

# The *Flyer*



*Official Newsletter Of The*



# *The Flyer*

## **The Official Newsletter of the Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club OCTOBER 2021**

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**Front Cover:** Walter Krainik was our guest speaker at last month's meeting and he had everyone interested in his techniques for tying a Dahlberg Diver.

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT



## October 2021

This Covid thing is far from over and it is upsetting many of our plans. We have had to reschedule outings and juggle our calendar to try and fit everything in. The opening up of the State for the vaccinated is also going to cause us some concern as we work out how we can operate safely and within the restrictions placed on us by the Government and the venues we use. In the short term we can get around these problems with a change to the monthly meeting but we have some big decisions to make for the future.

Fortunately, Dunmore has no restrictions so we have a full complement of members attending this popular outing this month. The Keepit trip is almost full so anyone wanting to go should get in soon.

The Mullet Mash and Gathering @ Gumma have been rescheduled but we are restricted to 20 people at these events so again get in quick if you want to register.

Thanks to Walter for his fly tying demonstration at the last meeting. We are lucky to have Walter in the Club to share his knowledge and skill.

We have another major raffle to be drawn at the November meeting. Thanks to Garry from A1 FlyFishing for continuing to support the club with special deals on the purchase of prizes.

Most of you will know Kevin Cosgrove who was the first president of the Club. Kevin hasn't been involved lately as he has some major health issues. I am sure we all wish him well and hope to see him again soon.

It's only a few short months to Christmas so make sure you check the Club calendar and fit in as many activities as you can before the silly season arrives.

Best wishes

*Doug*

# From the Editor

October is the month when the issue of Covid vaccination will come to a head. Once the State reaches 70% double dose, some restrictions will be lifted. However, many of these new freedoms will come at the expense of having to prove that you have been vaccinated. Our fishing club does not have a policy yet but already we are having to consider where we stand on a couple of issues.

Having meetings at the North Beach Club means we are bound by their rules. From October 11<sup>th</sup> they will require proof of double vaccination before you can enter. This means people like me who are waiting on their second dose will not be able to attend the October meeting. We will have the meeting outdoors this month but long term we will need to consider if unvaccinated members will be able to attend meeting.

The second issue relates to the safety of members attending outings, especially those which require overnight stays. Those attending need to be confident the people they are staying with will not pose a threat to their health. This means anyone wanting to go on a club trip, such as Dunmore, needs to know the vaccination status of those going. We don't have a policy on disclosure but it is something we will have to consider. In the case of trips like Lake Keepit we will be governed by the rules of the accommodation and they will almost certainly require proof of vaccination.

As we have seen on the streets of our cities and in social media this is a divisive issue. Until such time as we develop a policy, I am sure goodwill and common sense will prevail within the club and everyone will be able to safely participate in activities.



On a more positive note, October is the start of the Trout season and the beginning of some better fishing in our estuaries and Bass rivers. With restrictions being lifted now is the time to get out there fly fishing again. In the short term, we are going to have these places to ourselves before international, interstate and regional borders are opened.

You will note in Committee Business that the Club has moved its account to the BCU Bank. From now on all deposits will have to go to the new account. You will find the details in this newsletter but you will have to remember to disregard old membership forms and newsletters and update any billing details you might have set up in your bank for Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club.

Another change this month is you will have the choice of reading the newsletter as a PDF file or a flipbook. This is an experiment to see if we can increase our readership by moving with the times. You may also have noticed emails are now more mobile friendly. Any feedback would be welcome as we try to find ways to get more members to read about what's happening at the Club and get involved.

*Editor*

# Club Executive 2021-22



President  
Doug Urquhart  
0458696138



Vice President  
Greg Artlett  
0427689400



Secretary / Public Officer  
Newsletter Editor  
Allan Ekert 0427457725



Treasurer  
David Small  
0423112902



Assistant Secretary  
Ray Phipps  
0412525338



Club Captain  
David Moppett  
0411723221



Committee  
Kevin Cosgrove  
0438554843



Committee  
Michael Ferris  
0428636858



Committee  
Murray Robinson  
0425277026



Committee  
Tom Trefz  
0423676624



Committee  
Brian Bevan  
0409469562



Committee  
Walter Krainik  
0439187380

## October Meeting

Our next meeting on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October will be a little different. Because the North Beach Bowling Club at Mylestom will have in place its "No Double Jab - No Entry" policy, we will be meeting outdoors at the nearby football field where we conduct our casting sessions. Starting time will be **5.00pm**. A free sausage sizzle will be available if you want something to eat.

The night will be all about casting. Bring a rod and practice, participate in some casting games or get some help from the casting instructors present. With daylight saving in place, last light is 7.30pm so you will have a couple of hours to tune up your casting.

The free sausage sizzle will start from 5.30pm or you can cook your own until we pack up. Tea, coffee and hot water will be available.

The usual raffle will be held with minor prizes being drawn on the night. Somehow, last month's major prize of the reel case donated by Bill Anderson, is still in the Club box. All of us with poor memories can't recall what happened. If you think you won it you had better let us know or it will be redrawn at the October meeting. The next major prize will be drawn at our November meeting and will be a carry-lite waistpack from South Pacific.



As well as bringing your fly rod (there will be some Club rods available) make sure you bring a camp chair and some insect repellent. Come along for a cast, a chat and a good night out.

In the event of wet weather the meeting will be cancelled.



### North Beach Recreation & Bowling Club

**COVID-19 IMMUNISATION UPDATE**  
**NO DOUBLE JAB—NO ENTRY**



The club has been advised that the predicted date for changes to club entry rules will be Monday 11th October 2021.

