

# The *Flyer*



*Official Newsletter Of The*



*November*

# *The Flyer*

## The Official Newsletter of the Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club November 2023

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**Front Cover:** Mick Cannon is all smiles about this Bonefish he caught in Aitutaki. Who wouldn't be happy with a fish like that!

# Club Executive & Committee 2023-24



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**Committee**  
*Doug Urquhart*  
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**Vice President**  
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**Committee**  
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**Secretary**  
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**Committee**  
*Jim Wray*  
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**Treasurer and Public Officer**  
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0423112902



**Committee**  
*Mike Ferris*  
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**Minute Secretary**  
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**Committee**  
*Tom Trefz*  
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**Newsletter Editor and Committee**  
*Allan Ekert*  
0427457725



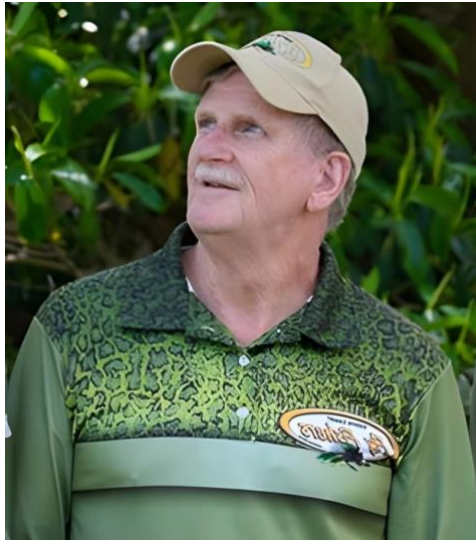
**Committee**  
*Brian Bevan*  
0409469562



**Committee**  
*Brian Miggell*  
0438586235



# President's Report



With the arrival of the El Nino we look like having a very hot & dry Summer. On the upside to that there are plenty of brown lawns which means more fishing and less mowing. The downside of that is the trout season will suffer from low & warm water in the creeks. Hopefully we do get some rain to help that situation.

My apologies for missing the last meeting (thankyou Greg for taking over the reins) & I missed the Tuesday Casting Day on the upper Bello which I hear had 16 members attending. What a great rollout to see so many members participating.

I have just spent 9 days in the Snowys at Peter Sewel's mountain bush property & had an absolute wonderful time with Peter and Jeff (both Hunter Valley Flyfishing Club members) & my fishing mate David Moppett. For those that haven't seen them, I posted a series of photos on our Facebook page.

The property (1200 acres) was returned to nature around 10 years ago & is so ruggedly beautiful with the river running through it & with National Park on the opposite side of the river it has no bank erosion from livestock.

The Hut on the property has a lot of history having been rebuilt from remnants of other huts in the area which were lost to bushfires. I thoroughly enjoyed reading the diary from the previous owner & guests. To be without phone reception & power for a week was so good & we cooked up a storm on the open fire.

The fishing was to say the least very challenging with roll casting accounting for 90 percent of our casts. We saw a lot of big Browns that you couldn't get a cast to because of the vegetation. The lack of access to some of the pools was compensated by the abundance of fish available in the spots where you could get a cast in.

Coming from a life of saltwater fishing, it still boggles me that the trout could so easily find the size 18 – 22 tiny black nymphs I was using. Time to pack them away & concentrate on the Bass & Trevally of our home rivers.

*Glenn*

# Secretary's Report



It's now just under a month to go before the start of Summer, and the Trout season is well underway. I've had a very slow start to this year's Trout season on account of my Triton being off road for warranty repairs. But I finally did make it to Ebor on 15 October 2023.

While I was in Ebor, I met up with Jeff Hawkins from [Ebor Falls Tackle and Outfitters Store](#), who kindly donated a \$50 voucher for the raffle at our Christmas Gathering BBQ at Valla on 12<sup>th</sup> December. Please thank Jeff by supporting his store when you're visiting Ebor.

I often visit Ebor Falls Tackle and Outfitters Store to replace lost new flies or purchase more floatant (I keep forgetting to remove it from my top shirt pocket before it goes in the washing machine). This time it was both, and the black weighted Woolly Buggers with the green tinsel Jeff sold me caught me my third ever New England Brown Trout later that afternoon.



[Ebor Falls Tackle and Outfitters Store](#) at 7 Pipeclay Street is open from 8.30 am to 4 pm on Saturdays and 8.30 am to 1.00 pm on Sundays.

## *Update on car park and facilities at Ebor Falls*

Members who visited Ebor Falls this year would have noticed the car park and new built toilets have been blocked off to the public with temporary fencing and orange barrier mesh. The facilities at Ebor Falls are currently being upgraded to improve toilets, parking, seating, lookouts, walking track and picnic facilities.

This does not prevent anglers accessing the waterways near the waterfall, although it does mean parking your car near the bridge and taking a longer walk to get there.

Fortunately, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service anticipates the area will reopen to the public in December 2023. Further information can be found on its current alert for the [Temporary closure - Ebor Falls precinct](#).

## *Fly Master Fishing Awards*

I encourage members to submit eligible captures for the Fly Master Fishing Awards to Jim Wray at [coffscoastflyfishers@gmail.com](mailto:coffscoastflyfishers@gmail.com). As Jim mentioned at our October General Meeting, you do not need to wait until you've acquired sufficient eligible captures to claim an award. Jim will record your captures as you submit them until you are eligible to claim your award.

The Fly Master Awards is not intended to be competitive in nature, but to give recognition to members who develop their fly fishing skills and broaden the range of species to target on fly. Simply put, it is a great way to improve your fly fishing skills.

We currently have 66 members, of whom, 17 members have claimed one or more of the various Fly Master Awards on offer. That means we still have 49 other members yet to claim their first award. Unless members are submitting their captures directly to Jim, I've not seen too many captures being submitted via the [coffscoastflyfishers@gmail.com](mailto:coffscoastflyfishers@gmail.com) email account.

So please send Jim your captures and I hope to see more members names under the CCFFC Hall of Fame in the newsletter this time next year. You can find more information about the Fly Master Fishing awards at the end of this newsletter.

After writing this Secretary's Report, I'll have to send Jim my latest Brown Trout capture from Ebor. This then puts me one capture away from claiming my Silver Fly Fishing Master Award. Hopefully, that will be a 60 cm plus Carp at the Keepit Carp Caper later this month.

### ***NSW Rules about Carp and Redfin***

With the Keepit Carp Caper fast approaching, some members asked if they are required to kill any Carp they catch. While some jurisdictions require anglers to kill Carp, this is not the case in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

Anglers can practice catch and release of Carp provided it is returned immediately into the waters from which it was taken. However, anglers cannot transport and release Carp into other waterways. If you do practice catch and release, then release the Carp in the same spot you captured it. Otherwise, you risk being fined up to \$11,000 for illegal stocking of Carp.

If you decide to kill your Carp, do not dump them on the riverbank or nearby bushes. Apart from being unsightly and smelly, this risks the spread of disease among local birdlife and other wildlife.

I don't know if Redfin are present in Keepit Dam, but just in case, similar rules will apply.

Like Carp, you can release any Redfin you catch provided it is in the same spot where you caught it. However, Redfin is also a declared notifiable species under Schedule 1 of the *Biosecurity Regulations 2017* (NSW). Therefore, it is illegal to be in possession of a live Redfin perch (e.g. in a bucket, aquaria, keeper net, live well etc).

Redfin are a very tasty fish so I recommend immediately killing any Redfin caught and keeping it for the dinner table.

For further information, see the following DPI webpages for [Carp](#) and [Redfin](#).



