

The *Flyer*



Official Newsletter Of The



The Flyer

The Official Newsletter of the Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club

NOVEMBER 2020

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Cover: Brian Mighell with a Trevally from a local river. We are pretty sure this is a Big Eye Trevally but as you will read in the newsletter identifying these fish is confusing.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



November 2020

Welcome again to another newsletter. Last Monday evening saw a small social gathering to undertake a bit of Fly Tying. The evening was a success with many of Allan's Bead Head Nymphs being turned out in preparation for an assault on the New England trout. So again, it's thanks to Allan for his efforts in having the gear there to tie the flies. Also, thanks to David L. for bringing in the Lefty Kreh video on tying the Clouser and also to Walter for his demonstration in his area of expertise.

The Tuesday casting continues to remain popular attracting new faces almost weekly. We are managing to attract the interest of a few who are "just driving by" and call in to see what it's all about. The skills are certainly on the up as I know as I've probably said before, that if it wasn't for this day and the efforts of Allan, David M and John (visitor from Hastings) my poor standard and ingrained bad habits in casting would never improve. To cap it off it's also an excellent social outing.

We have a couple of outings coming up with not many names down. Firstly a canoe kayak day on the Bellinger on the 21st November and secondly Keepit outing from the 3rd to the 6th December. If you are interested in either of these or would like more information feel free to contact either Allan or David M.

The executive will be meeting soon to put together a calendar for next year. If you have any ideas or suggestions please let us know.

So, until the next month all the best, stay safe and tight lines.

Regards

Doug

Editorial

Establishing and running a fly fishing club in this part of the world is a challenge. We are a long way from the premier trout streams and lakes of the south and a long way from the tropical flats of the north. Without these draw cards it is difficult to convey the true nature and worth of fly fishing.

From the beginning the club has striven to make the most of the fly fishing options we have in our area. If you have been reading these newsletters long enough you will have noticed cover shots of a great variety of fish that can be caught on fly. We may not have big GTs, Permit or wild brown trout but we do have a many other species that can be caught. Our club is all about helping members develop the skills they need to catch any fish on fly. Whether it is a bass, bream, trout, trevally, or dolphin fish we target them all and endeavour to get better at catching them. If you are already a club member, thanks for sticking with us. If you are reading this as a bystander, why not join us for the journey and ensure a fly fishing club can survive and grow on the Coffs Coast.

Fly fishing clubs survive on tradition and the hard work of long time stalwarts. Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Online Forums and like, now compete for the attention of prospective members. Customary approaches to meetings and activities are not enough to gain attention. When our Committee meets next week we will be looking for new ways to present the club and meet the needs of those interested in fly fishing in our area. If you have ideas for what we should be doing;



what we could do better and how we can survive and grow, please make them known. We have a very active and involved Committee for you to share your ideas with.

Following all the troutie stuff last month, this newsletter has a saltwater theme. If you are a beginner, like me, hopefully some of the information will help you. Our club is about teaching and learning and while ever we focus on helping others the club will remain relevant. The Tuesday Casting Group is a great example of that with over twenty people now involved. If you can't make Tuesday mornings make sure you check the newsletter to see how you can take advantage of the free casting instruction at other times.

In our plans to revamp things for next year the newsletter is also going to have to change. It cannot continue to be just an avenue for me to write. More member contributions are needed. Maybe it's time to just use social media. Where to now for the newsletter will be another topic on the agenda for this month's Committee Meeting.

Editor

Club Executive 2019-20



Doug Urquhart President
0458696138



Kevin Cosgrove Vice President
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Allan Ekert Secretary, Public Officer
and Newsletter Editor
0427457725



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David Moppett Club Captain
0411723221



Glenn Colquhoun Committee
0409151270



Brian Bevan Committee
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November Meeting



Our meeting for November will be an outdoor event at Mylestom on Monday 16th. We will commence at 5.30pm with casting games and instruction. There will be a sausage sizzle at 6.30pm followed by more casting. We have outdoor lights arranged so we can go through until finish time at 8.30pm. Although there won't be a formal meeting any club business can be discussed over "dinner". There is no cost for the sausage sizzle but we will be conducting our usual raffle. If you are not sure of the venue you just need to drive into Mylestom and you will see our banner at the park near the boat ramp. You don't need to be a member to attend.

Tuesday Casting Group

The Tuesday casting group will continue to meet throughout November. The next session will be Tuesday 3rd. Anyone is welcome to attend. The venue is the park in Mylestom. If you are interested you can contact David on 0411723221 or Allan on 0427457725 for more information.

Start time is 10.00am sharp and we finish at 12 noon or thereabout. After casting you are welcome to join the group that goes to the café for lunch.

Casting will continue each Tuesday unless there is a need to call it off or other activities are planned when an email will be sent to all those who regularly attend. If you are attending for the first time best to ring and make sure it is on.

November Outing

Our November outing will be on Saturday 21st. This will be a Bass day on the Bellinger River. You must register for this outing before our next meeting on 16th.



The main focus of the day will be bass fishing from canoes and kayaks on the Bellinger River. You will also have the option of boat fishing in the saltwater lower section of the river.