**How will this effect our members and visitors?**

From the above date only persons who have been double vaccinated against COVID-19 will be permitted to enter the club. Persons who have been double vaccinated must provide evidence of their vaccination status upon entering the club.

Please understand this is not a club decision but a requirement by the NSW Government if we wish to continue to trade from that date.

**How can you help?**

- Be understanding to our staff who must enforce these restrictions
- If you have been double vaccinated make sure you have proof of your vaccination status
- If you haven't been double vaccinated and you wish to visit the club from the 11th, make every effort to get double vaccinated before the date.

It is expected that the above restrictions will be in place for several weeks or until NSW reaches the next double vaccination milestone of 80%.

## October Outings

**The Mullet Mash** will now be held on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October starting from the Mylestom boat ramp at 7.30 am and finishing at 12 noon. Lunch will be a sausage sizzle on the football field at 12.30pm with presentations at 1pm.

This will be a friendly competition with all fish to be photographed on a brag mat or similar measuring device. Random prizes will be awarded - not necessarily for the biggest or most fish. The judge's decision will be final.

Cost will be \$5 per person which includes; 4 suitable flies, sausage sandwiches for lunch and bread for burley.

Members are asked to team up in boats to take advantage of being able to fish anywhere in the Bellinger/Kalang Rivers. If you don't have a boat and can't find a ride let us know and we may be able to arrange something. Those without boats will be ferried to various land based spots. Inexperienced fly fishers will be helped by members sharing their knowledge and skills.



If you need help with gear the club has suitable outfits available to lend - first in best dressed. Contact the secretary to book a club rod. Long leaders /tippet 4lb on the lightest rod you own is the weapon of choice

You MUST register for this event by Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October.

Contact: David on 0411723221 or Allan on 0427457725

**Dunmore Trout Waters 2.0** has been booked for the weekend of 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> October. Registrations have closed but if you would like to be placed on the waiting list you can ring Doug on 0458696138 or Allan on 0427457725.



## Tuesday Casting Group

The Tuesday Casting Group will continue through October (Covid and weather permitting). Start time is 10.00am sharp.



Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> Oct. Casting at Mylestom  
 Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> Oct. Fishing at Valla Beach  
 Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> Oct. Casting at Mylestom  
 Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> Oct. Casting at Mylestom and fly tying after lunch.

Call David on 0411723221 or Allan on 0427457725 for more details.

## Tuesday Fly Tying

Following casting on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> October there will be a trial of a fly tying session to be held at the Mylestom Hall. The plan is to start at 1.30pm and tie flies for a couple of hours. You can do your own thing or participate in a lesson on how to tie specific flies. This month we will be tying flies for carp at Lake Keepit.

Tuesday casters will already be in town and may like to bring lunch or go the café before the fly tying session starts. Fly tying vices and materials will be available. Those interested in fly tying, but not necessarily casting, can come down in the afternoon to join in.

## Committee Business

At our last Committee meeting the following matters were discussed. If you would like a copy of the full minutes please get in contact.

The Club Account is now with the BCU Bank.



BSB: 533 000

Account Number: 02051766

Tuesday Casting to resume on 14<sup>th</sup> September. One day each month to be a fishing morning.

Mullet Mash will be rescheduled to the 16<sup>th</sup> October. The location will be Mylestom. Bread for burley will be provided and there will be a BBQ lunch afterwards.

The new dates for the Gathering @ Gumma will be the 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> November.

Due to the rather full calendar it was agreed not to hold a separate Bass day but rather combine it with the Gathering @ Gumma.

It was suggested that just prior to Christmas a Tuesday casting day be held in the afternoon rather than the morning and continued with a BBQ afterwards. This would make it possible for working members to attend.

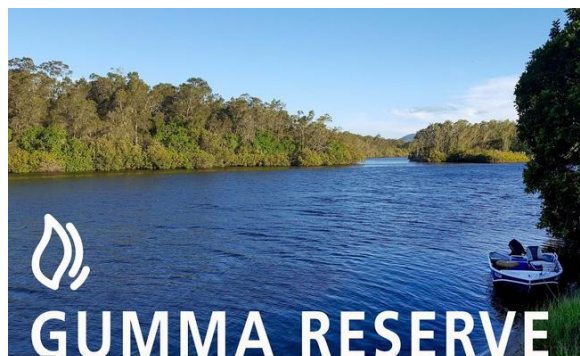
The Keepit Carp Caper will go ahead from 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> December. If there is sufficient interest a second booking will be made to accommodate an additional group.

A Fly Fishing Super Clinic has been proposed by David Moppett for the weekend of 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> November.

Suggestions were made to revamp the newsletter and email messages to take into account viewing on mobile devices and attract more interest.

## Upcoming Events

The **Gathering @ Gumma** is planned for Thursday to Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November. Enjoy a day, weekend, or four days of fly fishing, casting and fly tying. Fish, cast, tie, learn and socialize with fellow club members.



The club will provide facilities for morning and afternoon tea each day and a sausage sizzle on Saturday night.

Bring your own food and camping equipment if you intend to stay. Bring your boat, canoe, kayak, SUP or fish from the bank. Come for the day or stay for a while. There is no cost for day visits. Camp sites are \$14 single or \$18 double per night. There are no bookings so get there early if you want to pick your camp site. Club members will be on site from Thursday morning.

You MUST register for this event. Contact Brian (Pip) on 0490469562 or Allan on 0427457725

See the poster on page 12 for more details.





## More Upcoming Events

We will be conducting a **Fly Fishing Super Clinic** over the weekend of Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2021. This two day course will be under the leadership of David Moppett and other instructors. It will be held at the football field at Mylestom from 9.00am till 3.30pm each day.

