text on 0427457725 or email ccffc@tpg.com.au.



Free Skin Check Guide

I don't usually fill up the newsletter with articles not related to fly fishing, but as outdoors people we need to be constantly aware of skin cancer - just ask a few of our members.

Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Two in three of us will be diagnosed with some form of skin cancer by the age of 70. More than 95% of skin cancers are treatable if found early so it is important to know what to look out for.

Download the [Cancer Council of NSW free Skin Check Guide](#) at this link.



Spot the Difference
Skin Check Guide

AM I AT RISK?
Anyone can develop skin cancer. However, you are at higher risk if you:

- have a fair skin type that is easily sunburnt;
- have spent lots of time outdoors over your lifetime;
- sunbake, use solariums or sunlamps; and/or
- have lots of moles;
- have a history of bad sunburns;
- have previously been diagnosed or have a family history of skin cancer;
- have red hair and light coloured eyes (blue or green).

If you meet any of the above criteria, speak to your doctor about developing a surveillance plan to keep on top of any changes to your skin.

Learn how to spot the early signs of skin cancer to help you look after yourself and your loved ones all year round.

Cancer Council NSW



Dorrigo Fly Casting Workshop

Saturday 19th March 2022

Learn to fly cast or improve your casting skills with

Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club and an Internationally certified casting instructor

From 9.00am to 1.00pm at the Dorrigo Recreation Reserve and indoor stadium

All levels of casting will be catered for including juniors and beginners. Rods will be available or you can bring your own. Morning tea will be provided. The cost will be \$5 (juniors free) and you don't need to be a member of the club. Get in contact for more information or to register.



You MUST register for this event by 17th March.

Contact: John Starr on 0427572777 or

Allan Ekert on 0427457725 email ccffc@tpg.com.au

Committee Decisions

The Committee held its first meeting for the year on Monday. The club conducts most of its business through committee and the work of committee members in keeping things running smoothly is much appreciated.

A summary of decisions made at the meeting is listed below. A copy of the full minutes and the financial statement is available if you would like a copy - contact the Secretary.

- An Income and Expenditure statement for the year was presented by the Treasurer showing a Balance of \$5503.75
- It was decided to trial fly tying nights at North Beach Bowling Club on the last Monday of the month.
- The club outing to Lake Keepit was approved but accommodation to be decided by next meeting when exact numbers are known.
- A letter of support was sent to Bellingen Shire Council for their application for funds to upgrade the boat ramp, pontoon and fish cleaning table at Mylestom.
- Approval was granted to print 20 copies of the FCSD casting program at an approximate cost of \$70.
- A club casting day was approved to be held at Dorrigo on March 19th.
- The Club Grand Slam Awards were approved to be started this year. See page 10 for details.
- The venue for the October Bass outing was changed to the Big River Caravan Park at Grafton instead of Jackadgery.
- The March 26th outing was planned to be a Bluewater/Homewater day. It was decided to make it an estuary day at Mylestom.

- Anyone wanting to sell items on our Facebook Page must be a financial member, the goods must be used or in the case of flies, tied by the member, and no commercial posts unless approved by Committee.

- It was decided we should book Dunmore Trout Waters for the weekend of 29th to 31st July.

- The idea of a fly rod tune up day was discussed and it was decided to find a date in our calendar possibly in conjunction with the MO Tackle Family Fun Day.

Keepit

There will be an outing to Lake Keepit from 7th April. At this stage we don't have the numbers to book accommodation at the Sport and Recreation Centre. The deadline for registrations has now been extended until our March meeting. If we don't have sufficient interest by then (or if the accommodation is already booked) the outing will be based out of the State Recreation Park where everyone will be responsible for organizing his own accommodation and food.

To register your interest in the Lake Keepit trip, you can contact Allan by phone or text on 0427457725 or email ccffc@tpg.com.au.



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, Trevally

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.

Mullet, Bream, Flathead, Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout, Herring.

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, Herring, Yellowbelly, Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout, Brook Trout, Redfin, Mangrove Jack, Whiting, Trevally, Tailor, Kingfish, Tuna (any species) Mackerel (any species) Dolphin Fish, Marlin

Must be caught on one day
Must be photographed with some means of verifying the date and length
Fish must be legal size.



Bass Outing Report

Unfortunately, there is nothing to report from the planned Bass outing at Taylors Arm on President Doug's property last week. As you can see from the photos, the weather intervened and the outing had to be cancelled. Getting wet wasn't the problem. Rain on the access tracks on Doug's place meant even 4wds couldn't get to the river.



