

The *Flyer*



Official Newsletter Of The



The Flyer

The Official Newsletter of the Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club November 2019

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Cover: The future of fly fishing. Walter showing Lauren the finer points of nymphing. Great to see father and daughter so keen.

Below: Camping in style on the Williams River.



Editorial

The Committee has been hard at work putting together a range of activities for you to participate in next year. If there is not something in the 2020 calendar for everyone I will be surprised. From day trips to our Homewaters to week-long trips overseas; from casting workshops to fly tying; there should be something there of interest for all our members.

Next year we are trying to organize a couple of longer trips for those who want take their fly fishing to the next level. If you want to participate you will need to plan ahead and that is why the draft calendar is published this month. Make sure you read page 10 if you want to go on any of these trips. A decision about a trip to New Zealand or Tasmania will have to be made by our November meeting.

We had a big turnout for our trip to Dorriggo last month. The New England Plateau may not be the best trout fishery in the world but we are lucky to have it on our doorstep. If you can't get to Tasmania or New Zealand there are plenty of rivers on the mountain worth exploring. You can see some photos from the outing on pages 24-25

Co-operation between clubs is growing and it's great to share fisheries and knowledge. Recently a couple of our members joined the Hunter Valley Fly Fishing Club's trip to the Williams River to catch some bass. The thought of taking coals to Newcastle came to mind but I am assured that the fishing was nearly as good as we have here and well worth the trip. You can see for yourself on pages 22-23.



With the increasing level of interaction between clubs it's great that we have a distinctive and club shirt to wear to these events. Last month's order form indicated that there is not enough interest to purchase more of the long sleeve shirts but we are pushing ahead with an order for a short sleeve version (see page 7). By the time you read this it is probably too late to put in an order this time but there will be an opportunity to order short sleeve shirts again.

The club exists to learn, share and have fun and that happens best when you participate in activities. If you haven't been to a meeting or event for a while why not come along. The November meeting will be the last for the year. If you are one of our distant members you are always welcome, even if you come all the way from Queensland to catch our trout!

Editor

Club Executive 2019-20



Doug Urquhart President



Kevin Cosgrove Vice President



Allan Ekert Secretary, Public Officer and Newsletter Editor



Walter Krainik Treasurer



Rod Leane Assistant Secretary



Don Cummings Committee



David Moppett Club Captain



Glenn Colquhoun Committee



Brian Bevan Committee

November Meeting

The next Meeting will be held on Monday 18th November at the Boambee East Community Centre.

Starting at 6.30pm there will be casting practice on the grounds behind the Hall. We will be running through the Bronze Level of the FFI Fly Casting Skills Challenge again or you can just get some help from the casting instructors present.

Our guest speaker at 7.30pm will be Garry Hambly from A1 FlyFishing. Garry was unable to make the October meeting so this will be your chance to find out all about fly lines.

Here's your chance to *START* fly fishing ...

Coffs Harbour
Internationally Certified
Fly Casting Instructor
0412 271 365

Fly Fishing Courses for Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced Fly Fishers

**South Pacific
Fly Rods Australia**
Owner
Garry Hambly

FFI CCI Fly Fishers International Certified Casting Instructor



We will have the usual raffle to cover the hall hire costs and tea and coffee will be available.

This will be the last meeting for the year with meetings resuming on Monday 20th January 2020 with a BBQ and casting at Mylestom.

November Outings

On Saturday 16th we will be visiting our Homewaters at Urunga. You can launch wherever and whenever you like but we plan to meet back at the ramp next to Anchor's Wharf at 12.30pm for lunch. A boat or kayak will make life easier but for those without there will be opportunities to share a ride or be taken to some flats for wading. Glenn Colquhoun will be coordinating this trip. You can contact Glenn on 0409151270 to register or if you need further information.



On Saturday 30th November there will be an additional outing to our Homewaters at Urunga. This one will be especially for those who attended our Estuary Workshop. Due to high winds on that day we didn't get to fish so an invitation will be sent to all participants inviting them to join us.

Start time will be 8.00am at the Urunga boat ramp and we will be using boats to ferry people to the flats for some wade fishing.

All members are welcome to attending this outing and those who were at the Estuary Workshop will receive a special invitation via email. If you would like to participate you can put your name on the outings sheet at the next meeting or contact the secretary.



The Urunga Flathead Tournament will be held this month. Entries are now closed.

Committee Meeting

The following is a summary of the discussions from the last Committee Meeting. A full copy of the minutes is available on request.

Club Calendar

The draft club calendar for 2020 was prepared (see page 10) Alternative venues have been included to be decided as we get closer to the date.

