The Flyer



Official Newsletter Of The (Fly



The Flyer

The Official Newsletter of the Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club MAY 2023

Contents

President's Report	Page 3
From the Editor	Page 5
Club Executive	Page 6
May Meeting	Page 7
Raffle	Page 7
Tuesday Casting Group	Page 8
Fly Tying	Page 8
Fly Master Awards	Page 9
May Outings	Page 9
Upcoming Outings	Page 10
Committee Decisions	Page 10
Club Calendar	Page 12
Battle of the Bread Fly	Page 13
Turning the Corner Tom Trefz	Page 14
Fishing Reports	Page 19
Casting Around Style or Fault	Page 24
Fly Tying for May The PTN	Page 29
Fishing Season Reminders	Page 31
Nambucca Waterfront Hideaway	Page 32
Outings Checklist	Page 33
Fly Master Forms	Page 36
Club Shop	Page 39
Hall of Fame	Page 40
Our Supporters	Page 42
Membership Details	Page 43
Membership Form	Page 44

Front Cover: Garry has joined the whiting on fly club with a couple of nice sized fish from Moonee Beach on a crazy Charlie.

Tom Trefz has another great story this month to kick off our fishing reports. It's always interesting to read about the places members have been fishing and the success and hardships they have encountered. It's even better when the report is accompanied by good photos to show you what it was like. Thanks to Distant member, Roger Clements, for the photos.

A picture is worth a thousand words, so they say, so this month's Flyer is going to be very long. Soon to be member, Vaughn, has sent in some photos from the Valla Beach fishing day when he came along to see what we get up to. You have to look at these on a big screen to fully appreciate them.

There is always lots of information in the Flyer which you may want to refer back to at some time. If you don't have space to file copies each month on your computer, back issues can be found on the Club website https://coffscoastflyfishing.w eebly.com/links.html

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

May 2023



Flicking through the Summer 2022/23 edition of FlyLife, I glanced over for a second time the Last Cast page by Rob Sloane to reread something that is often mentioned in our club about taking photos of fish. Allan and I both maintain that a fish shouldn't be held out of water for a photograph for any longer than you can hold your breath under water with the preference being not to remove the fish from the water at all. In saying that my time of holding my breath under water has steeply declined from the days when I could swim the length of an Olympic pool underwater.

The "Keep Fish Wet" organisation in the US recommends a maximum time out of water of 10 seconds. This organisation's web site (keepfishwet.org) is really worth a visit for the variety of tips offered on their home page.

Thanks to Pip for his work in organising and running the fly tying competition again this year. I had the fortune of winning the Trout Dry Fly last month with my effort of Gary Cullen's "Cullen's Caenid". I tied a batch of these before the last Tassie trip down to I think size #22.

... Continued next page

PRESIDENT'S REPORT Cont.

It's all very good tying a fly that size with the hard part being the tying onto your leader. In saying that, I didn't get to use the fly as we didn't manage to come across a Caenid hatch whilst on Penstock Lagoon. There must be a few Distant members from the Corralinn Club in Launceston watch our Face book page as there were several responses from down there to my post.

Our next fly for the competition is the PTN or Pheasant Tail Nymph. This design is attributed to an English gamekeeper, Frank Sawyer, last century. For this fly to have been around for this long and still be highly effective is a testament to its design and durability – a worthwhile fly for any trout or herring fisherperson to have in their fly box.

The Fly Master Awards are moving along very well with members putting themselves to the challenge of improving and using their fly-fishing skills. Again, a big thank you to Jim and Allan for developing and maintaining this program.

The Mullet Mash has succumbed to the fact that many other fish are being caught on the ubiquitous Bread Fly. It has now become the "Battle of the Bread Fly". This was a decision by the committee at the last meeting with further information being contained in this edition of "The Flyer".

Please check the calendar for upcoming events and outings and be sure to register early for any that may have a limit on numbers

Until next time - tight lines

Dong



Doug's Cullen Caenids

From the Editor

The Tuesday Casting Group went to Moonee last month and unfortunately one of our members had a fall. It didn't turn out as bad as it could have been although I'm sure the person involved wished it had never happened. Thanks to the swift action of other members, help was not far away.

Incidents like this, should remind us that we are all getting older and need to take a little more care when we are fishing. I never fish a trout stream now, without a wading staff and always carry a PLB. We can't foresee every possible source of danger but we should be mindful of what we can do to keep safe.

The Club also needs to be reminded of its duty of care to keep members safe. The Committee discussed this issue last meeting. Our Club is not big enough to have a Health and Safety Department to tell us what to do but we should have systems in place to ensure the safety of our members. That comes naturally to someone who has worked in a big corporation or government department but for those who don't have that background we need a checklist when organizing events to make sure all safety issues are covered.

It just so happens we have such a list developed back when the Club began. It hasn't been used because it is a daunting document if you are not used to the world of Occupational Health and Safety. I've dusted off the policy and appended it to this newsletter. It's probably a bad time to do it as we are already having trouble getting people to volunteer as coordinators



for outings. I hope you will take the time to look through the checklist and think about what is needed to make an outing happen safely. If you want to volunteer to coordinate an outing don't be put off by what is involved but think of it as a way for everyone to enjoy a safe and enjoyable event.

All the talk about health and safety hasn't left me much space to write about other matters - which is probably a good thing. As I write this, I am getting ready for the club outing to Stuart's Point. I enjoy preparing for an outing almost as much as the outing itself. Tying a few essential flies, choosing the best rods, reels and lines for the job and deciding how many raincoats I need to pack are all part of the fun. The thought of fishing places I haven't fished for some time is another plus. Whether you are a fisher, golfer, bird watcher or whatever, you have to have something to look forward.

I hope you find something to look forward to in this month's newsletter.

