

The *Flyer*



Official Newsletter Of The



The Flyer

The Official Newsletter of the Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club

MAY 2020

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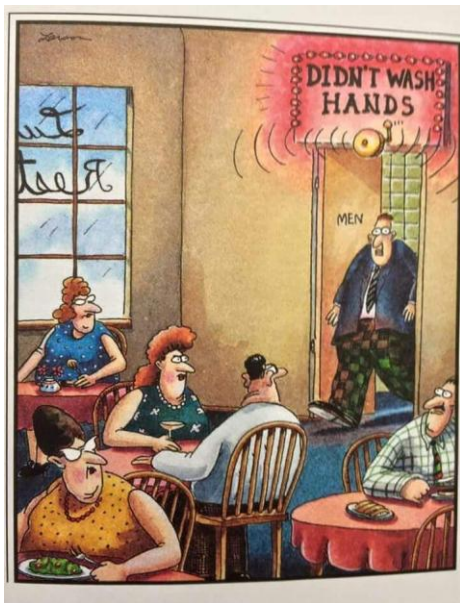
Cover: The rains have returned to the Plateau and the streams are running. A few seasons like this and the fish numbers will return. Can you guess where this waterfall is? Thanks to John Starr for the photograph.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

May 2020



So, the lockdown rolls on. Fortunately, as far as I know, we are still able to maintain a level of health devoid of Covid-19 amongst our members and families.



Also, as you will see in the newsletter there are a lot of cancellations, at this stage for us up to the end of July. The Swansea Salmon Classic in August has also been cancelled. We can only hope that things will have settled down by September so we can hold our fly-tying workshop as well as getting back into fishing.

I managed an outing down here last week (Taylors Arm River) whilst social distancing/isolating. I was lucky enough to score one small bass on a black cricket fly. The fish were very quiet with this being the only strike encountered. This would be the first time I have fished around my place in almost twelve months so it was good to get back down there and tempt the natives. I'm looking forward to getting one each of Brett Clarke's (BWC Flies) Tan Shrimp and FW Shrimp tying kits as I think these flies would be deadly on the bass here.

I must give a big thank you to some of our members for ringing around and checking on others. This in my view gives our club the perception and actuality of being extremely friendly and personal. It is a wonderful thing to have members with the perception to be able to do this. Even with the situation we find ourselves in the planning for the future of the club must continue.

Please have a look at the Committee Meeting Agenda and if there is anything in there that you have a view on, concern about or you feel needs addressing please contact the Secretary or one of the committee members so that it may be acted upon.



Also don't forget the fly-tying competition as Pip and others are putting a lot of work into it.

In closing, until we meet again, stay safe, be careful and text or ring a friend or two.

Doug

Editorial

You'll be as pleased as I am to find some new contributions to the newsletter this month. Brett Clarke, from BWC Flies, has written about a trip to Wallis Lakes. There's some great information included for those who want to chase bream on fly in our local waters. Roger Clements has written for us before, filling in the details of trips he and Tom Trefz have made. This time Roger relates some stories about fishing the Murrumbidgee River. Our generous club supporter from across the border, Barry Ryan, has shared some of his vast experience using double handed fly rods. It's great to have some new material to read and I hope, like me, you appreciate the time these people have taken to share.

All club events have been cancelled for the month of May due to Covid 19. Hopefully, by the time the next newsletter goes to press, we will be thinking about resuming some activities. Your Committee will be meeting early this month to make some decisions on the future. You will find an agenda for that meeting on page 6. You can have your say on the agenda or add item to be discussed by contacting any Committee member.

During this lock down many clubs and groups (not to mention businesses) are holding meetings via video. This is something the Committee will be looking into. I have expressed my views on page 13 but would really like to hear the thoughts of as many people as possible. Get in contact to let me know what you think.



There's no better time than now to get into fly tying. Glenn Colquhoun has shared a favourite foam bass popper which is not only easy to tie but works a treat. The fly tying competition is still running and in need of more entries (we can't have a repeat of this month's result!) Thanks to Barry Ryan, we have a supply of dubbing for nymphs and other flies which is available for all club members (just ask). And as we go into the second month of lockdown a bit of fly tying is a great way to relax when the cabin fever really starts to bite.

This month, for a bit of fun, and to fill up some space, I have included a quiz based on my recent casting articles. There's a prize of a new leader for anyone who takes the time to complete it. You'll need to send me your score and an address to mail the prize to. The prizes have been generously donated by Garry Hambly from A1 FlyFishing. Don't forget to support our local businesses in this difficult time.

Editor

Club Executive 2019-20



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May Meeting

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic the May meeting has been **cancelled**. If you have anything you would have liked to share at the meeting don't forget we have a Facebook Group where you can post photos, pose questions or report on your fishing activities. Keep in mind our Facebook Page and Group are both public so anything you post can be seen by anyone who is on Facebook.



May Outings

Outings for May have been **cancelled**. They will be rescheduled once the pandemic is over and things return to normal.

Committee Meeting

The Committee will be convening via email this month to make some decisions for the future. Anyone who would like to have their say on any of these matters is welcome to contact a committee member to put their ideas forward. The following proposals will be discussed by the committee:

1. In light of the ongoing pandemic all activities for June and July be cancelled.
2. The AGM is scheduled for June. We have three options:
 - Hold the AGM via email or video (using software such as Zoom)
 - Constitutionally, the AGM can be held up to 6 months after the due date so we could hold it later in the year.

- Application can be made to postpone the AGM for 12 months. This would mean all current office holders would have to be prepared to continue in their position until 2021.

3. Membership fees be waved for the 2020-2021 year for existing members.

4. The Hunter Valley Club has already cancelled the Salmon Classic but if the lockdown is lifted we could hold our own outing at Swansea in July/August.

5. Once we can have meetings again it has been suggested we have a regular buy/swap/sell table at meetings.

6. To get more people interested in fly tying, once we can gather again, we could have hands on sessions for small groups on a regular basis, maybe alternating monthly between Nambucca and Coffs.

7. We could use video conferencing for our next few meetings.

Should you have any thoughts or comments on any of these agenda items please contact the Secretary. Likewise, if you have ideas you would like the Committee to discuss they can be sent to any Committee member. You will be kept informed of any decisions the Committee makes.