Two major outings are proposed but these will only go ahead if there is sufficient interest

Club Shirts

We were unable to get enough orders to go ahead with the long sleeve shirts. An order is to be placed for the short sleeve shirts.

Club Logo

The embroidery setup has been done for the "fish" club logo. Members now have a choice of the "Dahlberg" or "fish" logos for embroidering on their own clothing. The cost for the Dahlberg" logo is \$10 and the "fish" logo is \$20.

November Outing

Glenn will co-ordinate the November outing to our Homewaters at Urunga .

Estuary Workshop

To follow on from the Estuary Workshop we will invite all those involved to a club outing on our Home Waters on Saturday 30th November.

Bass Workshop

It was decided to conduct a bass workshop next year. Possible venues to be investigated and planning to begin in the new year.

Dunmore Waters

It was agreed that Dunmore be the venue for our July outing.

Clean Up Australia Day

It was decided that we participate in Clean up Australia Day which will be held on Sunday 1st March 2020. It was suggested that we use boats and clean rubbish from along the banks of the Kalang River.

December Outing

It was decided not to hold an outing in December.

Fly Tying Day

A fly tying day will be included in the calendar next year and a suitable guest fly tyer to be sought.

Family Membership

To encourage families to participate in our activities it was decided to introduce a family membership at our next AGM. It is proposed that adult membership revert to \$25 and family membership will be \$30 You will have the chance to vote on this in July.



GET
INVOLVED!

Club Shirts

There was insufficient interest to go ahead with another order of the long sleeve shirts. We will try again next year and make sure the offer is made to all our distant and Facebook members.

However, we have placed an order for the short sleeve shirts and these will be available within the next week.



If you didn't place an order you haven't missed out altogether. The process will be a little slower but you can still get one of the short sleeve shirts. Threadworks will only do these shirts in batches of 12. You will have to put your name down at a club meeting or by contacting the secretary and when we have 12 on the list we can get them made up. The cost is \$50 each.

The process of having a club logo embroidered on your own clothing is also based on Threadworks wanting to do them in batches of 12. You can leave your item of clothing at their shop or bring it to a club meeting and when 12 items are ready the embroidery will be done. The cost for the "Dahlberg" logo is \$10 and the "fish" logo is \$20.

You will find Threadworks at the following address"



Shop 3 Jack Simmons Centre, 33 Harbour Drive, Coffs Harbour NSW, 2450
(02) 6651 5101

We still have a couple of club caps for sale. After they have been sold we will need to follow a similar procedure for the shirts and logos and wait until 12 are ready to be embroidered. Club caps are \$20 each.



Club Calendar 2019

Here is the club calendar for 2019. There are still opportunities to make changes and the details will be filled in as the year progresses. Check the monthly newsletter or website for details.

Month	Outings	Activities
JANUARY	No outing this month Casting night at Mylestom starting at 5.00pm on Monday 21 st .	No Fly Tying Club Meeting Monday 21 st
FEBRUARY	Lake Keepit Friday 8 th - Sunday 10 th Cancelled Moonee Creek Saturday 9 th	Fly Tying Monday 4 th Club Meeting Monday 18 th
MARCH	Forster Fly Muster (15 th /16 th /17 th) Bass Bash Saturday 16 th Postponed Ebor Saturday 23 rd Postponed	No Fly Tying Club Meeting Monday 18 th
APRIL	Casting Day Saturday 13 th Home Waters Saturday 27 th	No Fly Tying Club Meeting Monday 15 th
MAY	Trout Workshop Saturday 11 th Home Waters Saturday 25 th	Club Meeting Monday 20 th
JUNE	Bluewater Saturday 22 nd or Sunday 23 rd depending on weather	Fly Tying Monday 3 rd Club Meeting Monday 17 th
JULY	Dunmore Waters Fri 26 th - Sun 28 th	Club Meeting Monday 15 th
AUGUST	Home Waters Saturday 10 th Swansea Friday 23 rd - Sunday 25 th	Club Meeting Monday 19 th
SEPTEMBER	Brisbane Casting Day Sunday 1 st Estuary Workshop Saturday 14 th The Gorge Clarence River Friday 20 th - Sunday 22 nd	Club Meeting Monday 16 th
OCTOBER	Dorrigo trout day Saturday 26 th	Club Meeting Monday 21 st
NOVEMBER	Urunga Flathead Tournament 9 th -11 th Home Waters Saturday 16 th Home Waters Saturday 30 th	Club Meeting Monday 18 th
DECEMBER	No Outing in December	No Club Meeting

If you want to organize additional outings don't forget we have a Facebook Group where you can create your own outing. If you are looking for someone to go fishing for a day, weekend or week you can post the information on Facebook and see if any other members would like to join you.

