

The *Flyer*



Official Newsletter Of The



The Flyer

The Official Newsletter of the Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club SEPTEMBER 2021

Contents

From the Editor	Page 3
Club Executive	Page 4
September Meeting	Page 5
September Outings	Page 5
Tuesday Casting	Page 5
Committee Meeting	Page 6
Casting Competition	Page 6
Covid Boating Rules	Page 7
Bass Season	Page 7
Club Calendar	Page 8
Dunmore Report	Page 9
Fly Tying	Page 12
Fly Fishing England ... Jeff Yates	Page 16
Casting Around	Page 20
Covid-19 Safety	Page 24
Our Supporters	Page 25
Membership	Page 26
Membership Form	Page 27

Cover: Tom Trefz is a troutie who finds Dunmore Waters to his liking. What fly fisher wouldn't enjoy fishing like this! Photo courtesy Glenn Colquhoun.

From the Editor

Covid has made a mess of our calendar and caused some major changes. I'm not complaining as the inconvenience is nothing compared to those who are suffering from the disease or locked down completely trying to avoid it. As I keep getting told at the daily press conferences, "we will get through this".

I should start with the some positive news and that is we will be rescheduling the postponed outings and making plans to fit in as much as we can before the end of the year. A committee meeting is to be held as soon as we come out of lockdown to discuss all these matters.

The bad news is that some activities have been cancelled or postponed. The Gathering @ Gumma will not go ahead on the weekend of 10th - 12th September despite the fact that we are due to come out of lockdown on the 10th. There would not be enough time to prepare and do justice to what we had planned. And there is the uncertainty that the lockdown may be extended again.

Tuesday Casting has been cancelled until at least the 14th September as too is the fly tying afternoon and fishing outing. These mid week sessions are well attended by members and the Committee will be planning to get them underway again just as soon as it is possible.

Amid all this doom and gloom it is important to focus on future events that we can enjoy once lockdowns have finished. The Mullet Mash and Gathering @ Gumma were going to be well attended so once new dates have been decided make sure you register again.



A second trip to Dunmore Waters is on the Calendar for mid October. You can read more about this on page 5 and also see a report from last month's visit on page 9.

Looking further ahead our Bass on the Bellinger Day and trip to Lake Keepit should be exciting events and something for you to look forward to.

Not being able to travel outside our own Local Government Area is causing concern for those who like fishing our Home Waters. If you are not sure where you can fish during this current lockdown you can read the regulations on page 7.

Any thoughts of travelling further afield will have to be put on hold for some time. It seems an eternity since we were able to travel to places like Tasmania, New Zealand, Christmas Island or England. To remind us of what it was like, Jeff Yates has provided an article on a trip he did to England a few years ago on page 16.

So with two more weeks of lockdown to go; bunker down, tie some flies, read some stories and dream of future outings. Above all, stay safe.

Editor

Club Executive 2021-22



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September Meeting

Providing there are no further lockdowns, our September meeting will go ahead on Monday 20th at the North Beach Bowling Club at Mylestom starting at **6.30pm**. You are welcome to arrive earlier to have something to eat and drink.

As our last meeting was cancelled we will try again with our fly tying demonstration night. Walter will be tying dahlbergs and we will have a fly tying video to watch. Come along and enjoy a social evening catching up, talking fly tying and maybe eating pizza.

We start a new raffle for a major prize this month and there will also be a draw for minor prizes on the night. The major prize will be drawn at our November meeting and will be a carry-lite waistpack from South Pacific.



September Outings

Due to the extension of the Covid lockdowns the Gathering @ Gumma has been postponed. The Committee will be meeting in the near future to reschedule the Mullet Mash and the Gathering @ Gumma.

At this stage there are no outings planned for September but the Committee plans to meet as soon as the lockdown ends and that may change.

Dunmore 2.0

Following the success of the recent trip to Dunmore Trout Waters it was decided to arrange another outing this year instead of going to Ebor. Of course, this will depend on the state of lockdowns, but hopefully by the 22nd October there will be no problems.

If you would like to attend you will need to register and pay by our September meeting. The cost will be \$110 per person per day. Arrangements will be the same as last visit but if you haven't been before and would like more information you can ring Doug on 0458696138 or Allan on 0427457725.



Tuesday Casting Group

With continued lockdowns, the Tuesday Casting Group will be cancelled for the next two Tuesdays. Casting will resume on Tuesday 14th September (Covid and weather permitting).

The fly tying and fishing activities planned have had to be cancelled. Take note of the plan for September to know what is happening.

Tuesday 14th Sept Casting at Mylestom
Tuesday 21st Sept Casting at Mylestom
Tuesday 28th Sept Casting at Mylestom

Call David on 0411723221 or Allan on 0427457725 to check details.

Committee

A special Committee meeting is planned for Monday 13th September if we are out of lockdown by then. The meeting will commence at 5.30m at the North Beach Recreation Club. The main items of business will be to reschedule the Mullet Mash and Gathering @ Gumma and plan for the remainder of the year.

