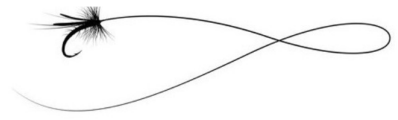


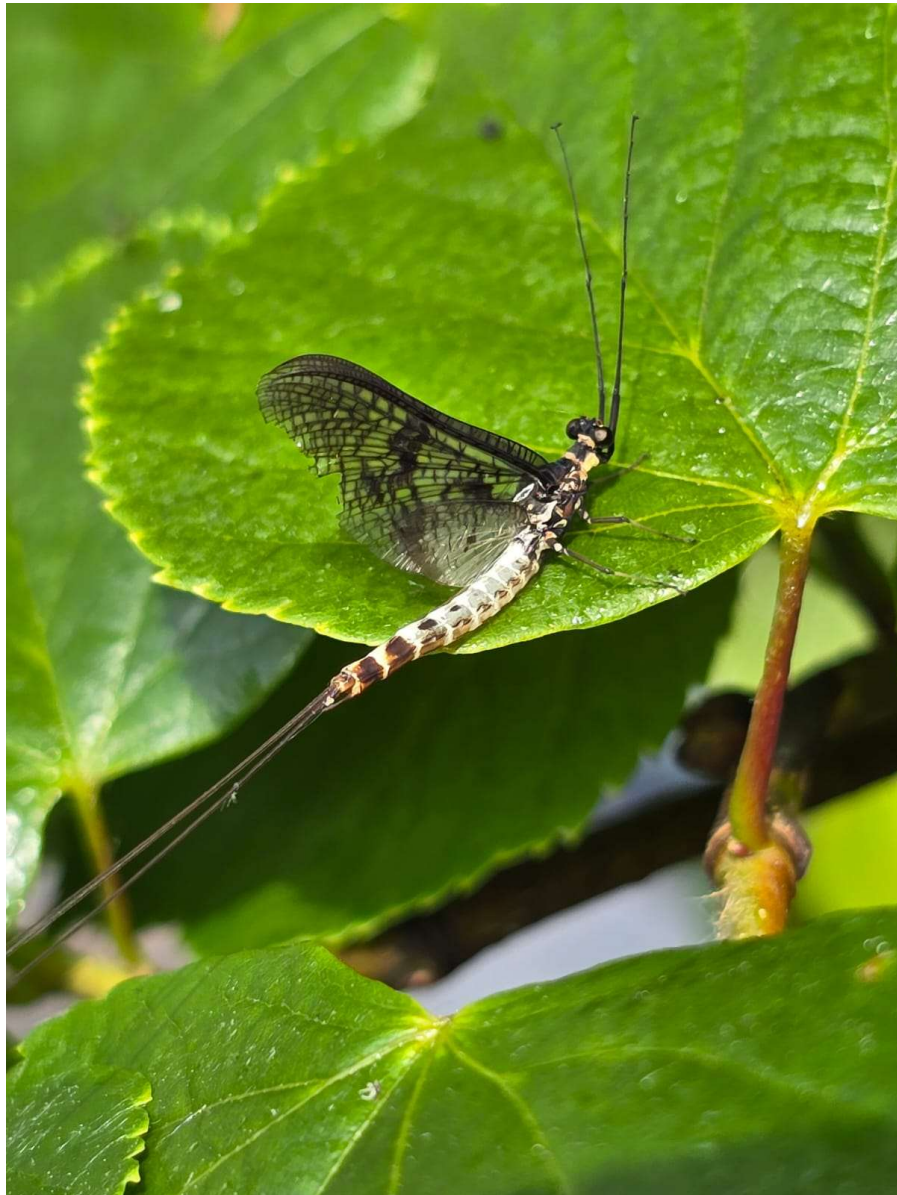


# FLY LINES



The Newsletter of the Illawarra Fly Fishers' Club Inc.,  
Wollongong, New South Wales, Australia

May 2026



**Cover Photo** - Mataura River Mayfly, Southland, New Zealand  
(Photo Credit: David Screen, Lakeside FFC)

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## CLUB NEWS

### Newsletter Editor and Facebook Co-Ordinator

#### YOUR CLUB



Yes, the club still needs a Newsletter Editor AND a Facebook Co-ordinator.