To make it fair for all those who want to canoe the Bellinger, the river will be divided into beats. You will be expected to fish your beat and leave the other areas for fellow members. Beats will be drawn from a hat at our November meeting. The beats will start at:

1. First bridge Darkwood Rd to Thora Shop
2. Thora Shop to Gordonville Crossing
3. Gordonville Crossing to Bellingen
4. Bellingen to Brownlees Lane, including Hyde's Creek

If we have a lot of interest we will also use beats on the Kalang River and Deep Creek to accommodate extra canoes/kayaks.



We will be allocating two anglers to each beat either in a double canoe or two canoe/kayaks. This is for safety purposes and also provides the flexibility to take two vehicles to separate put in and pull out points.

Start time will be 5.30am and the plan is for everyone to finish up at Fernmount for lunch at 1.00pm. Meeting place at Fernmount will be Nicholson Street (as shown on Google Earth) or Brownlees lane as known locally.



For those without canoes we will have a few spares or there will be the option of fishing saltwater. Those interested in saltwater, and not wanting to canoe, can launch boats and fish the lower river and finish up at Fernmount for lunch.

Registration is a must for this event so we can work out beats, boats and canoes. Registrations will close on the night of our November 16th meeting. If you need further information or want to register, contact David on 0411723221 or Allan on 0427457725.

Committee Meeting

The Committee will be meeting on Monday 2nd November at 5.30pm at the North Beach Bowling Club. Business will include drawing up an outings calendar for next year and looking at ways we can make our club meetings, activities and newsletter more inviting to more members.

If you have any ideas for the Committee please email, phone or talk to any of the Committee Members. We need your input.

Casting Instruction

One of the success stories of our club has been the development of the casting skills of our members. Many people have learnt to cast a fly rod through the club. Others have taken their skills to a new level. As a club we are about teaching and learning.

We already have in place the Tuesday Casting Group and during the summer months we will be having casting instruction at our night meetings. We would also like to be able to provide instruction on a more flexible basis for those wanting to get into fly fishing. If you are keen to learn to fly cast or get better at your casting let us know. We can arrange small group instruction outside work hours and on weekends. Let us know if you are interested and we will see what we can arrange. For the cost of a club membership you can have first class instruction from experienced and qualified instructors.



Keepit Carp Caper

After having been postponed due to Covid, the Keepit Carp Caper is now booked in for the Thursday 3rd to Sunday 6th December.

The Keepit Carp Caper is scheduled for a weekend but the 5 hour drive means you need at least an extra day to make the most of it. Those lucky enough not to have to work, or who have flexi days, usually travel out on the Thursday and return on the Sunday. You can do it for the weekend but you really only get one full day of fishing ... but that day can be very productive as you get to share the intelligence gathered from those who have been at the dam earlier.

It is imperative that you register for this outing with the Secretary by the November meeting at the latest. Those who register will be contacted to help with organizing transport, accommodation and fishing gear. If your name is not on the list we can't contact you.



If this is your first trip you will probably need to pair up with someone to share accommodation and fishing. If you are new and don't have any fishing buddies in the club we will pair you up. You will not be left to your own devices and Keepit Carp Caper veterans will take you under their wing and make sure you get to cast at some carp. Whether you catch them or not will be up to your casting skills.

You don't need a boat or a 4wd but both are useful. If you travel in your family car someone will look after you and make sure you get to productive water. At the moment the dam is at 26% capacity so there is plenty of dry land to fish from.

There are three levels of accommodation at Keepit. You can rent a cabin for around \$150 per night which will sleep 4. You can camp in a powered site at the caravan park for about \$35 per night or you can bush camp for about \$20 per night. The club doesn't book the accommodation but if people need to be paired up to share we can help.

As for food, there is a communal barbeque that we contribute towards on two nights and everyone just brings their own breakfast and lunch food.

Once you have made up your mind to attend you will receive information from the club about what to take in the way of fishing gear and flies. You will even have some flies tied for you if you are not into fly tying. You will receive lots of useful information from the Keepit Carp Caper veterans who will go out of their way to make you feel part of the club and get you a carp on fly.

If you haven't been before this might be your last chance as the plan to release the carp virus could see Keepit devoid of carp in the near future. This will be a good thing but in the meantime fly fishing for carp is a great way to hone your fly fishing skills and have lots of fun.

If you need any further information or convincing talk to any member who has been before or the club Captain (David Moppett 0411723221).

Club Calendar 2020

We are cautiously returning to regular programs. Please note the changes to the calendar and check each month for updates. Although the dates and venues have been set, there may need to be further changes as the situation surrounding the Covid-19 virus evolves.