Finally, for those bringing their boats to Keepit Dam, remember to leave your gaffs at home. Otherwise, it could land you a fine if a fisheries inspector finds one on board your boat at Keepit.

### ***Flathead size and bag limits***

Jim Wray mentioned at the October General Meeting that now is the time to start targeting large Flathead with large flies. He also reminded everyone about the slot limit for Dusky Flathead.

Members are reminded that Dusky Flathead has a minimum legal length of 36 cm and a maximum legal length of 70 cm. All Dusky Flathead outside this size range must be released back into the water. All other species of Flathead have a minimum legal length of 33 cm. Other State have different size, bag and possession limits, which are summarised below for NSW, Vic and Qld:

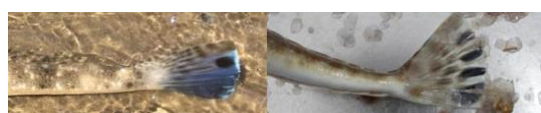
Species		NSW	Vic	Qld
Dusky Flathead	Size limit	36 cm – 70 cm	30 cm – 55 cm	40 cm – 75 cm
	Bag limit	5	5	5
	Possession limit	10		
All other species of Flathead	Size limit	33 cm	27 cm	30 cm
	Bag limit	10	20	5
	Possession limit	20		

There are numerous species of Flathead in New South Wales waters. Of those, I suspect members are most likely to encounter Dusky Flathead on fly. I've not encountered other species of Flathead on fly but there are a few species of Sand or Blue-spotted Flathead that can be targeted by land-based anglers, making them a feasible fly fishing target.

To test this, I looked up the ANSA National Records for fly fishing captures of Flathead, the most recent being a 1.82 kg Blue-spot Flathead caught using a 1 kg tippet in 2021. It also included two records for Yank Flathead (which I believe is another species of Blue-spotted or Sand Flathead).

Flyfishing Species	Line	Weight	Angler	Location	Date
FLATHEAD BLUE SPOT	1	1.820	Frank Bluch	Swan Bay Vic.	09/01/2021
FLATHEAD DUSKY	1	3.200	G Fuge	Port Wakefield SA	17/02/1988
FLATHEAD DUSKY	2	4.200	B Rot	Swansea NSW	17/07/1989
FLATHEAD YANK	1	1.460	Frank Bluch	Swan Bay, Vic.	15/02/2010
FLATHEAD YANK	2	2.080	David Russell	Swan Bay Queensland Vic	28/12/1997

One way to distinguish between Dusky Flathead and Sand or Blue-spotted Flathead are the unique tail markings. Dusky Flathead can be distinguished from all other Flathead by the black spot on its tail. Sand or Blue-spotted Flathead will have three or four bars (depending on the species) on its tail.



Left: Dusky Flathead tail (Cullendulla Creek, Batemans Bay). Right: Blue-spotted Flathead tail (Narooma).

Further information can be found on [DPI's web page on recreational fishing rules for Dusky Flathead](#), [DPI's 2023-24 Saltwater Fishing Guide](#), and [Fishes of Australia's webpage on \*Platycephalus\*](#).

### ***Next Committee Meeting***

Our next Committee Meeting will be held at 5.00 pm, Monday, 20 November 2023 at the North Beach Recreation and Bowling Club at Mylestom (the day before the Keepit Carp Caper). Let me know if there is any business you would like raised at the Committee Meeting and I add it to the agenda. The Committee Meeting will be followed by our final General Meeting for 2023 at 6.00 pm.

***Anthony***



## From the Editor



You will find a few firsts in this month's newsletter. It's the first newsletter I have completed entirely on my new Mac computer. Like people who revert to the "darkside" when the going gets tough, I have to admit I did that a lot last month as I tried to come to grips with changing from Windows to Mac. The solution was simple. Put away the Windows machine and only use the Mac. It's taken time to master the new system, but there's no turning back now.

Although we are a fly fishing Club, fishing on the "darkside" is not frowned upon. We encourage our members to fish with fly, but sometimes the need to catch a fish in difficult conditions means a return to conventional gear. Just like my Windows/Mac experience, sometimes it is easier to go back to what we are familiar with. But if you need to master something you have to persevere. If you want to get better at fly fishing you have to use a fly.

Fishing reports this month feature members who have achieved a first. We all remember our first fish on fly and in most cases it's the start of a life-long passion for fly fishing. Hopefully, some of our members who have caught their first fish on fly will now go on to catch the fly fishing bug.

I was a little surprised when Anthony wrote that of our 66 members, only 17 have their names in the Hall of Fame for the Fly Master awards. Jim and I have revised the list of species and sizes to make it easier for more members to get started. You will find the new list at the end of this newsletter. Every time you catch a fish on fly you should be thinking about whether it qualifies and letting Jim know. Jim will record your captures as you submit them and let you know when you have the five species needed to receive a Fly Master award.

If catching one species at a time is too slow for you, why not try for three species in one day. I reckon it is the more difficult way to get your Fly Master award but the challenge will be rewarding. If you haven't got your Bronze Fly Master yet, aim to catch a bream, mullet and flathead on our next outing day. It will motivate you to fish harder.

You will have noticed with the changes to the newsletter I have managed to find more space for my Editorial. I always have too much to say! Thankfully, Anthony and Tom have provided more interesting reading this month. You can find their contributions in the Table of Contents where you can click on any heading and you will be taken straight to the relevant page. Who said you can't teach an old dog new tricks.

Belonging to a number of Fly Fishing Clubs, I get to see a few different Club Newsletters. I would love to have the graphic design skills and creative flare of many of their editors. Changing computers doesn't help much if you don't have the ability to use all the potential that modern technology brings.

*Editor*



## November Meeting

Our November meeting will be held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> commencing at 6.00pm at the North Beach Recreation and Bowling Club at Mylestom. This will be our last meeting for the year except for our Christmas Gathering at Valla on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December.

Our guest speakers will again be David Faircloth and Alacia Cockbain. This time they will be talking about the Eastern Freshwater Cod.



Following the presentation, there will be time to talk about any club business and future activities. The usual raffle will be conducted with prizes drawn on the night and the winning ticket will be drawn in the three-monthly raffle with someone taking away the prize of a saltwater fly box loaded with flies. Entries in the fly tying competition will be voted on to choose the best fly of any type tied by a member this month.

## Committee Meeting

The final Committee meeting of the year will be held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November preceding the monthly meeting at the North Beach Bowling and Recreation Club at Mylestom. Start time will be 5.00pm.

This will be an important meeting to wrap up the year and start planning for 2024. Club business is conducted by committee and members are able to attend meetings. If you have items for the agenda, you can email them to the Secretary at [coffscoastflyfishers@gmail.com](mailto:coffscoastflyfishers@gmail.com) or talk to any of the committee members.

The Committee is particularly interested in your thoughts for outings next year so if you have somewhere you think we should go, make sure you pitch your idea. We have already decided to have two Dunmore Trout weekends next year and bookings are already being taken if you want to get in early (see the Outings Book).

## Raffles

Our last major raffle for the year will be drawn at the November meeting. All tickets from the last three months have been put in the “barrel” and a lucky winner will walk away with a saltwater fly box and flies.



The usual monthly raffle will be conducted with a variety of prizes to be won. Thanks to the generosity of our members and supporters, the raffle has become our main source of income and helps us pay all our bills and maintain a healthy bank balance.

There will be one more major raffle this year to be drawn at the Christmas Gathering at Valla on 12<sup>th</sup> December. The Committee is finalizing the details which will be announced at the next meeting. We already have some great prizes including a two-day stay at an [Airbnb at Hyland Park](#) and open orders at [Ebor Falls Tackle & Outfitters](#) and [MO Tackle](#).