Club Calendar 2020

All outings, meetings and events for May and June have been cancelled. The situation will be reviewed in May.

Month	Outings	Activities
JANUARY	No outing this month Casting at Mylestom at 5.00pm on Monday 20 th .	Club Meeting at Mylestom Monday 20 th
FEBRUARY	Home Waters Saturday 15 th	Club Meeting Monday 17 th
MARCH	Forster Fly Muster (Cancelled) Tasmania Tues 3 rd - Sat 14 th	Club Meeting Monday 16 th
APRIL CANCELLED	Keepit Carp Caper Friday 3 rd - Sunday 5 th (some members will be going Thursday 2 nd)	Club Meeting Monday 20 th
MAY CANCELLED	Home Waters Saturday 9 th Fly Fishing for Trout Workshop Saturday 23 rd	Club Meeting Monday 18 th
JUNE CANCELLED	Lake St Clair Friday 12 th - Sunday 14 th Home Waters Saturday 27 th	Club Meeting Monday 15 th
JULY	Casting Day Saturday 4 th July Dunmore Waters Fri 24 th - Sun 26 th	Club Meeting Monday 20 th
AUGUST	Home Waters Saturday 8 th Swansea Salmon Classic Friday 21 st - Sunday 23 rd <i>Official event cancelled by Hunter Valley Fly Fishing Club</i>	Club Meeting Monday 17 th
SEPTEMBER	Fly Tying Workshop Saturday 5 th Jackadgery or Copmanhurst Fri 18 th - Sun 20 th	Club Meeting Monday 21 st
OCTOBER	Home Waters Saturday 31 st Dorrigo or Ebor Saturday 17 th	Club Meeting Monday 19 th
NOVEMBER	Urunga Flathead Tournament TBA Home Waters Saturday 21 st	Club Meeting Monday 16 th
DECEMBER	Home Waters Saturday 12 th	No Club Meeting

Breamin'

Brett Clarke

Thanks to Brett Clarke from BWC Flies for sharing this excellent article on fly fishing for bream. Brett was going to be our guest fly tyer at a workshop in September but all that is on hold at the moment. Although the article deals with the Wallis Lakes, the information is pertinent to any estuary system on the Mid North Coast (and beyond).

*As mentioned last month Brett and Cherie run a small online business on the Central Coast of NSW offering specialist fly tying materials and premium hand tied flies. Not only does Brett sell materials to make your own flies, he provides plenty of fly tying tips and demonstrations on his Social Media platforms for you to follow. **Editor***

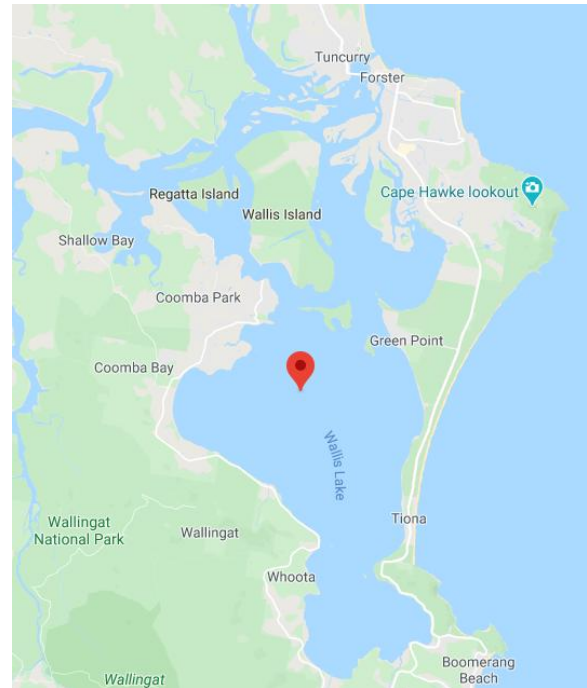


<https://bwcflies.com.au/>



With a few days break from tying flies and Cherie securing a block of days off work, a venture north to the Mid North Coast of NSW was in order. March can be a great time of year to head up to explore the Wallis Lakes system, with the seasonal changes starting to swing, the fish are active.

Targeting Bream, specifically from around the oyster racks, both fixed and floating which present varying challenges in their own rights was chosen to dedicate our time to.



Tides play an import role for the saltwater fly angler. Early morning or late afternoon high tides were great as the water would be flowing well during those peak feeding times. The additional benefit of cloud cover and a bit of wind and a few drops of rain had the climatic influences starting to align for our trip.

The water I prefer to target Bream is coloured, so the back areas of the system were chosen. Heavy rain and strong winds blew through the system making the challenge of throwing flies even more so, along with controlling the boat position to effectively present the fly. To add another dimension to the challenge, 4 weight outfits were selected. I'm really enjoying the 4 weight for this style of angling, approaching the structures with the electric motor and as delicately as possible, presenting Shrimp flies in sizes 6 and 8 against the floating pipes or down the leading faces of the fixed racks. The Shrimps fished are the exact ones tied and demonstrated on my YouTube Channel. Bead Chain eyes work extremely well on the smaller hook sizes to enable a flutter fall off the edge of the floating racks. During the making tides, the bream actively feed from the oyster pipes and trays. At this point of the run, the bead chain eyes were chosen as the fish were high in the water column and who can resist a tiny shrimp

morsel that flutters off the rack.... bump, bump Got ya! As always, personal preference for my Bream flies is to feature brightly coloured eyes. To that note, Blue, Pink and the Kryptonite Green eyes were all used on a fresh batch of flies that filled yet another fly box.

The fishing is quite visual to a degree. Certainly, the senses increase and intensify with being outside. Listening for the unmistakable 'bream kiss', a flash off the side flanks, a fin on top of a rack tray, a water push from a moving fish, or even better, a tail in the air from a true feeder.

A dedicated floating flyline, designed for short casting where accuracy is vital was selected and rigged on both of our 4 weight outfits. Leaders varied in length as they always will, along with the breaking strains.



It's important here to fish what you are comfortable with to achieve the result of the fish eating the fly. The length of leader built for our subsurface Shrimp flies was 7ft , simple construction of 16lb fluorocarbon , stepped down to either 9lb or 6lb , depending on the intensity of the 'eat'. In clear waters, leaders do need to be longer and of a finer diameter to successfully convert fish.