Learn to hunt visually and understand fish habitats. Develop your personal fly fishing skills to be the best they can be. Embrace the nuance of timing and efficient casting to achieve the best possible outcome in your fly fishing journey. Nothing is more satisfying than enticing a fish to successfully inhale your fly, especially when you've been the deciding factor in bringing it all together.

The cost will be \$50 for the two day course ... including morning and afternoon tea with lunch each day. From beginners to advanced, everyone will go away better casters and fly fishers.

Registrations are now open. To secure your place contact David on 0411723221



**Lake Keepit Carp Caper** is planned for Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December. There are already 10 names on the list. We can take more if we book a bigger cabin. If you are interested in going you will need to register and pay a \$50 deposit by our next meeting. The total cost for 4 nights' accommodation and all food will be around \$250 each. You can come for a shorter period if you like and the cost will be adjusted accordingly.



If you would like more information on the Keepit trip look back through the newsletters or ask a member who has been before. It is a great opportunity to catch a large carp on fly involving all the stalking, sight fishing, hooking and playing skills you need to learn as a fly fisher.

A boat is needed to move to different fishing spots around the lake but all fishing is done from the bank. We usually have enough boats for everyone who goes so no one is left to find their own way around.

The club has spare rods and flies will be available for those who need them. This is one of our most popular trips where everyone has their best chance to catch a fish on fly.

To register you can put your name on the list at a club activity or at the next meeting on October 18<sup>th</sup>. Registrations close on 18<sup>th</sup> October. You will need to provide a deposit of \$50 to secure your place. If the trip is cancelled because of Covid restrictions all deposits will be refunded.

### Club Calendar 2021

Here is the draft club calendar for 2021. It is provided to give you an overview of what might happen and an opportunity to plan ahead. Check the monthly newsletter or website for the latest changes.

Month	Outings	Activities
JANUARY	No outing this month <b>Casting</b> at Mylestom at 5.30pm on Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> .	<b>Club Meeting</b> at Mylestom Monday 18 <sup>th</sup>
FEBRUARY	<b>Home Waters</b> Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> Family fishing day with a focus on kids fishing for bream, flathead and mullet held at Mylestom. <b>Tasmania</b> 28 <sup>th</sup> Jan - 8 <sup>th</sup> Feb	<b>Club Meeting</b> Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> <b>Committee Meeting</b>
MARCH	<b>Casting Day</b> Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> <b>Tuesday Casting Group</b> resumes Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> <b>Blue Water Outing</b> Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Club Meeting</b> Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> North Beach Bowling Club Mylestom
APRIL	<b>Keepit Carp Trip</b> Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> - Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> <b>Home Waters</b> Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Club Meeting</b> Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> North Beach Bowling Club
MAY	<b>Fly Fishing for Trout Workshop</b> Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Club Meeting</b> Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> <b>Committee Meeting</b> Major Raffle Drawn
JUNE	<b>Lake St Clair</b> Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> - Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Club Meeting</b> Monday 21 <sup>st</sup>
JULY	<b>Casting Day</b> Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> Moonee Reserve <b>Flats Fishing Workshop</b> Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> Woolgoolga <b>Dunmore Waters</b> Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> to Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> August	<b>Annual General Meeting</b> Monday 19 <sup>th</sup>
AUGUST	<b>Swansea Salmon Classic</b> Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> to Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> <b>Mullet Mash</b> Urunga Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Club Meeting</b> Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> <b>Committee Meeting</b> Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Major Raffle Drawn
SEPTEMBER	<b>Gathering @ Gumma</b> Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> Gumma Reserve. Fishing, Casting, Fly Tying on the Nambucca and Warrell Creek <b>POSTPONED</b>	<b>Club Meeting</b> Monday 20 <sup>th</sup>
OCTOBER	<b>Mullet Mash</b> Mylestom Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> <b>Dunmore Trout Waters</b> Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> to Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Club Meeting</b> Monday 18 <sup>th</sup>
NOVEMBER	<b>Gathering @ Gumma</b> Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> Gumma Reserve. Fishing, Casting, Fly Tying on the Nambucca and Warrell Creek	<b>Club Meeting</b> Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> <b>Committee Meeting</b> Major Raffle Drawn
DECEMBER	<b>Keepit Carp Caper</b> Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> to Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> Casting Group and Club Christmas get together Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No Club Meeting</b>



# Mullet Mash 2021

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Mullet Mash  
Held on our home waters on the Bellinger River at Mylestom.

## Saturday October 16<sup>th</sup>



Start from the Mylestom boat ramp at 7.30 am.  
Finishing at 12 noon. Lunch 12.30pm. Presentation 1pm.

This will be a friendly competition with all fish to be photographed on a brag mat or similar measuring device. Absolutely no fish, alive or deceased, will be eligible. Random prizes will be awarded – not necessarily for the biggest or most fish. The judge's decision will be final - no exceptions. All entries are as individuals - no teams.

**Cost \$5 per person, this includes:**  
4 suitable flies, sausage sandwiches for lunch, bread for burley.

Catching Mullet on fly is highly addictive and fantastic sight casting fun. It's not unusual for large numbers to be caught with a possible bi catch of Bream and other species.

Members are asked to team up in boats to take advantage of being able to fish anywhere in the Bellinger/Kalang Rivers. If you don't have a boat and can't find a ride let us know and we may be able to arrange something. Those without boats will be ferried to various land based spots. Inexperienced fly fishers will be helped by members sharing their knowledge and skills.

If you need help with gear the club has suitable outfits available to lend - first in best dressed. Contact the secretary to book a club rod. Long leaders /tippet 4lb on the lightest rod you own is the way to go.

Nobody will be left on their own to flounder. At the briefing at 7.15am bread for burley will be distributed and information on where to fish will be supplied. Anyone who isn't 100% confident in the process will be looked after and teamed with a member who is.