Should you have any photographs of the fish you have caught or the places to which you travelled, please forward them to our INSTAGRAM CO-ORDINATOR, Joe Manzano ([lanandjow@yahoo.com](mailto:lanandjow@yahoo.com)), our WEB MASTER, Gary Hickson ([gch92553@gmail.com](mailto:gch92553@gmail.com)) and our (casual) NEWSLETTER EDITOR, Neil Nelson ([Neil.Nelson1953@gmail.com](mailto:Neil.Nelson1953@gmail.com)), to advertise the fly fishing adventures and exploits in which our members participate.

Similarly, short stories, trip or outing reports are always welcomed for inclusion in the newsletter.

#### April Club Meeting Review

The club's guest speaker for the April meeting was Peter Morse.



Peter travelled down to Wollongong from the Blue Mountains amid an impending uel crisis to speak about the principles and execution of roll casts including the roll cast proper and the snake roll cast and the benefits of using them on the water.

Peter then gave us an introduction to the basic single handed spey casts such as the "Snap T" and "Snap C" and again spoke of the benefits of using these change of direction casts.

Peter is obviously enthusiastic about the use of spey casts and encouraged us to include these into our casting repertoire.

IFFC is indeed fortunate to be able to call on the expertise of such a well-known, well-travelled and skilled angler and caster to speak at our meetings and if you missed attending, you missed out on a great

## Club News Continued

presentation.

We are in the process of arranging for Peter to come down to Wollongong to conduct a hands-on introduction to roll and spey casting day at Towradgi in June, so if you are interested in attending, could you register your interest with Peter Henderson who will be assisting on the day.

Numbers are limited to ensure that attendees are able to draw on the expertise of both Peters to gain maximum benefit from the day. The estimated cost is \$160.00 which includes lunch.

### **May Club Meeting - Guest Speaker: Jim Harnwell (DPIRD)**

The May club meeting is programmed for Tuesday, May 6 at 7:30 p.m. at Collegians RLFC, Charlotte Street, Wollongong; our guest speaker is **Jim Harnwell** who is Programme Leader, Fish Stocking and Enhancement Operations, with the Fisheries and Forestry division of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.



Jim will be a mine of information and given what appears to be a lack of trout currently in the rivers of New South Wales, I am sure that everyone would have a question or two for Jim, not only regarding the current stocking programme and the Governmental approach to stocking, but of the future of the fishery proper.

It will be an informative and engaging evening, so don't miss it!

### **Management Committee Meetings**

The club's Management Committee meets once per month via ZOOM on the Monday evening immediately before the scheduled club meeting in order to discuss the necessary business, financial and social affairs of the club. On the premise that "a good meeting is a quick meeting", proceedings last for about an hour.

Any member is more than welcome to participate in and contribute to, a management meeting And being able to do so remotely makes the process all the more easy. Should you wish to engage in the process, simple advise Neil ([Neil.Nelson1953@gmail.com](mailto:Neil.Nelson1953@gmail.com)) and an invitation will be forwarded to you.

## Club News Continued

### **Increase in the Annual Membership Subscription**

At the April management committee meeting the club's Treasurer, Barry Gentle, raised the issue of the need to raise the annual membership subscription from the current twenty five dollars (\$25.00) in order that the club's financial commitments are met in the short term and continue to be met in the long term.

The club's records (minutes of meetings) indicate that the annual membership subscription initiated at the inaugural club meeting on **July 12, 1989** was \$20.00 for adult members and \$5.00 for Junior members and was only increased to \$25.00 for adult members five years later at the Annual General Meeting in **August 1994**. In the thirty two years since, the annual subscription has remained the same.