Month	Outings	Activities
JANUARY	No outing this month Casting at Mylestom at 5.00pm on Monday 20 th .	Club Meeting at Mylestom Monday 20 th
FEBRUARY	Home Waters Saturday 15 th	Club Meeting Monday 17 th
MARCH	Forster Fly Muster (Cancelled) Tasmania Tues 3 rd - Sat 14 th	Club Meeting Monday 16 th
APRIL CANCELLED	Keepit Carp Caper Friday 3 rd - Sunday 5 th (some members will be going Thursday 2 nd)	Club Meeting Monday 20 th
MAY CANCELLED	Home Waters Saturday 9 th Fly Fishing for Trout Workshop Saturday 23 rd	Club Meeting Monday 18 th
JUNE CANCELLED	Lake St Clair Friday 12 th - Sunday 14 th Home Waters Saturday 27 th	Club Meeting Monday 15 th
JULY	Casting Day Saturday 4 th July Dunmore Waters Fri 24 th - Sun 26 th	No Club Meeting Monday 20 th
AUGUST	Home Waters Mullet Mash Saturday 8 th Swansea Channel Thursday 13 th - Sunday 16 th Cancelled.	Club Meeting Monday 17 th
SEPTEMBER	Fly Tying Workshop Saturday 5 th Postponed Home Waters Mylestom Saturday 19 th	Club Meeting Monday 21 st
OCTOBER	Trout Workshop Ebor Saturday 10 th Cancelled Ebor Trout Weekend Fri 23 rd - Sun 25 th	Club Meeting Monday 19 th
NOVEMBER	River Run Kayak /Canoe Day on Bellinger River Saturday 21 st	Committee Monday 2 nd Club Meeting Monday 16 th
DECEMBER	Keepit Carp Caper Thursday 3 rd - Sunday 6 th	No Club Meeting

Photographs on Facebook

Whether you love, hate or don't care about Facebook, it exists and plays a very important role in promoting whatever it is people want to promote. In our case, it is all about promoting the club and the sport of fly fishing. Through Facebook we have made new members and broadcast the presence of our club far and wide.

Facebook works on getting people's attention. Once your interest has been aroused then it gauges your level of interest with a system of Likes or Dislikes for you to respond to.



If you respond you will continue to see posts of that nature. If you don't respond eventually Facebook will stop showing you those posts. In the case of our club Facebook Group, if you are not responding to the posts you see Facebook will stop showing them on your Timeline.

The best way to get people's attention is with a good photograph. Photos of fish, fly casting and scenery attract people to our Facebook Group and encourage them to find out more about the club.

Club Captain David maintains our Facebook Group and tries to put new content up every day. He is keen to see all our members post some pictures of their fly fishing adventures. To help you make sure they are good pictures, David has put together these hints for taking photos for Facebook:

Make sure the sun is behind the photographer

Compose your photo so the subject takes 33%, foreground 33%, and background 33%.

Imagine what it will look like after you've pressed the button. Background, shadow etc.

Don't just lip and grin. Hold the fish to highlight its features ... fat, skinny, big teeth etc.



Change the angles. With digital cameras or smart phones, it's easy to shoot lots of photos quickly.

The photographer moving more than the subject is generally the best rule.

Pictures are your memories. They are only rubbish if you let them be. A basic camera with attention to detail and some pride and imagination, will have you and others very interested in your experiences.

Fish dead or on brag mats are a definite no no. But there are times when the story is the photo.



Everybody sees a photo and says at some time, "I like that!" Why? Did it have a story to tell? How was it composed?

The main rule is to engage the photo brain first, before the fish is out of the net. If necessary, put the fish (in net) back in water to refresh its oxygen while you're getting ready.

Be ready to take photos. Have the camera handy and charged up. If you are solo, invest in a small tripod (they can be affordable). Don't lose your memories.



Understand the difference between a cracking image and a rubbish one could be only a fraction of a second. Be prepared, and think before pressing the shutter.

Respect your time, respect the fish, and respect your future memories.

And it doesn't always have to be about the fish. The places you fish and the people you fish with make good photographs.



David Moppett

Tarpon Tales!



This oxeye herring, aka tarpon, was recently caught and released in the Kalang River just south of Coffs Harbour by NSW DPI fisheries management officer Clay Hilbert.

Tarpon are common in northern Australia and are a popular, albeit niche, target for estuary sportfishers in SE Queensland. They've been recorded as far south as Sydney but generally aren't a regular catch in NSW waters.

These spectacular little sportsfish are well known for their aerial acrobatics and fighting capabilities, especially on lighter gear. They're characterised by their large scales and shimmering silver body.

Fun fact - Tarpon are unique as they have a modified swim bladder which allows them to gulp air from the surface. This is important as they can frequent estuaries where there are low levels of oxygenated water.

Unfortunately our Indo-Pacific tarpon species doesn't grow anywhere near as big as the species found in the Atlantic, which can get to 150kg+ and are widely considered as the ultimate target for keen saltwater fly fishers.

Let us know if you've encountered any weird or interesting catches lately. We're always interested to hear about your catches! Send the details - including photos - to fisheries.info@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

Fly Tying Competition

The winner of the fly tying competition for the month of September was Murray Robinson. Murray tied a clouser minnow and won the most votes from the members at the meeting. Murray's clouser will go on display in the cabinet of fame



This month's theme for the competition will be a fly made from foam or materials from any craft shop such as Spotlight. Use your imagination and save some money and create a fly that you think will catch fish. Our guest fly tyer this month, Walter Krainik, has whipped up a foam popper using some feathers and foam he had lying around. It's a quick tie but the fish don't care and it is guaranteed to work. It doesn't have a name so you can call it what you like.

This is the last month of the fly tying competition and the last chance to have your fly in the cabinet of fame. If you want to enter you will have to tie two copies of your favourite fly and bring them to the meeting. The fly that gets the most votes at the meeting will be declared the winner. Don't forget you must bring at least two flies to the meeting. One will be judged and the other one donated as a raffle prize.