2020 Draft Calendar

Each year we put together a draft calendar for long term planning. It doesn't always work out with changes having to be made throughout the year for a whole host of reasons. Nevertheless it is a starting point and gives an overview of what we could do for the year.

This year we have included the option of two major trips. These will only go ahead if there is sufficient interest. You will need to make a decision about the March trip by the November meeting as considerable time will be needed for planning. The absolute maximum for these trips is 8 people but less would be easier.

Tasmania or New Zealand

For March the suggestion is either Tasmania or New Zealand. There is a little flexibility in the dates but if people have to arrange holidays at work we will need to lock in the dates as soon as possible.

You will find below a very rough budget for the two options - Tasmania or New Zealand.

Budget for Tasmania

This is rough estimate of costs is based on two anglers for 9 days. Flights are based on flying Virgin Coffs Harbour to Launceston via Sydney. You can find cheaper flights or drive.

Flights	\$450 each
Car Rental	\$175 each based on 2 people
Accommodation	\$250 each based on 2 people
Petrol	\$250 each based on 2 people
Food	\$250 each based on 2 people
Travel Insurance	\$80 each
Fishing Licence	\$60 each
Miscellaneous	\$200 each
TOTAL	\$1685 each based on 2 people

Budget for New Zealand Trip

This is rough estimate of costs is based on two anglers for 10 days. The figures below are AUD. Flights are based on Qantas Coffs Harbour to Queenstown. You can find cheaper flights but it usually involves over night in Sydney or Brisbane.

Flights	\$1227 each
Car Rental	\$250 each based on 2 people
Accommodation	\$550 each based on 2 people
Petrol	\$250 each based on 2 people
Food	\$300 each based on 2 people
Travel Insurance	\$100 each
Phone Card	\$29 each
Fishing Licence	\$180 each
Miscellaneous	\$200 each
TOTAL	\$3086 each based on 2 people



If you have any questions or need more information please get in contact. Remember you only have until our November meeting to make a commitment. The decision on Tasmania or New Zealand will be based on number of people wanting to go.

Queensland

For June the suggestion is we go somewhere in Queensland. Gladstone has been pencilled in as one option but we have time to explore other destinations. It is not possible to make a budget for this trip until we decide exactly where we are going.

Club Calendar 2020

Here is the draft club calendar for 2020. It is provided to give you an overview of what might happen and plan ahead. Alternative venues have been included to be decided as we get closer to the date. Check the monthly newsletter or website for latest details.

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	Bass Workshop Saturday 22 nd Bass Outing Sunday 23 rd	Club Meeting Monday 17 th
MARCH	Clean Up Australia Day Sunday 1 st Forster Fly Muster (TBA) Tasmania or New Zealand Fri 6 th - Sun 15 th Home Waters Saturday 21 st	Club Meeting Monday 16 th
APRIL	Keepit or Chaffey or Wyaralong Fri 17 th - Sun 19 th Home Waters Sunday 26 th	Club Meeting Monday 20 th
MAY	Home Waters Saturday 9 th Trout Workshop or Casting Day Saturday 23 rd	Club Meeting Monday 18 th
JUNE	Lake St Clair Friday 12 th - Sunday 14 th Queensland Trip Sunday 21 st - Sunday 28 th Home Waters Saturday 27 th	Club Meeting Monday 15 th
JULY	Fly tying Day Saturday 4 th July Dunmore Waters or Two Styx Fri 24 th - Sun 26 th	Club Meeting Monday 20 th
AUGUST	Home Waters Saturday 8 th Swansea Salmon Classic TBA	Club Meeting Monday 17 th
SEPTEMBER	Casting Day 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

If you want to organize additional outings don't forget we have a Facebook Group where you can create your own outing. If you are looking for someone to go fishing for a day, weekend or week you can post the information on Facebook and see if any other members would like to join you.

Fishing Photos

A couple of our newer members showing how to catch trout at Ebor.



Polly Frost with an Ebor brown - about as good as it gets.



Chris Bonner came all the way from Queensland to catch this fighting rainbow.

Beginners Corner

If you are beginner you probably only have one fly line. I guarantee if you stick with fly fishing you will end up with more. If fly fishing becomes your passion you will have so many fly lines you could easily lose track of what you have.

At our meeting last month a question came up about how to keep track of the fly lines you own. I am going to offer a few thoughts on what I do; and what I should have done. Others may have different ideas or you might want to come up with your own system. If you are a beginner and you think you might last more than twelve months in the sport you should be prepared for the time when you have more than a dozen fly lines in a box and can't remember which one is which.