Editor

Club Executive 2022-23



President Doug Urquhart 0458696138



Treasurer David Small 0423112902



Vice President Greg Artlett 0427689400



Assistant Secretary Ray Phipps 0412525338



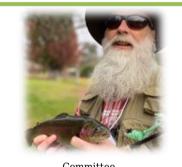
Public Officer & Acting Secretary Newsletter Editor Allan Ekert 0427457725



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Committee Michael Ferris 0428636858



Committee Murray Robinson 0425277026



Club Contact Details

Please note the Club no longer uses the email address ccffc@tpg.com.au

All email contact should be to: coffscoastflyfishers@gmail.com

May Meeting

Our May meeting will be held on Monday 15th at the North Beach Recreation and Bowling Club at Mylestom in the Osprey room out the back. The meeting will commence at 6.30pm.

We are having a video night. Bring along a YouTube Clip or home video on fly fishing. You can put it on a USB stick or we may be able to play it directly from your device. Make sure the video is entertaining and informative and limited to 5 minutes. There will also be time to talk about any club issues and pitch ideas for future activities.

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

Raffle

The winner of the last major raffle was Jim Wray. Jim kindly donated the practice rod to the club as he knew it would get more use by the members. The fly tying materials will be put to good use.



Raffle Prizes

We have managed to maintain a healthy club bank balance due to the number of donations we receive for the raffles. The practice rod and some of the fly tying material was donated by Ken Sheehan while MO Tackle provided the rod tube. Ken has also donated a number of books and fly gear that has been used in previous raffles. We are very grateful for this support.

Barry Ryan, owner of Talon Fly Fishing Products, closed his fly fishing store years ago but we are still benefitting from some of his donations. Jim's prize contained lots of Talon fly tying material. Our Monday night fly tying group is still using Talon dubbing and hooks. Thanks Uncle Barry.

Garry Hambly, owner and founder at South Pacific Fly Rods Australia and owner at A1 Fly Fishing, continues his support for the Club with donations for the raffle. Members always look forward to acquiring some of Garry's gear through the raffle and lots of tickets are sold knowing the value of the prizes to be won. Garry's ongoing support is much appreciated.

Many members contribute to the raffle including everyone who enters the fly tying competition. Then there are those members who quietly put something on the table and I don't get the chance to thank them. I know Glenn and Doug are always slipping something in and I noticed Bill Anderson donated a plated lanyard last week that I know whoever won will appreciate because I use one that Bill made for me.

I'm sorry if I have missed your name as a donor to the raffle but be assured your contribution to the Club is appreciated and I will do my best to acknowledge everyone who makes a donation.

Tuesday Casting Group

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

The timetable is as follows:

9.45am - Arrive ready for 10.00am start. 10.00am - 11.00am How-to sessions and Casting

11am till 11.30am Morning tea 11.30 am till 12 noon More casting.

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

In May we will be:

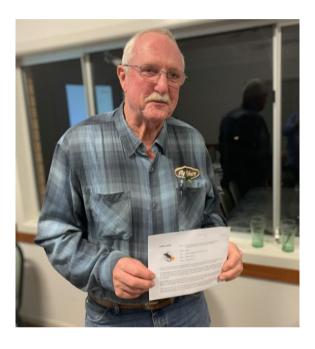
- Casting at Mylestom on Tuesday 2nd
- Casting at Mylestom on Tuesday 9th
- Casting at Mylestom on Tuesday 16th
- Fishing (Venue to be decided) on Tuesday 23rd
- Casting at Mylestom on Tuesday 30th

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



Fly Tying

The winner of the fly tying competition this month was Doug with his Cullen's Caenid. Gary Cullen lives in Tasmania and uses this fly to tempt the fussy caenid feeders at Penstock Lagoon. It works anywhere trout at eating small spent mayfly spinners.



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

Our next fly tying night will be on Monday 29th May at **6.00pm** at the North Beach Recreation and Bowling Club in the Osprey room out the back. Anyone who is interested in learning about tying flies will be most welcome. This month we will be tying a bead head pheasant tail nymph. You can find the tying instruction later in the newsletter.

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

Fly Master awards

The Fly Master awards program has really got members thinking about their fly fishing and planning how to catch more fish. To make it a little easier to claim an award the pro forma sheets now have all the species listed so you just have to print out the sheet and tick of the species as you catch them. You will find a copy at the end of the newsletter.

The badges have arrived and Jim has been going to great length to track everyone down and give them their badge. There is no cost for the badge and certificate. All you have to do is email Jim at coffscoastflyfishers@gmail.com with your list of captures and he will get you your badge and certificate. The Fly Master award program is open to distant members too, so send in your claims.



Brian and Glenn receiving their gold badges



Garry receiving his Bronze and John with his Silver.

Don't forget to check the Hall of Fame on page 38 to see your name in print. And you can read all the details of the Fly Master awards here.

May Outings

Homewaters

We have an outing to our Homewaters on the Bellinger and Kalang Rivers at Mylestom on Saturday 13th May. I will be coordinating this outing and you can phone Allan on 0427457725 to register or find out more.

A boat, canoe, kayak or SUP will make the fishing easier but for those land based you will be taken by boat to the sandflats to fish. There is no set starting time but someone will be at the boat ramp around 7.00am if you need help or transport. We will meet up after fishing for a sausage sizzle lunch at 1.00pm.

Dunmore Trout Waters

The outing to Dunmore Trout Waters is so popular it books out before it is advertised. If you have registered, you need to pay a \$50 deposit by our June meeting to secure your place. Direct deposit is the best method to pay. Places will be allocated on first in basis. For those on the waiting list, or hoping for a place after the June meeting, the following information is provided.

Dunmore Trout Waters has been booked for the weekend 28th/30th July. Dunmore is a private fishery located near Wandsworth, 35 km north of Guyra and just west of the New England Highway.

The cost for accommodation, fishing and food is \$270 for the weekend. Up until the June meeting deposits will be refunded if there is someone on the waiting list to take your place.



Dunmore is well stocked with rainbow trout and everyone will have a good chance of catching a trout on fly. There are also redfin present for anyone aiming for a freshwater Grand Slam.

If you are looking for a great place to catch your first trout on fly or just a relaxing weekend with good company Dunmore is the outing for you.