Following the April management meeting, Barry tabled a summary of the club's accounts for each year extending back to 2009 and as one would expect, the club's fixed costs have increased quite substantially over that period of time. These costs include, but are not limited to:

1. Insurances;
2. Affiliation fees;
3. Raffle prizes;
4. Internet costs;
5. Computer software costs;
6. Technology hardware costs (computers, projectors etc.);
7. Christmas lunch/ dinner costs;
8. Annual competition winner costs;
9. Guest speaker costs; and
10. Statutory costs (eg. Office of Fair Trading).

While membership subscriptions, meeting night raffles and the major annual raffle generate a positive income stream, the variance between income and expenditure is becoming increasingly narrow. Although the club has historically remained in a comfortable and positive financial position, the management committee has identified the need to ensure that this financial position remains in place in order that the club is able to meet its financial obligations as and when they fall due, in addition to being able to financially provide a club meeting programme that is both instructional and entertaining. For these goals to be achieved, it will be necessary to increase the annual membership subscription.

The management committee has suggested that the annual membership subscriptions increase:

1. For pensioners and those members who reside 50klm and further from Wollongong in accordance with Clause 4. b) (i) of the Club's Constitution - from [currently] ten dollars (\$10.00) to twenty five dollars (\$25.00); and
2. For all other members in accordance with Clause 4. b) (ii) of the Club's Constitution – from [currently] twenty five dollars (\$25.00) to Forty Dollars (\$40.00).

## Club News Continued

Although we would prefer that subscriptions continue to remain static, the simple fact is that an increase, particularly given that there has not been one in thirty two years, is both inevitable and financially necessary for it to remain viable.

A motion recommending that annual membership subscriptions increase as detailed in 1. and 2. immediately above, commencing as at the date of the 2026 AGM, will be tabled to the membership at the 2026 AGM. to either ratify or reject the proposition.

### **Luncheon for Foundation and Near Foundation Members**

Foundation member Paul Harvey is soon moving away from the Illawarra to join family in Mudgee. In light of that, we are hosting Paul, along with a couple of other senior members, Peter Hansen and Gordon McComb, to a lunch on Sunday May 3 at the Dapto Leagues Club. You are invited to join with Paul, Peter and Gordon to celebrate their long association with the club and to recognise their contributions to the club's advancement.

Many would know Paul as an excellent caster, Peter as an exquisite fly tyer and Gordon as ever active in club activities. Each of them happily shared their experience, encouraging others to emulate their skills.

So we hope to see you at Dapto Leagues, The Mill restaurant, at **12 noon on Sunday, May 3**, to make this a memorable occasion.

Please drop Michael Parkinson a short note to indicate you are attending so that Michael can make a table booking.

### **Club Trips**

#### An Overview of the Harrington Fly Fest, Friday March 20 to Sunday March 22, 2026

##### **Michael Smith**

Here is a rundown on the Harrington Fly Fest event, hosted by both the Coffs Coast Fly Fishers and Hastings Fly Fishers clubs in Harrington, located on the Manning River, that Barry Gentle, Peter Henderson and I attended in March.

With a motto of "a gathering for fly fishers to learn, share and have fun", fifty two attendees were treated to some great weather this year at the Discovery Park, right on the waterfront, which made for great casting opportunities both on water and in the park grounds.

IFFC's two Casting instructors, Peter (MCI) and Barry (CCI), were kept busy for the three days, running casting classes along with Brian Henderson (MCI), David Caddies (CCI) and Alan Ekert (CCI), with a few local gold level casters lending a hand with a wide variety of casting instruction covering:

- How to's;
- Improving casting skills;
- Faults and fixes;
- Moving up the casting skill ladder; and

## Club News Continued

- Estuary species fishing strategies, with whiting being the target.

David Wilson and Paul Fedeles were also on hand with fly tying advice and demonstration classes for those keen to play the feathers and fluff game.