Many thanks to Pip for his work organizing the competition this year which has been a lot of fun.



Walter is our guest fly tyer this month. Walter's work and family leave him little time for tying flies so when he was put on the spot to produce a fly for this month's newsletter he had to come up with something in a hurry. So the No Name Popper was born. It took no time to tie the No Name Popper and I am sure it would catch a fish in no time.



Materials:

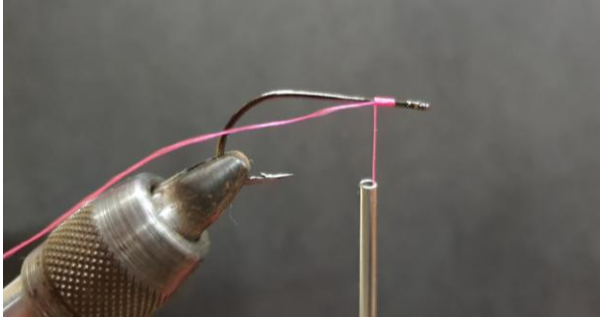
Hook: A hook with a wide gape is best. I use Gamakatsu SL12S in size 2, alternatively Mustad 34007 or the Daiichi 2546. There are plenty of others to choose from.

Thread: Again you can use whatever you like.

Tail: Yellow marabou (or turkey feathers if you are buying from Spotlight.)

Body: Foam rubber from any off cuts lying around.

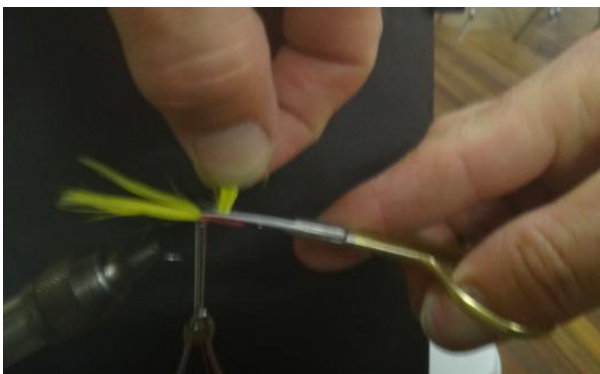
Step 1: Introduce the thread about a third down the hook shank.



Step 2: Tie in a tail of yellow Marabou or Turkey feathers.



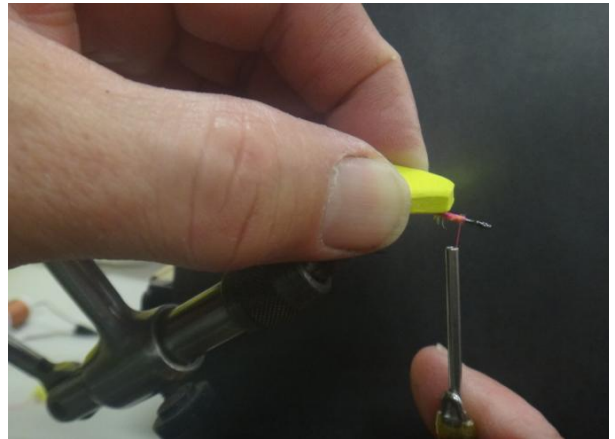
Step 3: Trim the tail and run the thread up behind the eye of the hook.



Step 4: Cut some foam to shape. Choose contrasting colours of your choice.



Step 5: Tie in the first piece of foam at the back of the hook. Make this piece the largest.



Step 6: Bind the foam down so that it kicks up at the back like a wing.



Step 4: Tie down two more pieces of foam in smaller sizes to make the body.



Fish with confidence. It will catch fish. If anyone asks what you caught the fish on you can safely say you don't know its name!

Walter Krainik

Ebor Weekend Report

If you missed the club trip to Ebor you missed some good company, great food, a few fish and some rain. It wasn't the best weekend we have had up there but it was an excellent escape and a pleasure to see the green of the plateau again.



The streams were running low and despite the rain Saturday the flows didn't increase markedly. A lot more rain is needed.



Most of the fish that were caught were recent releases from the hatchery that had managed to escape the onslaught of the opening weekend.



Glenn managed to find a couple of fish that decided to rise to the occasion. All fish were released to be caught another day.



Not only is Glenn a good fisherman he is a pretty good cook. And, no, he wasn't cooking fish!





The accommodation was top notch and provided a very comfortable base for us to explore the local streams.



Doug was all smiles after catching this rainbow and we were all smiles after eating some of his delicious beef stroganoff.



The little streams of the plateau still had water in them (but not much) and there were little gems to be caught (if you could make a bow and arrow cast).



The fishing might not be at its best at the moment but it is hard to imagine a more beautiful place to go fishing.



Trevally

I get excited when I see a school of trevally charging into baitfish. I enjoy the visual aspects of fly fishing. With not much happening up the mountains recently, I have been focusing my attention on the trevally in our local rivers.

Catching trevally on fly is difficult enough, but trying to accurately identify them is another matter. The NSW Department of Primary Industries notes there are at least 23 species of trevally found along the east coast. They list 11 common types, many of which have multiple common names.

