

The *Flyer*



Official Newsletter Of The



The Flyer

The Official Newsletter of the Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club

NOVEMBER 2022

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Front Cover: Vice President Greg with a Bass from the Clarence River. A Bronze Battler for the Bronze level caster.

This month, we have two full fishing reports to whet your appetite for the coming summer. Garry has provided two great stories - one from his Ebor trip and another of the club outing to Safety Beach. He has also penned an informative article on sinking fly lines in the return of "Garry's Corner." Plenty of good reading there.

If you prefer pictures, Ray has given us a sample of his artistic talents in his Ebor Art. If you bring your newsletter to the next meeting, I am sure Ray will autograph it for you ... for a fee. Maybe this will be the start of a "classier" newsletter.

All the other usual information, dates, reports, and articles are here for you to read. Enjoy, because next month's newsletter might not be as long nor as interesting.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

November 2022



Vale Kevin Cosgrove. Kevin became the inaugural President of the Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club when it was formed in 2016 and it was around this time that I first met him. Kevin and Allan had met prior to this formation through their shared love of fly fishing for trout and as luck would have it, Kevin had been a past President of the Sydney Fly Rodders Club. This association gave a readymade starting executive for the formation of our club with Allan having previously been involved with two fly clubs in Tasmania. And so, through this association, the Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club was born.

Possibly my greatest regret through my association with Kevin was that we were unable to get him to wave his fly rod at

the carp in the North West. He had an intense dislike of carp and constantly referred to them as "Crap." We did have limited success in getting Kevin to tempt some of the local species in bream and luderick but the trout remained his favourite.

Kevin was always prepared to assist with our trout fishing workshops at Ebor and through his efforts a lot of people were introduced to fly fishing. Kevin was often on hand with our fly tying evenings where he was prepared to share his skills in tying trout flies (and trout flies only!)

Kevin was heavily involved in the day-to-day goings on around the Repton area as was attested to by the number of people who spoke of his solid community interest especially the Rural Fire Service where he also held executive positions.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Continued

Allan would utilize Kevin's keen eye for correct grammar, spelling and punctuation (which he used when employed in advertising) to proof read the newsletters before publication. This gave the two of them an excuse for an outing and a coffee.

I think that those of us who were fortunate enough to know him will remember him as a most friendly and jovial lover of trout fishing ever ready to share his knowledge. I know I speak for Allan and all the other members of the club when I say Kevin made a difference to us all and will be sorely missed.



Members made the trip to Grafton in pursuit of Bass on one of the few fine weekends we have had a couple of weeks back. Unfortunately, the Bass weren't cooperating.

Members also had the opportunity to visit the Fisheries Research Station at Trenayr. Apparently from all reports a most interesting set up and hopefully one that we may be able to utilize in the expansion of our club.

Casting continues to be well attended of a Tuesday morning with the exception of those days where we are having the effects of La Nina dictate the outcome of a day. The Herring fishers had a good day at Gordonville crossing with the fly being a very effective way of capturing these feisty little fighters.

Until next month - tight lines

Doug

From the Editor

With all the doom and gloom in the world, it's nice to be able to report a couple of random acts of kindness to brighten things up. After reading the October newsletter, Brian Julian from the Hastings Fly Club contacted me with two stripping baskets he wanted to donate. Not only did he donate the baskets, he paid the postage so that Greg and Anthony could enjoy their gifts. Brian is not in the best of health at the moment and is no longer able to fly fish. I can't imagine what that would be like but I hope he can still feel connected to fly fishing through these gifts.

Distant member Ben Nieuwerth from Baranduda in Victoria visited recently and left behind some books for the club and flies for the Women's Breast Cancer Day at Ebor. Ben lives too far away to attend meetings or outings but he likes to support us and what we do.

The Women's Breast Cancer Day at Ebor is another good news story. The idea was started by Laurie Muldoon from the New England Trout Acclimatisation Society a few years ago. Laurie heard of the beneficial effects of fly casting for women recovering from breast cancer surgery and decided to organize a day for them at the Ebor Trout Hatchery. With the help of fly fishers from the local clubs, the day is an opportunity for the ladies to have some fun exercising, relaxing, and maybe catching a trout on fly. Doug and I will be representing our club and some of our members have tied flies for them to use. Covid has caused the cancellation for the last two years so we are hoping for good weather to go ahead this year.



With the trout season open, the streams around Ebor are seeing a great influx of locals and visitors taking advantage of one of the best years on record. Most streams in the area are put and take fisheries with limited natural recruitment. Thanks to the work of the Dutton Trout Hatchery there are plenty of trout being put in. We have to do our bit by making sure we don't take them all. Our club encourages catch and release to ensure the good years will continue. Get out there and catch a trout for a meal, release some for the future and enjoy the wonderful resource we have on our doorstep.

If you have a look at our Hall of Fame you will notice some new names have been added to the casting roll of honour. Several members have reached the Bronze Level of the FFI Fly Casting Skills Development program. The front cover of the newsletter is testament to how improving your casting can produce fish. I'm looking forward to more members completing levels of the program and transferring those skills to achieve Grand Slam Awards.

The December newsletter might be a little light on and will come out early as I will be in the Tasmanian Highlands without a computer at the end of the month. If you have something to be published, please send it in as soon as possible.

Editor

Club Executive 2022-23



President
Doug Urquhart
0458696138



Vice President
Greg Artlett
0427689400



Public Officer & Acting Secretary
Newsletter Editor
Allan Ekert 0427457725



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Assistant Secretary
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Glenn Colquhoun



Committee
Michael Ferris
0428636858



Committee
Murray Robinson
0425277026

Position Vacant

Secretary

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

November Meeting

Our next meeting will be Monday 21st at 6.30pm at the North Beach Recreation and Bowling Club Mylestom. There are always a few members who arrive early for a pizza or schnitzel before the meeting so if you want to catch up for a chat feel free to join them.

We are hoping to have a DPI Fisheries Officer to answer all your questions about trout fishing rules and regulations and maybe provide a few insights about where to go. There will be time at the meeting to discuss upcoming events, fishing reports and to plan the calendar for the first few months of 2023.

The usual raffle will be conducted with prizes drawn on the night. All the tickets will remain in the "barrel" for the next major raffle which will be drawn at our Christmas BBQ on Tuesday 13th December. The prize will be a timber fly tying workstation donated by Michael Ferris and a set of fly tying tools.



Tuesday Casting Group

Casting continues this month. Anyone can join the Tuesday Casters. We meet at Mylestom most Tuesdays from 10.00am. To find out more you can contact Allan on 0427457725.

The program for November is as follows:

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

Fly Tying

Monday night fly tying sessions are finished for the year. If there is sufficient interest they will resume at the end of March 2023.

If you have got the fly tying bug, you might like to enter some flies in our fly tying competition next year. We ran this competition a couple of years ago and it proved popular with a few of the regular fly tiers. Now we have more people interested in fly tying it should appeal to a larger group.