If it's not the best fun fly fishing day you've had in a long time we will refund your entry fee.

**You MUST register for this event by Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October.**

**Contact: David on 0411723221 or Allan on 0427457725**



# Gathering @ Gumma

**11<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

Calling all club members to gather at Gumma Reserve via Macksville from Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November. Enjoy a day, weekend, or four days of fly fishing, casting and fly tying. Fish, cast, tie, learn and socialize with fellow club members.



Fish Warrell Creek and the Nambucca River from the bank, by boat or by kayak.  
Target species on fly such as bream, flathead, whiting, bass and trevally.

The club will provide facilities for morning and afternoon tea each day and a sausage sizzle on Saturday night.

Bring your own food and camping equipment if you intend to stay. Come for the day or stay for a while. The reserve has toilets, cold showers, a boat ramp and picnic tables. There is no cost for day visits. Camp sites are \$14 single or \$18 double per night. There are no bookings so get there early if you want to pick your camp site. Club members will be on site from Thursday morning. For details of the Reserve see:

[https://www.nambucca.nsw.gov.au/cp\\_themes/default/page.asp?p=DOC-BEO-78-63-34](https://www.nambucca.nsw.gov.au/cp_themes/default/page.asp?p=DOC-BEO-78-63-34)

As well as opportunities to fish some of the best waterways in our district, casting instructors will be attending and willing to help beginners and those wanting to learn more. Local members will be sharing their knowledge and ensuring everyone knows the best places to fish.

Come and join in this club outing to catch fish on fly, and share, learn and have fun. Bring your boat, canoe, kayak, SUP or fish from the bank.

**You MUST register for this event.**

**contact: Brian (Pip) on 0490469562 or Allan on 0427457725**

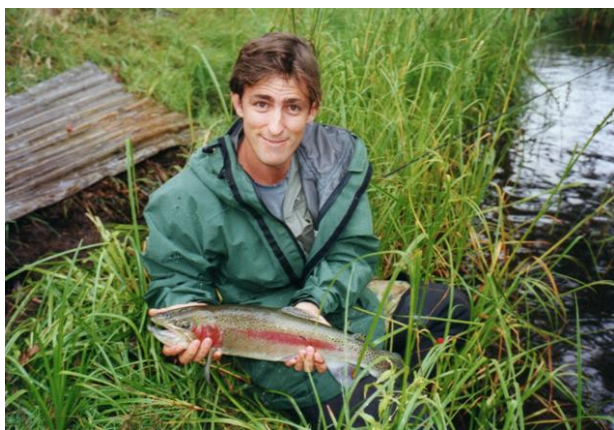
# Trout Season

*by the Editor*

The trout season opens here in the north of NSW on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. This is after the rest of the country due to the later spawning time for trout in the warmer climate.

I once used to look forward to opening day and would always make a trip to Ebor to start the season. Since returning from Tasmania, overcrowding and less than ideal conditions have dampened my enthusiasm.

Looking back through some old photos reminded me of how good the fishing was then and how time has taken its toll on all of us. Maybe you can recognize some of these people and places.



If you are heading to Ebor for opening day this year, here are a few things for you to think about.

First you should be aware that the trout streams of the New England Tableland are put and take fisheries. That is, the fish you take have been put in the streams for you to catch. Some limited natural spawning takes place but it is not enough to keep the streams stocked. Trout numbers are maintained by fish from the Dutton Trout Hatchery at Ebor. Thanks to the efforts of the Hatchery Staff and members of the various Clubs that volunteer their time to distribute the fish, thousands of brown and rainbow trout fry are released every year.

In the Ebor area, the Dorrigo/Ebor Freshwater Fishing Association takes on the mammoth task of putting out fish. About 70,000 brown and rainbow fry are stocked in over 20 streams. If you want to help, get in contact with the Secretary, Phillip Clarke ([plclarke1@hotmail.com](mailto:plclarke1@hotmail.com)) and volunteer your time. Not only do you contribute to the future of the fishery you get to find out more about the local streams and the access that is available.



Saying that Ebor is a put and take fishery doesn't mean that you can take everything you catch. There are regulations you need to abide by and keeping only what you need for a feed will ensure the future of the fishery.

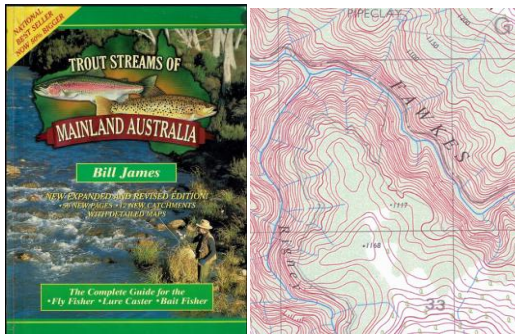
**Legal length:** 25cm in all waters except Trout spawning streams, where the legal length is 50cm.

**Bag limit:** (1 or more species of Trout or Salmon) 2 in artificial fly and lure streams and dams, 1 in Trout spawning streams, 5 in all other waters.