Upcoming Outings

If you like to plan ahead, make sure you check out the Club Calendar on page 12 That's how the people who booked out Dunmore Waters got in so quickly. You need to be aware of upcoming outings especially when they have limited spots available. The calendar does change from time to time so always check the latest edition in the current newsletter.

The Mullet Mash is no more and will be replaced by the *Battle of the Bread Fly*. This will allow us to target more species and increase the fun. The poster on page 13 will give you the details to plan ahead.

For those prepared to travel for fishing that can't be had locally, Lake St Clair and Swansea are still on the calendar waiting for the date to be set. If you want to catch lake bass or Australian Salmon, these outings are worth considering despite the distance involved.

Committee Decisions

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

- ◆ The Treasurer's report was accepted as a true and accurate record and accounts to be paid were approved. Current balance: \$5,767.77
- ➡ It was decided to leave the Lake St Clair and Swansea outings on the calendar to allow members to attend if they wish once the Hunter Valley Club has set the dates.
- Coordinators are needed for future outing:
- Homewaters Saturday 13th May
- Homewaters Saturday 10th June
- Homewaters Saturday 22nd July
- Mullet Mash Saturday 25th August

Coordinating outings is not just up to Committee members. If we are unable to get a volunteer to coordinate an outing it will be cancelled.

- ◆ A vote of thanks was passed to Glenn for coordinating the April Homewaters outing and running the BBQ.
- A suggestion that material packs be made up for each fly tying session was considered favourably and a volunteer is needed to make up the packs each month.

- Our next Cast A Fly Rod Day has been postponed to a date to be set.
- The Mullet Mash was discussed with approval to include bream and other species. It was decided to base the day around the bread fly and a suitable name is to be sought from members.
- ◆ A vote of thanks was passed to Pip for the Fly Tying Competition which is gaining in interest and providing flies for the raffle.
- ◆ Badges for the Fly Master Award
 Program will be given to recipients free of charge.
- We will be having a buy, swap sell night for our September meeting.
- ◆ A vote of thanks was passed to Jim for coordinating the Fly Master Program, keeping the records and printing the certificates.
- Because of changes to the gaming room at the Club, we will hold our meetings in the Osprey Room and if this solution does not work, we will look for other alternatives.
- We need guest speakers for future meetings. Members are asked for suggestions.

- ◆ Following discussion about safety on club outings, the following decisions were made:
- Where circumstances allow, members be encouraged to fish with a buddy.
- Members to be made aware of carrying a mobile phone with the Emergency App installed.
- Everyone to be reminded on an outing of who is carrying a PLB (Allan and Ray both carry Personal Locator Beacons) and a first aid kit.
- Members be encouraged to carry a whistle for outings when fishing alone.
- Coordinators on club outings to ensure everyone is checked in and checked out of the activity.
- Fishing "Convention" loosely based on Swansea Salmon Classic and the Foster Fly Muster was discussed. It could be based at the Repton Caravan Park at a time when the trevally are in the river. The expertise of our well-known members could be used to attract visitors from neighbouring clubs. It was decided that we follow-up this idea with the view to doing something next year.
- We need to start thinking about filling Executive and Committee positions at the AGM in July. A new Secretary and President will be needed.

Club Calendar 2023

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

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



Battle of the Bread Fly 2023

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

Saturday August 25th



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

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

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

Cost \$10 per person. This includes:

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

Members are asked to team up in boats to take advantage of being able to fish anywhere in the Bellinger/Kalang Rivers. If you don't have a boat or kayak and can't find a ride let us know and we will ferry you to various land-based spots. Inexperienced fly fishers will be helped by members sharing their knowledge and skills.

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

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

Contact: Allan on 0427457725

Turning The Corner

A report on Lake Eucumbene

Written by Tom Trefz Photos by Roger Clements

I arrived at Frying Pan, the arm of Lake Eucumbene, on the afternoon of Friday 24th March. The water was still up at 58%, down slightly from the 60% when I last visited in December. My old time fishing mate from Shepparton, Roger and his son Paul, joined me for this trip once again. With the level of the water this high we only walked 500 metres from camp to the shore. In previously years, at 15% capacity, it was a 5km drive to the water.



Shortly after unpacking, we decided to wet a line. We both tied on size 16 black nymphs and Paul used his spinning outfit with a small blade. The trout showed little interest in our nymphs but Paul hooked and released two smallish rainbows.

Day two started bright and early with Rog hooking and landing a beautiful rainbow that allowed him to christen his new net and provided a tasty, smoked lunch. I had no luck and only landed my first fish during the evening session. The lake had been stocked since our last visit and the 10 inch fish proved to be a nuisance.



The following three days were slow with a constant easterly wind, keeping the fish and insects down. On the morning of day six we noticed the lake had dropped markedly and the fish had focused their attention on the mud-eye in the shallows, which were now in danger of being stranded. The action was sporadic and if one wasn't in the correct bay one had no luck.



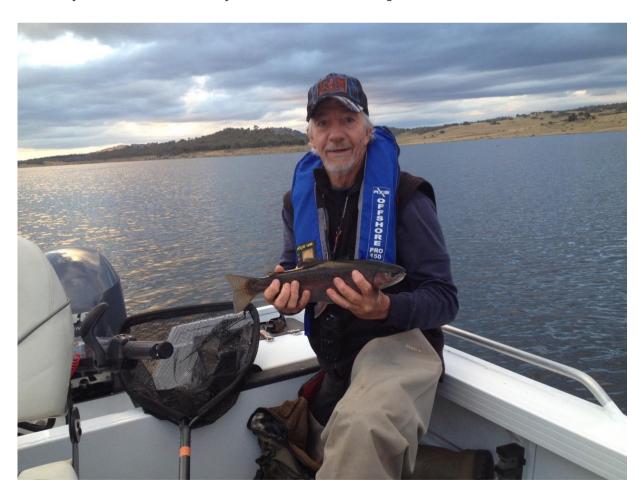
Days seven, eight and nine were spent exploring new spots around the lake and seeking shelter from the biting cold wind which heralded the approaching winter. We had to change our strategy to leeward points, where food would collect for the fish. Rog and I alternated these points and ended up catching several bigger fish.

