

# The *Flyer*



*Official Newsletter Of The*





# *The Flyer*

## The Official Newsletter of the Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club OCTOBER 2020

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**Cover:** Club Captain David is all smiles after landing this BASS.  
"3.30am start. 5am on the brush hook cutting an entry through the bush. Didn't realise how steep it was till halfway, otherwise I may have done it different. Even the Platypus had banjos! 6.30am paddle down. Not lots of bronze battlers, but quality!"

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT



## October 2020

Welcome to the October edition of our club's newsletter. We managed to get a meeting in on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> Sept with quite a few members managing to turn out for the evening. It was mainly an evening spent dealing with administrative issues sorting out what events the club will be undertaking over the next few months. The club calendar will show the outings etc that hopefully, all being well, will take place over the next few months.

Murray was presented with a fly box for his winning way at the Mullet Mash. Unfortunately it won't hold too many of the flies he ties - so now it looks like there will be some trout expeditions with the necessary flies being tied to stock the box. A big thank you to Ray for his talk and demonstration on his travel apps that he uses on his phone in conjunction with a Go Pro camera. Very interesting use of the technology that is available out there.

Casting is still going well with a wide variety of tasks or games being used to keep us on our toes. Again, a big thank you to Allan, David and our guest instructor from the Hastings, John. As the saying goes "You're never too old to learn" or in my case "You can't teach an old dog new tricks" as I struggled to grasp the controls of the remote-control car and keep it out of reach of dead eye dick Brian! It certainly is a busy group both in a learning sense and as a social event.

Best wishes to all in these strange times.

*Doug*

# Editorial

2020 will be the year we want to forget and for many people it can't end quick enough. When you get to my stage in life you stop wishing for things to go faster. Life is about slowing down and enjoying what you have. Next year will be better but don't waste what's left of 2020. The club is up and running again and we have activities planned that you should get involved in. Read about upcoming events, check the calendar and do something positive this year.

Around this time each year the Committee starts thinking about putting a plan together for outings, activities and meetings for the coming twelve months. If you have ideas of places to go and things to do, please let us know. There is never enough time to fit everything in so we must know what is important to you and what the club should be doing.

Talking of the Committee, the efforts of those involved have been instrumental in keeping the club going and keeping us all safe during the pandemic. At our first general meeting in many months the decisions made by Committee were endorsed and welcomed by the members present. No one knows if this pandemic is on the wane or when it might end but we do know that we have a Committee that can look after our best interests whatever might happen.

This month's newsletter has a trout theme to coincide with the opening of the trout season. Unfortunately we won't be able to hold our workshop which has been an



invaluable introduction to trout fishing for many of our members. It will definitely be on the calendar for next year. We do have a weekend planned at Ebor and there will be experienced members there if you would like to learn more about catching a trout on a fly.

The trout season opens this month and the trouties among us will be keen to get up the mountain and see what the drought and fires have left us. Conditions are looking better this season so hopefully the great work of the Dutton Hatchery and the Dorrigo/Ebor Freshwater Fishing Association in stocking the streams will produce some results. Ebor can be a fantastic fishery when the conditions are right and hopefully that won't be too far away. People come from near and far to fish Ebor but maybe we should be doing more about claiming it as our home waters fishery.

*Editor*



# Club Executive 2019-20



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



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## October Meeting



Our next meeting will be on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October commencing at **7.00pm** at the Boambee East Community Centre. I have confused everyone by changing start time in the last couple of newsletters but we are going to try a **7.00pm** start for an earlier finish. This will be a fly tying night where you can bring your gear and tie flies, watch other members demonstrating or have a coffee and chat while you watch a fly tying video. There will be no business session but the usual raffle and fly tying competition will take place.

## October Outings

The Trout Workshop planned for 10<sup>th</sup> October at Ebor has been cancelled due the Hatchery still being closed.

## Trout Weekend

For those who are interested in trout fishing, we have a club outing to Ebor over the weekend of 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> October.

We will be staying at Two Styx (Platypus Cottage) from Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> to Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October. Two Styx is private accommodation with access to a dam for fishing. The trout season will be open so all the local creeks and rivers will be fishable. Two Styx is located on Point Lookout Road Ebor. <http://twostyx.com.au/>



There are still 2 places open for the weekend which is restricted to 8 people. If you are interested you must register by 8<sup>th</sup> October. Once final numbers are known an exact cost can be calculated but work on around \$60 per night including food. Accommodation costs are based on the number attending.