## Fly Tying Competition

The winner of last month's fly tying of a carp fly was Bill Anderson. Bill will get a chance to try his flies on some Lake Keepit carp later this month.



You will find more information on fly tying [here](#). You still must register for this event and you can do so by putting your name in the Outings Book or by contacting Allan on 0427457725.

The theme this month is "Anything Goes" so you will have a free choice. You won't be able to enter a fly you have entered before, but apart from that there are no restrictions. Flies for freshwater, saltwater, tropical or cold-water species are all acceptable. The winner will be chosen by popular vote from members present so it could be a difficult choice this month.



Our last fly tying night for the year will be on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November at 6.00pm at the North Beach Recreation and Bowling Club in the Osprey room. It's a free night this month. You are free to tie anything you want and there will be no charge as you will have to use your own materials. Come along and join in the fun of tying with like-minded people and learning more about tying flies.

## Tuesday Casting Group

The Tuesday casting group will continue this month but will finish for the year on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November. Casting will resume on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

The group meets at the Mylestom Cricket Oval each Tuesday except for fishing days and bad weather. If you turn up at Mylestom at 10.00am to find no one there, check the Newsletter, Facebook or your emails to see if we are fishing, or drive to the end of the road at the Café and see if we have moved to the shelter shed there.

Don't forget to bring a chair and your coffee mug.

After casting you are welcome to join the group that goes to the café for lunch. The casting program for the month of November is as follows:

Casting at Mylestom on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup>  
Casting Games at Mylestom on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>  
No more casting days until March 2024.

# Fly Casting Skills Development

Fly Casting Skills Development (FCSD) is a fun way to improve casting skills for all fly fishers in a self-paced fashion. It has been designed and supported by Fly Fishers International. There are four levels from beginner to advanced: Foundation, Bronze, Silver and Gold. We have been integrating the FCSD into the activities of our regular Tuesday Casting Group. You can find out more about the FCSD [here](#) and see those who have achieved a level listed in the [Hall of Fame](#).

Congratulations to Murray Robinson for becoming the first club member to achieve the Silver Level of the FFI Fly Casting Skills Development. As Murray will tell you, a lot of time and effort has to go into getting to this level. It's not just about being able to cast a long way (which Murray can) but about learning casts that catch fish.



# November Outings

## Home Waters

Our next outing is to our Home Waters at Mylestom on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November. You can fish the Bellinger or Kalang Rivers but most people will focus on the Bellinger as it is closer to Mylestom where we will be meeting for lunch afterwards. You can launch whenever you like but someone will be at the ramp at 7.00am if you need help.



A boat, canoe, kayak or SUP is almost essential for fishing the Bellinger. If you don't have a vessel, or can't arrange to be a crew member, please let us know at least a few days before so we can try and organize something. If we don't have enough boats, you will be ferried to the flats to fish from the shore.

Lunch will be free hot dogs and coffee at the Mylestom Cricket Oval from 12.30pm provided you have registered. Glenn will be coordinating this outing and you can phone him on 0409151270 to register or find out more.



## Lake Keepit

The Lake Keepit trip is on this month and we already have sixteen members registered. As everyone will be responsible for their own accommodation, there is no limit to the number of people who can attend. The dates are from Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November to Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November but you can go anytime during that period.

Catching carp on fly is a great way to hone your fly fishing skills and have some fun. They are not easy to catch but there are plenty of them and you are sure to land one if you put in the time. If you haven't been before, one of the regulars will take you under their wing and help you catch your first carp on fly.



We will be staying at [Lake Keepit Holiday Park](#). Those attending will be responsible for making their own bookings but if you register in the outings book, we can coordinate and keep our group together. If you want to book a cabin, find a few friends who are going and make a booking soon.

You will pay \$197 per night for a Standard Cabin, \$128 for an Economy Cabin, \$48 for a powered campsite, \$35 for an unpowered campsite and \$26 for bush camping. Rates are based on 2 adults and increase for additional people on site. Additional cars and boats on site may attract an extra fee.



You will be responsible for your own transport so you may like to car pool. A boat will be helpful to get you away from the crowds but most of your fishing will be walking the shore. This will be a self-catered trip but we will be using the barbecue facilities at the park some nights.

Tom Trefz (0423676624) is coordinating this outing so contact him for more information or to register.



## Club Calendar 2023.

Month	Outings	Activities
JANUARY	No general meeting or outing this month <b>Committee Meeting</b> Mon 16th	<b>Committee Meeting</b> Mylestom Monday 16 <sup>th</sup>
FEBRUARY	<b>Seniors Week Try Fly Fishing</b> Mylestom Tue 7 <sup>th</sup> <b>Lake Borumba</b> Sun 12 <sup>th</sup> to Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> (Murray) <b>Bass Outing</b> at Taylors Arm Sat 25 <sup>th</sup> (Doug)	<b>Club Meeting</b> Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> Mylestom
MARCH	<b>Learn Fly Fishing at Ebor</b> Sat 4 <sup>th</sup> Group 1 <b>Tuesday Casting Group Resumes</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> March <b>Bens Falls Retreat</b> Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> to Sun 12 <sup>th</sup> (Allan) <b>Learn Fly Fishing at Ebor</b> Sat 18 <sup>th</sup> Group 2 <b>Fly Tying</b> Mylestom Monday 27th	<b>Club Meeting</b> Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> Mylestom
APRIL	<b>Home Waters</b> Sat 1 <sup>st</sup> (Glenn) <b>Stuarts Point</b> Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> to Sun 30 <sup>th</sup> (Mike) <b>Fly Tying</b> Mylestom Monday 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Club Meeting</b> Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> <b>Committee Meeting</b> Major Raffle Drawn
MAY	<b>Home Waters</b> Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> (Allan) <b>Cast a Fly Rod Day</b> Date & venue to be decided <b>Fly Tying</b> Mylestom Monday 29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Club Meeting</b> Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> Mylestom
JUNE	<b>Macksville</b> Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> June (Glenn) <b>Lake St Clair</b> Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> to Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> <b>Fly Tying</b> Mylestom Mon 26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Club Meeting</b> Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> Mylestom
JULY	<b>Home Waters</b> Sat 22 <sup>nd</sup> (Allan) <b>Dunmore Waters</b> Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> to Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> <b>Fly Tying</b> Mylestom Mon 31 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Annual General Meeting</b> Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> Major Raffle Drawn
AUGUST	<b>Swansea Salmon Classic</b> Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> to Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> <b>Fly Tying</b> Mylestom Mon 28 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Club Meeting</b> Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> <b>Committee Meeting</b> Mylestom
SEPTEMBER	<b>Battle of the Bread Fly</b> (Mullet Mash) Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> <b>Gathering @ Gumma</b> Thur 7th to Sun 10 <sup>th</sup> (Pip) <b>Fly Tying</b> Mylestom Mon 25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Club Meeting (Buy/Swap/Sell Meet)</b> Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> Mylestom
OCTOBER	<b>Home Waters</b> Sat 7 <sup>th</sup> (Anthony and Allan) <b>Fly Fishing Film Festival</b> Tues 10 <sup>th</sup> 6.30pm Sawtell <b>Fishermans Reach Weekend</b> Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> to Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup> (Mike) <b>Fly Tying</b> Mylestom Mon 30 <sup>th</sup> (Bill ... carp flies)	<b>Club Meeting</b> Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> Mylestom
NOVEMBER	<b>Home Waters</b> Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> (Glenn) <b>Keepit Carp Caper</b> Tues 21 <sup>st</sup> to Sun 26 <sup>th</sup> (Tom) <b>Fly Tying</b> Mylestom Mon 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Club Meeting</b> Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> <b>Committee Meeting</b> Major Raffle Drawn
DECEMBER	<b>Home Waters</b> Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> (Anthony) <b>Christmas Gathering BBQ Valla</b> Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No Club Meeting</b> Christmas Raffle Drawn

# Trefz Spring Travels

*By Tom and Sue Trefz*

On the 8th September my wife Sue and I set our sights on Mackay Qld for an appointment with Paul Dolan of MacKay Fly & Sport Fishing. Our son Noel was to fly up from Melbourne to meet us there for four hours of fishing the flats for permit and another half day chasing barra in one of the nearby lakes or dams.