The first thing I would suggest is that you don't throw away the box the fly line comes in. Not only is it handy to store the line in when you put another line on your reel, it also contains a lot of valuable information about the line.

When I take a new line out of a box the first thing I do is mark the end with the weight of the line. I use a simple system of strokes and dashes on the reel end of the line using a waterproof permanent marker.

3 weight = — — —
5 weight = — — — —
6 weight = — — — — —
7 weight = — — — — — —
etc



If your first fly line (or any fly line) doesn't come with a spool you should find one. If you are lucky you can get one from someone who hasn't read Beginners Corner and throws away their box and spool when they buy a fly line. You can sometimes find empty spools at tackle shops or you can buy empty spools online if you look.

Another tip when putting a line back on an empty spool is to wind it on starting with the leader. This leaves the reel end of the line on top and it is easy to see what weight it is by the dashes you have marked at the end.

A quick word on winding lines back on spools. Never use the "handline" method as this will introduce twists into your line. Get a line winder or make sure you turn the spool just as you would the reel.



Keeping track of your fly lines is easy if you use lines with which have all the details laser engraved in the coating. For example the line below is a Scientific Angler Mastery Series Saltwater Weight Forward 7 weight Floating. As far as I am aware only Scientific Anglers engrave their lines this way.



Some fly lines come with a small sticker in the box which you can fix to the spool of your reel. This is a solution I haven't used as I change lines often and re-fixing stickers doesn't work when water is involved.

Keeping track of fly lines is a big problem for people like me who have many more fly lines than they do reels. This necessitates changing fly lines constantly and of course keeping track of which line is which. The ideal solution would be to use only lines that are laser engraved but that would prove very expensive and they are not always the line you want for a particular situation.



One thing I regret not doing in the beginning was keeping a list of the fly lines I have. This could have been done with a notebook or better still a spreadsheet. When you start you never think it is going to be a problem keeping track of one or two lines. Pretty soon it can become three or four and after that it can get out of hand. If I had a spreadsheet of all my lines I wouldn't have bought duplicates!

Editor

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IFTD



The annual International Fly Tackle Dealers (IFTD) show is the largest international gathering of fly fishing manufacturers, retailers, sales reps, media and fly fishing organizations in the world.

With Christmas coming up you might like to leave this list of best fly fishing products of 2019 on the fridge for Santa to see - or you may just want to see how the other half lives! Here are a few of the prize winners.