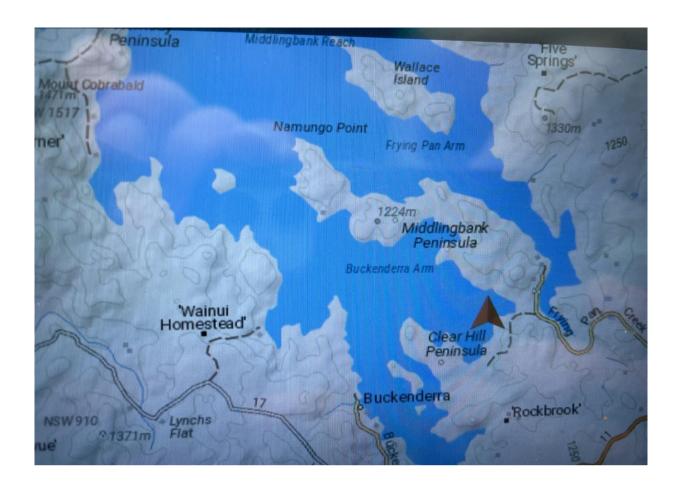


The final night we ended up in a bay that we hadn't fished before and right on cue the mud-eye hatched. The fish turned up for all of 15 minutes of pure excitement. Rog landed a good brown and I a smallish rainbow.



Our trips have been booked for the first of the month, which meant a predominance of full moon days. Subsequent trips will be booked with mostly new moon days to see if it makes any difference to the fishing.

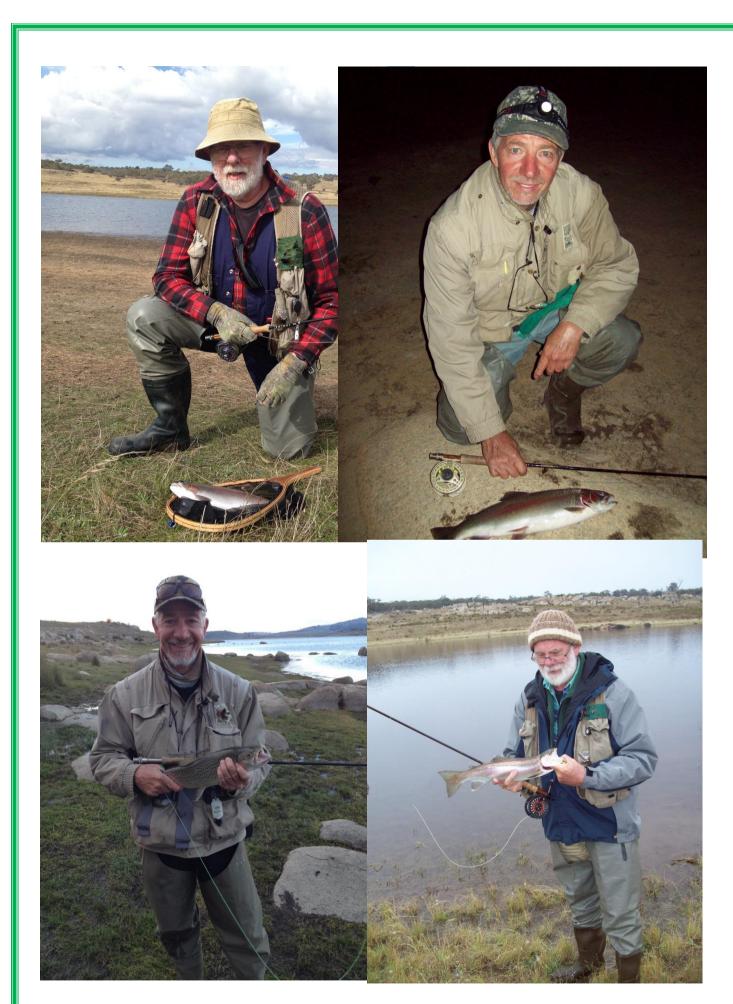




Fishing such a vast body of water is always challenging but having good mates to share it with while trying to unlock the mystery makes these trips worthwhile. Rog once asked an old timer about the best days to fish, his response was, "Any time you can, son, any time you can."

Tom





Fishing Reports

It's a long time since trout dominated our fishing reports like they have this season but it has been such a great season the photos keep coming in.

Garry Hambly has been spending some time around Dorrigo and finding plenty of well-conditioned rainbows willing to take a dry fly.



John and Jim have been hitting the streams around Ebor to find some pretty little rainbows and browns.







Between work and setting up a new home, Jason has found time to chase the rainbows and browns around Ebor.





Not only has Garry been catching trout at Dorrigo, he has been showing us how to catch whiting on fly off the beach at Moonee. This is one of a couple he caught on our recent visit proving it was no fluke.



Steve has been catching tiny tarpon, or I should say big mullet at Valla. They might not be big but they ate lively and out on a good aerial display.



A bream caught by Steve which had a liking for a bread fly and an Italian fly rod.



If you haven't been to Valla on one of our Tuesday fishing days it is well worth a visit ... and not just for the fishing. These photos taken by Vaughn Hagelstein show why the Tuesday Casting group likes to go there.





It helps to have a handyman in the club who can come to the rescue when things go wrong. Phill lending a hand at Stuarts Point.



There were a few flathead around at Stuarts Point and Tom caught his share fishing alone from his boat.



It's always nice when you don't have to use burley and a bread fly to catch a bream. One from the Stuarts Point outing.



The Stuarts Point outing was well attended and plenty of fish were caught. Thanks to Mike for coordinating and providing the tasty steak sandwiches that everyone enjoyed. Here are some more photos from father and son Garry and Paul, who not only are fishing gurus, but can take great photos too.









Casting Styles or Faults

I have been casting a fly rod for too many years to remember and for about the last fifteen years have been involved in teaching others, in one way or another, how to cast. During that time, I have watched many people cast a fly rod. I've also spent a lot of time watching casting videos made by some of the so-called experts on Youtube. So, when I write this month about the different casting styles and faults I have come across, you needn't think I am writing about you. Your style and faults are not unique.