The aim is to encourage fly tying and to have people tie flies ready for upcoming outings. The competition side of things is meant to be fun. The winner will be chosen for its simplicity, creativity and proven fish attracting qualities.

The idea is that each month in 2023 in which we have a meeting, members will be encouraged to tie a fly based on the species of fish to be targeted on the next outing. A photo of the fly should be posted in our Facebook Group prior to the monthly meeting.



Coffs Coast Fly Fishers

Public group · 442 members



The fly also has to be presented at the monthly meeting. The winner will be the fly with the most likes on Facebook plus the most votes by members at the meeting.

Brian Bevan (Pip) will be coordinating the competition and you can contact him on 0490469562 for further information or clarification.

The winning fly will feature in the newsletter and go on display in the trophy cabinet. You should tie more than one so you will have flies for the upcoming outing and one for the cabinet. Brian made this case to display the entries.



The fly to be tied for our first meeting in February 2023 will be a Bass fly. Here are some Doug tied last time (which he is not allowed to enter again!)



We are not competing for sheep stations, but in the spirit of fun and fairness please abide by the following rules:

- ☛ You must be a financial member of the Club to enter.
- ☛ You must tie the fly yourself.
- ☛ You should post a photo of your fly in our Facebook Group. If you are not on FB, you can still enter your fly at the meeting but you won't get any votes from FB.

☛ You must submit at least one sample of the fly to be kept by the Club. Entries are to be given to Pip Bevan before the start of the monthly meeting.

☛ The winner will be the fly with the most likes on Facebook plus the most votes by members at the meeting.

November Outing

We have just one outing planned for November and it is to Lake Keepit chasing Carp.



Dates: Wednesday 9th to Saturday 12th November 2022

Accommodation: We will be staying at Lake Keepit Holiday Park. Those attending will be responsible for making their own bookings.

[Lake Keepit Holiday Park](#)

Cost: Depends on level of accommodation. Cabins range from \$149-\$174 per night and can sleep 3 or 4. Unpowered camp site are \$27 per night; bush camping sites are \$18 per night. The outing will be self-catering so everyone will be responsible for their own food.

The trip is only a week away so we need to get organized. If you are interested but your name is not on the list, please register by calling Allan on 0427457725. If you are taking a boat, could you arrange your own crew member or let me know that you have a spare spot?

The following names are on the list. If you are no longer going, please let me know.

Bill A.
Tom T.
Glenn C.
Greg A.
David S.
Ray P.
Nigel S.
John S.
Jim H.

If you are going, be aware that the carp are much smaller this year. The dam has been almost full for 12 months and is currently at 91% capacity. The abundance of water has led to mass spawnings and the carp are averaging less than 30cm - a long way short of the 70cm we are used to catching. The big ones are still there but the smaller fish are driving them out of the shallows. The good news is that there are plenty of them and they are still a challenge to spot, stalk and get to take a fly. The fight might be shorter but on light gear they are still a lot of fun.



2023 Outings

Bens Falls Retreat Emmaville

If you are interested in attending the outing to Bens Falls Retreat you need to pay a deposit of \$50 to the Club (Direct Deposit if possible.)

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 Cod trip.**

We already have 3 deposits paid which means there are only 5 spots left. The details are:



Co-ordinators: John Everett/Allan Ekert (0427457725)

Dates: Friday 10th - Sunday 12th March 2023

Accommodation: Cod Cabin, Bens Falls Retreat Emmaville northern NSW

[Bens Falls Retreat](#)

Places will be limited to 8. We already have 3 registrations secured with a deposit. If you want one of the remaining places you need to make a deposit of \$50 to secure your place. To register, or for further information, contact Allan.

Cost: Accommodation \$90 for weekend ... food and transport extra.

Fishing: Canoe and land-based fly fishing for Murray Cod on the Severn River.



Borumba Dam

Murray is still organizing the trip to Borumba Dam in February next year. Get in touch with Murray to register your interest and find out more.

Co-ordinator: Murray Robinson (0425277026)

Dates: Mid February 2023 for 5 nights.

Accommodation: Camping at [Lake Borumba Caravan & Campgrounds](#).

Cost: Yet to be finalized.

Fishing: Boat based fishing at Borumba Dam in Queensland for Bass, Saratoga, Yellow Belly and Mary River Cod.



If you live on the North Coast, you may be interested in this event being conducted by DPI NSW to try fly fishing in saltwater at Cribb Reserve, Park Street **Evans Head**, NSW 2473

Adults and teens* - come and learn to fly fish in a saltwater setting at the Evans Head River.

*Children need to be 12 years or older to get the most from this day.

Under the guidance of qualified and experienced instructors from the North Coast Fishcare team, learn the basics of fly fishing in a safe and fun environment. All the equipment is supplied, and includes a practical fishing session at the end of the day, where you will get a chance to use your new skills from the day with guidance from our experts.

Start time is 8.30am and finish at 4.00pm. The program is aimed at beginners and novice fishers and will include talks on getting set up for fly fishing and some practical sessions on learning to cast a fly rod.

Bookings are essential and places are limited. Each teen booking must be made by the responsible adult who will be attending with them on the day.

For more information contact Allan on 0427457725. To book, go to [Eventbrite](#).

Club Calendar 2022

Here is the draft club calendar for 2022. It is provided to give you an overview of what might happen and an opportunity to plan ahead. Dates and changes will be added throughout the year and late changes will be in the Mid-Month Update and posted on Facebook and our website.

Month	Outings	Activities
JANUARY	No outing this month Meeting/Casting at Mylestom Oval at 5.30pm on Monday 17 th .	Club Meeting at Mylestom Monday 17 th
FEBRUARY	Bass Outing at Taylors Arm (Doug) Saturday 19 th	Club Meeting Monday 21 st Committee Meeting
MARCH	Casting Day at Dorrigo Saturday 19 th March Tuesday Casting Group Resumes 1 st March Homewaters Saturday 26 th March	Club Meeting Monday 21 st Mylestom Major Raffle Drawn
APRIL	Keepit Trip Wednesday 6 th to Saturday 9 th April Fly Tying at MO Tackle Tuesday 26 th 6.00pm Home Waters Saturday 30 th April	No Club Meeting Monday 18 th due to Easter Holidays. Committee Meeting Tuesday 19 th
MAY	Home Waters Saturday 14 th May Try Fly Fishing Family Day at Ebor Saturday 28 th Fly Tying at Osprey Room Monday 30 th 6.00pm	Club Meeting Monday 16 th
JUNE	Home Waters Saturday 11 th June Lake St Clair Saturday 18 th Sunday 19 th	Club Meeting Monday 20 th Major Raffle Drawn Committee Meeting
JULY	Casting Day Saturday 16 th 12noon - 2.00pm Dunmore Waters Friday 29 th to Sunday 30 th	Annual General Meeting Monday 18 th
AUGUST	Swansea Salmon Classic 19 th /20 th /21 st Mullet Mash Saturday 27 th	Club Meeting Monday 15 th Committee Meeting
SEPTEMBER	Gathering @ Gumma Friday 9 th to Sunday 11 th	Club Meeting Monday 19 th Major Raffle Drawn
OCTOBER	Grafton Bass Weekend Friday 14 th to Sunday 16 th Tour of Grafton Fisheries Centre Friday 14 th A1 Flats Fishing Workshop Woolgoolga Sat 29 th	Club Meeting Monday 17 th Committee Meeting
NOVEMBER	Keepit Carp Caper Wednesday 9 th to Saturday 12 th	Club Meeting Monday 21 st
DECEMBER	Home Waters Saturday 10th Christmas BBQ Tuesday 13 th	No Club Meeting Major Raffle Drawn