Where the sessions got real, was when top water foam flies were being thrown across the tops of fixed racks on the high tide. The situation is aggressive with powerful eats, and as the angler, the response must be unforgiving. Give an inch and you're done, lost fly, leader shredded and wasted time rigging again. The hook set has to be solid, as does the reaction to getting the rod tip high in the air to clear the razor-sharp edges of the oysters and keep pulling the fish away and off the structure. A second angler on board assists, driving the electric motor away in the process - it's a complete team effort to successfully escort the Bream into the net.



After reading this, I'm sure that you get the leaders are not dainty. 16lb straight through fluorocarbon was the go, starting at 5ft and getting all the way down to 2 1/2 feet total length with re rigging, bust offs etc. Below this length, the bite stopped and couldn't convince the Bream to eat, until new sections of 5ft were rigged and we started again.

The trip was thoroughly enjoyable, especially understanding the limitations of our gear. Sometimes it's just good to get away and put thoughts in to play. Fortunately, it paid off on this occasion.

Just quietly, those Kryptonite Green eyes are the Breams' true weakness



Video Meetings



In this time of lockdown most meetings are being conducted by video over the Internet. For our club, a meeting is all about getting together, swapping stories, learning new things and enjoying each other's company. I don't believe that can be done by video. But if you can't meet in person a video conference is a viable means of conducting business. Many groups and organizations have adopted the technology.

One of the things the Committee will be discussing this month is whether we should use video conferencing for our next few meetings. We need to keep in contact and we need to be planning for the time some sort of normalcy returns. If anyone has a view on this please let me know or talk to a committee member. I'm going to give you my opinion but remember it's our club so your view is as important as mine.

I don't think we need to hold meetings by video conference. We don't have a lot of "business" to deal with and what there is can be dealt with by committee. My reading of our constitution is that we need only hold an annual general meeting; the committee only needs to meet at least three times per year; and there is no set number of general meetings required.

Our constitution allows us to use technology for any of our meetings. The proviso is that

whatever technology we use has to provide members a "reasonable opportunity to participate." I am happy that our present use of email for committee meetings meets this criteria. However, if we were to introduce video conferencing for all our meetings we may preclude some who don't have the computer technology or skills to participate.

Now it is up to you to put your view forward. There is no doubt video conferencing is the way of the future and many clubs are already going down this path. I am not against the use of video conferencing but I'm not sure in our case it is warranted or if we are ready for it just yet.

Having said that, I am hoping that we can have a trial video meeting in the near future. It won't be a formal meeting but just an opportunity for interested members to connect and discuss future plans for the club. It will probably be held at the time as our regular May meeting.



And that leads to the subject of what platform to use for this conference. You may already be using software such as FaceTime, Skype, or **Zoom**. A quick search will reveal other options such as Microsoft Teams, Google Hangouts, GoToMeeting, Jabber, Meet and many more. From this list I think **Zoom** would be worth a try. Big business, government departments, universities and many clubs and associations are using Zoom. I am currently learning to use Zoom for meetings with another group.

The Committee may have another view on what software to use. In the meantime, I am going with Zoom. You need to be aware that Zoom has a number of security issues (you've no doubt heard of "zoombombing.") Its biggest flaw is that it is not end to end encrypted. The people at Zoom are working to fix these issues and I believe by the time we start using it most will be resolved. I guess if we don't discuss our secret fishing spots there will not be much of interest for anyone to steal.

To use Zoom you will need a computer, phone or tablet with a video camera and microphone. You will need internet access with a fast wireless connection. I don't know how much data a video conference would use but it could be up to 1gb per hour (free Zoom meetings are limited to 40 minutes.) There are no costs to use Zoom apart from your data.

If you are interested in learning how to use Zoom there are plenty of YouTube tutorial to choose from. This one should get you started if you are a beginner like me:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HbYHaNvCw9M>

So stay tuned to see what develops with our trial use of video conferencing. If you have any thoughts or comments on how this trial should proceed please let me or any committee member know.



Beginner's Corner

This month's Beginners Corner is not really about how to cast, or how to fish, but deals with how not to look like a beginner. No one wants to look like a newbie when they go fly fishing for the first time. Holding a fly rod is enough to attract attention. You don't want people looking at you and waiting for you to make a fool of yourself. Here are a few don'ts to avoid being labeled a beginner.

- Don't wear a brand new shirt with a big brand company logo.
- Don't wear colours that make you stand out in the crowd (and spook fish.)
- Don't wear your cap backwards.
- Don't leave the plastic wrap on the handle of your new fly rod.
- Don't carry so much fly gear you look like a travelling fly shop.
- Don't wear a go pro camera to record your every move.
- Don't false cast endlessly until you catch someone walking behind you.



Editor

The Big 'un

By Roger Clements

*Roger is a distant member of the club from Shepparton in Victoria and a good friend of Tom Trefz. A couple of times I have been in Tassie when Tom and Roger have been down there fishing but I am yet to meet Roger. He must be a good bloke as he is a member of our club and a fellow troutie. Roger has sent a couple of articles for our newsletter. I'm sure most of us can relate to the story of the big fish that got away and have thought about the real reasons they go fly fishing. **Editor***

A few years back, Tom and I took a break from the days spent fishing Eucumbene and explored the Murrumbidgee by taking a rough track down to the river above Tantangara Dam. Upon reaching the water we split up, Tom electing to walk downstream and fish up. I sat down just above a bit of sandy beach and munched an apple. John Sautelle used to say that you should not stumble straight into a stream, but sit down for five minutes to see what was going on. There was a circular eddy at the edge of the sand with a bit of scum going round and round. Suddenly there was a loud gloop, leaving a bubble the size of a golf ball. That was a big fish I thought.

Up and down from where I sat, several rainbows had risen. How was I going to get a fly into that eddy? I tied on a grasshopper fly and cast it upstream.....hoping one of the rainbows wouldn't take it.(How often does that happen) As the fly came downstream I retrieved line until the fly became caught in the eddy with only a foot or so of tippet on the water. The fly gently revolved in the scum and I looked at my watch. Twenty minutes passed and I sat still and munched the apple.