If any members have issues to be raised you can contact any of the Committee to express your views.

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 Committee discussed ideas for spending funds. No decisions were made but there will be further discussion at the next meeting. Some of the ideas presented were:

- Pay for a member to go on a course so that they can return to the club and share those skills to other members.
- The Club could buy a computer to store club documents and records on.
- Fish stocking of local waterways could be partly funded by the DPI and the Club.
- Expenses incurred by the club for things such as raffle prizes, printing, fly tying etc.

Once daylight saving commences it has been suggested we have casting before meetings.

We plan to have introductory casting days at places such as Dorrigo, Grafton or Nambucca.

It was agreed that Tuesday Casting will continue with the addition of fishing days and fly tying afternoons if there is sufficient interest.

Ebor Trout Outing scheduled for October 22/23/24 has been dropped and replaced with a weekend at Dunmore Waters.

Plans are in progress to transfer our club account to BCU Bank.

We will to buy three items for prizes from [A1 FlyFishing](#) for future raffles as Garry has offered a special deal if we make three purchases.

Payments for club trips are to be paid directly into the Club Account in advance and by a set date to secure a place on trips. The club can then pay the accommodation provider direct.



Brisbane Fly Fishing Club Inc.



FOUNDED 1955

**INTERNATIONAL
CASTING SPORT FEDERATION**

Michael Duzynski and the Brisbane Fly Fishing Club is organising a fly casting competition for fly fishers to test their mettle against the best the SEQ fly fishing has to offer. Come along and have a go, admire the experts, catchup with old mates or just have a sticky beak. Bring along any of your own rods/lines if you have them, but the competition will be using 5wt floating and max 27gr shooting lines (talk to Michael if you need assistance). Check out [International Casting Sport Federation](#) if you want to see what it might be like. Contact Michael directly for info on: michaelduzynski75@gmail.com

Because of Covid lockdowns and lockouts it may not be possible for us to attend this year but it is worth considering for the future.

COVID-19 Boating Update

The latest Public Health Order currently lists all of NSW as a Stay At Home Area and requires everyone in NSW to follow the stay at home rules.

Recreational boating and fishing is allowed, however the same restrictions apply as with exercise and recreation on land. You must remain within your LGA or be no further than 5km from your residence.

You are restricted to two people on a vessel or more if all are from the same household.

To access a boat ramp or marina it must be in your LGA or within 5km from your home. You must observe physical distancing and mask - wearing rules.

Coastal waters (up to 3 nm off land) are included as part of the adjacent LGA, but you cannot travel on a waterway outside of your LGA or more than 5 kilometres from your home if you are entering another LGA.

You can boat offshore if:

- The location is within your LGA or
- You stay within 5 kilometres from your home.

Where a body of water (a harbour for instance) is bounded by several LGAs you may be in that body of water, but may not travel through or past other LGAs to reach other locations.

Skippers must also remember their safety responsibilities regarding safety equipment, alcohol consumption, keeping a proper lookout and travelling at a safe speed

View the [latest rules](#) on the NSW Government Website.



Anglers will once again be able to take Australian Bass and Estuary Perch in rivers below impoundments and estuaries from September 1, following the end of the annual spawning closure.

When fishing in these waters after this time, a total bag limit of two of each species per person and a total possession limit of four applies, including only one fish over 35cm in length.

The four-month closure protects schools of fish during spawning season in estuaries, with the opening marking the period where Australian Bass and Estuary Perch return to feeding grounds higher in the catchment.

Fishing laws are designed to protect, conserve and improve our fisheries resources for future generations. Information on freshwater fishing rules can be found online at: <https://fal.cn/3hDHC>



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 Casting at Mylestom at 5.30pm on Monday 18 th .	Club Meeting at Mylestom Monday 18 th
FEBRUARY	Home Waters Saturday 20 th Family fishing day with a focus on kids fishing for bream, flathead and mullet held at Mylestom. Tasmania 28 th Jan - 8 th Feb	Club Meeting Monday 15 th Committee Meeting
MARCH	Casting Day Saturday 6 th Tuesday Casting Group resumes Tuesday 2 nd Blue Water Outing Saturday 20 th	Club Meeting Monday 15 th North Beach Bowling Club Mylestom
APRIL	Keepit Carp Trip Sunday 11 th - Wednesday 14 th Home Waters Saturday 24 th	Club Meeting Monday 19 th North Beach Bowling Club
MAY	Fly Fishing for Trout Workshop Saturday 22 nd	Club Meeting Monday 17 th Committee Meeting Major Raffle Drawn
JUNE	Lake St Clair Friday 18 th - Sunday 20 th	Club Meeting Monday 21 st
JULY	Casting Day Saturday 10 th Moonee Reserve Flats Fishing Workshop Saturday 24 th Woolgoolga Dunmore Waters Friday 30 th to Sunday 1 st August	Annual General Meeting Monday 19 th
AUGUST	Swansea Salmon Classic Friday 20 th to Sunday 22 nd Mullet Mash Urunga Saturday 28 th	Club Meeting Monday 16 th Committee Meeting Monday 2 nd Major Raffle Drawn
SEPTEMBER	Gathering @ Gumma Thursday 9 th Sunday 12 th Gumma Reserve. Fishing, Casting, Fly Tying on the Nambucca and Warrell Creek POSTPONED	Club Meeting Monday 20 th
OCTOBER	Dunmore Trout Waters Friday 22 nd to Sunday 24 th Home Waters Saturday 31 st	Club Meeting Monday 18 th
NOVEMBER	Bass on the Bellinger Saturday 20 th	Club Meeting Monday 15 th Committee Meeting Major Raffle Drawn
DECEMBER	Keepit Carp Caper Monday 6 th to Sunday 12 th (possible flexible attendance dates for two groups)	No Club Meeting