Brian Henderson gave a talk on the FFI (Fly Fishers International) and its current status on Saturday evening and we joined him for an on-grass casting session on Sunday as he worked us through part of the new Salt Water Skills programme. It was and will be a challenging new chapter in casting proficiency and I'm sure we will have a lot of fun with it at our club casting days and on the water.

The gathering was a great success again this year from all reports, with everyone getting a good deal of tuition and information from a well -run weekend by the Coffs and Hastings teams.

I was given the opportunity to sit my Gold Level Casting Skills certification Brian and David whilst there and I am pleased to say I have now achieved this level. A big thanks to Peter and Barry for all the previous wonderful instruction! We are very lucky to have these two guys in our club, which was expressed to me many times over the weekend by the people that attended classes the boys ran!

Barry and I had contacted a few locals before we headed to Harrington, which we did a few days before the event with my boat in tow. We managed to get a fish in on Wednesday with Trevor and Barry in Trevor's boat and Kurt and myself in my boat, thus getting a swag of good local spots to try with them; Barry and I fished together on Thursday. The fishing was short of spectacular and being very quiet, was all the talk by the locals, but we managed a few with a really nice Bream being landed by Barry and a few odds and sods wrapped up a few fairly quiet sessions.

It is a beautiful waterway though and definitely worth a return visit.

## Proposed End of Season Trip to Jindabyne - Late May

We are proposing to hold an end of season trip to Jindabyne toward the end of May, provided we are able to secure accommodation at the lodge.

Further details and an invitation to attend will provided once accommodation is secured.

## **Largest Fish Register**

The latest Largest Fish Register as at April 30 which is co-ordinated by Phil O'Brien is included in the Annexures to this newsletter.

If you have the fortune of catching a fish of merit of any species, whether it be in New South Wales, interstate, or overseas and either in fresh or saltwater, please provide the details to Phil at [fisherphil01@gmail.com](mailto:fisherphil01@gmail.com) for inclusion in the Register.

## Club News Continued

### **Club Competitions**

#### Fly Tying Competition Results - April

The fly for the April fly tying competition was the **Black Spinner** and around six flies were presented for judging; as usual, there were a number of exceptional ties in the mix.



Place getters were:

1. Mark West
2. Barry Gentle
3. Neil Nelson



The pattern for the **May meeting** is the Muddler Minnow (**left**) - for details on how to tie this pattern, see the fly tying competition pages in the Annexures to this newsletter.

#### 2026 Fly Tying Competition Flies

Fly patterns for the 2025/ 2026 fly tying competition, ranging from classic patterns such as the Gold Ribbed Hares Ear nymph to the more contemporary Olive Perdigon, are detailed in the fly tying competition pages in the Annexures to this newsletter.

#### Monthly Casting Competition and Workshop - April

There was no competition casting in April due to the vicious, cold, Westerly wind that was powering through on the day, unfortunately the third successive month that weather conditions have forced cancellation.

However all was not lost and with seven members turning up despite the pretty ordinary weather conditions, Peter Henderson and Barry Gentle took advantage of the conditions to discuss and demonstrate casts and techniques for casting in the wind, in addition to demonstrating the roll and spey casts that Peter Morse had detailed in his presentation at the April club meeting earlier in the week.

Despite a few hats being blown away from time-to-time and Peter's coiffured locks blowing all over the shop, attendees were able to learn of and develop the skills required to cast in adverse weather conditions such as that experienced at the workshop and with which we are often confronted when on the water. It was another excellent, informative session of instruction from both Peter and Barry.

## Club News Continued

### FFI Casting Skills Programme

Details of the club members who are participating in the FFI Casting Skills Development programme are included in the Annexures to this newsletter.

Congratulations go to **Michael Smith** who passed his Gold Level at the Harrington Fly Fest in March.

**NOTE** that commencement time for our casting days will remain at 9:00 a.m. and not revert to a later time slot following daylight saving ceasing.

## **FISHING REPORTS**

### **Local and Interstate Reports**

The following tall tales and true were recorded at the club meeting on April 7, 2026.