Fishing Reports

A mixed bag of fishing reports this month - a bit like a packet of jellybeans really - something for everyone. More about the jellybeans later but I was told what happens on a trip stays on the trip.

Shhh! Ebor is firing! I don't want to over publicize the fact that this has been the best season for trout around Ebor in a long time. The wet weather, and a mammoth stocking program from the Dutton Hatchery has seen all streams carrying large numbers of fish - and some good size fish among them. Both rainbows and browns are being caught ... and hopefully some are being released.



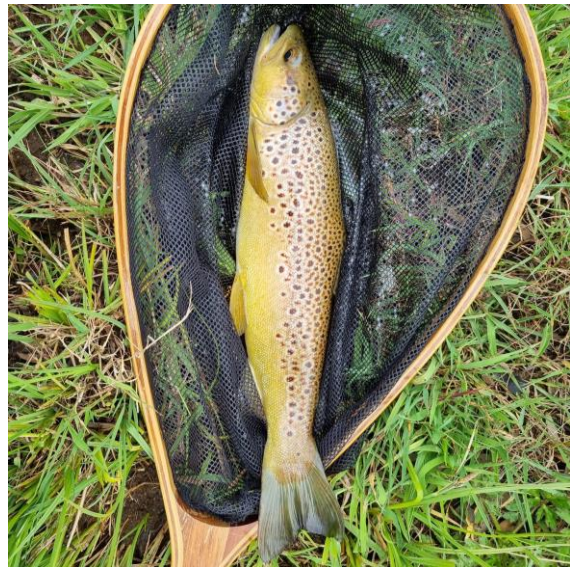
Anthony has been a regular visitor from Grafton during the season and has caught his share of rainbows.



This year Anthony has added a brown on fly to his growing list of species.



John, a Dorrigo local who got to know most of the fish by name during the drought, has been enjoying a bumper season on his favourite streams - especially those stocked with browns.



Jim sent in some photos of his recent exploits at Ebor where he and John found a few willing trout.



The fish didn't like the dry flies because of the wind but these nymphs worked.



Not being satisfied with just trout, Jim and Brian hit the river for some saltwater species.



Bill Anderson has travelled up the mountain a couple of times for some nice rainbows. Bill has booked [possum cabin](#) at Ebor for three nights 6,7 and 8th Nov if anyone is interested in joining him. Total cost is \$440 for the 3 nights - 3 beds available. Give him a call on 0490097030.



Glenn has been enjoying catching plenty of healthy browns and rainbows in the rain.



Gordonville Crossing

The Tuesday Casters went to Gordonville Crossing on the Bellinger River to practice their casting. Only a handful of people turned up including a friend of Doug's ... but more than a handful of herring were caught and released.

Richard had his first go with a fly rod and showed us how easy it was.



Michael found the little herring could put a big bend in his little fly rod.





The herring were not big but they were a challenge on light gear and small hooks.



Ray made this great little video for everyone to see what a good time was had by all ... except maybe for the fish! Ctr + Click on the photo below to watch the video.



Grafton Fisheries Centre

On the first morning of the Grafton trip, a few of us went to the DPI Grafton Fisheries Centre to see what happens there. Thanks to an informative tour with Mitch Turner, we learnt how the Centre was established to safeguard the survival of endangered freshwater fish species during the drought. Equipped with temperature controlled holding and spawning tanks, larval rearing facilities and nineteen ponds with screened inlets and outlets to accommodate broodfish and grow-out, the Centre is currently home to more than 800 fish from five threatened species, including the eastern freshwater cod, which is only found in the Clarence Valley.





Grafton Bass Weekend

Seven members spent the weekend at Grafton trying to find the elusive Bass. The water was still muddy but the weather was more than kind to us. Despite the best efforts of some very experience Bass fishers (even trying "the dark side") only one Bass was caught. There was some by-catch and there were some close calls, but a Bass Bonanza it was not.

If you want to know what Tom got up to on the weekend you had better ask him. Something to do with jellybeans and sight-seeing I believe.



The accommodation was ideal with a view of the river and a nearby boat ramp all to ourselves.









Andy

Allen and his mates were good blokes left the place nice and tidy and welcome back any time

Ebor Report

By Garry Hambly

Weather forecast for Ebor over the NSW Trout Season opening long weekend was around 10 degrees maximums, 1 degree minimums with showers. So, thoughts of heading up the hill over the weekend for a day, was all about daily temperatures and hopefully some sunshine. Monday looked the best option and it didn't disappoint, no wind, cloudless blue skies, and clear moderate water flowing in the streams. Our plan was to fish a favourite creek on the way to Ebor. The servo coffee stop in Dorrigo was a good move, at least we were warm on the inside despite our frozen fingertips, as we hurriedly got our wet wading gear on from the back of the car. With car parked safely, we headed to the creek and began casting dry flies onto the run and through to the bend of the main pool. After working the surface over, we added a nymph by dropper, then finally Sam went to a weighted Woolly Bugger in the pool which resulted in a quick grab, shake, and let go.



Our options from there were to either thrash our way downstream or walk comfortably upstream, we went upstream. We made our way up the grassed bank scouting the water before us as we cast dry flies with a nymph dropper. Second cast, a decent rainbow of around 11 inches grabbed the nymph. The rod bent and bounced for the first time of the

season. A short whistle to Sam had him heading along the bank for us to both view the active Rainbow in the clear water before it decided it wasn't hanging around, and arranged its own quick release. Only a few casts later along the next 100 metre stretch, we had another grab, and again a quick let-go.



The first barbed wire fence adjoining a gate had us deciding whether to tackle the barbed wire, or go over the gate. I chose going over the barbed wire only to puncture my waders high on my right thigh, bummer, that wasn't good! Sam went commando-style under the barbed wire, in hindsight a better option perhaps. With the water shallow in the creek, the wader puncture didn't prove to be a problem as it was high above the water levels when crossing, or wading. We sighted some fish, but they were very spooky and the casting was mostly tight and tricky after the initial open grassy banks. It was a good opportunity to pull out some of the technical casts that we talked through as we walked. We had crossed the creek at times and now found ourselves on opposite sides. When we reconnected together further upstream it was hard to believe 3 hours had passed so quick. We decided to make it the end the day's fishing.