No new date has been set for this outing but Doug has issued an open invitation for members to contact him to arrange a visit.

Doug and I discussed the issue of individuals fishing on a farmer's property and the protocols required by biosecurity and trespass laws. Any club member visiting a property is not covered by the Club's Public Risk Insurance unless it is a sanctioned club event so if you want to fish on Doug's place you have to make your own arrangements with him.

The river subsided quickly after the rain and was fishable by Sunday afternoon but only on foot. There are bass there!



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 Carp Trip Thursday 7 th to Sunday 10 th April Home Waters 30 th April	No Club Meeting Monday 18 th due to Easter Holidays.
MAY	Fly Fishing Workshop Ebor Saturday 21 st TBC Homewaters Saturday 14 th May	Club Meeting Monday 16 th Committee Meeting
JUNE	Homewaters Saturday 11 th June Lake St Clair TBC	Club Meeting Monday 20 th Major Raffle Drawn
JULY	Casting Day TBC Flats Fishing Workshop TBC (Garry) Dunmore Waters Friday 29 th to Sunday 30 th July	Annual General Meeting Monday 18 th
AUGUST	Swansea Salmon Classic TBC Mullet Mash Saturday 20 th August	Club Meeting Monday 15 th Committee Meeting
SEPTEMBER	Gathering @ Gumma (Pip) Friday 9 th to Sunday 11 th September Homewaters Saturday 24 th September	Club Meeting Monday 19 th Major Raffle Drawn
OCTOBER	Homewaters Saturday 8 th October Bass Bash Grafton Friday 21 st to Sunday 24 th October (Michael)	Club Meeting Monday 17 th
NOVEMBER	Homewaters Saturday 19 th November	Club Meeting Monday 21 st Committee Meeting
DECEMBER	Keepit Carp Caper Thursday 8 th to Sunday 11 th December Christmas BBQ Tuesday 13 th December Major Raffle Drawn	No Club Meeting

Fishing Report

By the Editor

There has not been a lot to report on the fishing front due to the weather. It seems just as the rivers start to clear up we get another rain event. We shouldn't complain as we need the rain which has been especially welcomed up on the plateau. It would be safe to say the trout streams up there are in the best condition they have been in for many years.

With plenty of water about (sometimes too much) the trout fishing has been good. Thanks to the efforts of the Hatchery and the Dorrigo Ebor Freshwater Fishing Association a lot of fry were released into our local streams and they have been growing prolifically.



With good stocks of fish, it is tempting to take more than you need for a feed. We have all seen or heard stories of people catching more than the limit and not releasing undersize fish. We encourage a responsible attitude to our fishing or the good season we are having now is not going to last.

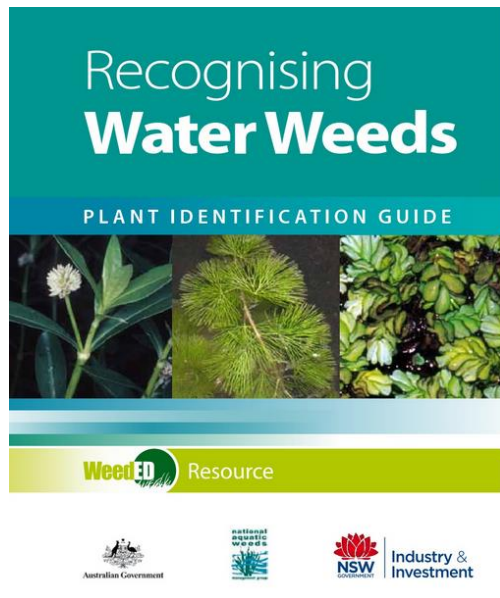
As a club we are often asked for details of where to fish for trout around Ebor. We are only too happy to pass on details of public access points. If you want to gain access to some of the more private waters you need to make contact with local farmers. A polite introduction and request to fish is usually looked upon favourably.

Another good way to find out about fishing spots around Ebor is to join the local acclimatization group and help stock the rivers each year. The Dorrigo Ebor Freshwater Fishing Association is the club responsible for all this hard work. Each year from September to October a band of volunteers stock around 40 thousand rainbow and brown trout fry into the local streams. By joining this group, you not only share the work load but you get to meet some of the farmers and see the places where fish are released.