**Peter Henderson** spent some time in New Zealand fishing with Peter Morse. They fished primarily Spey style and focused on the bigger rivers, swinging/ skating dry flies across the surface. The flies were mostly caddis patterns and they achieved some spectacular results with Trout up to 5lbs and an Atlantic Salmon on a dry fly.

**Gary Batey** targeted estuary species in Lake Illawarra, Minnamurra and Shoalhaven Heads. Gary reports that the results were a bit "ordinary" with three small Flathead from Shoalhaven Heads.

**Ray Ellis** undertook some "vermin removal" at Split Rock Dam, taking 40+ Carp each day with a #6/#8 nymph on a 6wt fibreglass rod, the largest fish measuring 75cm.

**Barry Gentle** and **Mike Smith** fished Harrington during the Fly Fest, taking several Bream, Tailor and Flathead.

**Malcolm Lowe** landed a couple of Brown Trout from the Moonbah river, but dropped a nice fish. These were taken on a Tom Jarman Midge pattern or a Red Tag.

**Neil Nelson** and **Matt Bingman** went out on Part Hacking, looking for some surface action from Kingfish and/or Tailor. They went to several known spots but with no result. Finally, as they made their way back to the boat ramp they encountered schools of tiny baitfish breaking the surface ("it sounded like rain" Neil said) and managed to hook some Tailor to 30cm. See the report in this newsletter, Neil also paid a visit to a favourite river in the Central West, finding it "very quiet", with only a couple of hits to report but no hookups.

**Chris Harding** fished with **Mike Parkinson** on Wallaga Lake. There was a lot of casting resulting in mainly small fish, Fathead and Flounder, to the net. Chris did land a nice 42cm Flathead, so one for the dinner table.

## Fishing Reports Continued

Mike's memorable catch was a squid that measured about 10cm on a #2 Clouser (chartreuse over white of course!). Mike also dropped a good size Tailor that ate his Joe's Shrimp pattern



**Above** - Mike's memorable 10 cm squid catch

During the preceding week, Mike fished several estuaries in the area including Wallaga Lake, with mixed results that included a few days when he caught a few flathead and other days when he caught zip.



**Left** – Coloradan, now Australian resident, Matt Bingman with his first Australian Tailor, Port Hacking River

## **International Reports**

Peter Morse spoke of a recent month-long trip to New Zealand where he exclusively used spey rods on the lower Mataura and other large rivers local to Gore. Peter said that the highlight of the trip was swinging and skating caddis flies to Brown and Rainbow Trout to five pounds, with an Atlantic Salmon being a first for him.

## TRIP/ OUTING REPORTS

**Port Hacking - March 2026**

**Neil Nelson**

When you have met an Australian girl from Wollongong on the ski fields of Colorado, when you then decide to get married, have a few kids, emigrate to Australia and settle down in Wollongong in January 2026, being a fly fisher, what do you do?

No contest.....you go along to a few meetings of the Illawarra Fly Fishers Club!

So in order to enhance bi-lateral relationships between Australia and the USA, I invited Matt Bingman along for a day of fly fishing on the Port Hacking River in God's country, the good old Sutherland Shire.

We launched the good ship "Ruff Nut" at the Grays Point ramp and being in the middle of the week and immediately before the Easter holidays, there were only two or three other trailers in the car park, just perfect.

We motored down river and found locals Richard and Matt from the Sydney Fly Rodders



**Above** - The Good Ship "Ruff Nut" in South West Arm, Port Hacking River

wading up to their jatz crackers in the water off the large sand flat to the East of the ramp and we had a good chat before heading to the baths at the end of Gymea Bay.

### Trip/ Outing Reports Continued

Now Gymea Bay has a sound reputation for some good pelagic fishing, including Kingfish, but the problem with this location is that the soft plastics and bait brigade congregate on the timber walkway around the baths and cast (read “launch”) huge rigs of lead and other “stuff” from the walkway out into the only clear water between the walkway proper and the last line of moored boats, a distance of perhaps forty metres or so. Those sounds of what you think to be fish “boofing” on the surface tend NOT to be fish boofing on the surface but many grams of lead and bait or weighted, coloured silicone hitting the water....and luckily not us!