All of a sudden there was another gloop and my fly was gone! "Got 'im" I shouted and stood up. The line went tight and bowed my rod when an enormous brown left the water. I can still see it, poised above the stream, its tail as broad as my hand, every spot on its flanks etched into my memory, before it crashed back in the water and dived deep. The Murrumbidgee took a right angled bend above the run, pushed by a strata of rock which showed above the grassy hill and crossed the line of the stream. Some of the loose rocks were underwater and as big as refrigerators. My fish made for these and I felt that horrible chafing before the line parted - my fish was gone. I sat down with shaking hands and pondered what I would have done if I had succeeded in landing it. It was a fish like we all see on the walls of country pubs. Would I have killed it?

The fish decided its fate, but I concluded I couldn't kill a fish like that. After a while, after another apple from my fly vest, I tied on another scruffy deer hair grasshopper and caught the rainbow that was rising consistently upstream. Normally I would have been elated, but it felt like an anti-climax.



Covid 19 has prevented us fishing in Victoria.....so I'm reading through my collection of fishing books, from Isaak Walton's "The Complete Angler", to Rob Sloan's "The Truth About Trout", through to the highly recommended series by Greg French - "Frog Call", "Artificial", "Water Colour" and many others in between.

I've just read the last chapter of John Sautelle's book "Fishing for the Educated Trout", which finishes with a quotation from Robert Travers "Trout Magic". This sums up our philosophical reasons for doing what we do and certainly resonates with me.....

"I fish because I love to, because I love the environment in which trout are found which is invariably beautiful, and hate the environment where crowds of people are found, which is invariably ugly.

Because of all the television commercials, cocktail parties and assorted social posturing, I thus escape.

Because anywhere most men seem to spend their lives doing things they hate, my fishing is an endless source of delight and an act of small rebellion.

Because trout do not lie and cheat and cannot be bought, or bribed or impressed by power, but respond only to quietude and humility and endless patience, because I suspect that men are going along this way for the last time, and I for one don't want to waste the trip, because mercifully, there are no telephones on trout waters, because only in the woods can I find solitude without loneliness, because bourbon out of an old tin cup tastes better out there, because maybe one day I will catch a mermaid and finally, not because I regard fishing as being so terribly important, but because I suspect that so many of the other concerns of men are equally unimportant and not nearly so much fun."

To quote another author, Domenick Swentosky who posts "Troutbitten" online:
"Fish hard, friends,"

Roger Clements

Fly Tying Competition

Somehow, I managed to win the fly tying competition for the month of April. The "Jaffa", aka Orange Bead Head Black Nymph, won the most likes on Facebook.



I am sure you are as surprised as I am at the result but it just goes to show you need to get you flies tied and posted early ... and pay your click factory workers well!

Pip has added a glass front to our display cabinet and it is now ready to be filled with flies. As flies are only being displayed on our Facebook Page members are asked to keep one of their flies to be added to the display cabinet when we are able to get together again.



There won't be a meeting in May but the fly tying competition will continue. Instead of bringing your flies to the meeting you will have to post a photo in our Facebook Group. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1073002562788177/>

You will have to tie 2 flies following this month's theme of flies for bass. Bass live in fresh and brackish water and the flies you use to catch them are often the same flies you use for trout and estuary species.

Photos must be posted on line by the 18th May and voting will take place over the remainder of the month. To vote just click the "like" button. The fly with the most likes will be declared the winner.

So you can plan ahead and start tying your flies here is what's to come:

May Bass flies

June ... Trout flies (Dry)

July ... Australian Salmon flies

Fly Tying

Our guest fly tyer this month is Glenn Colquhoun. Glenn has some great bass captures to his name from ANSA days and has probably caught more bass than most of us could dream of. Now that he has taken up the fly rod he has been busy tying flies that can catch bass as well as his lures did. He has chosen to tie a Foam Prawn Popper. ... a very simple fly that works really well on bream, bass and trevally.



Foam Prawn Popper

The Foam Prawn Popper is a very simple fly to tie and it works really well on bream, bass and trevally. It can be tied in many sizes - a great little all rounder that casts well.



Materials:

Hooks: Gamakatsu Tarpon or similar

Size: No 6 up to 1/0

Foam: 2mm white or colour of your choice

Thread: Again, your choice. I use black, orange or white

Krystal Flash: For whiskers Gold, blue, red or colour of your choice.

Dubbing: Rabbit strip, Eastaz chenille or similar for body

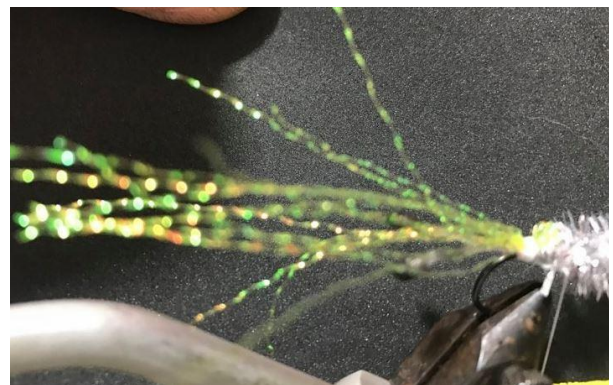
Shrimp/Crab Eyes: You can use 60/80lb mono (burn ends with lighter makes very cheap eyes) or you can buy ready to wrap eyes in a variety of colours.



Run thread up the hook from start of Gape to behind the eye.



Tie on eyes
Tie on whiskers

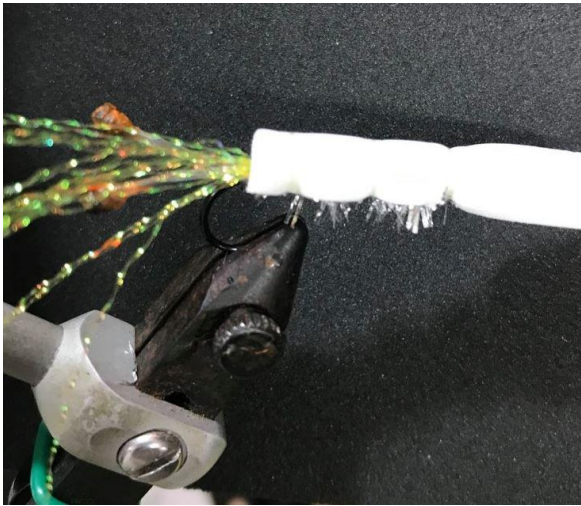


Tie off and glue. Cut foam to length (from head to 10mm past eye of hook).