These fish that Jim caught recently were from the Guy Fawkes River which has plenty of public access in the village of Ebor. When the conditions are right there is always action on this river. The fish Jim is holding were all released for you to catch on your next trip.

No Space 4 Weeds



At our last meeting we had an interesting talk from Ashley Donges, the Invasive Plants Officer from the Bellingen Shire Council. Ashley (with a little help from his young son, Arlo) spoke about aquatic weeds we might come across while out fishing and the hygiene practices and reporting pathways we should follow.

We can help prevent the spread by:

- Inspecting and removing plant material from watercraft, trailers and equipment before leaving a site or launching at a site, including inside the boat, live wells, bilge and bait containers.
- Learning to recognize water weeds. Be observant for new or unusual weeds.
- Avoiding infested waterways and if in an infested area avoid running the motor through weeds beds.
- Reporting infestations to your local council weed officer or NSW DPI on 1800680244 or email weeds@dpi.nsw.gov.au
- Visiting NSW Weedwise at weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au for information about each plant and its associated Biosecurity duties.

Fly Tying -JOS Gurgler

Last month John O'Shaughnessey shared his JOS Gurgler with us. He developed this fly over 10 years ago and it has worked well for him. Now he has updated and refined his pattern and once again he generously shares it with us.

1. Hook size.

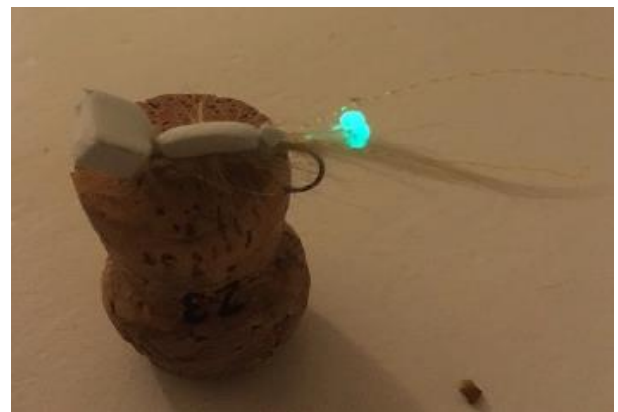
I have been occasionally using size 6 O'Shaughnessey hooks rather than size 8 to create a bigger commotion in the water when the wind is extreme and to create a larger silhouette at night. They also present a more lively wiggle when used underwater on a sinking line with a short leader. The proportion of foam used is less to ensure the line drags it down.

Another version uses long shank hooks. These versions have tempted flathead to come off the bottom to take them.

I have made some gurglers with big fish eyes and rubber legs to imitate mullet mooching on the surface. See photo. I am also lengthening gurgler bodies by joining 2 hooks in line. I have more work to do with that idea.

2. Eyes

I have a night time version with luminous eyes dubbed "The midnight gurgler" musical joke in case you were wondering. See photo.



I have mixed luminous powder with nail polish to cover the burnt mono eyes. I got the powder from China of course. A torch or camera flash stimulates it.

I finish the usual burnt mono eyes with black Sally Hanson nail varnish. Very black, shiny and hard finish. I'm using 20lb mono. I also tie a little hump on the hook shank to splay the eyes. I wasn't doing that originally.

3. The Tail

I have tried various lengths. The longer the tail the more movement when the fly is retrieved as well as when it's sitting or drifting. It is more attractive to the fish, however, not as many hook up. A short tail such as 1 hook length doesn't attract fish quite as well but does hook a larger proportion. If the fish are aggressive, it makes no difference as the whiting just suck them in. A hook and a half or 2 hook lengths are good compromises. Not needed on short tails. I've tried small stinger hooks but they interfere with the tail.



To prevent the tail from tangling around the hook shank I use a little solar resin on the top of the tail between the eyes and a little more under the tail at the join of the tail and hook shank. The stiff part should finish before or no further out than the curve of the hook. It stiffens up the beginning of the tail keeping it up and away from the hook shank without impeding movement significantly.

4. Tail material options.

My latest is a barred fibre. The bunches have a nice taper and are the right coarseness. The bars look great and it moves nicely in the water. See photo. They work. You can buy the stuff at Spotlight or similar places as part of a fluffy cushion cover. You score a cushion as well. I've also seen similar at Aldi. If you can't locate it that way an option is to buy it online from some fly tying shops though like all materials in those places it is very expensive. It makes nice fish bodies as well.