While over a lunch stop in Kyogle, I took a snap decision to explore the Toonumbar dam in the Toonumbar National Park, (northwest of Casino). We camped at the Ghinni Ghi campsite, almost entirely on our own. The dam has steep, forested sides and is stocked with bass.

After an afternoon reconnoitre and plenty of casting, I didn't raise a fish. The following morning, on a sinking line with a bass vampire in approximately 4 metres of water I hooked and landed four.



Back after breakfast, we packed up and headed for lake Leslie which is outside of Warwick. I should have launched my boat upon arrival because the wind blew for the next two days, making it too unpleasant to fish.





Our next stop was Toowoomba to take in the Spring Festival of Flowers and explore some of the art galleries.

After that, we moved on to Lake Borumba and camped in the park near the boat ramp. We tried a number of bays but only sighted two fish in the shallows. We spoke with other fishermen, who were targeting bass & they were using live prawns while tied up to a submerged tree on unweighted rigs. Some Saratoga were taken in the main arm, trawling spinner baits.

We then enjoyed a couple of days in Agnes Waters for a bit of r&r before the long haul north. We had a worthwhile pub stopover in Marlborough (\$10 for a shower) and a hearty meal.

Our next campsite was Lake Kinchant, 48 kms west of MacKay. This is a beautiful shallow lake with extensive weed beds. I fished both mornings and evenings for two days without luck. Numerous barra were sighted but just weren't feeding. Our son Noel joined us on the 24th. He dropped a fish on a plastic and shortly thereafter I hooked and landed a 60cm barra on one of my self-tied "pink things". I had been communicating with our guide Paul regarding our trip to the flats but it was decided to cancel that part owing to the prevailing strong southerly winds. We decided to rather do a full day on Teemburra dam. We met with him at 11am and fished till 7pm. The first thing he commented on was that fishing would not fire until the water temperature reached 27 degrees and it was currently only 24 degrees. The dam itself is pristine, again with steep forested hills, water lilies in full blossom and not another sole sighted on the day. Noel hooked six fish on lures but only managed to land one. I sadly never had a touch on fly, but noticed a





few refusals. Back at Kinchant the following morning we were a little slow to go but by lunch I suggested we take Sue with us just to polaroid a few barra with her. She suggested I take my rod anyhow. The wind was blowing and made navigating the margins in the lily pads difficult. We drifted into the shallows and got the boat stuck and at the same time I thought I'd seen movement in an area we had just come down. I got up on the casting deck and covered it. A 76cm barra tail walking is something I might never forget. The first run went straight into the backing. In the time being Noel attempted to accelerate the boat from the mud without any success and the barra buried itself in the lilies. We were able to get the boat alongside it and with Noel's help untangled the fish from the vegetation – mission accomplished!



We never made it to Eungella dam, which is mentioned in Fly Life by Chris Burgess in issue number 109, but we have good reason to go back, and we still have an appointment with a permit.

*Tom and Sue*



# Fishing Reports

This month's fishing report starts with a list of firsts. A number of members recorded their first fish on fly, some with more than one species. It highlights the fact that the Club is all about learning, sharing and having fun. If you are an experienced fly fisher, I bet you can still remember your first fish on fly and still get a buzz every time you add a new species to your list. These people certainly enjoyed their firsts.

Kallum added two firsts this month with a Brassy Trevally and a Freshwater Herring. Although there was a big difference in size, it's not reflected in the size of his smile.



You will have gathered from the cover that Mick is enjoying his trip to Aitutaki where he landed his first Bonefish on fly. I'm looking forward to his report when he returns and hoping to set up a Club trip next year.



It doesn't have to be a big fish to make that first fish on fly special. Andrew enjoyed the thrill of landing a bream on fly but realized just how much learning has to go into making it happen.



Another of our travelling members, Tom, caught his first Barramundi on fly during his recent trip north. Although he has caught many other species on fly, this was one was special.



Vaughn experienced his first “spooling” on his first trip to catch a local Trevally on fly. Someone forgot to tell him 10 metres of backing isn’t enough. Not to be deterred, he returned with a bigger reel and more backing and got his reward of his first Giant Trevally on fly.



Chris is an experienced troutie, but moving to the coast he has found new species to add to his list. When it’s your first Bass, size doesn’t matter.



Vaughn wasn’t satisfied with just one first. Over the last month he has landed his first, trout, flathead, bream, and mullet on fly. We don’t usually see Vaughn on the other side of the camera lens so it’s good to see he has time to fish as well as take photos.

There are probably other members who notched up a first last month, so my apologies if I missed you. Missing things won’t be a first for me.

*Editor*



Not everyone was out landing their first fish last month. Some of our members were out putting their fly fishing skills to the test and adding to their species list to receive a Fly Master Award.

Anthony with his first trout for the season. Let's hope we get some rain so it won't be his last.



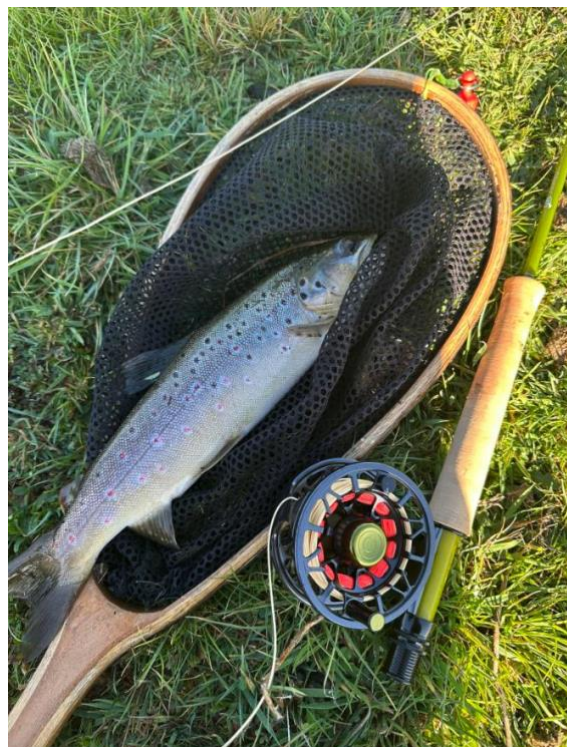
Glenn has just returned from a trip to the Snowy mountains and is rapidly becoming a confirmed troutie. He caught this prize 5lb brown sight fishing Lake Jindabyne. Hopefully there will be a report for the next newsletter and maybe plans for a club trip there in the future.



Mick put in some practice on our local Trevally for his trip to Aitutaki. I'm sure he will encounter some bigger models than the ones he has been catching here. Watch this space in the November newsletter.



Steve opened his account for the season with this Ebor brownie. You know someone is becoming a troutie when they put away their hand-built bamboo rod made by their brother for a hand-built fiberglass rod he built himself.







There are still lots of trout to be caught at Ebor but that is not going to be the case if this drought continues. Get out and catch a trout before the creeks dry up and the blackberries take over.