Tie foam on the hook starting at the prawn head and back to the hook eye. Squeeze the foam to shape of curve. Tie firmly but not tight enough to cut foam and tie off. Put clear finish on your thread.

Bend up overhanging foam and squeeze to curve it in the opposite direction. Trim, to size.



To get the best results from your popper, cast the fly into the snag or bank as close as possible. Let it sit for 5-10 seconds then start the retrieve. Gentle twitch, twitch, pause 5-10 then repeat. If there isn't much reaction then try the cast again only firmly twitch, twitch, twitch, pause 10-20 seconds then back to gentle twitches. Don't be too keen to retrieve the fly. The pauses are so important. The strike usually comes the second you start the next twitch.

Glenn Colquhoun

Here are a few variations for you to try.



Bass Season Closure

If you are thinking of trying your new bass flies you are reminded that **Zero bag limit** for bass and estuary perch starts 1 May and ends 31 August. Catch and release is allowed. The zero bag limit does not apply to fish in stocked freshwater impoundments, including Glenbawn Dam and Glennies Creek Dam in the Hunter Valley, Brogo Dam near Bega and Clarrie Hall and Toonumbar Dams in the northeast; anglers may continue to fish for these species in those waters all year round.

There is Another Way

By Barry Ryan

Barry is another of our distant members who has taken up the challenge to write something for the newsletter. After my last "Casting Around" article, Barry offered to write more about double handed fly rods. He's been casting with double handed fly rods for about 20 or so years in the salt and in the fresh. He was the first person/business in this country to design a range of double handed rods and then have them built in South Korea. Having cast for almost every day of the year, year in year out, he has a good understanding of all the faults and wrong things to do.... just what I need to learn. Editor

How many times have you been walking along and looking at the stream, lake or ocean and thought; wish I could fly fish there but the rocks, fences, bushes and or trees are always behind where I could cast or those trees that steal your fly are just way too close or over hanging? But spin fishers can and I cannot, now surely there must be some way I could cast there.



Can you cast here with your single handed rod, any distance? You can with a suitable Double and line?

So let's forget those grossly short range casts like the Bow and Arrow that only range out a few meters, as I want to cast at least 60 feet or more and be able to cast just about anywhere that I chose, be it very short range or way out into the lake or ocean.

Well boys and girls there is a method of casting your selected fly in all these locations and more and this is to use both your hands to hold and control your fly rod.

Now it's time for you to discover the magic of the Double Handed fly rod in all its forms and this includes the series of Switch rods that are currently available in this country. Welcome to the exciting world of the Double Handed fly rod.



And here I will lay out a brief outline of the Double and the amazing Switch rod for a better understanding of these fly casting tools, and that's what they are, just like your single handed rod, because in the past, in this country, there has been so much misinformation poured out about these rods. Sadly there has been enough to sink a ship by a few people.

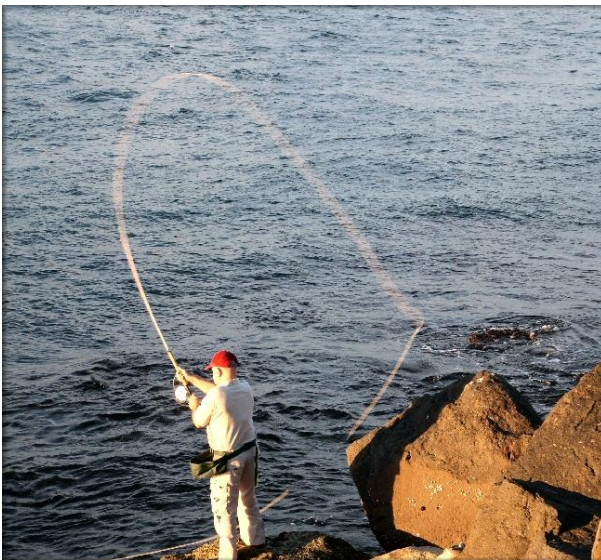
At this point some will be thinking, exciting, umm.... Well to be able to cast into a truly measured 80 feet range with a 7/8w rod with one, yes with only one stroke of the rod, to most fly casters is exciting. This means when you see a fish break the surface you can reach out and land your fly no matter what is behind you within seconds. No more waving your single handed rod back and forward a number of times waiting for the rod to load enough to reach that very spot where you saw the surface action only to find you are too late. No more checking what is behind you.

The Rod

Doubles come in a greater range than single hand fly rods, from slow deep parabolic bends to super fast and from the amazing 2/3w at 11foot to the mighty powerful 16 foot 10/11ws and even larger.

For our applications here in Australia the 2/3 to 6ws at 12 foot offer a wide range of uses from Whiting through to Bass and more. This is also the realm of the trout spey.

Then there are the super useful mid range of 7/8w to 9w which normally are available from 12 to 14 foot. These classes of rods will fit into anything we fly fish for including the range of most saltwater fish. The 9/10w 14 footers and larger are ideal for the saltwater from the beach to the rocks and will allow the caster to enjoy fly fishing where they have never dreamed of before.



And yes of course you can use all these rods, casting systems from a boat, unlike the silly rumour some people started here in Australia.

Switches, as in Switch rods, have the ability to be used as both a two handed rod and a single handed casting tool. They are, therefore, super useful and able to cast a wide range of lines.

Doubles and Switch rods generally are rated in grain loads for the rod with all Doubles being able to cast a huge range of loads. For example, a single handed 6w rod has a casting range of about 160 grains whereas a 5/6w Double the casting weight envelope is anywhere between 160 to 400 grains.

Lines

This is the area most new casters fail in and then blame the rod. And this problem comes about simply because too many shop staff are not skilled in the use or casting of a Double. Yes, as simple as that. However, this in turn costs the new Double caster a small fortune to find a suitable load/line for their casting style and fishing application - unless he or she gives up the idea of casting one of these rods.

We as casters now have available a range of shooting head type lines, including the fantastic OPST heads, Scandi and all the other types, unlike the single handed with 3 main types the W/F, DT and the rarely used shooting head.

And then you can add a monster range of lines that float, intermediates of all descriptions; fast sinking; to sink tips. And what about different lengths to all the above.. Because there is

The Casts

I have found the easiest casts to teach and the most useful in this country are the rather basic Single Spey then the Double Spey followed by the Snap Tee in that order..... Your next question will be why.