I have also had success using shrimp colour polar fibre but I still think electric yellow (sort of a fluorescent green) is the most effective colour. Some other colours such as sea green are a nice colour but the fibres are too fine so tangle too easily. Fluorescent orange egg yarn, which I normally use when practising casting, works well too. Try whatever you can find.



Lots of different ideas above. Feel free to innovate and improve.



John O'Shaughnessey



Essential Fly Casts

This month sees the beginning of the second year of our club's Tuesday casting group. For regular attendees this has meant many hours of learning new casts, practicing and getting better at fly fishing. You would think we would have covered all the essential casts by now and would be running out of new casts to learn this year. Far from it!

Back in 2014, I wrote an article about casting repertoires in which I tried to suggest a pathway to learning the essential casts for fly fishing. Back then, I suggested there were half a dozen casts you needed in your repertoire to be a successful fly fisher. I stand by that suggested list but in light of developments over the years I want to bring that up to date with a few new casts and new names.

In his 1977 book "Casting Angles,"¹ Mac Brown describes over 50 different casts. Some are familiar casts which we all know and use while others could only feature in a book written by a professor of casting ... which Mac was when he was associate professor of fly casting at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee North Carolina. I wonder if you have heard of all these?

Oval cast, reach cast, pile cast, tuck cast, bucket cast, Belgian cast, puddle cast, steeple cast, pendulum cast, positive C cast, negative C cast, S cast, negative hook cast, horizontal cast, angular rotational thrust C cast, angular rotational thrust pile cast, angular perpendicular thrust and reverse thrust pile casts, negative bucket cast, bounce cast, catch cast, the lazy U cast, line-release cast, downward pile cast, elliptical pile cast, figure-eight pile cast, figure-eight cast, the slack cast, the long-short cast, curve cast, hook cast, check cast, line-pull cast, stagger cast, reverse cast, Galway cast, the catch cast, bow-and-arrow cast, dapping cast, swing cast, wind cast, spey roll cast, distance roll cast, horizontal roll cast, the aerial roll cast, the steeple aerial roll cast, Z-method cast, water-load cast, hybrid-load cast, the triangle cast, altered force cast, the roll cast pickup, horizontal roll cast pickup, hybrid-roll cast pickup.

Mac's list is not exhaustive and I'm sure there are others that could be added. So, for those who have been casting for a while and think there is nothing new to learn, you might want to think again. I have used many of these casts (sometimes without knowing their names and sometimes with different names) but I have a long way to go before I would run out of new casts to learn. As we begin the second year of our club casting group there are still more essential casts to learn much.

In my original article I suggested the first essential cast to learn is the basic overhead cast. This enables us to get a fly on the water, lengthen or shorten the line, dry the fly and make a change of direction. Once you can make an overhead cast you are ready to catch a fish on fly. I still believe the overhead cast is the first essential cast, but as I have worked with more people just starting out with fly fishing, I have realized that there are essential steps to achieving that goal.

The Fly Fishers International Fly Casting Skills Development program recognizes these first steps in learning to cast and introduces them in the Foundation Level. These are not essential casts, but essential steps on the way to being able to make a basic overhead cast. I mention them now for the benefit of those who may have not yet learnt to make a basic cast or for those who want to be recognized for passing the Foundation Level.

Joan Wulff, who should need no introduction as a casting instructor, uses an exercise she calls "circles, eights and straights" to teach loop formation and the beginning of the overhead cast. By moving the rod and line in a series of shapes in the air, the beginner is led seamlessly into the stroke needed to make the overhead cast. The following video by Paul Arden (another instructor who should need no introduction) will show how it is done. <https://vimeo.com/238452423>. For those following the FCSD program the term "pancakes, eggs and bacon" is used to mean the same thing.

Another step I believe is essential in learning to make the overhead cast is being able to form loops on the ground. The FCSD program calls this the Horizontal Loop Formation Drill. It is simply moving the rod back and forth in the horizontal plane learning to accelerate, stop and pause the rod to make narrow loops. By doing it on the ground there is plenty of time to check on loops and begin to understand the importance of the straight line path of the rod tip. You can watch Bill Gammel (co-author of the five essentials of fly casting) demonstrate the horizontal loop formation drill here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uB9eJnh-NgU>

The next step on the way to learning the overhead cast is to move the loops off the ground and into the air. It's simply a matter of making the same horizontal casting motion but not allowing the line to touch the ground. This is the first step in learning false casting. Once you can false cast you are actually making a basic overhead cast. For the beginner, mastering these early steps is essential to being able to make the basic overhead cast. They are also essential for anyone wanting to achieve the Foundation Level in the FCSD program.