Dunmore Report

by the Editor

It seems a long time ago now but it was only last month that we had our annual trip to Dunmore Trout Waters. A lot has happened, and not happened since then.

This year's trip was another great success. The fish were fewer but on average bigger due to the ideal growing season and increased water levels. All the dams were full to overflowing and waders or gum boots were needed to get around.

Dunmore is the perfect spot for those wanting to hone their trout fishing skills or just get away from the coast and get their trout fix. The fish are not guaranteed but the confidence you get from knowing they are there is usually enough to ensure you catch one. Once caught, though, these fish are not always easy to land.

What makes Dunmore such a successful outing is not just the fish. The environment, the accommodation and the camaraderie all add to the experience. The following photos will give you an idea of what it was like. By popular demand, we are planning a second trip this year to replace the proposed Ebor weekend.



The weather was kind to us with a big frost lifting on Friday morning before we arrived and more benign temperatures over the weekend. The area had received record rainfalls over the winter and the water was up over banks.



The ideal conditions suited the redfin and these pest fish have now invaded the main lake. On the plus side they are fun to catch and even better to eat.

Dunmore is a catch and release fishery as far as trout are concerned. This is to ensure there are plenty of fish for future groups to catch. The lakes are well stocked with a range of fish in a range of sizes. All the fish are rainbows and come from the Dutton Trout Hatchery at Ebor. Rainbows thrive in the cold conditions and fish from 6 to 7 pound are not uncommon.



Just to prove he could catch fish, Doug landed one of the better trout for the weekend. Pity it was a few days late for the cover of the newsletter.



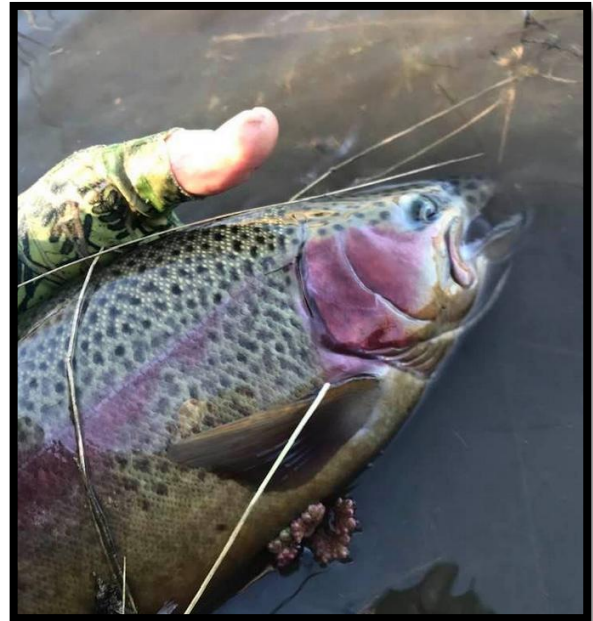
Definitely not cover material, but certainly one of the best fish I have caught from Dunmore. When I think about how many kilometres I've walked in New Zealand for a fish this size I know why I am getting to like Dunmore in my old age.



Steve started his trout fishing on the streams of North America so lake fishing was a new challenge. Together with his trusty 4 weight he soon got the hang of landing these solid rainbows.



Tom knows his way around Dunmore and can find where the big ones live.



Glenn has caught more fish at Dunmore than anyone in the Club. A combination of well honed fishing skills and the preparedness to put in the time ensures he rarely misses out.



Bill doesn't like the trout to recognize him so when he puts them back they don't tell stories about him.



Everyone was as happy as Glenn with the weekend and will be lining up again next year when the trip to Dunmore Waters is announced.

Fly Tying

Our attempts to do some fly tying have been thwarted by the Covid lockdowns. The Committee will be looking at how we can reschedule some events and what we can do to have more fly tying activities in the future.

Don't forget, our next meeting on 20th Sept will feature Walter tying Dahlbergs. I'm looking forward to this as this is a great fly for the Bass season and one (of the many) I have great difficulty tying.