With little activity showing on or below the surface and with the distinct impression that we weren't welcome in the prime spot, we headed further down river to the Lilli Pilli flats and drifted along the Gundermain/ Warambul (Southern) shoreline and channel a number of times and despite some good looking water, we had no action whatsoever.

We then moved toward South West Arm and Matt spotted some unidentified fish breaking the surface, but despite approaching them several times under power of the Minn Kota, they spooked very easily, even at the sound of the electric motor.



Things weren't looking too good, so we headed right up to the back of South West Arm and immediately found fish busting up hard up along a quite lengthy stretch of the rocky shoreline. Again, despite a few fly changes and good accurate casting, we just could not get an eat.

## Trip/ Outing Reports Continued

The serenity of fishing on the edge of the Royal National Park was shattered when a group of fellows came blasting through on their jet skis, music blaring and voices raised to naturally get over the music. The conversation between them was “colourful” to say the least, a good introduction for Matt to our Australian version of English, the colourful version!

Having no luck we motored down to Gunamatta Bay and Cronulla, but the huge swell that was forecast for a few days later was already sending a decent surf up river which had unfortunately resulted in some cloudy water, so we headed back to the Lilli Pilli flats to fish the incoming tide and drop off, again with no luck.

With our hopes for a good fishing results day dashed and with a developing thunderstorm on the horizon, we headed back toward the ramp and came across patches of ruffled water that appeared and sounded like rain drops hitting the water surface. With thunder rolling to the South, I called “rain” until Matt identified masses of extremely small, silver baitfish - a patch would materialise then disappear as another approached us and passed us by, but again, despite casting into the patches and having a few hits from “something”, we could not hook up.



**Left** - Masses of Bait Fish, Sounding and Looking Like Rain on the Water Surface

Suddenly the water erupted and there were bust ups everywhere rolling toward the boat and we had a fun fifteen minutes or so casting to and catching Tailor around the 30cms mark, a matter of getting

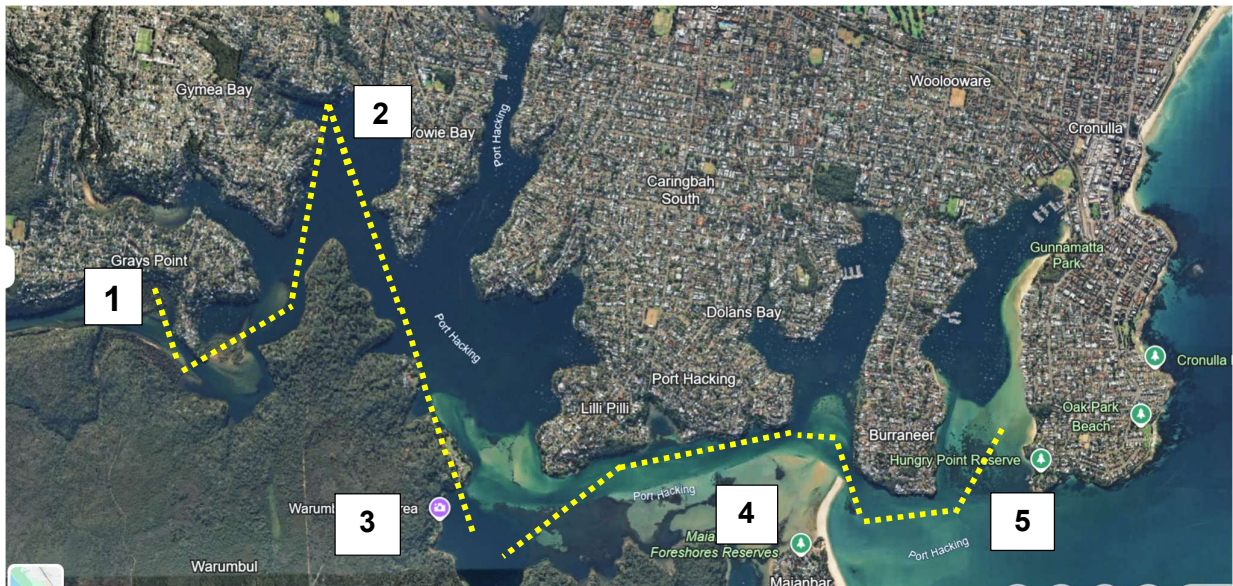
the fly back into the water as quickly as possible once it had been stripped back to the boat.