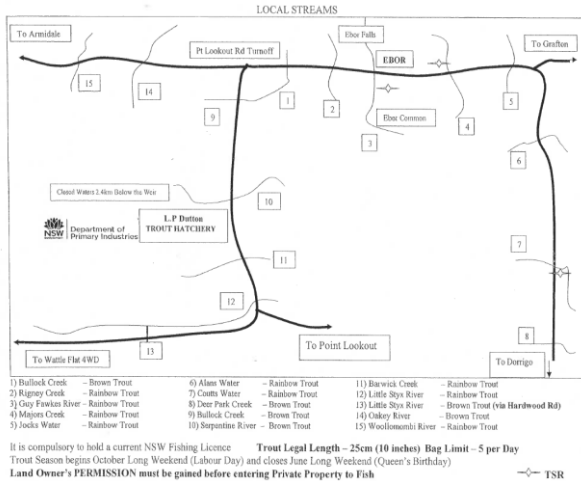
**Possession limit:** (1 or more species of Trout or Salmon) 4 in artificial fly and lure streams and dams, 2 in Trout spawning streams and 10 in all other waters.

The streams around Ebor are all classified general trout waters. There are no trout spawning or artificial fly and lure streams.

If you want to know which streams to fish around Ebor there are plenty of ways you can find out. When I started fishing the area I was lucky to meet local people who were willing to share their knowledge. By joining the Dorrigo/Ebor Club I found out about access spots and met local farmers. In the days before the Internet I poured over topographic maps and read books.



The staff at the Dutton Trout Hatchery were always helpful in pointing me in the direction of places to fish. Their simple mud map which shows most of the streams that are worth fishing is still available from the hatchery.



Today, the task of finding information is so much easier. NSW DPI has the FishSmart App which contains all the rules and regulation and a host of other details. You can download it from here:

[FishSmart](#)

NSW DPI also has an online database of access points to all trout waters.

[NSW Angler Access](#)

Travelling Stock Reserves provide public access to a number of streams. You can find local TSRs here:

[Travelling Stock Reserves \(TSRs\)](#)

If you are looking for topographic maps you can find them online here:

[Six Maps](#)

If you want a good map App there are plenty to choose from but I use:

[Avenza Maps](#)

And when you want to go exploring without the driving and walking you can use:

[Google Earth](#)

One of the best ways to learn about fly fishing the Ebor area is to join a club. There's a lot of local knowledge and experience in the Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club. Don't expect to be given a list of the best places to fish or the phone numbers of local farmers. What you will get is all the above advice on finding your own places and if you go about it the right way you might meet someone who is willing to share their local knowledge.

I might not get to Ebor on opening weekend but I will be fishing these highland streams just as soon as the crowds subside and the weather is favourable. Even if I don't catch a fish, I enjoy the peace and quiet and the beauty of the landscape. A trout on a fly is an added bonus.

I hope you get to fish Ebor this season and experience the excitement of catching a trout on fly. Remember to only take what you need for a feed and if you are going to release fish keep them wet. Don't forget you will need a [NSW Fishing Licence](#) and make sure you have a good snake bite kit!

# Fly Tying

*by the Editor*

You can find just about everything you want to know about fly tying on the Internet but when it comes to learning how to tie deer hair flies you can't beat first-hand instruction from a person who has years of experience. We are fortunate to have Walter Krainik in our Club and his demonstration at our last meeting on how he ties Dahlberg Divers was eagerly watched by members. Walter has fished for Bass for many years in different parts of the State and has a preference for deer hair flies. He makes tying a complicated fly look simple.



This is not going to be a step by step guide to tying a Dahlberg diver. You can find plenty of examples on the Internet. What follows are some random thoughts on my part as I sat and watched Walter weave his magic.

The first thing I noticed was the variety of colours, shapes and patterns in Walter's fly box. He has mice, frogs and lizards in just about any colour you can think of. The one thing that makes them all work is the deer hair.



Walter sourced most of his deer hair from the US during a visit there a few years ago. To tie Dahlbergs you need deer belly hair. Deer belly hair comes from a whitetail deer and is a bright white color in its natural state. This white hair takes dyes extremely well, which produces strong, deep colours.

Walter's choice of hooks is a Mustad 3366 which is pretty hard to find these days. An easier hook to find is the Gamakatsu B10S and does the job just as well.





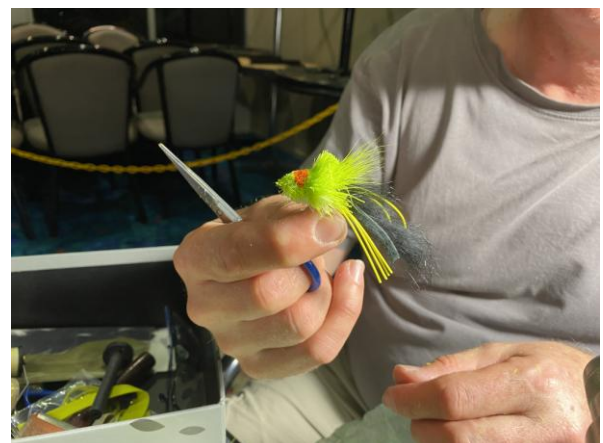
Working with deer hair you need a strong thread. Walter used Kevlar but you could also use G.S.P.



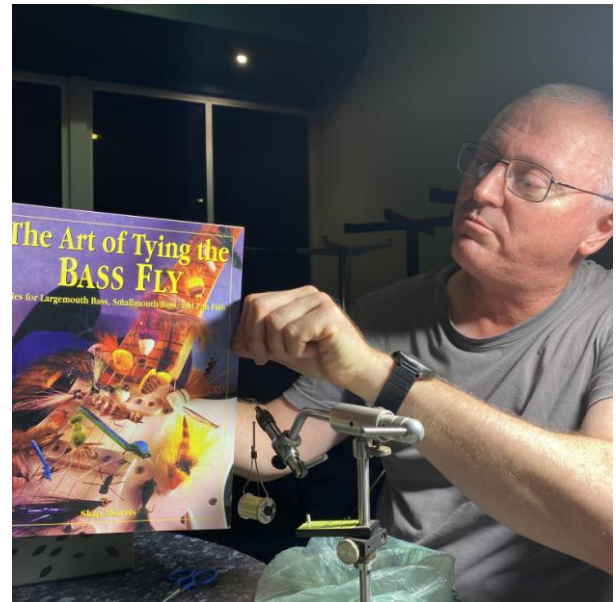
For tails on some of his flies Walter like to use rabbit zonker strips. These are readily available from most fly shops if you don't have any rabbits running around your backyard. They can also be used to tie Donnie Brasco flies which are another proven Bass pattern.