Style can be described as a particular way in which something is done, created, or performed. There are many styles you can use to make an effective cast but there are five essential elements that must be in place for this to happen. I've written about these before but they are worth repeating and remembering. It was the work of Jay and Bill Gammel that found that moving the rod tip in a straight line, removing slack, applying power smoothly and varying the pause and casting arc as the length of line changed produced the narrow loops to make an effective cast. Provided these substantive elements were in place there was scope to use your own style.

Unfortunately, some styles make it more difficult to achieve the essentials mechanics of a good cast and are really casting faults. A fault is a mistake or something that is not working correctly. I have seen many casting faults and styles that just don't achieve the desired outcome. Deciding whether a poor cast is a result of style or a fault can lead to confusion and disagreement on the part of the caster and instructor.

Borrowing from the great casting instructor, Mel Krieger, who used his alter ego Joe Smocktapop to highlight casting faults, this month I want to introduce you to some styles and faults I have come across. Like Joe Smocktapop, who couldn't cast well but could catch fish, these are all examples of ineffective casting brought about by ineffectual mechanics. I have given these styles and faults a name. You may find something of you in some of these.



The Windscreen Wiper

Just like the windscreen wiper on a car, these people wave the rod in in a circular motion back and forth. It's usually associated with just using the wrist to rotate the rod. Another way of looking at this style is to imagine someone painting the inside of an igloo (though I'm not sure why you would want to paint an igloo!). The resulting rounded movement of the

rod tip creates big open loops. Sometimes we may want to do that to keep flies from tangling but for the most part we want the rod tip to travel in a straight-line path and produce narrow loops. If you are a windscreen wiper you need to learn about translation and not rely on rotation.



The Flag Waver

Instead of just using the wrist, the flag waver uses the extended arm to cast just like the flag-waving legend Glen Dix in a Grand Prix race. Keeping the arm straight limits the use of the wrist and allows for longer translation resulting in the rod tip travelling in a straight line. Anyone who has held a flag aloft for any length of time will tell you of the drawbacks of this style. Having your arm away from your body and not using any elbow will soon

become tiring and can lead to rotator cuff injuries. On the positive side, Flag Wavers are able to keep the fly line and fly away from their bodies and don't get hit in the back of the head very often.



The Whip Cracker

Whenever I meet someone wanting to learn to cast and they tell me it will be easy, "just like cracking a whip" I know I am going to have a lot of work ahead of me. For some reason, many beginners believe casting is like cracking a whip. Maybe they have heard too many fly casters not pausing long enough on their backcast and the fly cracking off! Flicking

the fly or cracking the whip are not good analogies of what fly casting is about. There are some postive aspects of whip cracking like using the wrist and stopping abruptly, but the brute force involved doesn't sit well with efficient fly casting. Whip cracking and fly flicking put all the emphasis on the forward stroke forgetting that fly casting is about moving the rod backwards and forwards smoothly to create a loop.



The Pusher

We're not talking about the criminals of the drug world here but people who believe you have to push the fly forward, not pull it. You can pick a pusher just by watching how much they concentrate on their forward cast and do their best to push the fly to its target. Pushing will work over shorter distances but once you have to reach out to longer targets you need to pull the fly line to make the rod

bend and extend the cast. Pushers find turning over their leaders difficult because they don't have an abrupt stop. Like the Big Bad Wolf, Pushers put all their energy into making the fly go forward rather than thinking about the whole cast.



The Big Bad Wolf

The Big Bad Wolf features in the story of the Three Little Pigs as he tries to huff and puff and blow their house down. I've come across a few casters who huff and puff and try to make their fly go further. I think it is a male thing that says if it won't work apply more force. Forget about pulling the fly line,

making tighter loops or learning to double haul, just cast harder and everything will be fine. Well, it didn't turn out that way for the big bad wolf in the fairytale and the same happens for most big bad wolves learning to fly cast. All the huffing and puffing and punching the fly rod will not make a good cast.



The Clock Watcher

The Clock Watcher moves like a metronome. The rod travels back and forward between 10 and 2. You can pick a clock watcher by the mechanical motion of their casting ... and their inability to cast long distances. For many years casting instructors taught by the clock. It's still a legitimate teaching method today as long as

you realize that this only applies to a certain length of line being cast. Most instructors today teach the variable casting arc based on the length of line out of the rod tip. Long cast, long stroke, short cast short stroke. One of the great advances in teaching fly casting has come about due to the digital clock which makes it harder to learn to fly cast from 10 to 2.



The Robot

The Robot is not far removed from The Clock Watcher. Both use a mechanical action based on minimal movement. The thing you notice most about robot casters is that they only move the part of their body holding the rod. With such limited movement, robot casters can be very accurate as there is little to go wrong. On the other hand, distance casting can be a problem because they do not take advantage of the power generated by the rest of the body and they don't double haul. Successful attempts have been made to build robots that can cast a fly rod but their lack of sensitivity and

rigid movements have not produced effective fishing casts. Robot fly casters could gain a lot from watching a dancer.



The Dancer

You don't get to see many dancers when you are teaching fly casting but when you do, they are usually very good. One the greatest casters of all time started her career as a dancer. Joan Wulff was an American National Casting Champion from 1943-1960 and has won the National Fisherman's Distance Casting event against an all-male field. She has written several books on fly casting and is widely regarded as the architect of modern-day fly-casting mechanics. The substance of her cast follows all the essentials but she does it with a style that makes the most of her physical attributes and the technique and timing of a dancer. Her style of casting could be called faultless.



The Gun Slinger

In the wild west you had to be quick or you were dead. You carried your guns low and fired from the hips. Fly casters who are gun slingers cast their fly rod from a low position and they are quick. With rod down low, the cast has to be swift before gravity takes over and the fly hits the water. The great advantage of the gun slinger is the speed at which the fly is delivered. It is not necessarily very accurate, but like the real gunslinger, if you made enough shots, you usually did the damage. The Gun Slinger is very good at getting the fly under bushes and avoiding the wind. Many saltwater fly casters are gunslingers. If you fish with a gunslinger you need to be aware that they take up more space with their horizontal casting

which can be an issue if you are sharing a small boat.