The fishing wasn't great, but we had both felt the bend in our rods and the adrenaline rush that goes with it, even though we had no photo of a fish in hand. We weren't too phased by the fishing being that the weather and the whole alpine feel of the day was so delightful. Back at the car, we gobbled down snacks, threw the gear in and then headed into Ebor for a coffee recharge.



Ctrl + Click on the photo below to watch a video of Garry in action.



The drive home was one of reflection and future planning. If our next trip is a day of the same, we wouldn't be disappointed. It's pretty amazing living on the coast that we're within an hour and a half of trout water, and as we descended from the New England plateau, we were driving through Bass streams before crossing Saltwater creeks and now talking options on Bass and Salt fishing trips to come. Our next trip to Ebor is already locked in, and next time a quicker landing may get us a fish-in-hand photo rather than a tail-splash memory.

Garry

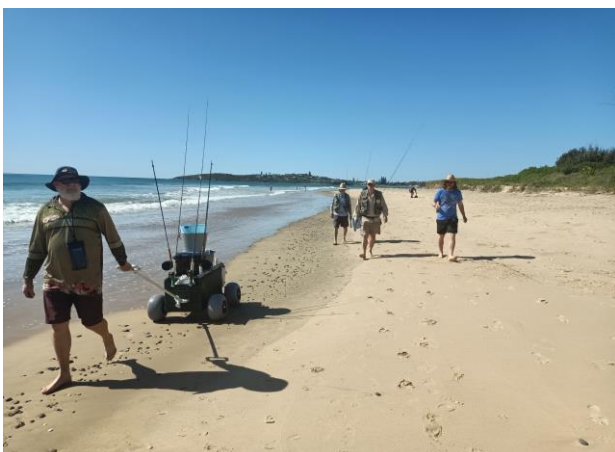
Surf Fly Fishing Day

By Garry Hambly

Conditions couldn't have been better for the 11 club members who attended the surf fly fishing day at Safety Beach on Coffs Northern Beaches. The Target species was Swallow Tail Dart. These streamline silver pocket-rockets are built for speed, and pack-a-punch way above their fighting weight.



Light offshore winds with almost no swell running and a high tide at 11.30am, suited a meet time of 8.30am allowing sufficient time for everyone to gear up for the morning ahead. After the setting up of lines, leaders, and flies to suit, and quick pre-fish brief, a short shallow wade across Darkum Creek had us on the sand and ready to go. Murray, AKA 'The Gadget Man' went one step further in preparation setting up a Beach Buggy that proved invaluable in carting of gear across the creek, and down the long stretch of beach.



With conditions as good as they could be, it was now a matter of finding the most suitable water from the kickoff point of Safety Beach as we headed north along Darkum Beach. A few hundred metres of walking north had us now at the deepest water closest to shore. We set up camp under the shade of trees on the dune edge and began scanning waves for schools of moving Dart. Now the only other thing that was required was the fish to play ball!



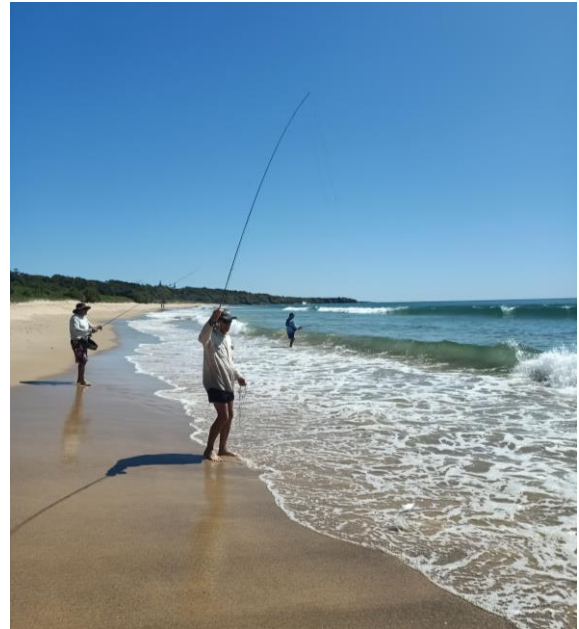
With 2 hours before the height of full tide, it provided good opportunity for everyone to take on the challenge of casting into the surf before the prime window of the high tide peak approached. Floating lines, sink tip lines and full sink lines were bouncing out of stripping baskets launching small whitebait patterns over the small incoming waves and onto clear water in the hope of lurking Dart.



Over the next couple of hours, 3 small Dart were taken, by 3 water-soaked smiling fly fishers. Local beach walkers stood puzzled as to why a group of fly fishermen would be battling their way against the ocean waves with fly rods, each in turn asking “Why don’t they just use bait?” Fly fishing in the surf is certainly a challenge, but the rewards, even if only small fish, certainly put wide smiles on faces.



While only a few small fish were caught, the talk amongst the group was one of satisfaction to have experienced tactics and execution of ocean beach fly fishing with suggestions that another day be planned in the peak of summer when the dart are at their prolific best.



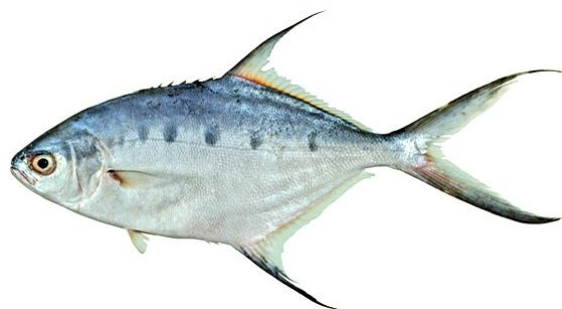
Garry, Nigel, and Pip caught a Dart each, and had given us all confidence that it can be done, and was done, even though the fish weren’t as enthusiastic to play ball as were all who attended.

The debrief after the fishing, under the shade of a Casuarina while viewing the beautiful conditions of the day, had all in agreement that it was the perfect way to spend a Saturday morning and we wondered why more fish didn’t join us.



If there's a spontaneous call to fish the beach again when the Dart are running, I wouldn't be surprised if everybody who attended would be quick to grab their fly rod and be back on the sand again.

Garry



Swallowtail Dart

Trachinotus coppingeri

A Tale of Two Boat Ramps

Here's a photo from Jim Wray of the Coffs Harbour Boat Ramp. Good luck launching your boat!



New signs have been erected at the Coffs Boat Ramp!