And the answer is, because we do not have roaring rivers here. Our so called rivers are by world standards just little slow running creeks mainly..... where a sudden splash frightens the fish and any cast that rips around causing a sudden disturbance is a

no,no. This then leaves out the Skagit cast of course even if you lower the rod tip as you swing around to reduce the splash. The 3 above casts are enough for fly fishing in this country. All the other casts, well they are just good fun, to me. And in most situations, with the correct head, you can overhead cast rather like a single handed rod when casting a shooting head.

Biggest Faults

The biggest faults when you first pick up a Double are, in no real order:

- You listened to someone who said you MUST hold or mover like this when... you're a different thinker, have different muscles and reaction timing to that person.
- You should have looked at the demo, listened to the advice and THEN applied it to YOUR way of mastering the rod. A good teacher will help you explore the cast to suit you.



- You were holding the rod in a death like grip and this in turn choked the rod's magical movement. Just relax and allow the magic to happen... Release the choke and open your hands till you think you just might throw the rod away, really!
- Slow down and enjoy the rod's magic. The rod length, remember a 12 foot rod is about 30% longer than your little 9 footer, will result in a tip speed a heck of a lot faster, which is the secret of beating the wind and casting distance.
- And now, the most common fault after the wrong line is the wrong leader.

And now boys and girls I trust I have confused you enough to start you thinking about exploring the world of the Double. It cannot be too hard, surely, and it's easier to learn to cast than your single handed rod, yes it is.

AND DON'T even dream of using your Double if there is even a hint of lightning about, please.



I have grossly condensed this article for the Newsletter as the subject is endless. If I can be of any further help to anybody that is interested then feel free to ask the Club for my phone number or email address.

Barry





Where can you sit down, with no casting space behind, crowded by bushes, and still cast over 60 feet?



You don't have to go to Scotland, Alaska, Russia or New Zealand to find a use for a double handed rod!



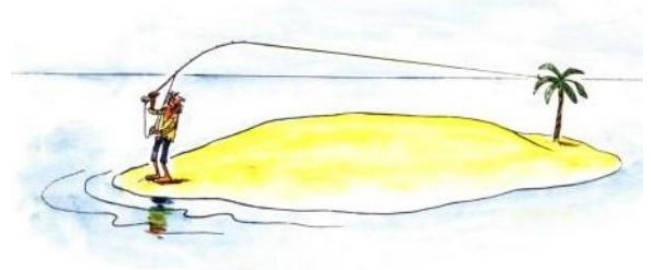
You can with a suitable double handed rod. All you need is enough room to form a D loop.



You can use a double hander right in your own backyard to catch anything that swims and will eat a fly. Why not give it a go?



Sit back and watch the line fly out across the water ... 50 ... 60 ... 70 feet ... no worries!





Using the Wrist in Fly Casting 201

I subscribe to the Orvis News (<https://news.orvis.com/>) and every Friday I get an email with a link to the latest selection of videos as part of the Fly-Fishing Film Festival. The folk at Orvis search the Web for the best fly-fishing videos available featuring an assortment of locations, fish species and content. If I have to stay at home and not go fishing at this time, watching videos of others is the next best thing. There's always something worth watching.

As much as I enjoy the exotic locations, the fish caught, and the knowledge shared, I find myself concentrating on the casting. Many of the videos are from amateurs who do an amazing job with the quality of their production. The professionals take it to another level. But with such a diversity of talent there is always going to be a range of casting abilities on show and I find myself focusing on the skills of those with a fly rod in hand.



While watching this week's selection of films I came across someone casting with a few obvious problems. Apart from the mask over his face he was having an issue with how he was using his wrist. Now it is not my intention to try and embarrass this gentleman (whose identify I have tried to disguise) but the video gave me the idea for this month's article. Fly casting is all about the wrist and the way it is used is central to effective casting.

I wrote about this back in May 2015. At that time I was specifically addressing issues that many beginners encounter in learning to cast. You can search the archives if you want to read the 101 version. But this month I want to deal with how experienced casters use their wrist. Many, like the gentleman in the video, can cast and catch fish but are they doing it efficiently?

One of the hallmarks of an expert is the efficiency of their casting. They make it look smooth and effortless. Watch them casting and it will be difficult to pinpoint exactly what they are doing differently but the results speak for themselves. Look closely at their wrist and you will see a big difference to that of our fellow in the video clip. Expert casters know how to make the best use their wrists.



Tim Rajeff is rightly regarded as an expert. Brother of world champion, Steve, and holder of world championships himself, Tim knows the importance of using the wrist correctly. If you look at the picture above you will notice how Tim is bending his elbow much more than his wrist. Expert casters know that using the big muscles in the arm is more efficient than using the smaller muscles in the wrist. Using the wrist at the beginning of the casting stroke wastes its potential energy. Much better to use the large arm muscles to accelerate the rod and save the wrist muscles until just before the rod is stopped to give that final speed up. Expert fly casters know casting is 90% arm and 10% wrist.

So how exactly do we use our wrist? The first thing you need to understand is the basic positions of the wrist when casting. The wrist can be bent down, straight or bent back.



Bent Down

When beginning the basic Pick Up and Lay Down Cast begin with the rod pointing at the water and the wrist in the down position.

Straight

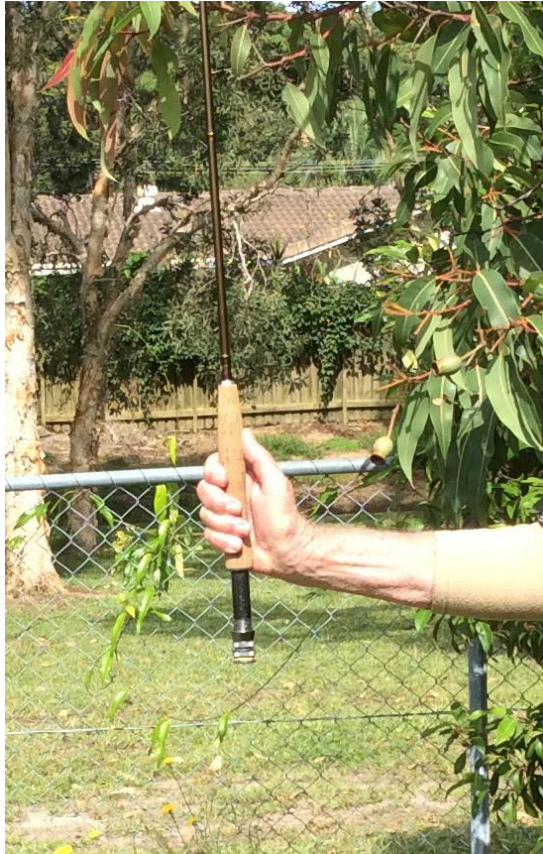
On the backcast, once the rod starts moving the wrist goes into a neutral or straight position for most of the stroke.