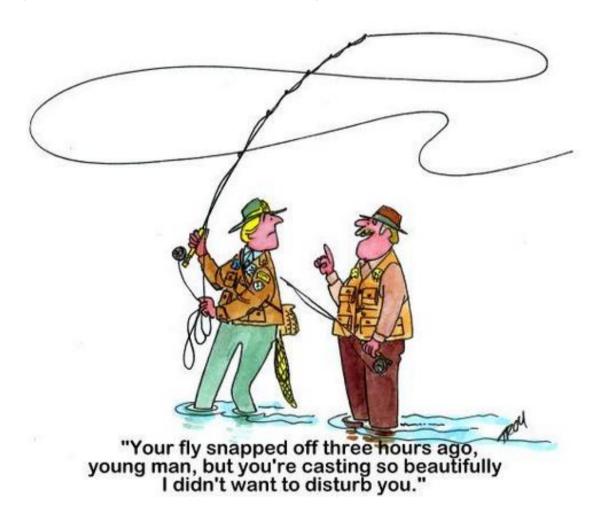


The Machine Gunner

Sometimes it is difficult to pick the difference between the Gunslinger and the Machine Gunner. Both make rapid fire casts. Both crack off plenty of flies because they do not pause long enough at the end of the cast. Whereas the Gun Slinger casts from the hips, the Machine Gunner can be seen casting from any angle. The telltale sign of a Gunn slinger is the

noisy swish of a fast action fly rod. There are advantages for the machine gunner in giving the wind less time to blow the fly away from the target and drying a dry fly that has become wet, but delicacy of presentation can be a problem.

Did you see yourself in any of these? Of course not! I wasn't talking about you. These are some of the many styles and faults I have seen as a casting instructor over many years. Sometimes a particular style works while at other times it can be a fault. If you see anything of you in the examples given you need to ask, is it a fault or just my style. The answer lies in the efficiency of your actions and the results of your cast. If you don't cast very well and don't catch fish then it's definitely a fault.



Fly Tying in May

The theme for the fly tying competition this month is a wet fly for trout. All flies get wet when you are fishing, but wet flies are different to dry flies in that they are fished under the surface. There are three general groups of wet flies: classic wets (soft hackles) nymphs and streamers. That leaves a lot of options if you want to tie a wet fly for trout for this month's competition.

Trout eat the majority of their food underwater so it makes a lot of sense to use a wet fly. For our fly tying night on Monday 29th May, we will be tying a bead head pheasant tail nymph. This fly, in all its variations, has probably caught more trout than any other fly in history. Every fly box should contain pheasant tail nymphs in various sizes and weights.

If you are coming to the fly tying night make sure you have a look at the video below and the step by step instructions that follow. You will receive a pack of materials and hooks so you can tie some bead head pheasant tails on the night.





Materials:

Hook: Nymph hook size 12-18 (Kamasan B175, Ahrex FW560, Black Magic A series, Tiemco TMC3769, Mustad R70) Thread: Olive or brown, 6/0.

Bead: Gold Cyclops Eyes or Tungsten

(appropriately sized)

Underbody: Round Lead Wire or Non-Toxic

Substitute

Tail: Pheasant Tail Fibers

Rib: Copper Wire (size/colour of choice)

Abdomen: Pheasant Tail Fibers

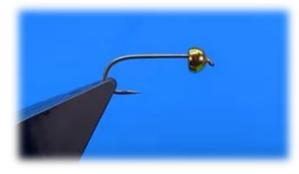
Thorax: Peacock Herl

Wingcase: Pheasant Tail Fibers Legs: Pheasant Tail Fibers (tips).



Step-by-step Instructions:

1. Place the bead on the hook. If you want extra weight, use a tungsten bead.



2. Wind a few turns of lead wire behind the bead depending on how heavy you want to make the fly.



3. Introduce the thread and wind to bend of hook.



4. Tie in the pheasant tail fibers by the tips.



5. Tie in the copper wire.



6. Wind the pheasant tail fibers up the hook stopping short of the bead to allow for the thorax.



7. Wrap copper wire forward and secure.



8. Wrap remaining pheasant tail fibers back ready to tie in the thorax.



9. Tie in peacock herl for thorax and secure.



10. Tie in pheasant tail tips to make the legs, secure and trim excess.



11. Fold down wing case and secure.



12. Whip finish and apply head cement.



If you type "pheasant tail nymph" into the Google search bar you will get 667,000 hits. If you checked every fly fisher in the world you would probably get a similar number who have pheasant tails in their fly boxes. Its popularity comes from the fact it imitates a large variety of olive, olive-brown colored aquatic insect larvae that many fish, including trout and grayling, feed upon. The pheasant tail is a generic mayfly pattern that has been catching fish since it was developed by Frank Sawyer in 1958.



Fishing season reminders

Bass

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.

Trout

Spawning season starts 1 May in the Snowy Mountains and special rules apply to the Thredbo River and its tributaries and the Eucumbene River and its tributaries (upstream of the Lake Eucumbene dam wall and including Providence Portal). A minimum size limit of 50 cm, daily bag limit of one and possession limit of two trout will apply to these rivers from 1 May to the end of the Queen's Birthday long weekend.

Annual closure on fishing in trout streams for NSW will be in place from Tuesday after the Queen's Birthday weekend and reopens on the October long weekend. Trout dams remain open to fishing throughout the year.

When the season opens again in October, a minimum size limit of 25 cm, daily bag limit of two and possession limit of four trout again applies to the Thredbo and Eucumbene Rivers and other fly and lure only waters in NSW.