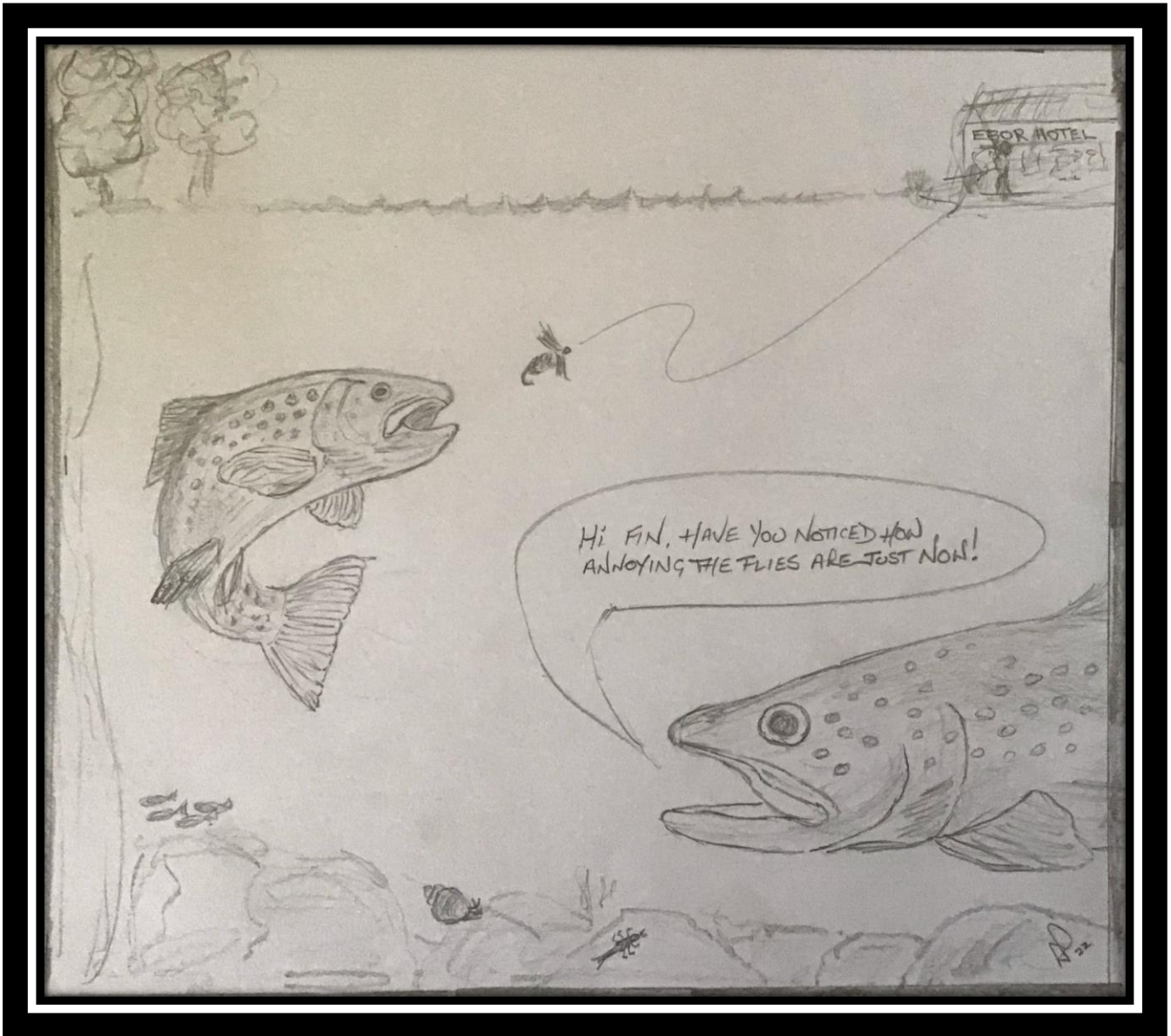


At the other end of the East Coast, David Lindsay sent this photo of the boat ramp at Hinchinbrook Harbour. Plenty of mud and not enough water to launch the boat. At least you can see the crocodiles before they get you!



Ebor Art

By Ray Phipps

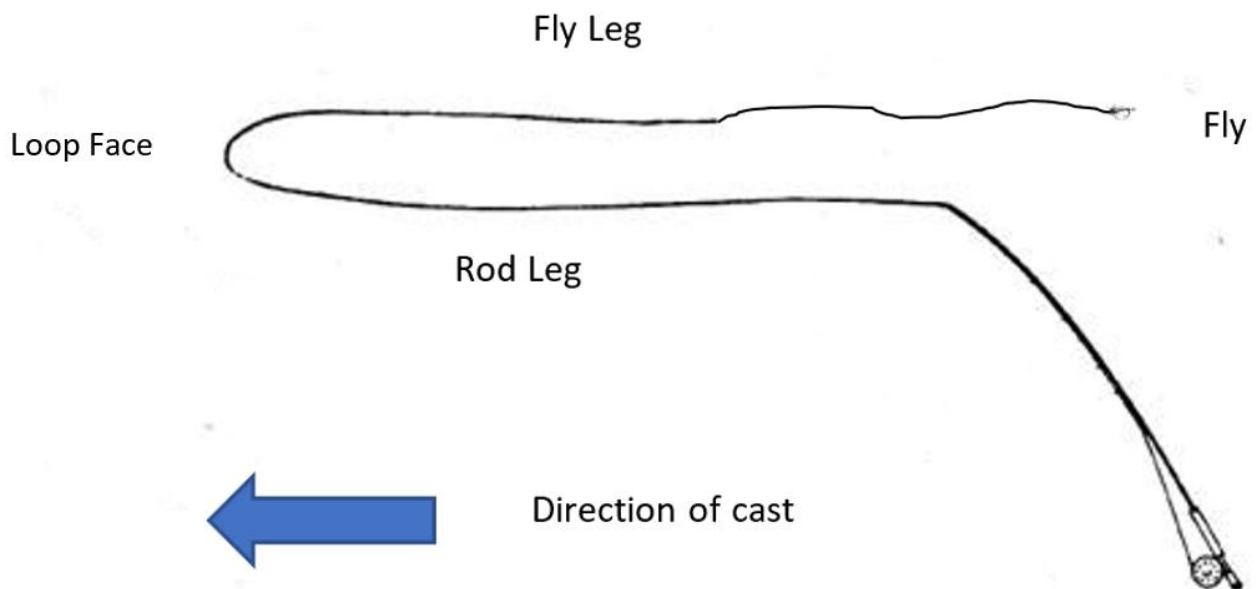




Watch your Loops

I spend a lot of time watching loops. When I practice, which isn't as often as I should, I like to watch my loops to see what they are doing. When I fish, I watch my loops to make sure they are efficient ... and not getting caught up in trees. When I am teaching, I watch loops all the time to see if there is something the caster can do to make a better cast. I've watched a lot of people casting over the years and never tire of watching loops. I guess you could say I'm "loopy!"