## Tuesday Casting Group

The Tuesday casting group will continue to meet throughout October. The next session will be Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup>. Anyone is welcome to attend. The venue is the park in Mylestom. If you are interested you can contact David on 0411723221 or Allan on 0427457725 for more information.

Start time is 10.0am sharp and we finish at 12 noon or thereabout. After casting you are welcome to join the group that goes to the café for lunch.



## Tuesday Casting Group (continued)

As well as having fun with casting games and FlyGolf, the members of the group have been working on the Fly Fishers International Fly Casting Skills Challenge. The Fly Casting Skills Challenge is a fun way to improve casting skills. It includes three challenge levels progressing from Bronze to Gold that include fly casts used in many fishing situations. The Bronze level Challenge is designed at the novice (but not beginner!) level fly fisher, while the Silver and Gold levels are aimed to advance the casting skills of intermediate and advanced level fly fishers.

David Moppett and John O'Shaughnessy have been working with the group to teach them the casts needed to complete the Bronze Level. David has been there every week since we began in June helping everyone get the best out of their casting. John has been driving up from Port Macquarie for the last few weeks adding his expertise as a Gold Level caster.

Last week 11 members were examined by John, as a Gold Level recipient, and myself as a Certified Casting Instructor and all passed the Bronze Level. Pictured below with their certificates are:

Bottom row left to right: Brian Mighell, David Small, Murray Robinson, John O'Shaughnessy (instructor)

Top row left to right: Greg Artlett, Ray Phipps, Michael Ferris, Doug Urquhart, Garry Bennett

Absent from the photo: David Lindsay, Ken Holley, Bill Anderson, David Moppett (Instructor) on the camera and Allan Ekert sitting down exhausted from writing out all the certificates!



## Club Calendar 2020

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

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



# September Outing Report

Our September outing was to our Home Waters at Mylestom. Ten members turned out for what was a pleasant day weather wise and a relatively productive day fish wise.

Most boats fished the Bellinger River from the road bridges down to the mouth. David took his canoe further up the river in search of bass.

I don't have a full report as I didn't get round to collating fish numbers from all the boats. I was a bit slack on the camera as well so there are not a lot of photos.

It would be great if we could have someone compile a report each outing listing the number of fish caught and places fished.

Finding time to take photos on a club outing is not always easy. I'm the worlds worst when it comes to remembering to get the camera out and take a few shots. If everyone took just one photo on an outing we would have a great pictorial record of the day. Photos can be posted on Facebook or sent to me for inclusion in the newsletter.



My boat partner was David Small and he did well catching bream on bread flies. Some were small but a few were above legal length. There were enough bream around that you could polaroid them and catch them blind fishing.

*Editor*





# November Outing

Looking ahead to November our outing will be on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>. This will be a Bass day on the Belling River. This will be a popular and exciting day's fishing so we are providing some information now so you can start planning and make sure you put the date on your calendar.



The main focus of the day will be canoes and kayaks on the Belling River. The river will be divided into beats with beats being drawn from a hat to make it fair for all. The beats will start at:

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

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



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

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



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

Registration is a must for this event so we can work out beats, boats and canoes. Registrations will close on the night of our November 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

This is just the basic information to get you started and make sure you add the event to your diary. More details will be forthcoming. If you need further information at this stage or want to register now so you don't miss out contact David on 0411723221 or Allan on 0427457725.





## Fly Fishing Film Tour

The Fly Fishing Film Tour is an online screening of fly fishing films that you can watch from the comfort of your lounge room. If you missed the first screening there will be an encore event starting 30<sup>th</sup> October.



Tickets are \$10 and allow you to view the films anytime during the viewing window (available for a 72-hours viewing window from 30th October, 7pm AEST to 2nd November 11:59pm AEST.)

### [BUY YOUR TICKETS HERE](#)

Hosted in Australia / New Zealand by [South Pacific Fly Rods Australia](#) in conjunction with [A1 Fly Fishing](#)

The 14th annual Fly Fishing Film Tour is hitting the road and headed to your backyard with a fresh catch of new films. Featuring exclusive shorts from our friends coast to coast, and beyond, we'll tell the stories of everything from fishing guide fairytales, to serial steelhead semantics, canyon conservation in Colorado, mountain biking for marlin, jumping jaguars and jungle fish in whitewater rapids and the audacious Aussies who explore the largest coastline in the world. From saltwater to fresh, this year's film is geared to get you stoked for another incredible season on the water.