Walter used a hair stacker to stack successive bunches of spun deer hair along the hook shank. Each time he tied a bunch of deer hair in he would press it back toward the bend of the hook. The trick is to push the deer hair back tightly against the previous bunch. The more bunches that can be stacked on (without cluttering the eye of the hook) the more buoyant will be the finished fly. If you interpose deer hair of different colours you can build a banded or patterned head.



You can spend just as much time trimming a Dahlberg as you do stacking all the deer hair. Walter used scissors on this one and it didn't turn out as neatly as he would have liked (not that the Bass would care). Usually, Walter uses a razor blade to do the trimming but good ones are becoming hard to come by.



There are many excellent books and videos which will help you with step by step guides to tying Dahlberg Divers. Walter made it look easy and it is if you take your time and follow the instructions.

If you are like me and don't read the manual it's nice to know we have people in the club like Walter who can help. As soon as I have emptied the vacuum cleaner I will be having another go at tying deer hair flies and I will be trying some of the tips and tricks Walter gave us at our meeting.



I particular noticed how tidy Walter was. The scrap bucket under the vice is a great idea for collecting all the deer hair that has to be cut off. Whenever I attempt to tie Dahlbergs I make sure I have the vacuum cleaner nearby and never do it inside the house!



# Fly Tying Competition

By Pip Bevan

Last year the Club held a Fly Tying competition for our members. I would be happy to run another competition next year if there is sufficient interest. If you think we should do it again let me know and I will set things in motion.



For the records, these were the winners from last year:

1<sup>st</sup> Tie was a Carp Fly.

President Doug won the vote with his Keepit Kermit and No Ideer Fly. Other entries from Allan, Walter and Pip.



2<sup>nd</sup> Tie was a Dry Trout Fly.

Won by President Doug with an Adams. Also entered was Pip's Red Tag and Jim's Simulator.

3<sup>rd</sup> Tie was a Wet Trout Fly

Allan's orange bead head nymph "Jaffa" won the vote, Doug and Pip also entered.

4<sup>th</sup> Tie was a Bass Fly.

President Doug again won the vote with his version of a "Donnie Brassco" Allan tied a Gurgler and Pip a Bass Vampire and a 'Hairy Gurgler'.



5<sup>th</sup> Tie was a Salmon Fly.

Pip won with his Red headed "Blonde".

6<sup>th</sup> Tie was a Foam Fly.

Pip won with his "Black Boobie". No other entries.

7<sup>th</sup> Tie was a "Clouser".

Murray won this vote with his Chartreuse and White. David and Pip also entered.



8<sup>th</sup> Tie was a Shrimp Fly.

Ray won the vote with his Straw fly. Murray, David L and Pip also entered. David with his smaller version of a Shrimp fly he uses in North Queensland.

9<sup>th</sup> Tie was a Spotlight Foam Fly.

Walter showed the way with this tie. Murray tied a Gurgler and Ray tied a Foam bodied Winged Dry. Pip tied a foam slider and a Black Popper with a zonker strip tail.

## Fishing Reports

Glenn has been hitting our home waters lately and having some success with the trevally. If you haven't seen his Facebook posts, here are a couple of reports:

September 11<sup>th</sup>.

*With some freedom I went and gave the Purple/Black Cup face fly a trial.*



*Unfortunately it had a very short life (100 metres of river bank, 20 or so casts and half an hour). Landed 2 GTs, dropped one and the 4th took it back to hang in his Trevally Tree. Very short but sweet, oh well back to the Fly Vise. Tied on the Chartreuse one but no action at all, water quality was definitely for Dark Flies.*

September 25<sup>th</sup>.

*Went for the day chasing "Bangers" GTs. Got the last 1.5 hours of the run out and the fish were very active cleaning up Jelly Prawns in the sticks. They won the first session 4/3 so 4 flies down by 7.30am. These blokes have it down pat on how to weave your leader through the sticks. Quieter once the tide turned so went well upstream to fish, landed a couple of bream but no Bass.*

*The Bangers were up there but they were doing their hit and run thing - smash the prawns for 20 seconds and gone, Moved back to "Trevally Alley" and cooked a couple of steak sandwiches while waiting for the runout to start.*



*As always with fishing while cooking, the GTs turned the water to foam all around the boat. Damn they are quick! Landed one more GT on the way home then ran into a big school of Papuan Trevally (not sure) but they weren't Bigeyes. Landed 3 in 10 minutes and they were gone.*

*For any of our newer members who haven't played with the GTs they are highly recommended fun, make you laugh and definitely make you cry*

Following on from Glenn's comment about newer members catching a GT, it would be good to set up a list of experienced members who would be willing to help a newcomer catch their first GT on fly. We could then have a list of beginners who would like to learn how to catch a trevally. If you would like to put your name on a list as a "teacher" or a "student" get in touch with the Secretary. You can phone on 0427457725 or email [ccffc@tpg.com.au](mailto:ccffc@tpg.com.au).