The loop is the basis of fly casting. It is the fly line forming a loop that delivers the fly. To form a loop the fly rod is accelerated with the rod tip in a straight line and then rapidly decelerated (stopped). When the rod tip stops, the line keeps going and forms two legs, the rod leg and the fly leg. The rod leg is static while the fly leg moves forward forming a loop and dragging the leader and fly to the target.

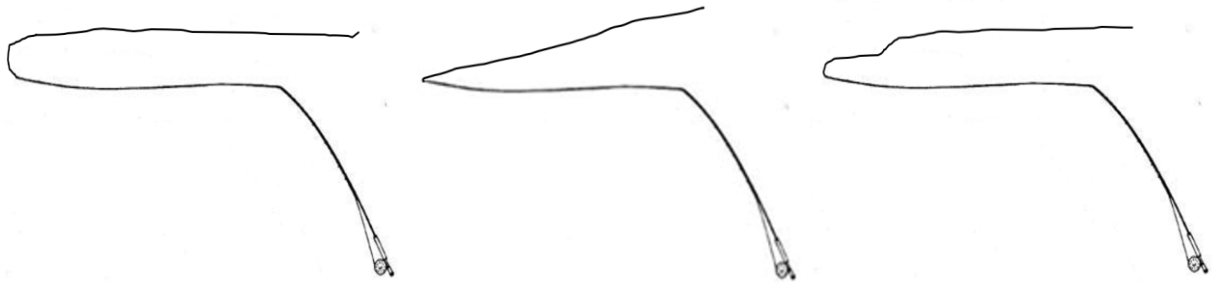


The loop is such a simple shape you would think there is not much to it. Believe me, it is a lot more complicated than it looks. Every time I watch loops, I realize there is a lot more to them than meets the eye. Every time I cast a loop; I know I have much more to learn.

Recently I wrote about distance casting and some of the things I have learnt from watching tournament casters throw a 5wt fly rod and line 140 feet. These loops don't look like the diagram above - they change shape as they go. Next month I might write about morphing loops but for now I am going to stick to the basics. This is going to be about the different shapes a loop takes and why it is important to learn to make a perfect loop ... one that uses the least energy, works best in wind, is most accurate and goes the farthest.

The Perfect Loop:

Some people call them good loops, tight loops, narrow loops or loops with parallel legs. However you want to define them, perfect loops are the ones you need most of the time. They can be described as having legs not too far apart (approximately 3ft is good) and a relatively straight fly leg. The face of a perfect loop can take many forms but the following three are most common.



U-Shaped Loop

V-Shaped Loop

Dolphin Shaped Loop

Most people start casting with the u-shaped loop. It is the easiest to cast and is efficient. It is formed by towing the fly line with the rod tip along a straight line path and lowering the tip after the stop. The width of the parallel legs will be determined by how far the rod tip lowers after the stop.

V-shape loops are more aerodynamic than U-shape. The way to create a V-shaped loop is to relax the hand immediately after the stop. Without relaxing the hand, the rod tip continues to travel forwards creating the U-shape.

Dolphin Shaped Loops are not for beginners. Distance casters throw dolphin loops changing the size of their loops while they are unrolling (morphing). If you want to try forming a dolphin nose loop you need to decrease the tension in the fly leg of the loop while it is moving.

I can throw U-shaped loops but need a lot of practice to be able to throw a V-shape or dolphin nose loop on command. I'm happy if my loops have parallel legs not too far apart and with the fly leg as straight as possible. It all comes back to the five essentials which dictate the rod must be accelerated in a straight line path to a brisk stop, slack must be eliminated, and the casting arc and timing need to vary to suit the length of line being cast. If you can do this you will be able to cast perfect loops.

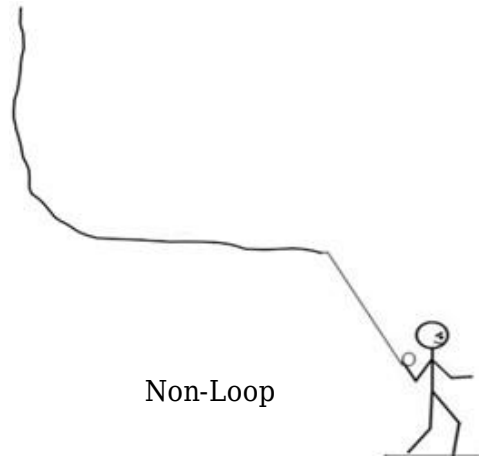
I believe the most important lesson you have to learn to make perfect loops is to watch them. There are two loops in a cast - the forward and the back. They are symmetrical. Most people can tell you what is happening with their forward loop but have no idea of what is happening behind. It is possible to make a poor back cast into a good forward cast ... but not for a beginner. To make a good forward cast you need a good back cast. And to make a good back cast you need to watch it. Everyone watches their forward cast as they want to see where it lands. Very few watch their back casts. Watching and learning about your back cast will go a long way to making perfect loops.



When I watch someone casting, I watch both the loops. What I see, and what they tell me they think they did, are often two different things. To prove my point, I often use video or the Casting Analyzer to point out the reality of what is actually happening. That reality can take the form of a number of different loop shapes. In most cases, these loop shapes are not conducive to making a good cast. Here are a few of the loop shapes I see.

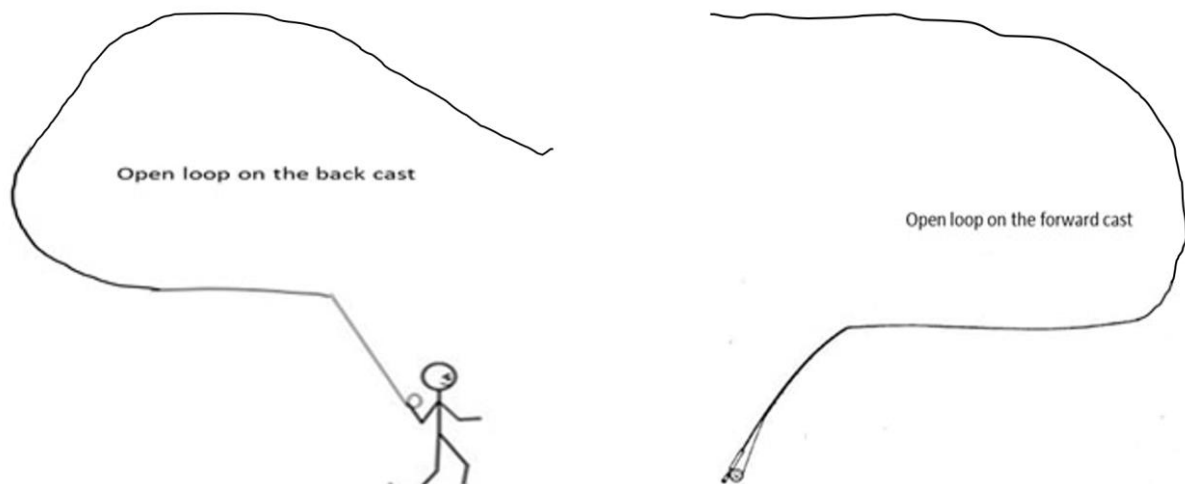
Non-Loops:

I'm not sure if there is such a thing as a non-loop but I have seen some casts where the fly line only bends enough to make an elbow shape. The rod waves in a huge arc and there is no loop face or parallel legs. This usually occurs on the back cast where it can't be seen but the results can. With no loop to cut through the air and a flat face, the non-loop can't load the rod and the forward cast becomes ineffective.