From talking people who have caught trevally it would appear to me that there are 3 main species caught locally. I may be wrong, and I would be happy to hear from others on their experience. I have spoken with Clay Hilbert from NSW DPI Fisheries and asked him to attend a future meeting to share what he knows. In the meantime, I have tried to put together some information about these three species to help me, and others, identify our catches. I would be very interested in your thoughts on any of the fish photos at the end of this article.

Editor

Juvenile Giant Trevally, *Caranx ignobilis*
Other Names: Barrier Trevally, Lowly Trevally



A Juvenile GT caught by Daniel Mallen DPI Fisheries

A very large silvery or dusky golden to almost black trevally, sometimes with dark bands along the back. The Giant Trevally has a steep head profile, robust scutes along the rear of the straight part of the lateral line, and no dark spot on the rear part of the gill cover.



Bigeye Trevally, *Caranx sexfasciatus*
Other Names: Big-eye Trevally, Great Trevally, Sixband Trevally, Six-banded Trevally, Turrum



A large dark bluish-green to gold trevally, a paler yellowish-green to silvery below, with a dark caudal fin and dark grey to dusky tips on the soft dorsal and anal fins. Juveniles have 4-7 broad dark cross-bars, a round dark spot on the gill cover and a yellow caudal fin with black tip on the upper lobe.



Brassy Trevally, *Caranx papuensis*
Other Names: Papuan Trevally, Tea-leaf Trevally



Brassy to yellowish green dorsally, shading to silvery on side with scattered dark spots, conspicuous silvery white spot just behind upper rear edge of opercle. Body oblong and compressed; dorsal profile moderately convex to second dorsal fin, ventral profile slightly convex. Adipose eyelid weakly developed.



Here are few for you to identify:



Tuesday Casting Group Outing

“All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy”, so the proverb goes. So this week the members of the group had a chance to sharpen their casting skills on the water catching real fish. A trip to the Bellinger River saw many small herring caught on fly and quickly released. It was a fun day where everyone caught something ... even if it was a tree. For more photos visit our Facebook Group.



TUESDAY DAY LOOPERS, left the oval this week for ROLLING ON THE RIVER. What an absolutely fantastic morning, tutoring about stream craft. To add to the real deal Herring were the partners in crime. Responding to all manner of presentations, roll casting, slack line presentations even a couple of Mulson casts for good measure when the wind came up. We were so proud of the guys, watching the beautiful loops and Herring coming to hand. Eleven fellas laughing and geeing each other up and down the Bellinger River was enriching to the soul.

David Moppett



Saltwater Casting

I am not a saltwater fly fisher although I fly fish in the salt a lot these days. Saltwater fly fishing has many elements; offshore, flats, estuaries, rivers and lakes. To be a true saltwater fly fisher I think you have to be experienced in all these areas and have captured a swag of different species. That's not me. I'm a beginner when it comes to the salt but I'm learning and my trout background is proving to be a help and a hindrance. Having talked about the learning curve of a saltwater fly fisher trying to catch a trout; this month I want to focus on the do's and don'ts for the trout angler wanting to fly fish in the salt.

Trout fly fishers are easy to recognize when they take to the salt. Even without the tweed jacket, vest, deer stalker cap and pipe; you can readily pick a troutie. Whether on the shore or from a boat I reckon there are three easy ways to spot them. First, they will be wearing a sage or fossil Columbia fishing shirt - no gaudy, branded tournament shirts or trendy offerings from Simms/Orvis/Patagonia. Second, they will be casting with the rod above their head and mainly using their wrists - no double hauling in sight! Third, the rod will be no heavier than a six weight - and won't have a fighting butt and their reel will only have 20 metres of backing - and probably won't have a drag. There are a whole lot of other ways a troutie stands out in salt, but the point I am making, facetiously, is that fly fishing in the salt is different to fly fishing for trout. Ask any saltwater fly fishing guide and I think they will agree. Trout anglers have a lot a lot to learn if they want to catch a fish in the salt.

My personal experience has certainly taught me this. I have had a lot to learn and heaps of new gear to acquire to make the transition. Leaving aside the gear for the moment, I want to concentrate on the casting and what is different about saltwater fly fishing. The fundamentals are the same but casting a fly rod for saltwater fish presents some new challenges and the need to learn some new casts. These comments come from my limited experience in the salt. I can't call myself a saltie yet but my experience in estuary and flats fishing is expanding and I am prepared to offer some advice for those wanting to go down the same track as I have. If you don't have the time to continue reading take a look at the video clips to get the picture without the words.

If you have looked closely at the new, colourful banner for this column you would have noticed two species of fish - a trout and a trevally. Recently, I have "hitched my ride" to trevally. I'm no expert but I have learnt a lot fly fishing for trevally. Using my experience fly fishing for these fish locally and overseas here are some do's and don'ts for the troutie wanting to move into saltwater fly fishing.