[ADVENTURE+](#) is currently available as a web-based platform, and an app is available to download for [iOS](#) and [Android](#). If you have Apple TV or a Chromecast connected to your TV, you can easily project the event or if you're running off your laptop you can also connect via HDMI cable.

## Recreational Fishing Trust Grants Now Open

Do you have a great idea to improve recreational fishing in your local area? Minister for Agriculture Adam Marshall is encouraging keen anglers and community members to apply for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trusts for projects that improve and promote recreational fishing across the State.

Anyone can apply for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trusts, including fishing organisations, councils, universities, community groups and individuals. Grants are available for both large projects valued at more than \$10,000 in funding and small projects involving less than \$10,000.

Project areas previously funded include:

- fishing access and facilities
- enhancing recreational fisheries
- recreational fishing education and
- any other projects that benefit recreational fishing

Funding guidelines and application forms are available at our [website](#) and applications close on 30 October. Grant ideas can also be discussed by contacting DPI Fisheries on (02) 4916 3835 or by emailing [recreational.fishingtrust@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:recreational.fishingtrust@dpi.nsw.gov.au). This is your fishing licence at work.



## Fly Tying Competition

The winner of the fly tying competition for the month of September was Ray Phipps. Ray tied a straw prawn and won the most votes from the members at the meeting. Ray's prawn will go on display in the cabinet of fame



This month's theme for the competition will be a crab or clouser pattern. You will have to tie two copies of your favourite fly and bring them to the meeting. The fly that gets the most votes at the meeting will be declared the winner. Don't forget you must bring at least two flies to the meeting. One will be judged and the other one donated as a raffle prize.

For our November meeting, which will be our last for the year, you will have to tie a fly made from foam or materials from Spotlight.

## The Clouser Minnow

For our fly tying competition for October you have a choice of a crab fly or clouser minnow. I'm opting for a clouser as it is easier to tie and more versatile. Most fish will eat a clouser including trout but it was originally designed for small mouth bass - the American version.

The fly was originally tied by Bob Clouser and if you really want to know how to tie this fly I suggest you watch his video which you can access by clicking on the photo or going to his website,



<https://clousersflyshop.com/videos-1>

The Clouser Minnow is generally regarded as a simple pattern to tie, and suits my simple tying skills. There are many variations and all will catch fish. I have detailed how I tie the fly and the colours I use but feel free to experiment or try and match your hatch.



*Editor*



**Materials:**

**Hook:** The TMC 811S is popular but just about anything goes. I have used Allen SW002- Saltwater Hooks #1 ... just because I like the name!

**Thread:** Again you can use whatever you like. I have chosen White.

**Eyes:** Large painted lead or brass eyes in your favourite colour. I have chosen red dumbbell eyes from Allen Fly Fishing.

**Tail/Body:** White Bucktail. You can use synthetics but to be true to the original and to make the most lifelike flies you should use Bucktail.

**Wing:** Chartreuse Bucktail

**Flash:** Silver Krystal Flash



Before you start make sure you've got all the materials and tools you will need ... and a messy tying desk so you can't find them!

**Step 1:** Introduce the thread about a third down the hook shank. Build up a bump of thread against which you can tie your dumbbell eyes.



**Step 2:** Tie in lead eyes using figure-eight wraps both over and underneath the shank. This will keep the eyes from rolling around the shank. If you watch Bob Clouser he uses a better method. I just add a drop of glue to make sure my eyes are secure.



**Step 3:** Tie in a small clump of white bucktail roughly 2 times the length of the shank in front of the eyes.



**Step 4:** Pull the bucktail tight over the lead eyes and wrap the thread over the bucktail to approximately the point of the hook using tight wraps of thread.



**Step 5:** Turn the fly upside down (actually it is not upside down as that is the way the clouser swims through the water hook point up.) Tie in a few strands of crystal flash.