Paul Fedeles was going to be a special presenter at our Gathering @ Gumma where he would demonstrate some of his patterns and conduct a session helping members learn to tie flies. We are hoping Paul will be able to attend when we reschedule this event.

One of the flies Paul was going to get us to tie is the LMP Deceiver. I'm not sure what the "LMP" stands for so we will just have to wait and ask Paul. The "Deceiver" refers to Lefty's Deceiver named after the late Lefty Kreh.



Lefty Kreh created the original **Lefty's Deceiver** back in the late 50's to fish saltwater. He was looking for a streamer that would be easy to cast and would not wrap around the bend of the hook. Here is what Lefty had to say about his fly:

"I'm going to design a fly that won't foul on the cast! It will have a fish shape, but can be made in many lengths. You can vary the colour combinations; it will also swim well but when lifted for the back cast, it will be sleek and have little air-resistance. I only hoped it would work and didn't consider it might become a part of fly-fishing history.

The first Lefty's Deceivers were pretty simple. They were tied with a wing of four to eight saddle hackles tied in at the bend of the hook, and they had a simple bucktail or calf tail collar at the front of the hook. The fly was all white, which is still one of the best all-round colours. It may have been two or three years before I added other colours. As I recall the first colour change I made was to have a white wing and red collar. Other combinations followed."

– Lefty Kreh

Lefty's Deceiver is usually tied in hook sizes ranging from #2 to #4 and the most popular colours are white and yellow with darker tones for the body (green, red, blue, pale blue), though sometimes totally black is used too



I had an inquiry to our website the other day from someone wanting to start fly fishing in the salt. As well as asking about outfits to buy they wanted to know what flies we would use in our local estuaries. My answer was, as usual, it depends.

Of course it depends on your target species, but I wouldn't go fly fishing in one of local estuaries without a Deceiver of one sort or another in my fly box. Since the original fly tied by Lefty there have been many variations. All of them will work - some better than others. Had Gumma gone ahead, Paul would have been tying his LMP Deceiver for us. The following is Paul's variant of Mick Hall's technique. If you want to try his pattern for yourself here is what you need to know:



Materials

Hook: Size 1/0 Kirby Kendal (straight eye)
 Thread: Invisible thread. (Coles, Woollies, Big W etc.)
 Tail: Six saddle hackles white or something close
 Tail: Two grizzly hackles
 Tail: Twenty strands of crystal flash
 Body 1: Silver braid
 Body 2: Paul's fake bucktail (an unnamed Tiewell product)
 Body 3: Chartreuse EP fibres instead of bucktail
 Head: Stick on eyes
 Finish: UV resin

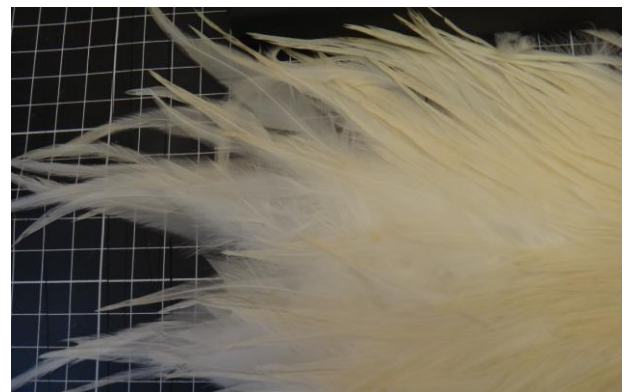
Instructions

1. Crush the barb and straighten hook in the vise.
2. Above the point of the hook:
 tie 6 white saddle hackles splayed in, 3 on each side.
 tie in a grizzly hackle one on each side
 tie in 15 to 20 stands of Crystal flash on top of the hook
3. Remove the centre cloth from the silver braid.
4. Tie in the braid at the point of the hook and wrap full length of body section
5. Tie the fake buck tail on the bottom of the hook just behind the eye wrapping it around the body
6. Tie in fake buck tail on top of the hook wrapping it around the body
7. Tie in a small clump of chartreuse buck tail on top.
8. Wrap enough thread to make a small head.
9. Whip finish and a small amount of head cement
10. Stick on eyes and cover head with UV Resin.

Until we are able to get Paul to demonstrate his step by step guide to tying the LMP Deceiver, you might want to have a go at tying your own variant of this pattern. I have tried just to prove that it's a fly that anyone can tie. If we can get our Tuesday tying days up and running this is definitely one of the flies we will tie.



It doesn't have to be neat and tidy to work. Once a fly like this is in water it becomes much more like a real live baitfish.