The first thing you discover when targeting a pelagic fish like trevally is that they move about a lot. A trout in a trout stream will often sit on station giving you time to make your cast. Trevally are always on a mission with somewhere to go and the need to get there quickly. If you want to catch a trevally from a boat or from the shore you need to be able to make the saltwater quick cast. It is imperative to get the fly to the fish before it moves on. If you want to see what the cast looks like here is a short video worth watching.

https://youtu.be/uWQ_41yifto

To make the saltwater quick cast there are three fundamentals that don't always come naturally to a troutie. First is hauling. Efficient double hauling generates high line speed and helps reduce the number of false casts required. Second, you need to be able to shoot line. Shooting line prevents the fly line from spooking the fish during false casting. Hauling and shooting line (especially on the back cast) will achieve the greater distance that you will generally need when casting to saltwater fish. The third fundamental is something all fly fishers know about and that is line management. You can't become an effective fly fisher if you don't know what to do with your fly line before, during and after casting. This is especially important for the saltwater fly fisher where everything has to be done quickly. Learn how to hold the fly, manage the loose line (maybe using a stripping basket or line management device), and keep in touch with the line once you have cast. Once you've mastered these techniques you're ready to put your quick cast to work and you'll catch a lot more salt water fish.

By far the greatest difficulty a troutie has when targeting salt water species is being able to cast far enough. The rivers and flats where I have fished for trevally are vast open spaces and the further you can cast is a huge advantage. The first thing you should consider is an appropriate rod and line. Saltwater flies are generally bigger and heavier than trout flies and you need bigger and heavier gear to cast them. But more important than the gear is the ability to learn to double haul. You can fish for trout without having to make long casts and many trouties spend their entire fishing lifetime not needing to double haul. But if you want to fly fish in the salt you must learn to double haul. Hauling adds power and line speed which deeply loads the rod and gets the most from all the money you have spent on that new gear. The double haul can be complicated but an investment in learning how to double haul will pay dividends. There are plenty of books, articles and tutorials that will teach you how to double haul but the best solution is a lesson or two from an instructor and practice. If you prefer DIY then this video might help: https://youtu.be/q9_x-cjBMF8

The wind plays a big part in saltwater fly fishing - bigger even than it does for the troutie. It makes casting more difficult, but on the positive side it also obscures your presence and makes the fish less wary. On a trout stream you can usually find somewhere protected but on the flats and open rivers most days you have to fight the wind. Fighting is a good analogy for dealing with the wind when saltwater fly fishing. Trout anglers tend to stand up straight and cast directly overhead. This makes it difficult to apply power from the legs and body, and also holds the line much higher in the air, allowing the wind to affect distance and accuracy. To fight the wind stand like a boxer, crouched ready for action. Bend your knees and lower your centre of gravity. Use your whole body and not just your wrists and arms. Adopting a more horizontal style of casting can help harness body strength and reduce the effects of the wind on the line. Here is a video that covers a whole lot of about saltwater fly casting but fast forward to the 6 minute mark if you want to see how to use your whole body to make a cast. <https://youtu.be/yj3WADEF7yQ>



All fly fishers should know how to deal with the wind but there is one cast that is not used often by trout anglers that is a must in the salt. It's the backhand presentation cast. Whether it's because of a change in wind direction, a fast moving fish or being in the confines of a boat; being able to change the direction of a cast by 180 degrees is an essential skill. To do this, you face away from your target and present the fly on the back stroke rather than the front stroke. It's just like casting normally but in the opposite direction of where you want the fly to go. If you fish from a small boat and value your fishing partner's continued friendship, learn to make a backhand presentation. You can see how to do it in this video: https://youtu.be/Dw-tELjFO_w

Two more casts to add to your to do list for saltwater fly fishing are the roll cast and water haul. I won't add much detail as I am sure every fly fisher knows and uses these casts. They are of particular interest to saltwater fly fishers who use sinking lines and want to get the fly back out as quickly as possible. When using a sinking line the roll cast is useful for getting the fly out of the water before re-casting. Sometimes it is necessary to roll cast a couple of times to get the fly to the top. Once the fly is on the surface you can use the water tension to load the rod as you make a strong backcast. On the forward cast a single haul adds to the rod load and shoots the line a long way. You might not need to do this very often on a trout stream but it is an essential skill in the salt.

To round out my list of casts for saltwater fly fishing is the Belgian cast. The Belgian cast is different because the rod never stops until it is time to deliver the fly. It is usually referred to as a constant tension cast where the rod is always loaded. The rod moves in an oval shape with a side cast backwards followed by an overhead cast forward. The Belgian cast is important to learn because the constant tension doesn't give the wind, or gravity, much time to play havoc. This is especially important when casting heavy saltwater flies which need to be kept in the air and away from the body. It's not going to be a long distance cast but it will get you out of a lot of trouble when the wind blows. Find out how to make this cast by watching this video: <https://youtu.be/0tOdBnnO0bA> or asking an instructor.

I want to finish with a don't that all trout anglers should heed before venturing to the salt. Don't trout strike. When setting the hook on a trout the usual method is to lift the fly rod. This removes the slack and gently pins the fly in the trout's lip. A trout strike is not going to work with most saltwater species. First the flexible rod is going to bend and not exert enough force to set the hook. Second, raising the rod pulls the fly away from the fish and by the time the fish, and you, realize the fly hasn't stuck the fly is too far away for the fish to bother making another attempt. Strip striking has a better chance of setting the hook and if the first attempt fails the fly is not too far away for the fish to have another go.