Nambucca Waterfront Hideaway

If you are looking for somewhere for visitors to stay or want a few days away from the daily grind, you might want to take a look at this local <u>Airbnb at Hyland Park</u>. Just opposite our favourite fishing spot at Valla Beach, this place is right on the water and run by one of our members, Mick Cannon.



If you mention to Mick that you saw this in the club newsletter, I am sure he will look after you with local fishing advice and maybe even one or two of his favourite crabbing spots.





For more information click **here** or get in contact with Mick.

Mick and Sharon have generously donated two nights accommodation as a prize for the club Christmas raffle so stay tuned to find out how you can win a great holiday.



Fly Fishing Club Outings Checklist



Out	ang:
Tar	get species:
Dat	e/s:
••••	
Trip	Coordinator:
••••	
Bef	fore the Outing
	Dates booked and deposit paid if needed
	Calculate costs (if any)
	Set maximum number of people able to be catered for on the outing.
• •	
ven	ue checked for:
	Facilities (toilets, power etc)
	Access (4wd needed, boat ramp etc)
	Accommodation (if needed)
	Permission if needed (access to state parks, private land etc)
	Food opportunities (Take aways, picnic areas etc)
	Outing introduced at a club meeting (what to expect)
	Outing advertised in newsletter
	Outings sheet prepared for people to sign up for the trip
	Date for close of registrations and deposits to be paid (if needed)
	Coordinate transport sharing
	Help new members find a fishing buddy
	Check if anyone needs to borrow club rods
	Arrange purchase of food (if needed)

Ema	ail to be sent to those registered for the outing (at least 1 week before
date	e) with the following information:
	Times and dates
	Destination
	Species to target
	Transport arrangements
	How to get there (maps, photos)
	Travelling time and distance
	When and where to meet
Wha	at to take:
	\square Clothing
	☐ Rods, lines, flies
	\Box Food
	☐ Fishing equipment (waders, wading stick, stripping basket etc)
	Costs and deposits (if applicable)
	Accommodation arrangements
	Food arrangements
	List of people attending so transport can be coordinated
	Weather report and likely developments
	Contingency plans for changed weather
	Contact details for trip coordinator
	Contact details for destination
	Check if anyone has any health issues or food allergies
	Obtain emergency contact details

On	the day of the outing
	Make a decision regarding cancelling due to weather
	Contact all going if there is any doubt about the weather
	Final check on numbers
	Check off names as people arrive
	Advise on sleeping arrangements (where needed)
	Ensure everyone is aware of the program/plans
	Appoint first aid officer and establish how to access first aid
	Establish means of communications
	Note where members are fishing and when they will return
	Check that everyone has returned from fishing
	Collect any monies required (if the Treasurer is not able to do it)
	Make sure photos are taken and sent to Secretary for inclusion in Newsletter
	Ask someone to write a trip report
	Make sure the venue is left in a tidy condition (delegate)
	Check that everyone has left the venue safely



Fly Master Award Program Bronze

Option 1 for the Bronze Fly Ma following groups on the one da		y three legal size fish from one of the
Group 1 Mullet, Bream an Group 3 Any 3 Trout	d Flathead or (Group 2 Bass, Bream, Herring or
Option 2 for the Bronze Fly I or above specified length.	Master - Catch	any five species over any period of time at
size), Trevally 30cm, Brown Tro	out 25cm, Rainbo	Bass 35cm, Herring (fresh or saltwater - no ow Trout 25cm, Murray Cod 55cm, Golden Garfish 20cm, Redfin (no size), Tailor (no
<u>Details:</u> Group of fish caught in one day		
Date of captures:		
Species:	Length:	Date of Capture:
Species:	Length:	Date of Capture:
Species:	Length:	Date of Capture:
Species:	Length:	Date of Capture:
Species:	Length:	Date of Capture:
** Note you must have been a F I declare that the above information witness or other means and I are	ation is correct a	and can be confirmed by photograph,
Signa	ture	 Date

This form is to be completed, scanned and emailed to Jim Wray comfscastflyfishers@gmail.com Completed forms can also be handed in at a Club Meeting or given to Jim Wray.



Fly Master Award Program Silver

Option 1 for the Silver Fly Master - Catch a groups on the one day:	ny three legal size fish fi	rom one of the following
Group 1Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout, H. Trevally, Tailor or Group 3Whiting, Fla		
Option 2 for the Silver Fly Master - Catch specified length.	any five species over any	y period of time at or above
Archer fish 25cm, Australian Salmon 30cm, B Bream 30cm, Carp 60cm, Dart 25cm, Estuar Giant Herring 70cm, Golden Perch (Yellowbe Tom 60cm, Luderick 35cm, Mackerel Barred Mangrove Jack 35cm, Mary River Cod 50cm, cod 60cm, Queenfish 80cm, Redfin Perch 25c Sooty Grunter 30cm, Tailor 35cm, Tarpon 35 (any) 35cm Tuna (any) 30cm, Whiting Sand 25cm	ry Perch 40cm, Flathead elly) 35cm, Jungle Perch 2 1 75cm, Mackerel Spotted Milkfish 50cm, Mullet 30c m, Saratoga 50cm, Silver	60cm, Garfish 30cm 25cm, Kingfish 65cm, Long 150cm, Mahi Mahi 60cm, cm, Mulloway 50cm, Murray Perch 30cm, Snapper 45cm,
<u>Details:</u> Group of fish caught in one day:		
Date of captures:		
Species: Species: Species: Species: Species: ** Note you must have been a Financial Club Mem	Length: Length: Length: Length: Length: ber at the time of capture.	Date of Capture: Date of Capture: Date of Capture Date of Capture Date of Capture:
I declare that the above information is co- witness or other means and I am eligible		0 - 0 -
Signature This form is to be completed, scanned and Completed forms can also be hand.		