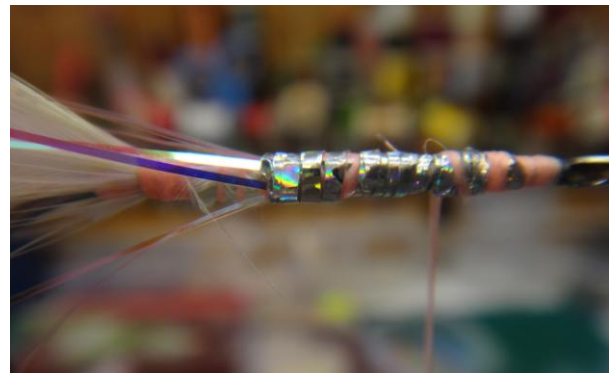
You will need saddle hackles like these.



Choose your favourite hook type in an appropriate size for the baitfish you are trying to imitate.



Introduce your thread and wind to the rear of the shank and form a small bump to help splay the hackles.



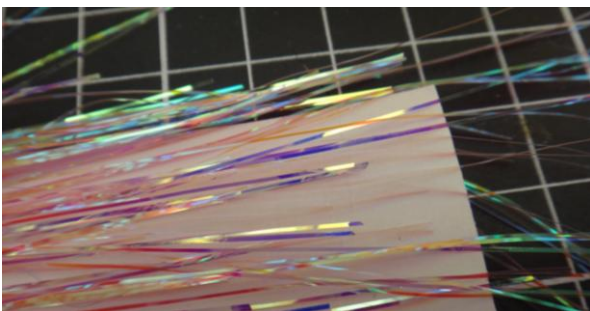
Note that the hackles are tied at the back of the shank and more than half the shank can be covered in crystal flash or silver braid. Make sure there is plenty of room behind the eye for the next steps.



Tie in a few saddle hackles on top of the shank. There is no need to match the hackles exactly.



Select a small bunch of white bucktail to be tied on the top of the shank as long as the saddle hackles.



Select some strands of crystal flash to be used as lateral lines and to cover up the hook shank.



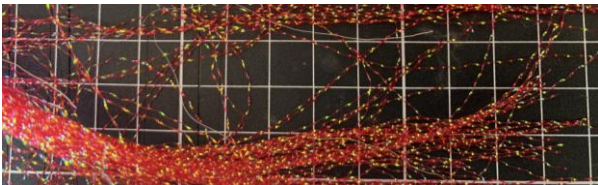
Remember, less is more, so don't overdo the bucktail.



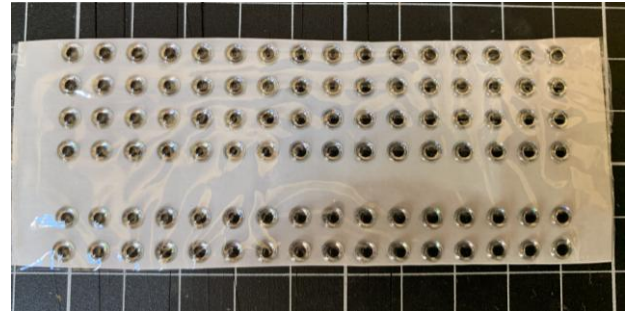
Select a small bunch of chartreuse bucktail to be tied on the top of white bucktail just a fraction longer than the white.



Choose another bunch of white bucktail and tie in below the shank. If you don't have a rotary vice you can take the fly out of the jaws and turn it upside down to make this step easier.



Tie in a small bunch of red crystal flash on the underside of the fly to give the impression of gills or blood.



Take some small stick-on eyes and use UV resin form a head.



If you want to see what it will look like in the water hold the fly under warm running water. Let it dry and it will retain its shape. Tie on and go catch a flathead, bream, trevally, tailor, or bass.

Fly Fishing England

By Jeff Yates

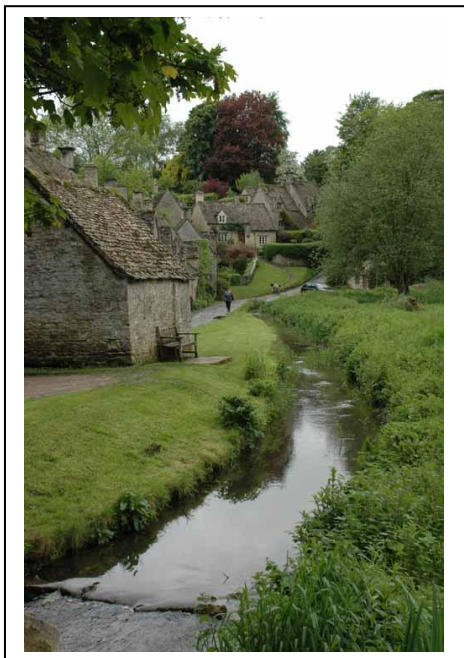
Redditch in the UK was renowned for its history in the fly tackle and split cane rod manufacturing industries. During my stay there I was keen to explore some of the origins of this fame.