### Competition Fly Casting

If you live in the southern states of our country, competition fly casting is well established and many clubs are involved. The first fly club I joined was the Corralinn Fly Fishing and Casting Association in Tasmania. The Club still conducts regular casting days for its members and runs a friendly competition each fortnight with an annual trophy. During my time down there we reached out and involved our neighbouring Devonport Fly Fishing Club to add some fun and an opportunity to meet up with fellow fly fishers from further afield. That competition continues and although it is not super competitive it is always enjoyed by those who participate.

Up here in the north there isn't a strong culture of fly casting and certainly not of casting competitions. Recently a member of a Queensland based club tried to get a competition underway in Brisbane. Lockdowns certainly didn't help, but there just wasn't the interest to get it up and running. I would like to introduce some competition casting in our club but I know we are not ready for it yet. There is a big difference between casting for a competition and casting to catch a fish. However, the reason I originally got involved, and the reason I would like to see some sort of competition started up this way, is I know the benefits that can come from competition casting and how they lead to better fish catching skills.

There is a competitive nature in all of us. Sometimes it is just trying to do better and at other times it is wanting to win at any cost. I don't do well in casting competitions because I haven't got the killer instinct and I falter under pressure. I have had some success and my one claim to fame is winning the Tasmanian Fly Casting Championships against the legendary Peter Hayes (Peter was running the Championships and didn't want to win so he cast with his non-dominant hand to give us mere mortals a chance). Since leaving Tasmania I haven't been involved in competition casting. I don't miss the competition and the pressure it brings, but I do miss the opportunity to meet others interested in casting and sharpen my casting skills.

What I write from now on won't really matter because most people will have already skipped to the end thinking competition casting has no relevance or appeal to them. If you haven't tuned out yet I hope you will read on and learn about the benefits of competition casting and the difference between casts that catch fish and casts that win competitions.

Competition casting and fishing casts are fundamentally the same. All casts require rod loading, loop formation and accurate rod movement. With competition casting the aim is to hit the target. With fishing the aim is to hit the target without spooking the fish. A good caster can do both and practice in one area translates to success in the other.



My involvement in competition casting has been pretty low key. I've never been overly serious or participated in any Australian Casting Association events. I enjoy casting but I enjoy catching fish more. There are people who only ever pick up a fly rod to cast competitively. I have never been in that category but I have learnt a lot from them. With my limited experience I want to share with you some of the things that competitive casting has taught me.



Competition casting is about handling pressure. Being able to make an accurate cast consistently in all kinds of conditions will bring success. The same applies to fishing. When that fish of a lifetime comes along you want to be able to make the perfect cast – first time. That puts you under just as much pressure as any competition. You don't have the opportunity to make the cast a second time. Learning to cope with pressure is important if you want to make the most of every opportunity to catch fish. I still botch plenty of chances but I believe my experience with competition casting has helped me to handle the pressure better.

In competition casting you need to have the right equipment and know how to use it. The same applies to fishing. There is definitely a crossover between the two as far as selecting rods, reels and lines is concerned but my time in competition casting has taught me a few things. When fishing I like to use the lightest gear possible but when casting for accuracy I like to use the heaviest tackle that I can comfortably handle. Heavier rods allow the use of heavier lines which can counter the wind. When I select a rod to go fly fishing I am always weighing up (no pun intended) whether I need a heavier rod to ensure I can cast accurately in the conditions or a lighter rod that will present a more subtle approach to the fish. Experience in competition casting has taught me to be more aware of options when it comes to selecting equipment.

The same considerations apply when it comes to fly line selection. In competition casting many people use intermediate lines as they are thinner for their weight and cut through the air giving the wind less time to blow it off course. For this reason an intermediate line works well for saltwater fishing where you want to make long casts, cutting through the wind (and waves) and being less visible to fish.

When you cast in a competition you come to understanding the importance of fly line colour. Bright lines help keep track of where the fly is going. You can also check on your loops to ensure they are tight and not tailing. In most fishing situations I don't use bright lines. I want to make sure the fish has the least possible opportunity to see my line. Since being involved in competition casting I have softened my view on coloured lines in some circumstances. Beginners and people with ageing eyesight (like me) often have trouble keeping track of where their fly lands and miss takes because they are not looking in the right place. A coloured fly line can help focus attention on where the fly lands. In places where fish are very spooky you can still use a bright fly line as long as you have a clear tip or add a long leader.

On the subject of leaders I have learnt a lot about their importance through competition casting. Very few serious competition casters would use a standard leader straight from the packet. I remember researching the leader formula used by some of Australia's casting champions. People like John Waters, Ted Whittam, Ken Lucas, John Phelan and Peter Hayes helped me see how the construction of a leader can play a major part in being able to deliver a fly the way I want. I usually don't go to the trouble of tying my own leaders for fishing unless I want to save money or handle a tricky situation. But when I want my leader to behave in a particular way, competition casting has taught me how to go about constructing it.

## COMPETITION LEADERS

Ken Lucas	inches	CM		Ted Whittam slow	Inches	CM
.65	28"	71cm		.71	28"	71cm
.50	18"	46cm		.55	17"	43cm
.40	12"	30cm		.45	13"	33cm
.30	10"	25cm		.32	11"	28cm
.24	9 1/2"	24cm		.23	9 1/2"	24cm
	<b>77.5"</b>	<b>196cm</b>			<b>78.5"</b>	<b>199cm</b>
John Phelan				Ted Whittam Fast		
.60	32"	91cm		.65	38"	96cm
.50	15"	38cm		.50	14"	35cm
.45	10"	25cm		.40	10"	25cm
.40	7"	19cm		.30	6"	15cm
.35	5"	13cm		.24	11"	29cm
.30	4"	10cm				
.24	10"	24cm			<b>79"</b>	<b>200cm</b>
	<b>83"</b>	<b>220cm</b>				



Competition casts are not presentation casts unless you are trying to attract a fish's attention. Making a presentation cast high and letting the fly float into the hoop leaves you at the mercy of the wind; and the wind is not your friend when it comes to accuracy. To hit a target the fly needs to be driven into the hoop with a high trajectory on the back cast and a straight line path down to the landing. I use this technique if I am casting grasshoppers or Dahlbergs or any fly where I am more concerned with accuracy and not so concerned with spooking the fish. The reason competition leaders have complex formula is they need to turn over quickly so they will counter the wind but still enable the fly to hover over the target to gauge accuracy. Presenting a dry fly on a trout stream is a good example of how competition leaders have a place in fly fishing.