Fly Master Award Program Gold

Year of joining the Club:

Option 1 Gold Fly Master - Catch all three l one day :	egal size fish from one of	the following groups on the
Group 1 Carp, Murray Cod, Yellowbell Brook Trout or Group 3 Mangrove Jack Kingfish or Group 5 Mahi Mahi, any tw Barramundi, Golden Trevally or Group 7 . Tarpon, Permit, Milkfish or Group 9 M	k, Bass, Bream, or Group vo Tuna species or Grou Tarpon, Permit, Go	p 4 Salmon, Tailor, p 6 Queenfish, Iden Trevally or Group 8
Option 2 for the Gold Fly Master - Catch specified length. Archer fish 27cm, Australian Salmon 55cm, Eleam 35cm, Carp 75cm, Dart Common 30cm, Golden Perch (Yellowbelly) 40cm, Jungle Perch 70cm, Luderick 40cm, Mackerel Barred 100 Mangrove Jack 45cm, Mary River Cod 60cm, Cod 80cm, Permit 50cm, Queenfish 100cm, Sooty Grunter 40cm, Tailor 45cm, Tarpon 45 (any) 50cm, Tuna (any) 50cm, Whiting Sand with fly attached	Barra 100cm, Bass 50cm, I n, Flathead 85cm, Garfisl ch 30cm, Kingfish 80cm, I lcm, Mackerel Spotted 85 Milkfish 60cm, Mullet 40 Saratoga 60cm, Silver Pe 5cm, Threadfin Salmon 9	Bonefish 50cm, Bonito 50cm, h 35cm, Giant Herring 80cm Long Tom (Crocodile/Barred) 5cm, Mahi Mahi 80cm, cm, Mulloway 70cm, Murray erch 35cm, Snapper 50cm, 0cm, Trevally 50cm, Trout
<u>Details:</u> Group of fish caught in one day:		
Date of captures:	Length:	Date of Capture: Date of Capture: Date of Capture Date of Capture Date of Capture: med by photograph,
Signature This form is to be completed, scanned and Completed forms can also be hand		

CLUB SHOP



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





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

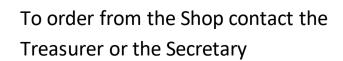


A few Club Hats in stock ... \$20 each. Can order more if needed.





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





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



HALLOFFAME

FISHING

FOUNDATION FLY MASTER

Ray Phipps

Michael Ferris

Greg Artlett

Jim Hyatt

Brian Mighell

Garry Bennett

Anthony Heiser

Rod Ryan

BRONZE FLY MASTER

Greg Artlett

Jim Hyatt

Brian Mighell

Garry Bennett

Anthony Heiser

Doug Urquhart

CASTING

FOUNDATION LEVEL

Bill Anderson

Greg Artlett

Garry Bennett

Mick Cannon

Michael Ferris

Ken Holley

David Lindsay

Brian Mighell

Stephen Mitchell

Murray Robinson

Nigel Smith

Doug Urquhart

Jim Wray

Ray Phipps

David Small

Steve Rampant

Mark Flook

BRONZE LEVEL

Greg Artlett

Bill Herd

John Starr

Greg Baxter

Ray Phipps

Doug Urquhart

Jim Wray

Mark Flook

Garry Bennett

Bill Anderson

Michael Ferris

Murray Robinson



HALLOFFAME

FISHING SILVER FLY MASTER

Tom Clancy Jim Wray Glenn Colquhoun Brian Mighell Allan Ekert John Starr

David Lindsay
Doug Urquhart

CASTING SILVER LEVEL

GOLD LEVEL

Allan Ekert

GOLD FLY MASTER

David Lindsay
Tom Clancy
Glenn Colquhoun
Brian Mighell
Allan Ekert

FLY TYING COMPETION WINNERS 2023

February: Bass Fly Glenn Colquhoun March: Estuary Fly Steve Rampant April: Trout Fly Dry Doug Urquhart

May: Trout Fly Wet
June: Shrimp

July: Salmon & Bread Fly

August: Clouser September Foam Fly October: Carp Fly

November: Anything Goes Fly

Our Supporters

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

















Membership Fees

Membership Fees are as follows:

Adult membership \$30

Family membership \$40

Concession membership \$20

Junior membership free

Distant membership \$10

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

Membership fees will be halved if joining after December

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

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

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

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

Fees can be paid:

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

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



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



BSB 533 000

Account Number: 02051766

Name: Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club Inc

Reference: Your surname

When depositing, make sure you include your surname in the Reference section.

e.g. Ekert Membership.

Club Contact Address

Our official email address is

coffscoastflyfishers@gmail.com

Our mailing address is:

The Secretary

Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club

11 Butterfly Close

Boambee East

NSW 2452

Electronic Contacts

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

http://coffscoastflyfishing.weebly.com/.

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

Our Facebook Page can be found at:

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

We have a **Facebook Group**. If you are on FB all you need to do is search for Coffs Coast Fly Fishers and ask to join the Group

Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club Inc.

Membership Form

I apply for Me ☐ Adult \$30	-	•	embership category <i>(tick approp</i> ☐ Junior - Free ☐ Distant \$10	oriate box):
Please fill all	information below:			
Name:			DOB:	
Address:			Town:	
Postcode:	Home Phone:		Mobile:	
Email:				
Emergency Co	ontact:		Phone:	
For Family M	Iembership please cor	nplete the deta	ails below:	
Name:		DOB:	Relationship:	
Name:		DOB:	Relationship:	
Name:		DOB:	Relationship:	
By signing be the Club.	elow you agree to abid	le by the Const	itution, rules and safety regu	lations of
Signature of A	applicant:		Date:	
Signature of Legal Guardian if for Junior member:		Date:		
	- 0 - 0		embers in the newsletter, promo If you do not want your photogra	
	rs and email addressed a poses. If you do not want	•	ab members to co-ordinate club ared, tick here. □	outings and
•	-	•	y email or post to the Club togety cash, cheque, or direct deposit	
Post signed f	form and cheque to:		Bananacoast Community (Credit Union
The Secretary	,	Ьl	Direct Deposit:	
-	y Fishing Club		BSB: 533 000	
11 Butterfly C			Account No: 02051766	
Boambee East			Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club	Inc
NSW 2452	-		Reference: Your surname	

Notes

Club Membership Definitions:

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

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

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

Fees:

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

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

Completed Membership Forms:

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

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