Best of Show

Scott Fly Rods, Sector Series **AU\$1549**

Fly Line - Freshwater Scientific Anglers, Amplitude Infinity **AU\$149.95**

Fly Line - Saltwater Scientific Anglers, Amp Smooth Infinity Salt **AU\$149.95**

Fly Rod - Freshwater

Sage Fly Fishing, TROUT LL **AU\$1299**

Fly Rod - Saltwater

Scott Fly Rods, Sector Series **AU\$1549**

Fly Rod - 2 Handed/Spay

Sage Fly Fishing, Trout Spay HD **AU\$1415**

Reel - Freshwater

Ross Reels, San Miguel **US\$595**

Reel - Saltwater

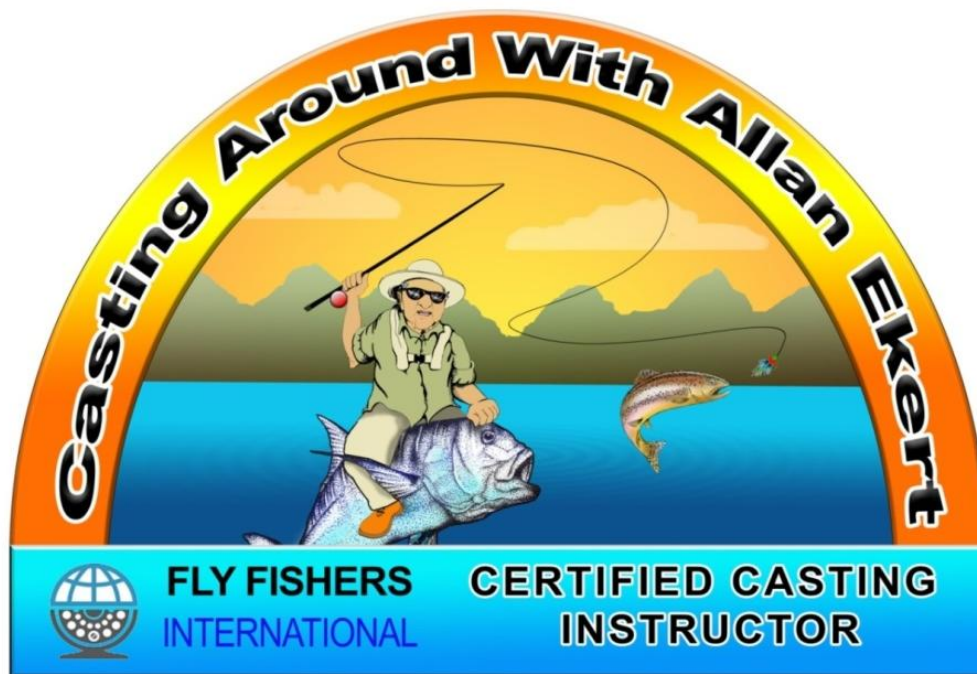
Abel Reels, VAYA **US\$1195**

Men's - Waders Simms Fishing Products, G4Z® Stockingfoot Wader **AU\$1299**

Men's - Wading Boots

Simms Fishing Products, G4 Pro® Boot **AU550**

Santa, I have been very, very good this year!!



A Bit of Fluff

Now that I have your attention and have upset all the feminists I had better tell you that this month I am writing about what you tie on the end of your line when you are practicing your casting. That bright bit of wool or yarn is commonly referred to as “fluff” and every casting instructor uses it and so do you if you practice. The fluff is there to simulate a fly without the dangers that go with hooks. It’s highly visible and acts just like a real fly when you make a cast ... or does it?

Fluff is not a fly. It may be the same size and weight as **some** flies and it may react the same way as **some** flies but it does not cast like **all** flies. It is a convenient and safe option to tie on your line when you want to practice. But when you are fishing you don’t use a fly just like your piece of fluff. Fishing flies have a metal hook inside and vary in shape, size, weight and aerodynamics. And therein lies the problem of practicing with a bit of fluff.

I’d hate to calculate how much time I have spent casting a bit of fluff backwards and forwards in the park. To pass the Casting Instructors exam I needed hours of practice and everything had to be done with a piece of fluff. Competition casting is done with a piece of fluff. Then there is the time spent practicing and enjoying the relaxing and therapeutic benefits of casting loops. Practicing with a piece of fluff can make you a great caster ... but not necessarily a great fly fisher. To be a great fly fisher you have to learn to cast **flies**.

Flies are imitations of natural food sources we cast while fly fishing. They are made with furs, feathers, thread or other materials tied onto a fish hook. Artificial flies can represent all manner of freshwater and saltwater fish food including aquatic and terrestrial insects, crustaceans, worms, baitfish, vegetation, flesh, small reptiles, amphibians, mammals and birds. So just as a fish’s diet is varied, so too is the composition, size, weight and shape of our artificial flies. To be a great fly fisher you need to be able to cast a variety of flies.

All that casting a bit of fluff around is a good starting point but it doesn’t prepare you for the range of flies that you have to cast if you are going to become a great fly fisher. Let me give you three

examples of the flies you might want to cast and how you have to cast them differently to your piece of fluff. Don't despair, all that practice you have been doing with your piece of fluff will stand you in good stead. Being able to cast tight loops is still the cornerstone of all casting. But there are times when you don't want tight loops and my first example is one of them.



When I first went to Tasmania I had a lot to learn about fishing lakes. Watching and learning from others I soon found using a couple of heavy nymphs and an indicator to be an effective technique when there was nothing happening on the surface. In Tasmania you can fish up to three flies on your leader and when you do the last thing you want is a super sharp loop - unless you like undoing tangles! The secret to casting multiple flies, including dry flies, is to keep your loops open. This works best when you have a following breeze, or if you are in Tasmania, a following gale. Casting multiple flies into the wind should be avoided if possible. Casting into the wind requires tight loops and high line speed which is a recipe for disaster when you are casting a multi fly rig. So next time you practice with a piece of fluff try tying on a few pieces and adding some weight. You will learn about making wide, smooth loops and be better prepared for catching those Tasmanian lake trout.



I'm more likely to be casting heavy clousers for flathead these days than multiple nymphs for trout. A clouser is just about as far removed from a piece of fluff as you can get. They are bigger and heavier so you have to make some changes to your casting stroke to stay safe and get your fly out there. The problem with really heavy flies is that as soon as they stop moving they begin to fall out of the sky. If you try casting them like a bit of fluff you will be in trouble. The answer is to keep the fly moving and don't let it stop long enough to fall. This involves keeping the fly under constant tension using a cast called the Oval or Belgian cast. If you don't know how to make a Belgian cast I suggest you take a look at some videos (or see a casting instructor). You can get the hang of it with your piece of fluff but to learn it properly you need to add some weight to your practice routine. Rig up your second best rod, tie on a sinker and wear a helmet! Make sure you practice the constant tension cast before you fish with heavy flies if you want to be a great fly fisher.