**Step 6:** Catch in a wing of chartreuse bucktail in front of the lead eyes, roughly the same length as the tail.



**Step 7:** Build a neat head, whip finish, and set with head cement or UV resin.



That's all there is to it. Having looked back at the photos I think it's time I cleaned the head of my vice as well as my tying table!

## Fishing the Clouser

If you could only have one fly in your saltwater fly box it would have to be a Clouser. The late, great flyfisher and tyer Lefty Kreh boasted of having caught over 70 species of fish while using Clouser Minnows on the waters of the world. Give me a Red Tag and a Clouser and I could fish anywhere!

Designed as a bass fly for fresh water, the Clouser really shines in the salt for our estuary species like Flathead Bream. Mangrove Jacks, Tailor, Salmon, and Trevally. Out at sea you can catch Mackerel, Kingfish and Tuna on a Clouser.

There is no right or wrong way to fish this fly but there are a few classic retrieves. The first consists of two or three short sharps strips and then a long pause while the fly sinks again. The second consists of one or two long, fast strips and then a pause. The third retrieve consists of small, continuous, slow retrieves which sees the fly moving across the bottom in a shuffling motion while stirring up puffs of mud and silt. Various combinations of strips, pauses and speeds can be used to fish the Clouser, and all will work in the appropriate situation.

You can tie Clousers in any number of colour combinations. All will work on the right day. But in the famous words of Lefty Kreh: *"If it ain't chartreuse, then it ain't no use."*



*Editor*



## Opening Day

*Opening day of the trout season in Tasmania is special. I wrote this eight years ago when I lived in Tasmania. It epitomizes what the start of a new season is all about. As we approach opening day in NSW it brought back good memories for me. I hope it might inspire you to go to Tassie one day and experience it for yourself.*

*Editor*

It's opening day. You're standing on the shore of your favourite lake. The weather is unusually mild for August and not a breath of wind stirs the mirror-like surface of the lake. Your favourite rod is assembled and a brand new fly is tied to the tippet.



Your winter has not been wasted. You have cleaned your rod and checked for any damaged guides. The reel has been pulled apart, cleaned and oiled and a new fly line has been added to the backing. The leader is new. This time it is not a competition leader but a long thin, supple nylon leader with fresh tippet. Your fly has been selected from a box full of newly tied flies. Those long winter days spent at the vice in front of the heater were not only relaxing but very productive. Mentally, you calculate your fly box must be worth hundreds of dollars and saved you a fortune. You fail to calculate the cost of the hooks, materials and your labour as you churned out one fly every twenty minutes.

Thoughts of all this preparation are soon forgotten as you see the first tell-tale swirl in the shallows at your feet. Although the sun is not yet over the horizon you can just see the fin of a sizeable trout scything its way through the water in search of worms and insects over the newly flooded ground. Now is the time to catch your first trout for the season.

As you watch the trout working its way methodically along the shore you strip some line off the reel and make ready for the cast. At 20 feet and facing away from you the moment is right. You will have to cast 25 feet with no false casts and pinpoint accuracy. No problem! After all, you have been practicing casting all winter and can land the fly in a hoop 25 feet away ten times in a row without missing.

For a fleeting moment some self doubt creeps in. You think about what happened last season when you couldn't get the fly to land anywhere near the fish. You remember all the false casting and tangled line that eventually spooked the only fish you saw for the morning. This year it is going to be different.



With a single backcast you load the rod and pull the fly line forward in a tight loop. The tiny dry fly lands lightly on the water just inches in front of the approaching trout. Your eyes are not as good as they used to be so you focus intently on the spot where your fly landed hoping to see some sign of movement. After what seems an eternity there is a disturbance as the trout sucks down your fly. Pause, lift and the fish is on.



As the fish races for the safety of deep water you have time to reflect on what has just happened. A good plan has come together. Those hours of practice have resulted in a single cast performed perfectly. Every piece of your equipment has been fine tuned to provide the perfect presentation. And the trout has responded. All you need to do now is land it.



The season hasn't really opened yet but I am sure you often dream as I do of that first trout of the year. Whether it be in lake or river there is something special about catching that first fish and doing so as the result of a good plan coming together. If your plan involved time spent over the winter practicing your casting, learning new skills and preparation, it makes it even more rewarding. I hope your opening morning goes to plan.

*Allan Ekert*



## NSW Trout season opens

The official opening of the State's trout season for rivers and streams is set for Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October. Make sure you have your license and a guide book for all the rules and regulations.