If you can make a basic overhead cast you can catch fish on fly. There are quite a few other things involved but at least at this level you should be able to present the fly in such a way that eventually you will get a fish to eat. However, the more you fish the more you realize that you need more knowledge, skills and a greater repertoire of casts to catch a fish. This is why so many different casts have been developed. And that's why our casting group is never going to run out of new things to do.

After the overhead cast, the second essential cast I think you should learn is the roll cast. In some circles, instructors will suggest that the roll cast should be the first cast taught – not the overhead cast. The roll cast is really only the forward half of an overhead cast so logically it should be the first step in learning to cast. There are several more reasons why some instructors would want you to start with the roll cast. It enables you to lay out line ready for the pickup and it is a quick and safe way to get a fly on the water. Once you have mastered the roll cast you can cast without room behind, you can lift a sinking line from the water, and you can counter the wind. If you don't start with the roll cast it should be first new cast you learn.

After you have the overhead and roll casts under control, I suggest the next thing you should learn to do is perform these casts over your opposite shoulder. In other words, you need to be able to cast your fly and line on either side of your body. If you can't do this you will never cope with the wind. Of course, the alternative to learning to cast across your body is to learn to cast with either hand. It is not as difficult as it may sound and will provide opportunities to make casts no matter which way the wind may blow. It is essential to be able to deliver a fly from the left or right before you attempt to learn any other casts. Or maybe don't go fishing on days when the wind blows.

If you fish moving water, the next essential you should work on is mending. Mending is the repositioning of the line on the water or in the air after the fly has been cast. Technically, it is not a cast as it takes place after the rod has stopped. By reaching out to the left or right as the fly is placed on the water a reach mend can counter the current in a river or even the movement of the boat on a lake. Dabbing or flicking coils of line on the water can extend a drag free drift or keep a nymph near the bottom. Learn to mend your line and your chances of catching fish, especially trout, will increase in leaps and bounds.

The next essential cast that I suggest you learn is actually a series of casts which most people call presentation casts. Mac Brown calls them “enlightenment” casts because we have to be “enlightened” to different ways to present the fly. These are not advanced casts but subtle changes to what you already do designed to present the fly to a fish so it will eat. They could involve adding slack to achieve a drag free drift or making a curve to avoid obstacles. The FCSD program includes curve and slack line presentation casts such as a wiggle or pile cast. They should be added to your list of essential casts.

The wind is an ever-present problem for fly fishers. In my list of essentials, I would suggest three casts that should be mastered if you want to cope with those days when the wind is so bad you wished you had stayed at home. The first is called the Oval, Belgian, Gebetsroither or constant tension cast. It's a cast that keeps the fly moving in a smooth and constant motion not allowing the wind to take control. In this video from Bruce Chard, he demonstrates the cast in a typical saltwater scenario: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0tQdBnnO0bA>

The second essential you need to learn to cope with the wind is the back hand delivery cast. It has a fancy name now, called the Barnegat Bay Cast named after a location in America famous for windy days (like Tasmania!). If you have learnt the basic overhead cast you can do this cast simply by making your delivery on the back cast instead of the forward cast. Pete Kutzer from the Orvis Fly Fishing School demonstrates it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=22c9QvhSsIo>

To round out the essential casts, especially when there is wind involved, you must learn to double haul. In the casting curriculum the double haul provides the ultimate challenge. Once mastered you are on your way to becoming a complete angler. Practice the timing and the constant tension that will generate high line speed and you will make longer casts and be able to fish in any weather conditions. Joan Wulff provides one of many videos that will teach you how to double haul: <https://vimeo.com/70578415> Just don't expect to learn it in one day.