I'm off to New Zealand next month to get my fix of trout fishing. Despite all my practice with a piece of fluff I know the greatest difficulty I will have is judging where my fly is in the air so I can make that one perfect cast. If you have fished the crystal clear waters of New Zealand you will know how big trout like small flies and big trout don't like sloppy casts. If you don't get it right the first time your next cast is going to have even less chance of fooling that fish. Practicing with a nice big colourful piece of fluff can lull you into a false sense of security. My eyes are not as good as they used to be and being able to see a size 18 nymph at forty feet is no easy feat! I can't do much about my eyesight but I can practice with a small nymph instead of the fluff. I've learnt to try and false cast well away from the fish and maybe tick the water so I can see where the fly is and judge my length. Direction tends not to be the problem when you can't see the fly. It's all about the distance.



The other aspect of fly fishing in New Zealand is the need to fish long leaders. Not only do those wary trout require accurate first casts they don't want to see the fly line. Using an 18 foot leader can be a necessity for some fish. Now if you are like me, when you tie your piece of fluff on your line to practice, the leader is probably not much more than 9 foot - if that. When you come to cast a tiny dry or nymph on an 18ft leader all that practice in the park may not help. To be a great fly fisher you need to practice with fluff but vary the length of your leader to be prepared for all possibilities.

There are many more examples of how flies you use in the real world of fly fishing are different to casting a piece of fluff. Think fishing for bass with Dahlbergs or Permit with crab flies. You need to be anticipating how and where you will be fishing and practice accordingly. By all means tie on a piece of fluff and practice as often as you can. You cannot circumvent learning to control your fly line and making good loops. But if you want to be prepared for that special trip, that difficult fish, or casting unusual flies, cut off the fluff and try practicing to be a great fly fisher.

As I finish writing this I can hear the words of Joe Schmakapop ringing in my ears (remember Joe? aka Mel Krieger) *"I can't cast very well but I catch fish ... and I get all the practice I need when I go fishing."* Don't be fooled into thinking you can practice casting different flies **while** you are fishing. Great fly fishers practice **before** they go and make the most of their time on the water.

Fly Tying

It would be good to see a regular fly tying column in the newsletter. This month Jeff Yates from the Hunter Valley Fly Fishing Club has again come to the party. Jeff spends a lot of time fishing for bass in the lakes of the upper Hunter Valley and his St Clair Shrimp has been carefully thought out to do the job. It would probably do equally as well on our local Bass (and Bream). Don't forget we have a trip to Lake St Clair on our calendar for next year so it would be worthwhile tying up a few of these.

If you are a fly tier you might like to write about one of your patterns for the next newsletter.

St Clair Shrimp

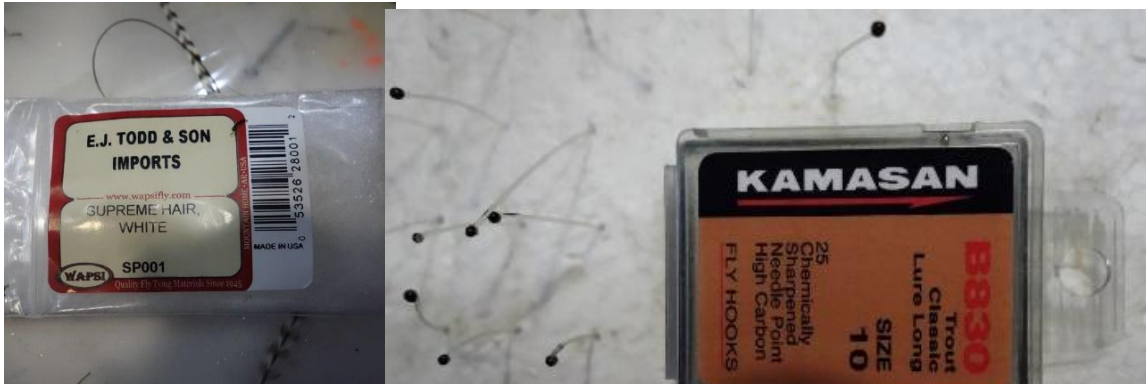


By Jeff Yates

Last month I delved into the mysteries of daytime bass feeding. If you recall, we were having trouble catching fish before the magic 1645hrs up at St Clair. We might catch one or two over a couple of hours and many casts. It was a mystery that we would have to solve if we were to better our daytime catch.