## Beginners Corner

I am hoping if I write so much about trout in this month's newsletter some of our members and going to rise up in revolt and send in a deluge of saltwater fly fishing articles for the next edition. I live in hope!

With the trout season opening I'm often asked about selecting an outfit to go trout fishing. It's a question that is impossible to answer as there are so many variables and opinions. I'm going to stick my neck out and make some suggestions for an outfit for beginners for trout fishing.

Some people may already have a 6wt rod and reel that they have been using in the salt and as an outfit to learn with. A 6wt is versatile and can be used for trevally and trout. But when you are ready to be serious about catching a trout in a small mountain stream you may want to look for a new outfit.

I am going to suggest that your starting point shouldn't be the rod or reel but rather the flies and where you are going to fish them. For the purpose of this article, and because I am based in Coffs Harbour in northern NSW, I am going to focus on fishing the small streams around Ebor.

In this area I mainly fish small dry flies, small nymphs and, if I am desperate, streamers. I could use a 6wt but something smaller will be more comfortable capable of delivering the flies I want to use.



To cast these flies on a small mountain stream you will probably find a 4 or 5 weight rod best suited to the job. I know if you ask some experienced trouties they will talk of 2 and 3 weights but they can handle the wind and probably have a few different rods they can choose from to go trout fishing. If I had to pick just one rod for Ebor I would go with the 4 weight.

Length is a contentious issue. Some will advise to get a short rod to help you in confined spaces. My preference is for a rod between 8 and 9ft as I believe the casting and mending advantages this length brings far outweigh any advantage that a short rod might have. I've watched many beginners on a trout stream catch the grass on their back cast. A longer rod keeps the line higher.



Fly rods come in fibreglass, graphite and bamboo. To begin with, start with graphite in 4 pieces for easy transportation. Fast action rods are all the go these days especially in the salt. For a trout rod I would recommend a beginner look for something a little slower with more flex. Apart from weight, length and action I am not going to make any suggestions regarding brands. Buy the best you can afford. It is very difficult to find a "bad" rod these days.

The reel is probably the easiest choice (until you become a trout junkie). A large arbor (that means a larger diameter spool) helps but it is not essential. You don't need much backing or a drag so the reel can be relatively small and light. I suggest you spend about a quarter of what you spend on the rod on the reel.



Fly line choice is getting out of hand these days. The latest and greatest lines retail around \$200. Look for a mid priced weight forward or double taper line to match the rod. The advantage of a double taper is you can reverse the line and use the other end when you damage it on the blackberry bushes. Save your bright coloured lines for casting practice and get something more subtle. Loops are a great addition to make changing leaders easier.

For a beginner's line I would suggest you set a budget of around \$50 to \$60. Once you go above that there are too many choices around brands which promote stretch, slickness and taper that you don't need to think about yet.



After you have a rod, reel and line you might think you are all set up. Sorry, there is more to come. You will need a tapered leader and some tippet. If you buy a tapered leader with a loop it makes the connection easier. For trout just go with a 9ft leader ending in about 5lb. Add a short length of 4lb tippet to tie the fly to and now you are setup. I could spend another couple of columns writing about monofilament vs fluorocarbon or the different qualities of tippet materials but best just stick to a budget of around \$15 for leaders and \$10 for tippet. You can always use your 4lb saltwater fishing line if you want to save money. But remember trout have excellent vision and the finer the leader and tippet the more difficult it is going to be for the trout to see your line.

With rod, reel, line, leaders and tippet all you need to add it your flies and you are ready to go fishing. Well not quite. You are going to need something to cut the tippet (see last month), more tippet, more flies, something to store you gear, a net, waders, wading boots, polaroid glasses ... and the list goes on. Fly fishing is a gear junkie's delight. You can make it as complicated as your budget will stretch. But as a beginner you can get setup and go fishing for trout for around \$200. You could look for one of the all inclusive kits that most manufacturers make but I suggest you are better off choosing the individual items. That way you can buy what you need and use whatever you might already have.