Open Loops:

The number one problem most beginners experience is casting large open loops. This is caused by a wide sweeping arc, a slow lazy stop and dropping the rod tip. Think windscreen wiper and you get the picture. These loops are less aerodynamic and therefore do not travel as far or as fast as a narrow loop. As a result, they do not load the rod and when the cast is made too much power is applied to compensate for this. Big, open loops can be thrown on the forward and back cast ... but very few beginners see the ones behind them.



There are times when you want to throw open loops such as when using multiple flies but for the most part narrow loops are the way to go. Narrow loops are more aerodynamically efficient. A narrow loop cuts through the air far better than a large rounded lump. To cast a tight loop the rod tip needs to travel in as straight a line as possible during the casting arc ... but not too straight or the line will run into the rod. Think painting a flat ceiling until the paint brush can no longer stay in touch because you run out of arm.

Tailing Loops:

A tailing loop is created when the line crosses over itself and back again. Beginners rarely make tailing loops because most of their loops are wide open. As loops become narrower, the line can cross over itself causing a tangle or "wind" knot. Don't blame the wind. Eventually, we all get tailing loops, even instructors. Tailing loops are to be avoided because not only are the knots a problem, they are not aerodynamic and can be just as inefficient as open loops. Be aware that the line must cross twice to be a tailing loop. Fig 1 is a tailing loop but Fig 2 is not.

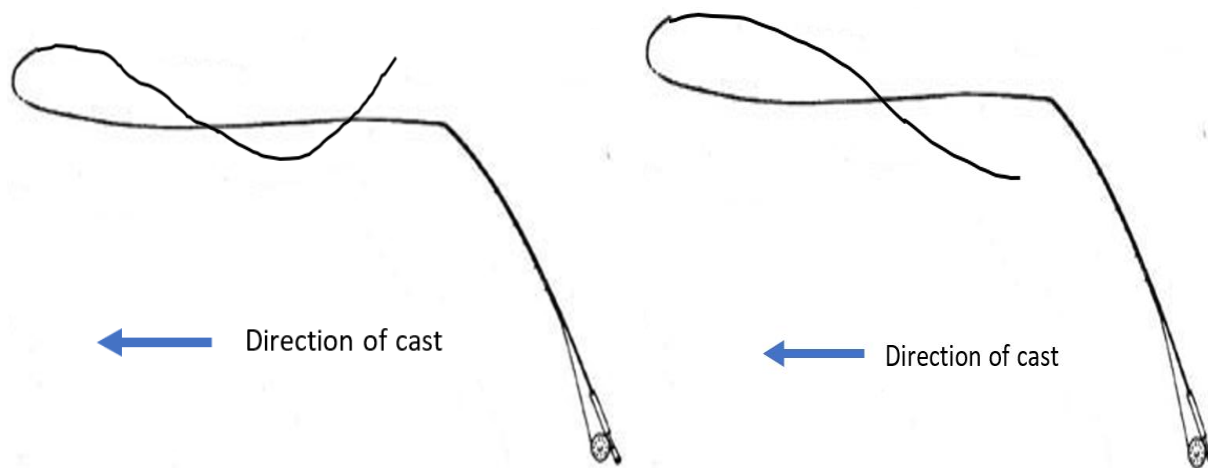


Fig 1. Tailing Loop

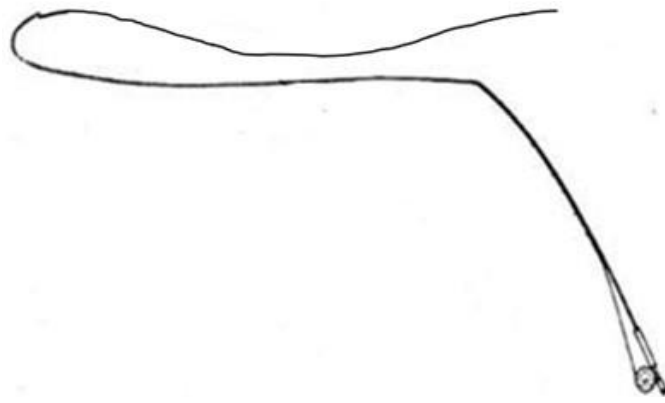
Fig 2. Underslung loop

Tailing loops are caused by the concave path of the rod tip. The rod tip dips down and then rises back up again during the casting stroke. The movement is barely noticeable to the caster but it makes a difference to the path of the fly line, although not always as pronounced as in the figure above.

The dipping and rising of the rod tip can be caused by many different things. The most common causes are shocking the rod, too narrow a casting arc, creeping, hauling at the wrong time, introducing slack line and making a high back cast followed by a high forward cast. If the causes seem daunting the solution can often be less so. Applying the power smoothly with a relaxed, longer casting stroke will usually get rid of tailing loops. Watching your loops and knowing when there is a tendency to tail can be a "stitch in time."

Tendency to Tail:

When the fly leg of the loop drops but doesn't cross over the rod leg you could say it has a tendency to tail. Not having a straight fly leg is inefficient and is not a perfect loop. When the line tends to tail it is time to check all the causes of tailing loops and make adjustments to prevent the line from crossing over.



Tendency to Tail

Watching loops can tell you a lot about how a cast will end up. Watching both loops can tell you even more. If you are old enough to have seen the Punch and Judy puppet shows you will remember kids squealing - "*Look behind you, Look behind you,*" when the crocodile rears its ugly head. I'm not a crocodile but I have an ugly head and I often tell people to look behind them. Now you know what to look for, watching your loops can be the best and quickest way to improve your fly casting ... especially if you watch the loops behind you.



Garry's Corner

Garry Hambly - Owner & Founder of South Pacific Fly Rods Australia



Sinking Fly Lines, when and why?

While in most cases, general fly fishing is done with a floating line, there are times when a sinking line is essential. A sinking line comes into play when your fly is required to meet a water depth where your target fish is residing. No matter the species, or the location, the same principles come into play. Sinking lines come in a variety of colours to suit the fishing environment or application.

So, what is a sinking line?