Bent Back

At the end of the back cast your wrist snaps open to about 45 degrees. This speeds up the line and helps stop the rod. The wrist maintains the bent position on the forward cast until it snaps straight at the end of the cast.

At this stage I should warn you that there are other views and ways to describe the use of the wrist in casting. I encourage you to put a rod in your hand and look at how you use your wrist and how you would describe its positioning while casting. Take a look at some videos, read a few casting books and feel free to disagree with my observations. However, I believe there are certain fundamentals which make an effective and efficient cast. You have to begin with the wrist in the bent down position with the rod pointing at the ground and the line in front. As the backcast is made, the wrist moves to the straight position. At the end of the casting stroke the wrist snaps open and the line speeds up and stops. On the forward stroke the wrist remains bent until the end of the stroke when it snaps to the straight position accelerating the line before stopping.



Our masked friend and this photo show another position in which the wrist can be used in casting. I call this the “cocked” position based on the implication it has for the cast. If the wrist is bent so that the rod butt is 90 degrees to the arm it is almost impossible to maintain a straight line path of the rod tip when you bend you elbow. The result will be a big loop and an ineffective cast. You can make a strong power snap from this position but it does not take advantage of the muscles in your arm and can lead to wrist injuries.

Contrast this with the bent wrist displayed by Tim Rajeff where the wrist is in the bent back position and less than 45 degrees. Tim uses his whole arm and shoulder to make a cast.

It would be possible to cast without using your wrist but it would be cumbersome and hard work. The wrist is essential to add the final burst of line speed and then stop the rod abruptly. We also use our wrist to change the direction of the cast and mend the line. I have often been tempted to put a beginner’s wrist in a plaster cast to stop them “cocking up.” Whist this would help achieve a straight line path of the rod tip it would restrict the line speed they could generate and be very inefficient. Try strapping you wrist sometime and see what happens.

Proper use of the wrist is an important aspect of an efficient fly casting stroke. Expert casters have worked that out and make effortless casts with imperceptible use of their wrists. This video from Tim Rajeff (<https://youtu.be/S4CMyD66Ltw>) is compulsory viewing for anyone completing the course on *Using the Wrist in Fly Casting 201*. A study of this topic will pay dividends for your casting and fishing. To sum up, lots of wrist is not a good thing but by combining arm movement and wrist snap in the correct way you will make a better cast.

PS. Did you pick the other problems our masked fisherman was having? You should always wear your glasses when fly fishing and keep the line in hand!

Casting Quiz

I have been writing casting articles for club newsletters for a few years. I write them to keep me thinking about teaching casting and to fill space in the newsletter. I know they are not often read but I still try to write an article every month. I thought I would test your knowledge on casting based on the articles I have written. The questions all relate to previous *Casting Around* articles. You can find an archive of my casting articles on the Corralinn Fly Fishing and Casting Association website thanks to the efforts of Alec Tuff at: <https://corralinn.weebly.com/casting.html>.

The answers are multiple choice so you can guess if you don't know. If you want to check how you went the answers are available on our website (I don't want to make it too easy for you to cheat!) <https://coffscoastflyfishing.weebly.com/links.html>

If you think you deserve a prize, send me an email with your score and postal address and I will send you a brand new leader compliments of A1FlyFishing.
<http://www.a1flyfishing.com.au/shop/index.php>

Editor



- 1, Who did the fly casting for Brad Pitt in the movie "A River Runs Through It"?
 - a. Carl McNeil
 - b. Garry Borger
 - c. Steve Rajeff
 - d. Jason Borger

2. Which of these casts was mentioned in the article "Casting in the Real World"?
 - a. Tuck cast
 - b. Steeple cast
 - c. Bow and Arrow Cast
 - d. All of the above

3. Why would you want to use your non dominant hand for casting?
 - a. when the wind blows from the wrong direction
 - b. when fly fishing with a mate in a small boat
 - c. when you have an injury with your dominant hand
 - d. all of the above

4. How can you avoid tennis elbow?
- don't play tennis
 - use your wrist instead of your arm
 - learn to grip the rod correctly
 - use a spin rod
5. Who runs a fly casting program for women recovering from breast cancer locally?
- Cancer Council
 - Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club
 - Dorrigo Ebor Freshwater Fishing Association
 - New England Trout Acclimatization Society
6. How many flies can you legally fish on your leader in Tasmania?
- three
 - two
 - one
 - four
7. Who is Joe Schmakapop?
- a character invented by Mel Kreiger
 - the alter ego of Lefy Kreh
 - a famous fly casting expert
 - the father of world champion fly caster Steve Schmakapop
8. Which international organization certifies casting instructors?
- International Confederation of Fly Fishers
 - Fly Fishers International
 - World Fly Casting Association
 - International Federation of Fly Casting
9. If you can't cast very well you should
- not go fly fishing
 - don't go fishing on windy days
 - buy a better fly rod
 - get a lesson
10. If you want to make a distance cast to saltwater pelagics ...
- use a 3 weight rod
 - get a shooting head line
 - make as many false casts as you can
 - roll cast



11. To cast accurately you need to

- a. make narrow loops
- b. use your wrist only
- c. cast in the horizontal plane
- d. have a Sage rod

12. To shoot line you must ...

- a. stop the rod abruptly
- b. form wide loops
- c. double haul
- d. all of the above

13. A common casting fault is:

- a. moving the rod tip in a straight line path
- b. bending the wrist beyond 45 degrees
- c. pausing between the back cast and the forward stroke
- d. removing slack from the line.