Split cane manufacturing has all but ceased in the UK, with only a handful of custom made rods now reaching the market. I visited Peter Aspindale of "Dalesman" rods, who inherited the business from his father and at 78 years of age still tinkers with the occasional special order. He laments the passing of the split cane era and still has a soft spot for their sweet action and the 60 hours of TLC going into the making of each rod.

Hook manufacturing has long since disappeared from the hundreds of cottage based workshops that supplied the world with fishing hooks. One of the last to close was "Partridge hooks" which most fly fishermen are familiar with, now being produced by Mustard of Norway.

My last bit of history came when my generous host Adrian, presented me with a split cane "Falcon" fly rod, made by Ken Johnson circ 1947. The rod has never been used and is in mint condition and my luck with breakages, I won't rush to check its action!

History lesson over, it's time to get some action on those English trout. Once again, local hospitality excelled, when my host organised a licence and a day ticket in the English midlands area of the Cotswolds. We met the Water Bailiff/Gillie, under an old oak tree in the tiny town of Coln-St Aldwyns, who directed us to our beat on the Coln River. This is really fairy tale stuff, 2km section of chalk stream, boarded on one end by an old water mill weir and on the top section, meandering around a 16th century mansion. After sucking in a few deep breaths and chatting over a cupper with the gillie, I digested his thoughts on local conditions, hatches and flies. A mayfly hatch was expected later as the day warmed up. All primed, I headed upstream to do battle with my first English wild brown trout.



Beautiful
Arlington Row
on a tributary of
Coln River
flowing past

As there was no rises on the slow runs and riffles, the millpond offered me the opportunity to work a nymph through the shadows of overhanging trees adjacent the deep water. Anticipation was replaced by action as I glimpsed the side flash of a large fish emerging from the depths to charge the fly on retrieve. I returned the fly a few meters above the sighting and was soon rewarded by a take. The cool water produced a long fight with initial tail dancing and deep long runs. I tried to prolong the battle to satisfy my hunting instincts, but I took mercy on my quarry and brought him to the net. A well-coloured and conditioned 2lb brownie, my first from England and hopefully not my last. On release, it propelled itself back into the depths of the millpond to fight another day.



The Millpond on
the Coln River
below Bibury
Court

A few fish started to surface taking tiny skating midges, so I changed over to a long, light, dry fly leader. I had brought a few midge patterns over to use in Ireland, and a size 16 looked a little big, but better than the alternative. I chased the rises up and down a long run and caught and released 2 more browns. Light tippets and small flies call for delicate playing, and my travel rod matched the terminal gear to perfection.

I stopped mid afternoon for a lunch break and laid back soaking up the perfect English day of 19 degrees C, when my dreaming was disturbed by a distinct plop. I sat up to see the rings radiating from what looked to be a big fish. I noticed a few large mayflies fluttering over the water, then another rise, this time the trout took the mayfly in flight. I quickly packed up lunch and tied on a #8 Grey Wolff I purchased in Orvis of Burford on the way up.



The green drake
mayfly is prolific
when the
temperature rises
during the day

These mayflies are 25mm long (as big as damsel flies), so big flies are the order of the day. My haste was in vain, as a cool breeze came through and the hatch stopped.

I walked up past the manor onto the top section of the beat, for I remember the gillie saying that the more protected water will see more rises if fishing is slow.

The 3lb tippet was almost invisible as it controlled the Wolff down the stream. A rise at the tail of a pool caught my attention as my movements were being videoed by a tourist on a centuries old bridge straddling the river. As if on cue, a boil at the fly, a deep breath and lift and I'm onto a lovely fish. I only wish we had this sort of dry fly fishing in Australia, I thought as I played the fish. I knew the end had come when I heard the clapping from the pesky tourist. Hardly the wilds of the Snowy Mountains, where you are lucky to see another person all day!

I headed around the corner of the next hole for a bit of privacy. At this stage the water was awash with mayflies, fluttering and sailing the currents. A marvellous sight, only matched by the consistent rise of several large trout in water that had looked sterile only moments before. I selected a trout rising from below a hawthorn bush in full flower as the next target. Line drag is a killer as the fly sped unnaturally across the surface near the strike zone on every drift. The fish paid no interest to the unnatural fly movement.

Moving on, I attached myself to 2 more decent fish, one of which played merry hell in and out of reed beds before being coached back into the stream.

The bailiff, whose life is the river, said that large pike take a toll on the trout stocks. My fishing mate's eyes lit up and I'm sure he'll be back, this time with pike fishing on the agenda.

Where possible spawning beds are created for the fish to do their thing naturally. This encourages wild fish stocks and better fishing. As if a switch was turned, the air chilled, mayflies stopped and no more rises.



Well-
conditioned
brown trout
caught from the
manicured
lawns below
Bibury Court

I had a wonderful day with six fish and a wealth of new experience that I could only have dreamed about prior to leaving Australia. The night was yet but young, as we were booked into the manor for dinner still wearing our fishing clothes as dinner suits. The only thing bigger than our fishing tales was the generosity of my host and the credit card bills as my wife returned from a day's shopping in the Cotswolds.