I suggest that if you are in the market for a beginners outfit to fish for trout you take a look at what you can get locally. Looking at the websites of [A1FlyFishing](#) and [Mo Tackle](#) they both stock fly fishing gear for trout. We know you will get expert advice from fellow club member, Garry at A1 and Peter at Mo Tackle can assist you with whatever you need. There is also plenty of experience among the trout fishers in our club who will be only too willing to give their opinion and contradict what I have written. That's good because there are no absolutes when it comes to fly fishing. I don't have all the answers or the correct ones, but I hope this has helped you to think about selecting your outfit to go fly fishing for trout.



*Editor*



## The Trout Season

The original banner for **Casting Around** used to read "The random ravings of a certified casting instructor." That got lost in the production of the new banner but it still applies to what I write and how you should read it. This is a column by a mad keen fly fisher on everything to do with fly fishing and casting. Each month as I fly fish, watch people fly fishing and teach people fly casting; something grabs my attention and becomes the subject of my random ravings. This month, the talk of the town, is the opening of the trout season.

Southern readers will be wondering why I am talking about the opening of the trout season in October. In Tasmania the season opens in August and in Victoria you can fish for trout in September (if you are not in lockdown). Meanwhile, here in Northern NSW we have to wait until October before we can venture into the mountains in pursuit of trout. Mind you, fishing at Ebor in October will be a lot more pleasant than some of the opening days I can remember in the snow in Tasmania.



Opening day in Tasmania is an outing not to be missed. After a long, cold winter trying to keep warm, tying flies and cabin fever; the official start of the trout season is eagerly anticipated by fly fishers. Still in the last month of winter, the weather is often cold and miserable and the fish not always co-operative. But that's not enough to dent the enthusiasm of a true trout fly fisher. Armed with boxes full of newly tied flies, maybe a new rod and line, and layers of warm clothing, you just have to get out on opening day...then it's time to put the gear away until the weather warms up in November!

You might think that having opening day in October in NSW is the perfect time to start the trout season. The weather is warm, the insects are hatching and the trout are out and about. But with school holidays in full swing, everyone wants to get to the mountains and catch a trout. I no longer fish opening day as I did in Tasmania. Instead of looking forward to the start of the season, I look forward to my first chance to wander a small Ebor stream without the crowds. The months before the Christmas are my favourite time. If the fish have survived the droughts, fires and the catch and kill brigade, the New England Tablelands can be a fantastic fishery.



In recent year I have become much more of a saltwater fly fisher. The new ***Casting Around*** banner reflects this. Now I chase trevally more than trout. I still regard myself as a "troutie" but I have had to learn about fly fishing in the salt for a whole range of new species. It has been a long but enjoyable learning curve and has allowed me to fly fish when I haven't been able to travel to chase trout. These days I don't have to wait for opening day as there are always places to fish close to home and fish to chase.

The transition from trout to trevally on fly is difficult but so too is the shift the other way. With a foot in both camps, I can see why your average saltwater fly fisher has a steep learning curve if they want to succeed on a trout stream. This may not be true for experienced saltwater fly fishers, but for someone just getting started, the move to trout can be daunting. So if you have only caught flathead on fly and you want to catch your first trout here are a few important pointers to help you succeed. Even if you have a few trout under your belt you may find this advice helpful. I know I need reminding at the beginning of each trout season and make an effort to practice these casts and skills.

As this is a column about casting, I won't dwell on rod selection, flies, tactics and the like but concentrate on aspects of casting that the saltwater fly fisher has to learn if they want to succeed on a trout stream. You won't find much about these in your saltwater fly fishing books but you had better learn about them if you want to become a "troutie."

To successfully catch trout on fly you have to make casts that are not used by most saltwater fly fishers. I can think of a number of casts I would use on an Ebor stream that I rarely use in the salt. Trout are particular about the movement of their food and want the fly to come to them naturally without dragging. Presenting the fly with a drag free drift requires the use of slack line casts where there are enough twists and turns in the leader to allow the fly to move naturally before the current starts to take hold. Casts such as the wiggle, bucket or puddle cast will enable you to do this. Look them up and learn them. Every trout fly fisher needs these casts.

The roll cast is one of the most useful casts you can ever learn. There are even uses for it in the saltwater world. But the roll cast comes into its own on a trout stream. Being able to make a cast without room for a backcast is a must in the confined quarters of a trout stream. Every trout fly fisher should have this cast in their repertoire.