14. Finish this sentence. On the forward stroke, the rod moves in a smooth, continuous accelerating movement and then stops

- a. slowly
- b. gradually
- c. abruptly
- d. gently

15. Why do we false cast?

- a. to show how good we are at casting
- b. to attract fish to our fly
- c. to change the direction of the cast
- d. to allow time to correct errors in our cast

16. When casting, the pause between the back cast and forward cast should

- a. allow the line to touch the ground behind
- b. produce a whip crack in the line
- c. be exactly 2 seconds
- d. allow the line to straighten

17. Using the wrist in the final movement of the casting stroke can be likened to ...

- a. casting an apple off a stick
- b. hammering a nail
- c. throwing a dart
- d. all of the above



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

Concession membership \$20

Junior membership free

eMembership free

The membership year runs from 1st July to 30th June. If paying membership after December fees will be reduced by 50%.

¹ Concession membership is available to senior cardholders, pension card holders (including disability support and aged), Centrelink and Veterans Affairs cardholders

² eMembership replaces Distant Membership and is available to anyone not wanting to attend meetings or events but still retain the other benefits of club membership. eMembers are not covered by Club Insurance. eMembers wanting to participate in an event or meeting must pay to become full members.

³ Junior membership is available to anyone attending primary or secondary school.

Fees can be paid:

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

2. **By cheque** posted to:

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

3. **Direct deposit:**

BSB 062-678

Account Number: 10333424

Name: Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club Inc

Reference: Your surname

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

Club Contact Address

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

Our mailing address is:

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

Electronic Contacts

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

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

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

Our Facebook Page can be found at:

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

We have a **Facebook Group**. If you are on FB all you need to do is search for Coffs Coast Fly Fishers and ask to join the Group. Currently there are 247 members in this group.



2020 Calendar

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
1	We	Sa	Su	We	Fr	Mo	We	Sa	Tu	Th	Su	Tu	1
2	Th	Su	Mo	Th	Sa	Tu	Th	Su	We	Fr	Mo	We	2
3	Fr	Mo	Tu	Fr	Su	We	Fr	Mo	Th	Sa	Tu	Th	3
4	Sa	Tu	We	Sa	Mo	Th	Sa	Tu	Fr	Su	We	Fr	4
5	Su	We	Th	Su	Tu	Fr	Su	We	Sa ^{Fly Tying}	Mo	Th	Sa	5
6	Mo	Th	Fr	Mo	We	Sa	Mo	Th	Su	Tu	Fr	Su	6
7	Tu	Fr	Sa	Tu	Th	Su	Tu	Fr	Mo	We	Sa	Mo	7
8	We	Sa	Su	We	Fr	Mo	We	Sa	Tu	Th	Su	Tu	8
9	Th	Su	Mo	Th	Sa	Tu	Th	Su	We	Fr	Mo	We	9
10	Fr	Mo	Tu	Fr Easter	Su	We	Fr	Mo	Th	Sa	Tu	Th	10
11	Sa	Tu	We	Sa Easter	Mo	Th	Sa	Tu	Fr	Su	We	Fr	11
12	Su	We	Th	Su Easter	Tu	Fr	Su	We	Sa	Mo	Th	Sa	12
13	Mo	Th	Fr	M Easter	We	Sa	Mo	Th	Su	Tu	Fr	Su	13
14	Tu	Fr	Sa	Tu	Th	Su	Tu	Fr	Mo	We	Sa	Mo	14
15	We	Sa Outing	Su	We	Fr	M	We	Sa	Tu	Th	Su	Tu	15
16	Th	Su	M Club Meeting	Th	Sa	Tu	Th	Su	We	Fr	M Club Meeting	We	16
17	Fr	M Club Meeting	Tu	Fr	Su	We	Fr	M Club Meeting	Th	Sa	Tu	Th	17
18	Sa	Tu	We	Sa	M	Th	Sa	Tu	Fr	Su	We	Fr	18
19	Su	We	Th	Su	Tu	Fr	Su	We	Sa	Mo	Th	Sa	19
20	M Club Meeting	Th	Fr	M	We	Sa	M	Th	Su	Tu	Fr	Su	20
21	Tu	Fr	Sa	Tu	Th	Su	Tu	Fr Swansea	M Club Meeting	We	Sa	Mo	21
22	We	Sa	Su	We	Fr	Mo	We	Sa Swansea	Tu	Th	Su	Tu	22
23	Th	Su	Mo	Th	Sa	Tu	Th	Su Swansea	We	Fr	Mo	We	23
24	Fr	Mo	Tu	Fr	Su	We	Fr	Mo	Th	Sa	Tu	Th	24
25	Sa	Tu	We	Sa	Mo	Th	Sa	Tu	Fr	Su	We	Fr	25
26	Su	We	Th	Su	Tu	Fr	Su	We	Sa	Mo	Th	Sa	26
27	Mo	Th	Fr	Mo	We	Sa	Mo	Th	Su	Tu	Fr	Su	27
28	Tu	Fr	Sa	Tu	Th	Su	Tu	Fr	Mo	We	Sa	Mo	28
29	We	Sa	Su	We	Fr	Mo	We	Sa	Tu	Th	Su	Tu	29
30	Th		Mo	Th	Sa	Tu	Th	Su	We	Fr	Mo	We	30
31	Fr		Tu		Su		Fr	Mo		Sa		Th	31



Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club Inc.

Membership Form

I.....DOB.....

(print full name)

of.....

(print full address incl. street name and number, town and postcode)

Email address.....

Phone number.....mobile.....

Emergency Contact:..... phone:

I hereby apply for membership of Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club Inc. (tick one)

- | | | | |
|---|------|---|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult membership | \$30 | <input type="checkbox"/> Concession membership ¹ | \$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> eMembership ² | free | <input type="checkbox"/> Junior membership ³ | free |

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I agree to: (cross out if you **do not** agree.)

- having my contact details circulated only to financial members of the club.
- abide by the constitution, rules and any safety regulations of the club.
- any photographs taken of myself or family members to be used in the club newsletter, club promotional material or on the club website and Facebook Page.
- receive emails from the club including newsletters and club announcements.

..... **(signature of applicant)** **(date)**

..... **(signature of legal guardian if junior member)**

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3. **Direct deposit**

BSB 062-678
Account Number: 10333424
Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club Inc
Reference: Your surname

All information supplied will be held in club records and will only be disseminated to financial club members (if approved by the applicant as indicated above)