Despite more patches of baitfish passing through, the fish activity died off as quickly as it had started, but at least we finally had had SOME action for the day.

Despite being a tough day, it was a good introduction for Matt to Australian saltwater fly fishing and the natural wonders of the Sutherland Shire.....!



## Trip/ Outing Reports Continued



**Above** - From Grays Point to Gunamatta Bay/ Cronulla

1. Grays Point boat ramp
2. Gymea Bay baths
3. South West Arm
4. Lilli Pilli Flats/ Gundermain
5. Cronulla & Gunamatta Bay

### **Central West - March 2026**

**Neil Nelson**

With the prospects of a looming fuel crisis, David Screen (Lakeside FFC) and I decided against travelling down to Jindabyne in early April for a couple of days and instead travelled out to the central West to fish a river that we visit at least once per season.

Despite the early hour being on the road, the trip up the M7 motorway to the Great Western Highway (GWH) was its usual bumper to bumper crawl, but with the closing of the GWH at Mount Victoria due to engineering issues with one of the convict built bridges, traffic up the mountains was relatively light. In lieu of travelling along the Battery Causeway and then to Lithgow via the Bells Line of Road, we took a sneaky alternate route that circumvented potential slow traffic and hold ups and we were able to get from Mount Victoria and through Lithgow in double quick time.

With issues around the availability of fuel in regional areas, the lack of traffic was obvious, but we found fuel and diesel in particular, to be reasonably available and on par with Sydney prices.

## Trip/ Outing Reports Continued

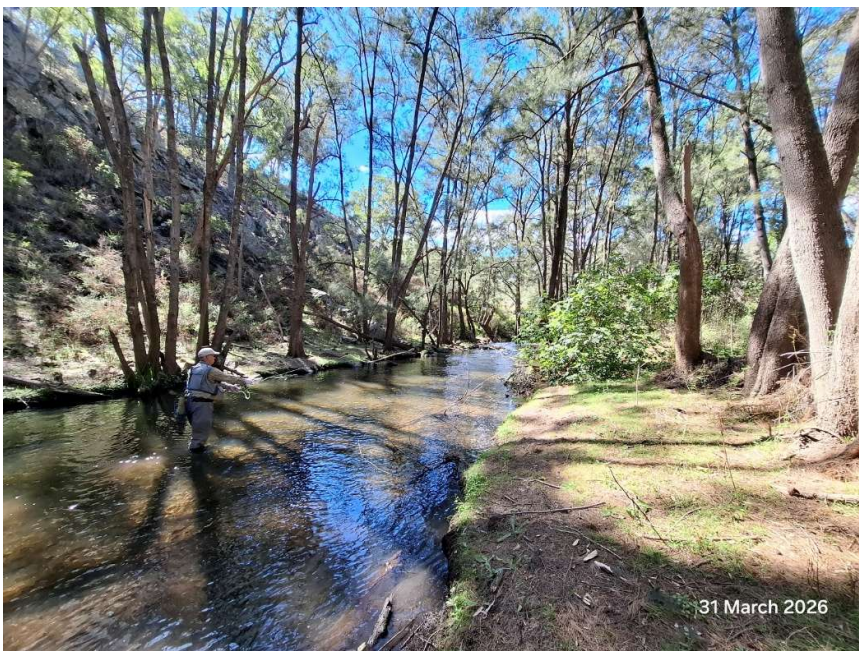


**Left** - Neil on a favourite Central West River (Photo Credit - David Screen)

We made good time to the bakery at Wallerawang where we stopped for a hearty breakfast of a coffee, a meat pie and a vanilla slice; the new premises are an absolute step up from the bakery's previous premises.