There are a lot more things you can do to make the transition from trout to trevally easier but concentrating on the few I have written about will improve your success immeasurably. I enjoy my saltwater fly fishing but I'm still a troutie at heart and although the fish are bigger in the salt, for me the satisfaction is greater on a trout stream.



Beginners Corner

Continuing the saltwater theme of the newsletter and the teaching and learning focus of our club; this month's Beginners Corner is about selecting a saltwater fly fishing outfit. I'm no expert when it comes to saltwater fly fishing but I think I can provide a few insights for those just starting out. As always, these are just my views and ask 10 other members and you will probably get 10 different responses.

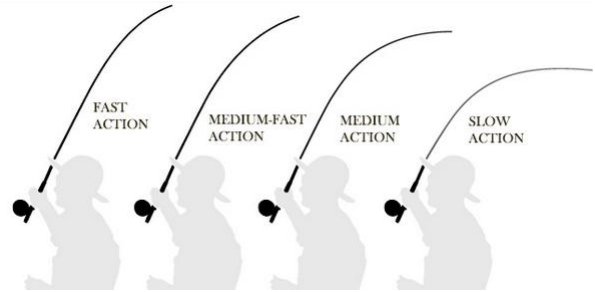
If you could only have one fly outfit I usually advocate a 6 weight rod and reel. If you lived at Ebor or Weipa that would be different. But for people starting out in fly fishing based around the Mid North Coast, I think a 6wt outfit is a good compromise. It is light enough to be used as a trout rod, just about right for bass and bream and you could get away with it for trevally and other saltwater species.

If you already have a 6 weight rod you are probably set up and ready to go for light saltwater fly fishing. If you are looking for another rod, maybe a 7 weight is a good general purpose rod for what we do around here.

The difference between a freshwater and a saltwater fly rod is not so much in the blank that they are made from but rather in the way they are made. A rod made specifically for saltwater use will have saltwater resistant hardware. It will usually have a fighting butt. A fighting butt makes fighting a big/strong fish a lot easier as you can hold the butt against your body or forearm and have more leverage.



Many saltwater specific fly rods have what is called a fast action. The "action" is the relative rate at which a rod recovers from flex. Fast action rods are stiffer; bend only about a third of the way to the tip and recover quickly.



Faster action rods cast better in the wind and are easier to cast for distance as you can generate high line speed for turning over big flies and making tight loops.

So if you are going to buy a saltwater specific fly rod I would suggest you make sure it has saltwater resistant componentry, a fighting butt and be of a fast to medium fast action. You will pay more than your basic freshwater fly rod but if you intend spending a lot of time in the salt it will be worth it. Otherwise, make sure you remember to wash your gear with freshwater often.



You can probably get away with using your one general purpose fly rod in the salt but you should seriously consider upgrading the reel. Most freshwater reels don't have good drags and are not built to tolerate saltwater. Expect to pay considerably more for a sealed drag saltwater reel. Saltwater fly reels will hold more backing for when that big fish decides to run.

There is no issue using Freshwater lines in saltwater; it does not affect the plastic coating in any way. The difference is usually based around the core and the climate they are designed for. Generally saltwater lines are used in warmer climates therefore they have stiffer cores which are often stronger with low stretch to handle bigger fish.



If you really get into saltwater fly fishing you will end up spending more on lines than on the rod or reel. There are lines for cold water, warm water and tropical waters. There are lines that float, hover or sink very fast. There are lines for trevally, tarpon, bonefish and many other species. You name it and there is line out there to meet your needs.

Keeping it simple, the first line you should consider adding to your general purpose outfit is an Intermediate. Intermediate lines are designed to sink slowly below the surface. This is good as it hides the line from the fish and give the wind and waves less chance of blowing it about. These line can be a full intermediate or a floating line with an intermediate tip section. If I had to have just one line for saltwater it would be a floating line with a clear intermediate tip of about 10 - 15 feet.

Saltwater fly fishing is a lot of fun and you can get into it without spending a fortune by using your existing gear or buying an entry level outfit. If you stick with what you've got just remember to wash it after every use and do regular maintenance. You will still have to clean things with your saltwater outfit but you can get away with being forgetful a few times and it will still last longer.

Last month I didn't recommend buying a freshwater rod and reel as a combo because I think you can put together something more suitable by doing it yourself. When you are moving up to a saltwater outfit I think it is easier to buy it as a package. For less than \$300 you can buy a ready to fish combo with everything you need knowing all the components have been selected to balance and work together.

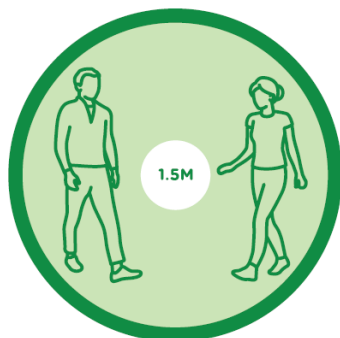


If your budget stretches further and you want to play with the big boys you could always spend \$2250 and buy an outfit like this:



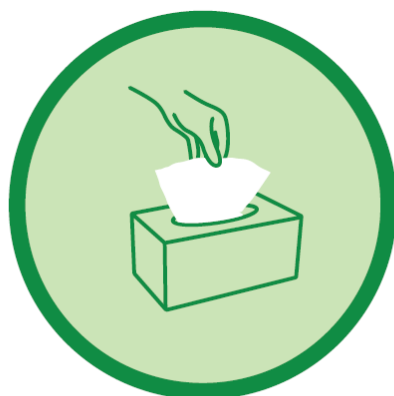
Covid-19 Safety Policy

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



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

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



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

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

- During this time many people are refraining from shaking hands and hugging. If you are a gregarious person you might want to check the body language of the person you are approaching to gauge their feelings on this matter. Not shaking hands or touching during this time shouldn't be seen as being unfriendly.