New member Jonothan, all the way from Queensland but no stranger to trout fishing, knows his way around Ebor. Not only does he know which flies to use he bring his own fly tying materials along with him.





# Fishermans Reach

If you weren't one of the lucky ones who went to Fishermans Reach, this is some of what you missed. To see more photos go [https://www.flickr.com/photos/coffs\\_fly\\_fishers/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/coffs_fly_fishers/)



# Fly Tying

*By the Editor*

Last month I wrote about Fly Fishers International and its role in providing instructor certification in fly casting. For more than 30 years FFI has been teaching the essentials of fly casting.

Much less known is the fact that Fly Fishers International is also involved in fly tying education and certification. The FFI Fly Tying Skills Awards Program provides FFI members with the opportunity to develop or reinforce their fly tying skills and test their progress against a consistent, standard at three levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold. The goal of the Awards Program is to encourage FFI members to develop and improve their fly tying skills at their own pace through a structured learning plan with progressive goals. The Program is meant to be informative, enjoyable and encourage camaraderie and co-operation among those taking part.

I don't think we are ready to go down this path yet, but given the interest in our monthly fly tying sessions it may be something to consider for the future. These members seem keen enough!



This month's fly tying theme is "Anything Goes". If you can remember back to your primary school days, you may recall the teacher giving the class free play on those wet Friday afternoon when you couldn't get out to sport. I always hated those sessions because I couldn't think of anything I wanted to do. If only I had started fly tying then!

You may be thinking the same when you have to come up with ideas for fly tying this month. There are so many options it's hard to know where to start.

In my primary school days, I used to watch what others did and copy them. I still do that today. So, the fly I am going to tie on the "Anything Goes" night is a Bass Vampire. Not any Bass Vampire, but a copy of the original tied by John Schofield.

I searched the Internet for the original and the closest I found was an article written by Shaun Ash. With Shaun's detailed notes and step-by-step instruction, and from what I had learnt from our own Bass expert, Walter, I am going to make a Bass Vampire for my "Anything Goes" fly.

I began this fly tying article by talking about Fly Fishers International which may have seemed far removed from the topic at hand. But the segue is that Shaun Ash is a Faculty member with the FFI, a Master Casting Instructor and Level 2 examiner. He is also a member of the Epic Crew and a renowned fly tyer. I am grateful to Shaun for allowing us to use his article. If you want to tie an authentic Bass Vampire, you may want to do what I am going to do and copy this.



# Fresh Flies

## bass vampire

Shaun Ash

In the past most long wand bass anglers would have worked structure in small creeks using large woolly buggers or surface flies. This was considered to be the stock in trade, but with the advent of the impoundment fishery things have changed.

Bass in impoundments were not just solitary snag dwellers, they would also congregate in large schools suspended in deep water. But how to extract them? With the advent of bass tournaments many techniques have been developed and fine tuned to extract these great freshwater fish from impoundments.

As lines like Scientific Anglers Striper IV and the Rio Midge Taper became available opportunities to effectively fish mid-water fish improved significantly.

For best results on suspended fish, the fly has to reach the school before the fly line, which means a fly with a specific sink rate is needed. This has proved difficult to achieve with traditional patterns.

Enter the Bass Vampire. Developed by John Schofield a few years ago, the fly combines the sink rate of the clouser, the short, stocky wing of the Crazy Charlie and the body of the woolly

bugger. The addition of kinky fiber instead of the usual bucktail gave the fly the quickest possible sink rate help to make the fly do the things it does.

The powder paint used to produce glow in the dark eyes is without doubt a key element in the fly's success, providing a point of attack for the bass.

Move forward a few years and the Bass Vampire has become one of the most talked about fly patterns (among bass anglers anyway). It is easy to tie, casts well on a six-weight outfit and bass eat it.

On inactive fish a retrieve of two short sharp strips followed by a pause of up to 15 seconds is commonly used. On active fish everything from dead slow to flat out will work on the day. It's just a matter of varying your retrieve until the fish let you know what they want.

### Colours.

While black/purple is the most common combination, other combinations also work well, including black/chartreuse over a black body, black/red over a red body, and gray/white over a yellow body and olive/tan over a pearl body.



**MATERIALS****Hook:** #10 Tiemco 8089 or #4 Gamakatsu Bios.**Thread:** 3/0 Uni thread.**Tail:** 2 cm of small pearl Mylar tubing.**Body:** black crystal chenille or black estaz.**Underwing:** purple kinky fiber.**Overwing:** black kinky fiber.**Eyes:** medium nickel-plated dumbbell eyes.**Option:** 3 to 6 strands of pearl flash on top of the under wing.

- Tie in the eyes and add a drop of cement to the thread wraps.
- Tie in the Mylar tubing at the hook bend. Fray the Mylar tubing with a dubbing needle.



- Tie in the chenille at the tail and wind forward to the eyes, stroking each wrap back towards the tail so that the body flairs.
- Secure the chenille, whip finish and add a drop of cement.
- Advance the thread to the front of the eyes.



- Trim off a small clump of purple kinky fiber, and tie in as you would for a clouser minnow, using tapered scissors to taper the end.
- Tie in 3 to 6 strands of pearl flash (optional).
- Tie in a small clump of black kinky fiber and taper the ends.
- Whip finish and give the thread a coat of cement.

To make the glow in the dark eyes use pro-tec powder paint. Using copper wire bend the wire over the middle of the dumbbell eyes securely by twisting.

Use a clean flame from a butane light for about twelve seconds to heat the eyes. You will need to use some trial and error. How the paint adheres will show if the eyes were too hot or cold.

Dip the eye into the paint and coat all surfaces, and then follow the directions on the pack to harden the paint. Once cooled dip a drill bit or nail head into black hobby paint and carefully place the paint in the center of the eye to form the pupils.





# FLY TYING *Sessions* 2023 - 2024

- Trout Flies - Saturday October 10<sup>th</sup> 2-4pm
- Bass Flies - Saturday November 18<sup>th</sup> 2-4pm
- Surf Candies - Saturday January 13<sup>th</sup> 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**

# Learning fly fishing with Steve Dunn

*By Anthony Heiser*



Steve Dunn fly fishing off the bank at Providence Portal, Lake Eucumbene, 1 July 2012.

This month marks ten years since my first fly fishing lesson on the Weston Cricket Oval, in Canberra on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2013. I marked the news that day with a short Facebook post that read:

*Just had my first fly fishing lesson today. It was fun. Learnt all about sexy loops. Also learnt whip cracking sounds when casting isn't good.*

I would not have taken up fly fishing but for a chance encounter 18 months earlier on 1 July 2012. I was bait fishing off the bank in the middle of a blizzard at Lake Eucumbene when I spotted Steve Dunn fly casting in the distance. Steve eventually worked his way to my end of the lake and I offered him a piping hot coffee from my thermos. Given the freezing conditions, he gratefully accepted the coffee and we introduced ourselves.

Steve had already landed a Brown and a Rainbow while working a different section of the bank. Steve hooked up to what might have been a kilo plus rainbow. Unfortunately, Steve lost his fish when it made a run for the shore.

After I landed a couple of Rainbows on powerbait, the clouds broke and bathed the lake and mountains in glorious shades of gold. The snowfall and wind started to ease and threatened a pleasant evening. This did not last, and blizzard conditions promptly returned after sunset.

In return for the coffee, Steve invited me to get in touch for some fly fishing lessons. Fly fishing was daunting and completely foreign to me, so it was many months before I accepted up his offer.



My first Flathead on fly, thanks to some tips from Steve Starling the day before. Coila Lake, 8 March 2014. I did not own any saltwater flies at the time, so Steve suggested I use my Olive Green Woolly Buggers instead.