16th century Bibury Court - a beautiful place to dine and stay in the heart of the Cotswolds



Choosing a Fly Reel

I have written a lot about casting, fly rods, line management, and fly lines but rarely do fly reels get a mention. There's a good reason for that as fly reels are not essential to make a cast. In fact, you can cast a rod and line without a reel. If you go back in history the first fly rods used by the ancient Macedonians were just sticks with the line attached at the tip. With today's modern fly lines and rods with super slick guides you can cast just as far, if not further, without a reel than you can with one. As far as casting is concerned, the reel is just a line management device.

Of course there's more to fly reels than just line management and once you start getting involved in fly fishing you will realize they can be more important than you first thought. But for the beginner buying their first outfit, the rod and line are far more crucial than the reel. You could put just about any reel on a fly rod and cast it. The reasons we don't do that will become apparent when you use the outfit to try and catch fish.

I've never tried casting a fly rod with a Shimano Big Game reel strapped on, but I am sure I could cast the fly. It would feel very clunky and I wouldn't be doing it for any length of time given the weight. Besides, what trout needs 30kg of drag and 1,000m of backing! When it comes to putting a reel on a fly rod, the first consideration has to be about balance.



You will hear a lot of opinions about buying a reel to balance a fly rod but very little agreement. There are no hard and fast rules. It's more an art than a science. In the art world there are those who know, and those who know what they like. It's a bit the same when it comes to finding a fly reel to balance your rod. You don't have to know much to know what you like.

Those who think they know will tell you your fly reel must balance the rod at a point somewhere along the grip so that it will sit horizontally on your finger. As a general rule that will work. However, what it doesn't take into consideration is the added weight of the fly line and backing both on the reel and out of the tip of the rod when casting. I'm sure the experts out there have a formula for finding a reel that will balance but I know what I like and that's how I decide.



Light fly reels feel good. Less weight means less energy is needed to cast. If you are casting or Euro nymphing, holding a rod and reel at arm's length all day can be tiring and a lighter reel makes sense. Modern fly reel manufacturers are keen to make the lightest reels they can. But a light reel is not always the answer. When I am casting a fly rod I want the outfit to balance at the point where my wrist rotates. In this case a heavy fly reel could balance an outfit better than a light fly reel.

Heavy, light, large, or small there is no one way to find a reel to balance a fly rod. Go with what feels right and meets your requirements. Most reels are labelled to match rod weights and that is always a good starting point. Then you have to consider backing capacity, large or small arbour, drag and diameter. Buying a fly fishing combo or seeking advice from a reputable tackle shop will take away most of the guess work. But in the end, if you want a balanced outfit go with what feels right for you.



A fly reel is important to balance a fly rod and make it easy to hold. Once you have found a reel that balances the rod in your hand, you need to make sure that it feels right when you cast. When you are casting a fly rod, what you feel is the swing weight of the outfit. Swing weight is affected by the weight of the reel and the weight distribution of the rod blank. What you feel in front of your hand when gripping the rod is swing weight. Just as a golfer wiggles a golf club, you can feel the swing weight of a fly rod by rotating it back and forth. Rods with a light swing weight are easy to cast and fish all day. Rods with a heavy swing weight feel unwieldy in your hand, and will soon tire you out.

There are ways of finding the swing weight of a fly rod but don't look to the rod manufacturers to help you out. You won't find swing weight in the list of specifications for most fly rods. You can find online reviews where various methods have been used to determine the swing the weight of a particular rod. The [Yellowstone Angler Shootout Review](#)¹ uses a simple set of scales for measuring swing weight. The figures may not be particularly accurate but they do help make comparisons if you want to be a scientist when setting up your fly fishing outfit.



If you really want to get technical there are scientific ways you can calculate the swing weight of a fly rod. Swing weight is the “moment of inertia” of a single handed fly-rod around an axis at the butt of the rod. The greater the inertia the more force is needed to cast or direct that rod. In general the higher the MOI the more energy needs to be put into the cast, and the apparent weight of the rod (swing weight) increases. Swing weight and physical weight are not always the same.

I'm not an engineer so I am not going to write any more about scientific ways to calculate swing weight. If you are interested I will refer you to [Sexy Loops](#)² which has an excellent article by Grunde Lovoll and Magnus Angus on how to calculate swing weight. They calculate the swing weight of the rod by measuring the length of the whole rod, the length of each section and distance from the butt end of each section to the mass center of the sections. If you want to understand their formula for calculating the moment of inertia you might want to read their article.