Wash your hands regularly
with soap and water.

- You must register and sign in with your phone number for all club activities. If you have the COVIDSafe app active that would be another safeguard.
- When food and drink is part of a club activity you should consider bringing your own crockery and cutlery. For the immediate future, the club will be using disposables.

BE COVIDSAFE

Our Supporters

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



Membership Fees

Membership Fees are as follows:

Adult membership \$30

Concession membership \$20

Junior membership free

eMembership free

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

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

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

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

Fees can be paid:

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

2. **By cheque** posted to:

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

3. **Direct deposit:**

BSB 062-678

Account Number: 10333424

Name: Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club Inc

Reference: Your surname

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

Club Contact Address

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

Our mailing address is:

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

Electronic Contacts

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

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

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

Our Facebook Page can be found at:

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

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



2020 Calendar

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
1	We	Sa	Su	We	Fr	Mo	We	Sa	Tu	Th	Su	Tu	1
2	Th	Su	Mo	Th	Sa	Tu	Th	Su	We	Fr	Mo	We	2
3	Fr	Mo	Tu	Fr	Su	We	Fr	Mo	Th	Sa	Tu	Th Keepit	3
4	Sa	Tu	We	Sa	Mo	Th	Sa Casting Day	Tu	Fr	Su	We	Fr Keepit	4
5	Su	We	Th	Su	Tu	Fr	Su	We	Sa	Mo	Th	Sa Keepit	5
6	Mo	Th	Fr	Mo	We	Sa	Mo	Th	Su	Tu	Fr	Su	6
7	Tu	Fr	Sa	Tu	Th	Su	Tu	Fr	Mo	We	Sa	Mo	7
8	We	Sa	Su	We	Fr	Mo	We	Sa Mullet Mash	Tu	Th	Su	Tu	8
9	Th	Su	Mo	Th	Sa	Tu	Th	Su	We	Fr	Mo	We	9
10	Fr	Mo	Tu	Fr Easter	Su	We	Fr	Mo	Th	Sa	Tu	Th	10
11	Sa	Tu	We	Sa Easter	Mo	Th	Sa	Tu	Fr	Su	We	Fr	11
12	Su	We	Th	Su Easter	Tu	Fr	Su	We	Sa	Mo	Th	Sa	12
13	Mo	Th	Fr	M Easter	We	Sa	Mo	Th	Su	Tu	Fr	Su	13
14	Tu	Fr	Sa	Tu	Th	Su	Tu	Fr	Mo	We	Sa	Mo	14
15	We	Sa Outing	Su	We	Fr	M	We	Sa	Tu	Th	Su	Tu	15
16	Th	Su	M Club Meeting	Th	Sa	Tu	Th	Su	We	Fr	M Club Meeting	We	16
17	Fr	M Club Meeting	Tu	Fr	Su	We	Fr	M Club Meeting	Th	Sa	Tu	Th	17
18	Sa	Tu	We	Sa	M	Th	Sa	Tu	Fr	Su	We	Fr	18
19	Su	We	Th	Su	Tu	Fr	Su	We	Sa Outing Mylestom	Mo Club Meeting	Th	Sa	19
20	M Club Meeting	Th	Fr	M	We	Sa	M	Th	Su	Tu	Fr	Su	20
21	Tu	Fr	Sa	Tu	Th	Su	Tu	Fr	M Club Meeting	We	Sa Outing	Mo	21
22	We	Sa	Su	We	Fr	Mo	We	Sa	Tu	Th	Su	Tu	22
23	Th	Su	Mo	Th	Sa	Tu	Th	Su	We	Fr Ebor Weekend	Mo	We	23
24	Fr	Mo	Tu	Fr	Su	We	Fr Dunmore Waters	Mo	Th	Sa Ebor Weekend	Tu	Th	24
25	Sa	Tu	We	Sa	Mo	Th	Sa Dunmore Waters	Tu	Fr	Su Ebor Weekend	We	Fr	25
26	Su	We	Th	Su	Tu	Fr	Su Dunmore Waters	We	Sa	Mo	Th	Sa	26
27	Mo	Th	Fr	Mo	We	Sa	Mo	Th	Su	Tu	Fr	Su	27
28	Tu	Fr	Sa	Tu	Th	Su	Tu	Fr	Mo	We	Sa	Mo	28
29	We	Sa	Su	We	Fr	Mo	We	Sa Outing	Tu	Th	Su	Tu	29
30	Th		Mo	Th	Sa	Tu	Th	Su	We	Fr	Mo	We	30
31	Fr		Tu		Su		Fr	Mo		Sa		Th	31



Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club Inc.

Membership Form



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

(print full name)

of.....

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

Email address.....

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

Emergency Contact:..... phone:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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3. **Direct deposit**

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

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