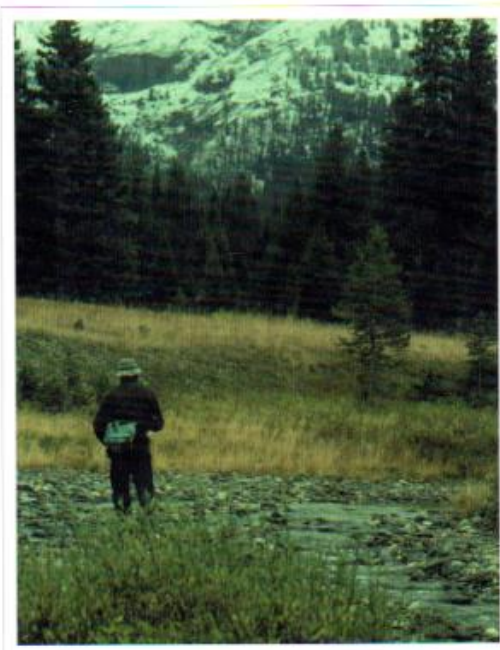
You don't have to be able to make 50 different casts to be a successful angler. The essential casts I have outlined (maybe more than half a dozen!) are enough to make you effective in just about every situation you will confront in a lifetime of fly fishing. When you are ready to learn more there are always people like Mac Brown with a list of new casts to add to your repertoire. So, if you are one of the people lining up for the second year of our casting group, there is still much to learn. If you can't join a casting group you can follow a program like the FFI's Fly Casting Skills Development² which will help you master all the essential casts and make you a successful fly fisher.

¹ Mac Brown (1977). *Casting Angles*. Highland Press. Bryson City, NC 28713: ISBN 1-890485-00-4

² The new Fly Casting Skills Development Program [Fly Casting Skills Development \(flyfishersinternational.org\)](http://flyfishersinternational.org)

Casting Angles

Mac Brown



A Fly Casting Handbook

Covid-19 Safety Policy

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



Wash your hands regularly with soap and water.

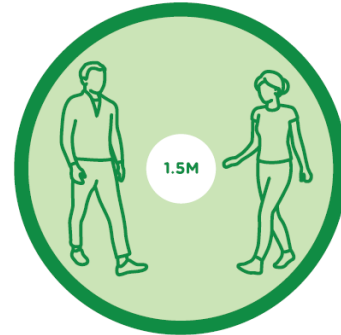
- If members have any flu like symptoms they are requested not to attend club activities. (We won't ask you to complete a declaration form, as many groups are doing, but will trust you to make the right decision if you are in doubt).

BE COVIDSAFE

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

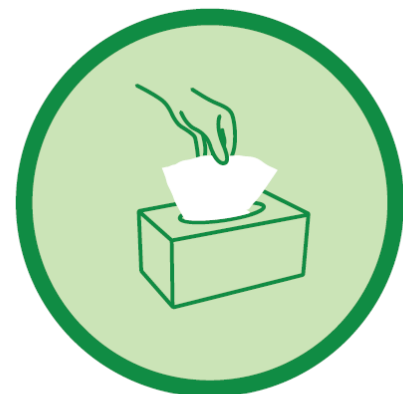
Covid-19 Safety Policy

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



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

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

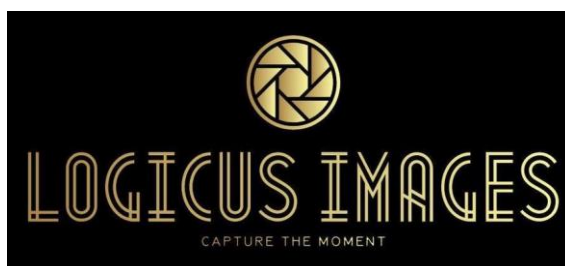


Stay at home and self-isolate if you are unwell.

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

Our Supporters

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



Flies by Fedeles



<http://flytyerman.blogspot.com>

Membership Fees

Membership Fees are as follows:

Adult membership \$30

Family membership \$40

Concession membership \$20

Junior membership free

Distant membership \$10

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

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

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

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

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

Fees can be paid:

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

2. **By cheque** posted to:

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



3. **Direct deposit:** BCU Credit Union
BSB 533 000

Account Number: 02051766

Name: Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club Inc

Reference: Your surname

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

Ekert Membership.

Club Contact Address

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

Our mailing address is:

The Secretary

Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club

11 Butterfly Close

Boambee East

NSW 2452

Electronic Contacts

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

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

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

Our Facebook Page can be found at:

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

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

Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club Inc.

Membership Form

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

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

Please fill all information below:

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

For Family Membership please complete the details below:

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

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

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

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


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

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

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

Post signed form and cheque to:

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

 Bananacoast Community Credit Union
Ltd and Police & Nurses Limited

Direct Deposit:

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

Notes

Club Membership Definitions:

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

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

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

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

Fees:

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

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

Completed Membership Forms:

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

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