I was a slow learner when it came to mastering the basic techniques. Fortunately, Steve was a patient instructor, and I was soon catching Redfin and Carp out of the Molongolo and Queanbeyan Rivers at Oaks Estate near Queanbeyan. Oaks Estate was kind on novices as one did not need to cast far to catch fish. Thanks to another chance encounter, this time with Steve Starling, I started catching Flathead on fly on my regular visits to the Far South Coast.



My progress catching Trout on fly was slower – you could count the number of Trout I caught each year on one hand (or just one finger in most years). Ironically, the breakthrough occurred during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Steve found himself with spare time on his hands when COVID-19 restrictions prevented him travelling overseas for work. So we went fishing at Eucumbene.

I had fished with Steve a couple of times before on the Eucumbene River. Only this time, we had large sections of river to ourselves. The NSW rules on non-essential travel kept the river free from the hordes of interstate (including those annoying Canberrans) and long distance anglers. Steve showed me how to fish with weighted Glo Bugs and Nymphs and I finished 2020 catching the exact number of Trout as I did from 2014 to 2019 combined.

Sadly, I did not return to Eucumbene in 2021 after accepting a transfer to Coffs Harbour in 2021. However, this latest leg of my fly fishing journey has introduced me to new experiences and new species. Like my previous chance encounters with Steve Dunn and others, all this is thanks to the members of this Club and other fly fishos I've met in Ebor and elsewhere.

If it were not for the passion and generosity of fly fishers such as Steve Dunn, and many other people I've met along the way, I would still be drowning powerbaits on the banks of Lake Eucumbene.



Steve Dunn with a lovely Brown caught on one of our trips to Eucumbene.



Another photo of Steve Dunn fly fishing off the bank at Providence Portal, Lake Eucumbene, 1 July 2012.

*Editor:* I asked Anthony how he managed to remember all the dates in this article ... I have enough trouble remembering what day it is. This is what he told me:

I used to keep very detailed diaries. When I moved to Darwin in 2007, I took a break from keeping diaries until a few years ago, and I took another break when I moved up here. But I post photos from just about every fishing trip I do on my FB page as an online journal (I have an album each year for non-fly fishing pics and one album for fly fishing pics). Plus, I can often dig up material for articles from old emails and newsletter articles I've written in the past.



*Anthony*



## Casting Around



### Efficiency

Those of you who are not members of our Club but follow what we do, may be wondering who this person is that is writing about fly casting in the newsletter. I am not a writer nor an expert in fly casting, but I love my fly fishing and I enjoy casting and teaching others how to go about it. My story is not a very interesting one but you may want to know how I came to start writing these articles. Once you have read a few, you will realize it has nothing to do with talent or money. I write because it keeps my mind active, makes me think more about teaching casting and helps fill up the space in the club newsletter.

It all began when I retired and we moved to Tasmania where I joined the Corralinn Fly Fishing and Casting Association and the Devonport Fly Fishing Club. It was my involvement in these clubs that lead to my becoming a certified casting instructor and writing articles for club newsletters. I realized I had to improve my casting when I first went to New Zealand and had trouble with the dreaded north westerly winds. I knew I had to find out more about teaching casting when I started helping at club events. Luckily for me, I met Roy Wybrow who was working towards his Masters Certificate with the Federation of Fly Fishers as it was then known. With Roy as my mentor, and the opportunity to spend some time with MCI Peter Hayes at his Cressy lodge, my casting and understanding took a leap forward and I became a certified casting instructor in 2011. With my new-found knowledge, I started writing articles for the Corralinn and Devonport Clubs under the banner of "*Casting Corner ... The Random Ramblings of a Certified Casting Instructor.*"

Twelve years after my first column, I'm still writing each month about random subjects that come to mind from someone who should be "certified." I write about things that happen to me and the people I fish with. I write about things I think club members should know about casting. I write because I have a newsletter to fill every month. As the monthly deadline looms, I scratch my head wondering what I can write about this time. After over one hundred monthly columns, finding something new is never easy.

Since moving back to the mainland, I have been involved with the Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club conducting fly casting sessions for its members since its inception. Starting with casting days at various times and places, it has grown into having a regular casting session each week. For the last three years a group of keen members have been meeting every Tuesday to cast, fish and socialize. Not everyone attends every week, but for most of the group this still equates to many hours of instruction and practice. You would think there was nothing new for them to learn and perfect.



The fact that the group continues to grow and meet regularly would seem to indicate there is still room for improvement in all our casting and still new things to learn. With such a wide range of skills and experience, finding activities that will cater for everyone's needs is a challenge. Beginners have a long learning curve ahead of them as they tackle all the complexities of fly fishing. As a casting instructor, when you work with a beginner, you can be confident that you can make a difference. However, with experienced casters, it can be a different story. Once someone is casting well enough to catch fish, they are on their way to becoming a fly fisher. They cast well, know a lot about their equipment, and don't appear to be in need of further instruction. But the fact that these experienced casters still turn up for our regular casting sessions indicates they know there is more to learn. So, what can you as an instructor do to help these people? My answer is to make them more efficient.

The dictionary defines efficient as "achieving maximum productivity with minimum wasted effort or expense." So efficient fly casting is all about doing more with less. Why we should do this and how we can go about achieving it is the subject of this month's *Casting About*.

The aim of the game in fly fishing is to catch a fish. To do this you have to deliver a fly in such a way that your prey will be fooled into eating the artificial offering and be hooked and landed. The ultimate success comes from making one cast and catching one fish. Most fly fishers make many more false casts than they need. Sometimes it is because they have to lengthen the line with false casts. Sometimes they need several false casts to remove slack line and load the rod. Sometimes it is to make sure a dry fly will float. Sometimes it's because they need to adjust their aim. But sometimes it's because the practice of false casting has become so ingrained, they think they must go back and forth several times before the line will unroll. No matter what the reason, we all make too many false casts. To achieve maximum productivity with minimum wasted effort, deliver the fly with the least number of false casts possible. One back cast with good rod loading can be just as productive as five false casts.

If you have watched competition anglers in action you will have been impressed with the number of fish they manage to catch. For them the formula is simple. The more time the fly is on/under the water the more chance of catching a fish. You won't see them making beautiful loops over and over again before delivering the fly. Efficiency is their mantra. Get the fly to the fish as quickly as possible with the minimum of wasted effort. Of course, there are other factors that contribute to being a good competition angler but efficiency is essential for success.

We can all achieve more efficiency in our casting by using less power. Good casting technique combined with modern rods and lines enables us to do more with less. You don't need to "bust your underpants" as the great Lefty Kreh would say to get the line out. You will be surprised by how little power is needed to form good loops and for the line to unroll. If the first step to becoming more efficient is less false casting, then the second step is to use less power.

Greater efficiency can be achieved if we use the right equipment. In fly fishing some people equate this with the most expensive rods, reels and lines available. Top of the range tackle is good to use and can contribute to being more efficient but you can be just as efficient using inexpensive gear. The important thing to remember is to match the equipment with the task. Too many people become inefficient by using the wrong rod or line. For example, if you want to cast big flies in windy conditions over long distances you have to put away your favourite ultra-light twig outfit. A balanced rod, reel and line appropriate to the task at hand will always be more efficient. And don't forget to maintain the equipment in good order. Time spent cleaning and lubricating lines can add distance to your cast with no extra effort.