I have learnt a lot from competition casting and I think all fly fishers would benefit from some involvement. It doesn't have to be at the highest level and it doesn't have to be too serious, but it does have to put you under some pressure and force you to think about making your equipment work for you. I used to say fish put me under enough pressure - I don't need to get into competitions against humans. I now believe that competition casting has made me a better fly fisher and if I had taken it a bit more seriously I might even have become good enough to catch a trophy trout.





## Eastern Freshwater Cod

By NSW DPI

You are reminded that the annual total fishing closure to protect Eastern Freshwater Cod during their spawning season in the Mann & Nymboida Rivers and their tributaries, is in place until the end of October.



Fisheries Officers patrolling the Nymboida River over the last few days have made five separate apprehensions of people who were in possession of rigged fishing lines either on or immediately adjacent to the closed waters. Anglers are reminded that the use or possession of fishing gear of any description, in, on or adjacent to the closed waters is prohibited from 1 August through to 31 October (inclusive).

We want the community to unite with us and help in the fight to preserve Eastern Freshwater Cod which are a truly magnificent and iconic species



## RexFly Casting System

By Allan Ekert

After writing about a balanced fly fishing outfit in *Casting Around* last month, I came across some information on the RexFly Casting System. This is a mechanism you strap on your chest designed for fly fishers who only have the use of only one hand. It can also be used to remove the weight of the reel from your fly rod when casting so it doesn't fatigue during a long day of fishing.



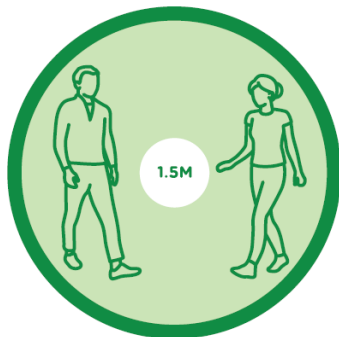
For disabled people wanting to go fly fishing the RexFly Casting System will open up new opportunities. For all fly anglers there are many advantages to using the system:

- Cast lighter
- Cast farther
- Cast all day long
- Your fly rod feels like an extension of your arm
- No longer slowing down your casting stroke and action of the fly rod due to the weight of the reel
- Best rod holder on the market, tie on new flies or release fish with both hands completely free
- Tangle less
- Lift more line off the water



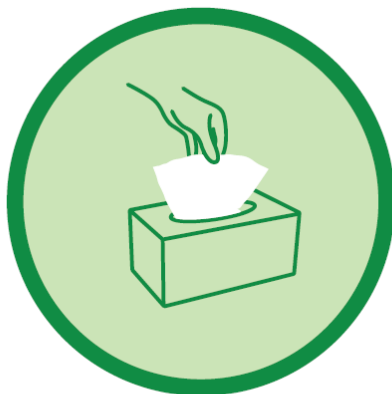
# Covid-19 Safety Policy

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 or use a QR Code 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 aware of government imposed restrictions and follow the rules.
- Wear a mask when regulations require.

**BE COVIDSAFE**

# Our Supporters

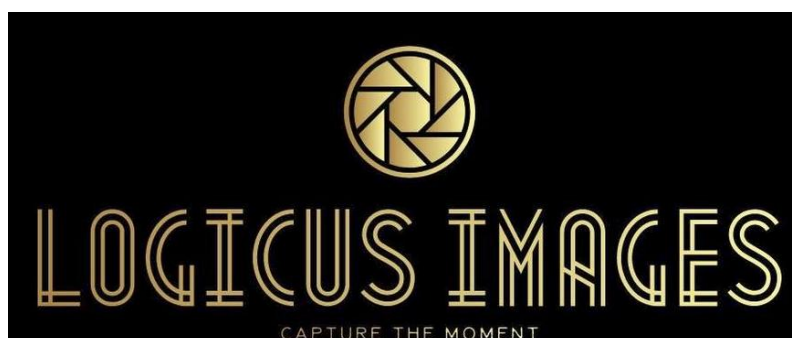
These people have all helped our club in one way or another. When you are looking for products and services make sure you consider them first



## Flies by Fedeles



<http://flytyerman.blogspot.com>



## Membership Fees

Membership Fees are as follows:

Adult membership \$30

Family membership \$40

Concession membership \$20

Junior membership free

Distant membership \$10

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

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

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

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

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

Fees can be paid:

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

2. **By cheque** posted to:

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



3. **Direct deposit:** BCU Credit Union  
BSB 533 000

Account Number: 02051766

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 348 members in this group.



## **Notes**

### **Club Membership Definitions:**

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

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

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

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

### **Fees:**

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

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

### **Completed Membership Forms:**

Can be scanned and emailed to the Secretary at [ccffc@tpg.com.au](mailto:ccffc@tpg.com.au).  
Can be hand-written and handed to the Secretary at a meeting or event.  
Can be posted to the Secretary at the above address.

All information supplied will be held in Club records and will only be available to financial Club members, if approved by the applicant as indicated on their Membership Form.