Watching shrimp pop the surface and seeing the occasional fish swirl, and further investigation of stomach contents confirmed that we were observing shrimp feeding behaviour. Using photos of the whole, sometime partially digested shrimp from the fish's gut, I worked on a fly pattern to replicate the crustacean. Fishing the fly on an intermediate line in deeper water and a floating line in the weedy shallows over two separate trips, we were able to catch 4 times as many fish during those daylight hours, and we were fishing with some confidence. Let me share the pattern.

Jeff



Hooks Kamasan B830
 Body clear Supreme Hair
 Eyes mono with burnt ends with black nail polish (see above)
 Cotton 6/0 waxed white



Tie in a small bunch of Supreme hair below the hook



Tie in the eyes at the side and spread a little. Tie in another bunch of Supreme hair on top of the hook. Tie in another bunch of Supreme hair on top of the hook



Palmer a grizzle hackle up the hook shank with 4 or 5 turns
Trim the hackle from the top and sides



Trim the Supreme hair to a tapered look overhanging the bend of the hook
Run a bead of thick resin down the body and uv set
Clean resin with metho and coat with nail polish



Sam Biddle has caught a host of species on fly and conventional tackle but has found catching a tuna on fly one of the hardest. Here he shares his trials and tribulation on catching a tuna on fly.



I know this is not a tuna!

Tuna Trouble

By Sam Biddle

For a few years now my goal has been to catch a large tuna (ideally long tail but would happily substitute for yellow fin or northern bluefin) from a surface feeding "bust up".



I would like to share my experience on the pitfalls and what needs to be avoided.

Firstly, having a small flat bottomed vessel (tinny) severely limits where I can safely/semi safely find this mostly open water pelagic fish.

Moreton Bay is a good place to find tuna schools. Unfortunately being so close to Brisbane any schools you spot will also be spotted by hoards of other overly eager boats. Annoyingly the tuna, especially the long tails, are quick to learn and will quickly disappear as soon as you approach. I've had some modest success (read tiny/foul hooked) on some of the dumber species - stripey, bonito but nothing worthy of even a digital pic.



The Sandy Straights has so far been my favourite place to target surface feeding tuna. The Sandy Straights is the stretch of water between Fraser Island and the mainland that opens to the Pacific in the south and Hervey Bay in the north. Weather permitting small boats can safely cross but it's best to avoid forecasts for strong SE or any Northerly winds.

Bush camping or staying at Kingfisher resort are both fantastic options. If camping, don't forget toilet paper or sunscreen as slices of bread and mangrove mud make poor substitutes. If you want to see some Dingoes - take a small child. Here the fish are less harassed and much easier to approach. Getting close to the feeding frenzy is the first hurdle.

So far I have learnt to approach the schools very slowly. They mostly feed into the wind and or tide and getting up wind/tide and letting them approach you is much more successful than roaring up to them at full

speed. Change in the engine tone/revs also seems to send them deep so keeping the engine in idle seems to be the way. Fishing with a friend is a good idea as fly casting from a moving boat by yourself is fraught with danger. Falling in and watching your boat slowly idle away is not ideal especially when the last fish you hooked got sharked.



When you do finally get within casting distance to a school of metre plus long fin try to keep your cool. At the critical moment I always manage to either tip, wrap the line, or hook the outboard, carpet, rodholder or bottle cap in what is otherwise clear open space.

When the planets do align and you finally get close to the fish and you finally hook one I've discovered it's best to not hold the line - burnt fingers. Don't let your fist get too close to the frantically spinning reel - knocked knuckles. And don't let the line get caught behind the reel - broken line and lost fish.

One time I managed to get close enough to a school to make a cast. I kept my cool and managed to make a cast. Amazingly I hooked one and didn't break the line. After a long nervous fight I was getting ready to finally land the fish and was starting to think about the photo. It was going to feel good to finally catch a good tuna on fly but I saw a large dark shadow approach down deep. I went to lift the bail arm so the fish could swim freely away from the shark but alas there is no bail arm on a fly reel and the fish was promptly eaten.

Sam Biddle

Fish Photos

More fish photos from Glenn Colquhoun.



Fishing Reports

Glenn and David joined the Hunter Valley Fly Fishing club on the Williams River recently. From all reports it was a great weekend with lots of fish, lots of good fun and plenty of time to relax and socialize. It was so good David and Glenn even became members of their club.



David hooked up in the Crawdad as Glenn gets read with the net.



Glenn knows to catch big bass you have to fish early and late.



Williams River bass may not be huge but they are still a great catch.



After a hard day on the water (or playing ball) time to relax.