Talented athletes in all forms of sport know how to use their bodies efficiently. They will always use the minimum amount of effort to achieve maximum productivity. The same applies to fly fishers. We cast with our whole body. If we don't get our technique right inefficiencies can occur. Too much body movement wastes energy. Too little body movement means we are not taking advantage of all the energy that can be applied. Imagine a fast bowler standing at the crease and bowling. I could bat against someone like that. Now add the run up, bending of the back, shoulder turn and follow through and I would be running for cover. To cast efficiently we have to learn to use our bodies efficiently. Athletes use coaches and video to improve the efficiency of their movements and I think we probably need to do the same if we truly want to improve.



Efficient fly casting requires eliminating errors. Experienced casters don't make many errors but often they are not aware of the few they do make. Having someone watch your casting can be a great help. Common errors that can rob your cast of efficiency include, tailing loops, slack line and bad tracking. If you are experiencing problems in any of these areas you will be using more energy than is needed to complete your cast. I have written about all of these before so once you know you are having a problem in this area it is easy to find a solution. You will be surprised how much easier it is to cast if you eliminate errors.

When it comes to helping someone to be an efficient fly caster probably the most important skill that can be taught is that of double hauling. Using your non casting hand to increase line speed means less work for your casting hand. Although not a difficult skill, it can take some time to learn and put into practice. However, once mastered, it will make a huge difference to your casting. Learning the double haul is too big a subject for this article but for those who have not yet added this to their repertoire it is worth the effort. Once you can double haul, you are well on your way to being an efficient fly caster.

You don't have to be an efficient caster to catch fish. But if you want to catch more fish and want to do it with less effort following these steps to efficient fly casting will help. As we all get older, we need to find ways we can continue to fly fish as our bodies slow down. Learning to be an efficient fly caster now will help us fish longer into the future.



# Club Shop



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



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 \$10.

To order from the Shop contact the Treasurer or the Secretary



# Hall of Fame



## HALL OF FAME

### FISHING

#### FOUNDATION FLY MASTER

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

#### BRONZE FLY MASTER

Greg Artlett  
Jim Hyatt  
Brian Mighell  
Garry Bennett  
Anthony Heiser  
Doug Urquhart  
Ray Phipps

### CASTING

#### FOUNDATION LEVEL

Bill Anderson	Phill Stever
Greg Artlett	Garry Germon
Garry Bennett	Kallum Jones
Mick Cannon	Vaughn Hagelstein
Michael Ferris	Andrew Cummins
Ken Holley	Chris Russell
David Lindsay	
Brian Mighell	
Stephen Mitchell	
Murray Robinson	
Nigel Smith	
Doug Urquhart	
Jim Wray	
Ray Phipps	
David Small	
Steve Rampant	
Mark Flook	

#### BRONZE LEVEL

Greg Artlett	Glenn Colquhoun
Bill Herd	David Lindsay
John Starr	
Greg Baxter	
Ray Phipps	
Doug Urquhart	
Jim Wray	
Mark Flook	
Garry Bennett	
Bill Anderson	



# HALL OF FAME

## FISHING

### SILVER FLY MASTER

Tom Clancy  
Jim Wray  
Glenn Colquhoun  
Brian Mighell  
Allan Ekert  
John Starr  
David Lindsay (2)  
Doug Urquhart  
Murray Robinson  
Bill Anderson  
Garry Bennett  
Paul Bennett

### GOLD FLY MASTER

David Lindsay  
Tom Clancy  
Glenn Colquhoun  
Brian Mighell

## CASTING

### SILVER LEVEL

Murray Robinson

### GOLD LEVEL

Allan Ekert

## FLY TYING COMPETITION WINNERS 2023

February:	Bass Fly	Glenn Colquhoun
March:	Estuary Fly	Steve Rampant
April:	Trout Fly Dry	Doug Urquhart
May:	Trout Fly Wet	Bill Anderson
June:	Shrimp	Pip Bevan
July:	Salmon or Bread Fly	Jason Stratford
August:	Clouser	Allan Ekert
September:	Foam Fly	Doug Urquhart, Bill Anderson
October:	Carp Fly	Bill Anderson
November:	Anything Goes Fly	



## Our supporters

These people have helped our Club in way or another. When you are looking for products or services, make sure you consider them first.



# Membership Fees

Membership Fees are as follows:

Adult membership \$30

Family membership \$40

Concession membership \$20

Junior membership free

Distant membership \$10

The membership year runs from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> June.

Membership fees will be halved if joining after December

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

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

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

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

Fees can be paid:

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

2. **By cheque** posted to:

The Secretary  
Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club  
PO Box 4068  
Coffs Harbour Jetty 2450



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](mailto:coffscoastflyfishers@gmail.com)

Our mailing address is:

The Secretary

Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club

PO Box 4068

Coffs Harbour Jetty 2450

## **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.

## Membership Form

### Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club Inc.

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 addresses 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 Membership Secretary  
Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club  
11 Butterfly Close  
Boambee East 2452

#### Direct Deposit:

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



## Notes

### **Club Membership Definitions:**

1. Concession membership is available to; Pension Cardholders (including Disability support and Aged), Centrelink and Veterans Affairs Cardholders.
2. A family is a group of two or more persons related by birth, marriage, de facto relationship or adoption who live together.
3. Junior membership is available to anyone attending primary or secondary school.
4. 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:**

1. 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.
2. Fees can be paid in **Cash** or by **Cheque** at a meeting or club outing.
3. Cheques to be made payable to **Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club Inc.**

### **Completed Membership Forms:**

1. Can be scanned and emailed to the Secretary at [coffscoastflyfishers@gmail.com](mailto:coffscoastflyfishers@gmail.com)
2. Can be hand-written and handed to the Secretary at a meeting or event.
3. Can be posted to the Membership 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 Mem

# Fly Master Awards

The **Fly Master Awards** are being implemented to encourage members to improve their fly fishing skills and catch more fish on fly. These Fly Masters Awards have four levels (like the casting program) and members can achieve an award by meeting the criteria listed. They are not meant to be competitive within the Club but to provide motivation and recognition for members to achieve their individual fly fishing goals. Simply put, it is a great way to improve your fly fishing skills and broaden the range of species to target on fly.

The awards are designed to give every member the chance to progress through the levels from **Foundation** to **Bronze**, **Silver** and **Gold** no matter where they live or what they fish for. To this end, the list of species is broad, providing those who fish freshwater, saltwater, estuaries, lakes or oceans something to target.

The **Foundation** and **Bronze** levels are about beginners fishing in our local waters for bread-and-butter species. The **Silver** and **Gold** levels broaden the scope of fish to be targeted, the level of difficulty and encompasses all of Australia and Oceania.

There are no prizes and the only recognition will be a listing in **The Hall of Fame** and a club certificate. Badges are available for Bronze, Silver and Gold awards. There are rules designed to make it fair for everyone but it all comes down to individual honesty and people abiding by the spirit of the awards.

Catch and release is encouraged but if fish are of a legal size they can be kept for a meal. There is no need to take a fish anywhere to be measured. A photograph, or better still a photograph on a brag mat, or verification by a fishing partner is sufficient to record a capture. Your word will be accepted. If fish are going to be released, they should be kept wet and put back in the water as soon as possible. Always handle fish with wet hands or gloves and don't keep them out of the water for too long to take a photo.

Jim Wray is the registrar for the Fly Master Awards and will record captures and ensure names go into The Hall of Fame. If you want to claim an award you must email Jim at [coffscoastflyfishers@gmail.com](mailto:coffscoastflyfishers@gmail.com) with a photo, or any other proof you may have. The email should include the name of the award you are claiming and the details regarding species, size, and date captured and date you joined the club. You do not need to wait until you've acquired sufficient eligible captures to submit a claim. Jim will record your captures as you submit them until you are eligible to claim your award.