The moment of inertia I_{sec} for each rod section is then:

$$I_{sec} = m_{sec}l_{sec}^2 \left(\frac{x_{cm}}{l_{sec}} - \frac{1}{6} \right) - m_{sec}x_{cm}^2 + m_{sec}d_{sec}^2$$

If this formula means something to you, you are way ahead of me. For me the act of casting a fly rod is more an art than a science. When I pick up an outfit I know what will work and what feels comfortable. I can feel how the rod and reel balance and how easy it is to swing the rod. I'm not interested in figures. If the rod and reel don't balance I can tell without looking. If a rod is "clunky" (you can tell I'm not a scientist!) to cast I know there is a problem with the swing weight. If you know not to put a big game reel on a fly rod you are well on your way to setting up a balanced outfit.

When it comes to casting a fly rod, choosing a fly reel is all about getting the balance and swing weight right. It can be a science or an art depending on how you want to approach it. You can go with what the figures tell you or go with what feels right. Or you can go without a reel and still be able to make great casts. But when you start using the rod and reel for fishing you have a whole lot of other factors to consider. There are a few more rights and wrongs and a lot more decisions you have to make. If finding balance and swing weight is an art, selecting a fly reel for fishing can be more a science.

Fly reels for fishing is a topic too big to cover in this month's column. There are just too many reels and too many considerations. A quick look through any fly shop will have your head spinning with choices. For the artist there is an array of colours and designs to decide between. For the scientist there are plenty of facts and figures to examine. For the economist there is a reel for every budget.



If you are in the market for a fly reel my recommendation would be to find one that you like, is the correct size, and doesn't break the bank. If you are into saltwater fishing you will want to consider a reel that won't corrode, has a good sealed drag, and room for plenty of backing. For trout, the specifications don't need to be as exacting, but it's still nice to have a well built reel. You'll soon learn that part of the fun of fly fishing is having an outfit that you enjoy owning.

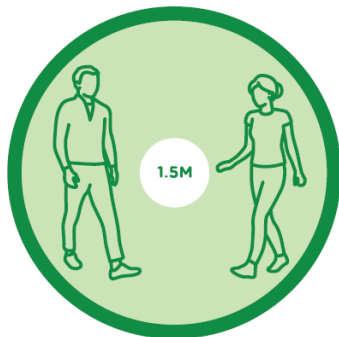
Looking at the selection of reels above you will see how fly reels have become more than just line management devices. Reel manufacturers have models to suit every need, every taste, and every price point. I'm embarrassed to say that I own a few of the reels above and more embarrassed to say I would like to own more. There comes a time in fly fishing when choosing a fly reel is more than just balance and feel.

¹[Yellowstone Angler Review](#) is an annual "shootout" comparing rods and reels in a similar category. While there's always an element of bias and commercialism in any review, the Yellowstone Angler's shootouts provide lots of facts and figures to help make a decision when buying new gear.

²The [Sexy Loops](#) website is dedicated to fly fishing. Run by casting guru, Paul Arden, you will find a wealth of information on many topics related to fly fishing.

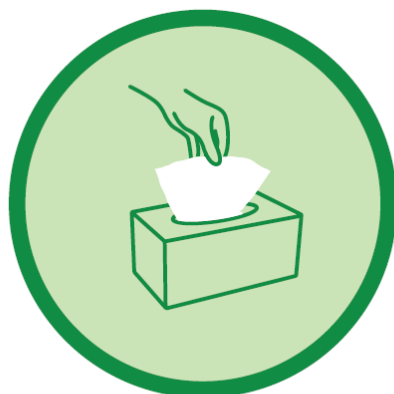
Covid-19 Safety Policy

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

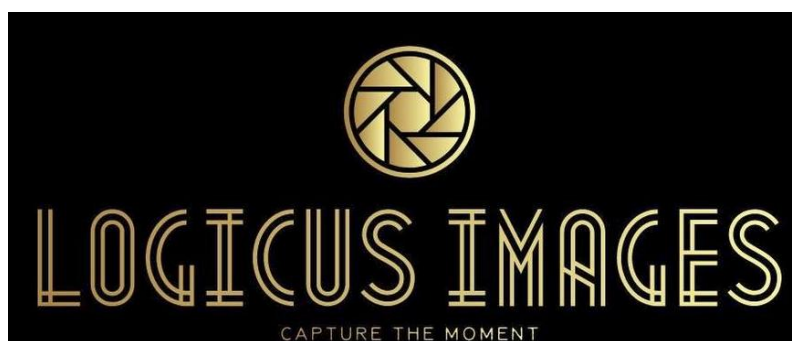
These people have all helped our club in one way or another. When you are looking for products and services make sure you consider them first



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 1st July to 30th June.

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

Concession membership is available to senior cardholders, 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:

BSB 062-678

Account Number: 10333424

Name: Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club Inc

Reference: Your surname

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

Ekert Membership.

Club Contact Address

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

Our mailing address is:

The Secretary

Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club

11 Butterfly Close

Boambee East

NSW 2452

Electronic Contacts

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

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

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

Our Facebook Page can be found at:

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

We have a **Facebook Group**. If you are on FB all you need to do is search for Coffs Coast Fly Fishers and ask to join the Group. Currently there are 323 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.
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.