Dorrigo Outing Report

Twelve members attended the outing to Dorrigo last month. Despite the hot, dry and windy conditions fish were caught. They weren't big fish but to those who caught their first trout on fly that didn't matter.



Barry Cooksley with his first trout on fly.



Not his first trout on fly nor his biggest but still a good catch.



Teamwork was the order of the day and David Small helped Ray Phipps land this fish.



Walter Krainik tried to get Lauren her first trout on fly but unfortunately the fish did not cooperate.

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.



Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club

2019 Club Calendar

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
1	Tu	Fr	Fr	Mo	We	Sa	Mo	Th	Su Brisbane Casting Day	Tu	Fr	Su	1
2	We	Sa	Sa	Tu	Th	Su	Tu	Fr	Mo	We	Sa	Mo	2
3	Th	Su	Su	We	Fr	Mo Fly Tying	We	Sa	Tu	Th	Su	Tu	3
4	Fr	Mo Fly Tying	Mo	Th	Sa	Tu	Th	Su	We	Fr	Mo	We	4
5	Sa	Tu	Tu	Fr	Su	We	Fr	Mo	Th	Sa	Tu	Th	5
6	Su	We	We	Sa	Mo Fly Tying	Th	Sa	Tu Film Night	Fr	Su	We	Fr	6
7	Mo	Th	Th	Su	Tu	Fr	Su	We	Sa	Mo	Th	Sa	7
8	Tu	Fr	Fr	Mo	We	Sa	Mo	Th	Su	Tu	Fr	Su	8
9	We	Sa Outing	Sa	Tu	Th	Su	Tu	Fr	Mo	We	Sa	Mo	9
10	Th	Su	Su	We	Fr	Mo	We	Sa Outing Home Waters	Tu	Th	Su	Tu	10
11	Fr	Mo	Mo	Th	Sa	Tu	Th	Su	We	Fr	Mo	We	11
12	Sa	Tu	Tu	Fr	Su	We	Fr	Mo	Th	Sa	Tu	Th	12
13	Su	We	We	Sa Casting Day	Mo	Th	Sa	Tu	Fr	Su	We	Fr	13
14	Mo	Th	Th	Su	Tu	Fr	Su	We	Sa Estuary Workshop	Mo	Th	Sa	14
15	Tu	Fr	Fr	Mo Meeting	We	Sa	Mo Meeting	Th	Su	Tu	Fr	Su	15
16	We	Sa	Sa Forster Fly Muster	Tu	Th	Su	Tu	Fr	Mo Meeting	We	Sa Outing Home Waters	Mo	16
17	Th	Su	Su Forster Fly Muster	We	Fr	Mo Meeting	We	Sa	Tu	Th	Su	Tu	17
18	Fr	Mo Meeting	Mo Meeting	Th	Sa	Tu	Th	Su	We	Fr	Mo Meeting	We	18
19	Sa	Tu	Tu	Fr	Su	We	Fr	Mo Meeting	Th Outing The Gorge	Sa	Tu	Th	19
20	Su	We	We	Sa	Mo Meeting	Th	Sa	Tu	Fr Outing The Gorge	Su	We	Fr	20
21	Mo	Th	Th	Su	Tu	Fr	Su	We	Sa Outing The Gorge	Mo Meeting	Th	Sa Outing Home Waters	21
22	Tu	Fr	Fr	Mo	We	Sa Outing Bluewater	Mo	Th	Su Outing The Gorge	Tu	Fr	Su	22
23	We	Sa	Sa	Tu	Th	Su Outing Bluewater	Tu	Fr Swansea Salmon	Mo	We	Sa	Mo	23
24	Th	Su	Su	We	Fr	Mo	We	Sa Swansea Salmon	Tu	Th	Su	Tu	24
25	Fr	Mo	Mo	Th	Sa Outing Home Waters	Tu	Th	Su Swansea Salmon	We	Fr	Mo	We	25
26	Sa	Tu	Tu	Fr	Su	We	Fr Dunmore Waters	Mo	Th	Sa Outing Dorrigo	Tu	Th	26
27	Su	We	We	Sa Outing Home Waters	Mo	Th	Sa Dunmore Waters	Tu	Fr	Su	We	Fr	27
28	Mo	Th	Th	Su	Tu	Fr	Su Dunmore Waters	We	Sa	Mo	Th	Sa	28
29	Tu		Fr	Mo	We	Sa	Mo	Th	Su	Tu	Fr	Su	29
30	We		Sa	Tu	Th	Su	Tu	Fr	Mo	We	Sa Outing Home Waters	Mo	30
31	Th		Su		Fr		We	Sa		Th		Tu	31

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.





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 |

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

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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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NSW 2452

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)