Well basically it's a line that doesn't float. Sinking lines are normally rated in sink rates, detailed in inches-per-second (ips). A 7ips line sinks at 7 inches per second give-or-take, subject to freshwater, saltwater, or dirty mud-soaked slush.

Sinking Tip or Full Sinking line?

Well to begin, let's look at sink line types. There's the intermediate line which is often misunderstood as a 'suspending' line but is just the slowest of sinking lines at around 1.5ips - 2ips. Slow sinking lines are between 3-4ips, Medium 5-6ips, Fast 7-8ips, Express sink 9ips.

Sink tip lines are generally a 13ft-ish tip that sinks at a rate as designed. Some tips are clear, others are coloured to suit the fishing situation. A sink-tip will allow the tip to sink in accordance to the sink rating. Saltwater flats fishing may require a clear 2ips sink tip, while fishing water depths of 5ft+ will call for a 5ips-7ips tip.

Fishing large impoundments when the fish are holding in substantial water depths, a fast sink or express sink line will often be the key to successful fishing.

When fishing ocean species a full sink line is a 'must have' so the line gets to a water depth where the target fish is holding in the water column. When I fish for pelagic species, I fish with the Strike-N-Set express 9ips line. Pelagics move *FAST* and your sinking line needs to get sub-surface quick before the fish school has headed on, so a 9ips line will have you stripping your line 1-2m below the surface before you'll lift and reposition your next cast.

When do I change over to a sinking line?

In an Estuary or Trout situation, once the water depth is deeper than chest depth, change over to, or set-up with, a sink-tip. When water depths are 3m+ and there's no action on the surface, get your full sinking line into play. If you're heading off-shore equip yourself with a 7ips or 9ips line before you step on the boat.

I will be talking about sinking lines at the club casting morning on Tuesday 1st Nov instructing the attendees on the techniques of casting various sinking line types. If you're able to attend the Tuesday Casting mornings its invaluable time spent, so I encourage you to come along every week.

Photographed are the Sink-Tip and Sinking options within my fly line range, there's a line suitable for every situation. Full details on the **South Pacific Fly Rods** website. LINK: <http://www.southpacificflyrods.com.au/lines.html>

If you're still unsure which line to go with, phone me on 0412 271 365 and let's talk it through so you're equipped with the best sinking line for your situation.

Enjoy your fly fishing,

Gaz





FLY TYING *Sessions*

Surf Candies - Saturday September 10th 2-4pm

Trout Flies - Saturday October 8th 2-4pm

Flathead Flies - Saturday November 12th 2-4pm

- Learn to tie flies
- Improve your fly tying skills
- Learn new fly patterns
- Meet other fly fishermen
- Share you skills with others

\$15*
PP

***ENTRY FEE WILL COVER ALL MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT NEEDED TO TIE WITH
THERE ARE ONLY 6 SEATS PER SESSION - TO SECURE A SPOT PLEASE CONTACT JOHN
ON 6652 4611 - FLY@MOTACKLE.COM.AU OR DROP IN TO MOTACKLE & OUTDOORS**

CLUB SHOP



Short sleeve dress shirt with logo. None available but we are sourcing a similar shirt which will cost about \$40 each.



The original fishing shirts made by Big Fish in Darwin. None available. We need a minimum order of 35 to get new stock. The cost would be about \$80 each.



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 \$5.

To order from the Shop contact the Treasurer or the Secretary

Grand Slam Awards

To encourage members to improve their fly fishing skills, a series of awards is being implemented. These **Grand Slam Awards** have four levels (like the casting program) and members can achieve an award by meeting the criteria listed. The fine details are still being worked out but if you want to get started, this is what you have to do:

Foundation Grand Slam.

This is for someone just taking up fly fishing and goes hand in hand with the Foundation Level of the Fly Casting Skills Development program.

The following three fish species must be caught on fly over the calendar year:

Mullet, Bream and Flathead.

Can be caught over any number of days
Must be photographed with some means of verifying the date
Fish do not have to be legal size but if undersize MUST be released unharmed.



Bronze Grand Slam

Any three fish species from the list below must be caught on fly on the one day:

Mullet, Bream, Flathead

Must be caught on the one day
Must be photographed with some means of verifying the date
Fish do not have to be legal size but if undersize MUST be released unharmed.



Silver Grand Slam

Any three fish species from the list below must be caught on fly on the one day.

Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout, (Redfin, Herring or Bass)

or

Bass, Bream, Trevally

or

Whiting, Flathead, (Bream or Luderick)

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



Gold Grand Slam

Any three fish species from the list below must be caught on fly on the one day.

Carp, Murray Cod, Yellowbelly

or

Rainbow, Brown, Brook Trout

or

Mangrove Jack, Bass, Bream

or

Salmon, Luderick, Kingfish

or

Dolphin Fish, Tuna, Mackerel

or

Queenfish, Barramundi, Permit

or

Tailor, Salmon, Dart

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





HALL OF FAME

FISHING

Foundation Grand Slam

Ray Phipps
Michael Ferris
Greg Artlett
Jim Hyatt
Brian Mighell
Garry Bennett
Anthony Heiser
Rod Ryan

Bronze Grand Slam

Greg Artlett
Jim Hyatt
Brian Mighell
Michael Ferris
Ray Phipps
Garry Bennett
Anthony Hesier

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

Greg Baxter
Mark Gawne

Bronze Level

Greg Artlett
Michael Ferris
Ray Phipps
Jim Wray



HALL OF FAME

FISHING

Silver Grand Slam

Gold Grand Slam

CASTING

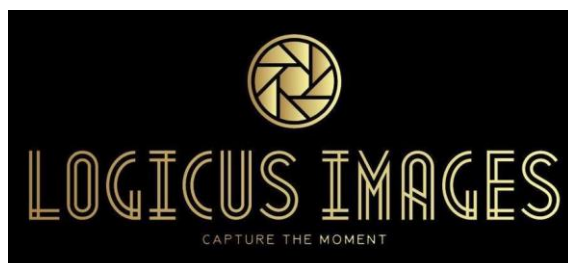
Silver Level

Gold Level

Allan Ekert

Our Supporters

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



Flies by Fedeles



<http://flytyerman.blogspot.com>

Membership Fees

Membership Fees are as follows:

Adult membership \$30

Family membership \$40

Concession membership \$20

Junior membership free

Distant membership \$10

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

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

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

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

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

Fees can be paid:

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

2. **By cheque** posted to:

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



3. **Direct deposit:** 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 Membership or Renewal in the following membership category (*tick appropriate box*):

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

Please fill all information below:

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

For Family Membership please complete the details below:

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

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

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

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


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

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

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

Post signed form and cheque to:

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

 Bananacoast Community Credit Union
Ltd and Police & Nurses Limited

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

Notes

Club Membership Definitions:

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

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

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

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

Fees:

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

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

Completed Membership Forms:

Can be scanned and emailed to the Secretary at 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.