The following rules, species lists and measurements are not set in stone and will be revised from time to time as seen fit by the Committee. All lengths are arbitrary and have been selected specifically for use by our club and not any state or national records. If you would like to add a species or group you can submit your proposal to the Committee for consideration. If you are not sure, just ask.

## Rules

- To claim an award, you must be a financial member of the Club at the time of capture.
- To be eligible, a species must have been caught in Oceania.
- All fish have to be caught on a fly which has been cast with a fly rod (no trolling).
- There are no stipulations regarding rod weight, rod length or tippet size.
- All measurements are to be to the nearest centimetre and measured from the snout of the nose to the end of the tail.
- Retrospective claims for an award can be made from the time club membership started.
- Proof of capture must be submitted in the form of a photograph, or failing a photo, the name of a witness or any other proof you may have.
- All undersize fish and protected species must be released

### **Foundation Fly Master**

This is for someone just taking up fly fishing and goes hand in hand with the Foundation Level in the Fly Casting Skills Development program. To achieve the **Foundation Fly Master** award, you have to catch any three species listed with no time limit.

**Mullet, Bream, Trout, Freshwater Herring, Bass and Flathead.**

Fish do not have to be legal size but if undersize **MUST** be released unharmed.

### **Bronze Fly Master**

This level is for those who have started fly fishing and need a goal when we have a Club outing or when fishing alone.

To achieve the **Bronze Fly Master**, you can choose to catch three legal size fish species on the one day from any of the groups provided **or** catch five different fish species of a specified length (or over) from the list provided over any period of time.

Option 1 only requires one group of fish to be caught on the one day to receive the **Bronze Fly Master** award.

Option 2 requires 5 species from the list to be captured over any length of time. The fish must be legal size.

You can achieve as many **Bronze Fly Master** awards as you like but each one must contain different species and groups.

**Option 1 for the Bronze Fly Master - Catch any three legal size fish from one of the following groups on the one day:**

Group 1. ... **Mullet, Bream and Flathead**

or

Group 2. ... **Bass, Trout, Herring**

or

Groups 3. ... **Trevally, Bream, Flathead**

**Option 2 for the Bronze Fly Master – Catch any five legal size fish from the following list over any period of time. You should register each capture as it happens so the Registrar can help you keep track of your progress towards the **Bronze Fly Master** award.**

All fish must be legal size. The fish can be caught over any period of time.

Bass

Bream

Brown Trout

Carp

Catfish

Dart

Estuary Perch

Flathead



Golden Perch (Yellowbelly)  
Herring (fresh or saltwater)  
Mullet  
Murray Cod  
Rainbow Trout  
Red  
Silver Perch  
Tailor  
Trevally (All)

### **Silver Fly Master**

When you can cast well, have caught numerous fish on fly and are ready for a challenge, the **Silver Fly Master** is for you.

To achieve the **Silver Fly Master**, you can choose to catch three legal size fish species on the one day from any of the groups provided **or** catch five different fish species of a specified length (or over) from the list provided over any period of time.

Option 1 only requires one group of fish to be caught on the one day to receive the **Silver Fly Master** award.

Option 2 requires 5 species from the list to be captured over any length of time. The fish must meet or exceed the specified length.

You can achieve as many **Silver Fly Master** awards as you like but each one must contain different species and groups.

**Option 1 for the Silver Fly Master** - Catch **any three** legal size fish from one of the following groups **on the one day**:

Group 1. ...**Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout, Herring, Bass, Redfin**

or

Group 2. ... **Bass, Bream, Trevally, Tailor**

or

Group 3. ...**Whiting, Flathead, Bream, Luderick**

**Option 2 for the Silver Fly Master** – Catch any five species from the following list over any period of time. The fish must meet or exceed the specified length. You should register each capture as it happens so the Registrar can help you keep track of your progress towards the **Silver Fly Master** award.

Bass 35cm

Big Eye Trevally 30cm

Bonfish 35cm

Bonito 40cm

Bream 30cm

Carp 40cm

Coral Trout 35cm

Dart Common 25cm

Emperor 35cm  
Estuary Perch 35cm  
Flathead 50cm  
Garfish 25cm  
Giant Herring 60cm  
Golden Perch (Yellowbelly) 35cm  
Jungle Perch 25cm  
Kingfish 65cm  
Long Tom (Crocodile/Barred) 50cm  
Luderick 30cm  
Milkfish 50 cm  
Mulloway 50cm (must be released)  
Murray cod 55cm  
Other Trevally 40cm  
Queenfish 60cm  
Saratoga 45cm  
Silver Perch 30cm  
Snapper 35cm  
Sooty Grunter 30cm  
Tailor 35cm  
Tarpon 30cm  
Threadfin Salmon 60cm  
Trevally 40cm  
Trout (all) 30cm  
Trout (any) 35cm  
Tuna (any) 30cm  
Whiting (sand) 27cm

### **Gold Fly Master**

The **Gold Fly Master** is for those who are after the ultimate challenge. The species remain almost the same but the level of difficulty is more demanding.

To achieve the **Gold Fly Master** you can choose to catch three legal size fish species on the one day from any of the groups provided **or** catch five different fish species of a specified length (or over) from the list provided over any period of time.

Option 1 only requires one group of fish to be caught on the one day to receive the **Gold Fly Master** award.

Option 2 requires 5 species from the list to be captured over any length of time. The fish must meet or exceed the specified length.

You can achieve as many **Gold Fly Master** awards as you like but each one must contain different species and groups.

**Option 1 for the Gold Fly Master** - Catch **all three** legal size fish from one of the following groups **on the one day**:

Group 1. ... **Carp, Murray Cod, Yellowbelly**

**or**

Group 2. ... **Rainbow Trout, Brown Trout, Brook Trout**

**or**

Group 3. ... **Mangrove Jack, Bass, Bream,**

**or**

Group 4. ... **Salmon, Tailor, Kingfish**

**or**

Group 5. ... **Mahi Mahi, any two Tuna species.**

**or**

Group 6. .... **Queenfish, Barramundi, Golden Trevally**

**or**

Group 7. ... **Permit, Barramundi, Trevally (any)**

**Option 2 for the Gold Fly Master** – Catch any five species from the following list over any period of time. The fish must meet or exceed the specified length. You should register each capture as it happens so the Registrar can help you keep track of your progress towards the **Gold Fly Master** award.

Any legal billfish species photo in water with

Archer fish 27cm

Australian Salmon 55cm

Barra 80cm

Bass 50cm

Big Eye Trevally 35cm

Bonefish 45cm

Bonito 45cm

Bream 35cm

Carp 70cm

Coral Trout 40cm

Dart Common 30cm

Emperor 40cm

Estuary Perch 40cm

Flathead 70cm (must be released)

Fly attached

Garfish 30cm

Golden Perch (Yellowbelly) 40cm

Jungle Perch 30cm

Kingfish 70cm

Long Tom (Crocodile/Barred) 65cm

Luderick 35cm

Mackerel Barred 80cm

Mackerel Spotted 70cm

Mahi Mahi 75cm



Mangrove Jack 40cm  
Mary River Cod 55cm  
Milkfish 60cm  
Mulloway 70cm  
Murray cod 70cm  
Permit 50cm  
Queenfish 70cm  
Saratoga 50cm  
Silver Perch 35cm  
Snapper 40cm  
Sooty Grunter 40cm  
Tailor 40cm  
Tarpon 40cm  
Threadfin Salmon 75cm  
Trevally (any) 50cm  
Trigger Fish 40cm  
Trout (any) 50cm  
Tuna (any) 50cm  
Whiting Sand 30cm