Have you ever played FlyGolf? Our casting group has been using this game to practice their casting skills. The long "drives" from the tee favoured the saltwater casters but when it came to the short "putts" the trouties came into their own. It was surprising how many didn't know about the bow and arrow cast and how to use it. Casting on a trout stream demands precision at short range and the bow and arrow casts fits this bill. If you want to be successful on a trout stream you must be able to make a bow and arrow cast.





When I setup a course for our FlyGolf games I always try to place an obstacle like bushes or posts between the tee and the green. Trout streams are not always open and straight. To get your fly to a trout you need to be able to curve a cast around obstacles. It's not difficult to learn curve casts but you need to practice. You may not use curve casts very often in the salt but you will on a trout stream - and playing FlyGolf.

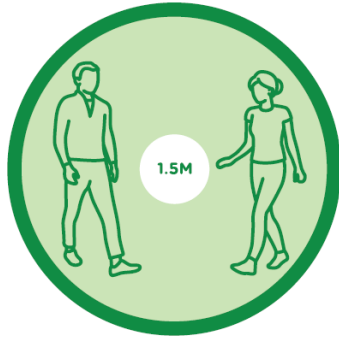
A flathead loves just about any fly dragged in front of it. You can catch a trout dragging a fly in front of it too. My first trout on fly was caught dragging a Mrs Simpson in the Wyangala River. I was going to use the correct terminology of stripping a Mrs Simpson but that sounded even worse. If you are a saltie and don't know, a Mrs Simpson is a wet fly designed to be pulled through the water like a streamer or lure. You can catch trout with streamers in much the same way you catch flathead in the salt. Stripping streamers is a legitimate way to catch a trout on fly and for the saltwater fly fisher this is the easiest way to get your first trout.

Nowadays, I prefer to catch my trout by watching it eat an insect imitation off the surface or a nymph drifting in the current. To do this the fly must be presented with natural movement and no drag. I've already talked about the casts that help you do that but you also have to learn to mend the line. This involves moving the line in the air or on the water after the cast has been made. These are skills not often needed in the saltwater world. Being able to mend line, especially reach mends, is essential to success on a trout stream. If you are coming from a background where you have only caught flathead on fly these are all new skills you will need to learn. If you are already a "troutie" make sure you can execute them well.

Writing this has got me excited about opening day of the trout season again and I am looking forward to my first trip up the mountains. I still have time to practice my casts and mends so I can make the most of my time on the streams. Putting it in writing has made me realize how tough it must be for a saltwater fly fisher to learn if they want to succeed on a trout stream. Whether you are transitioning from trevally to trout or a seasoned trout fisher, make sure you practice these casts and mends so that you can enjoy the opening of the trout season.

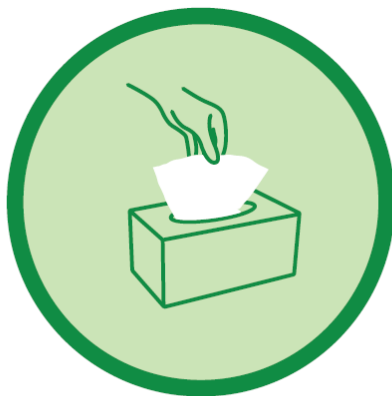
## Covid-19 Safety Policy

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



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

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



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

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

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



Wash your hands regularly  
with soap and water.

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

**BE COVIDSAFE**



## Our Supporters

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



## Membership Fees

Membership Fees are as follows:

Adult membership \$30

Concession membership \$20

Junior membership free

eMembership free

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

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

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

<sup>3</sup> Junior membership is available to anyone attending primary or secondary school.

Fees can be paid:

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

2. **By cheque** posted to:

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

3. **Direct deposit:**

BSB 062-678

Account Number: 10333424

Name: Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club Inc

Reference: Your surname

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

### Club Contact Address

Our official email address is [ccffc@tpg.com.au](mailto:ccffc@tpg.com.au).

Our mailing address is:

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

### Electronic Contacts

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

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

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

Our Facebook Page can be found at:

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

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





# 2020 Calendar

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



# Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club Inc.

## Membership Form

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

**(print full name)**

of.....

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

Email address.....

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

Emergency Contact:..... phone: .....

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

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

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

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<sup>3</sup> Junior membership is available to anyone attending primary or secondary school.

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

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

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

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

Fees can be paid:

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

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NSW 2452

3. **Direct deposit**

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

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