We arrived at the river with not a cloud in the sky and a forecast temperature of thirty plus degrees. The river was running well, relatively clear, particularly at the margins, but low-ish and we noticed that a significant number of additional She Oaks had toppled into the river since our last visit, usually in the best of the runs.

To say that the fishing was tough is an understatement. The temperature became quite warm as the day wore on, but the shade of the She Oaks provided us with some great shade and protection from the sun. We saw several Carp and we had a number of hits from smallish Trout on dry flies, but in the end, we had no fish to the net.



**Left** - David Screen on a favourite Central West river

## SNAKE ALERT

Remember, with the late Summer heat, **snakes are STILL out and about** at this time of year, so consider carrying at least two snake bandages on your person. Snake bandages are **NOT** the elasticised crepe bandages used for the treatment of sprains and the like - they are specialised, fit for purpose bandages.

If you don't have a snake bandage or two, it's in your best interest to purchase and carry them and learn how to use them with current, up to date first aid procedures in the field.

## FISHING QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Fishing is not an escape from life,  
But often a deeper immersion into it.

Harry Middleton



**Above** - Barry Gentle with a 38cm Bream from the Manning River immediately prior to the start of the Harrington Fly Fest (Fly - Raw Prawn)



## INTERESTING READING

### CHOOSING FLY TYING THREAD

#### Introduction:

The foundation of every well-tied fly begins with choosing the right thread. Today's fly tyers have access to a range of thread materials, each engineered for specific applications and performance characteristics.

This guide and our handy **Fly Tying Thread Comparison Chart** (attached) will help you choose the thread that's right for you!

#### Fly Tying Thread Material:

The most common fly tying thread materials today are nylon, polyester and GSP (gel-spun polyethylene).

**Nylon** emerged in the 1930's as the first synthetic substitute for traditional silk thread. Nylon has approximately 25% stretch, making it forgiving for beginners and ideal for applications that require some elasticity. Created through continuous extrusion, nylon excels at accepting vibrant dyes, resulting in the brightest colour selections available. Its moderate stretch helps prevent accidental breakage during tight wraps, though this same characteristic can create slight bulk in delicate patterns.

**Polyester** offers a different approach to synthetic thread construction. Available in both continuous filament and short-fibre configurations, polyester, with around 15% stretch, provides less elasticity than nylon but more predictable behaviour. The amount of stretch is approximately 3 ½% compared to 16% to 24% for polyester and nylon for GSP threads. Polyester's reduced stretch means it will break with less warning under excessive tension, requiring more careful handling. Colours tend to be slightly more muted than nylon, but the material offers excellent durability and consistent performance.

**Gel-Spun Polyethylene (GSP)** represents the cutting edge of thread technology. Some of the qualities of gel-spun thread that make it a good choice for tying include: it does not absorb water, it floats, it has excellent UV resistance and it is very supple. Gel spun only 3% stretch makes it extremely strong for its diameter, though this strength comes with challenges. GSP's slippery texture requires different handling techniques and the material will cut through metal after regular use, necessitating the use of ceramic bobbin tips.

**Traditional and Specialty Materials** still serve important roles in modern fly tying. Natural silk, cotton and wool threads offer unique properties for historical patterns and specialised applications. Synthetic options such as Kevlar and Rayon provide specific characteristics for particular tying challenges, though they remain less common in everyday use.

## Interesting Reading - Choosing Fly Tying Thread Cont'd

### Fly Tying Thread Brands:

J. Stockard stocks the industry's leading thread manufacturers, each offering distinct advantages:

- Danville: traditional nylon threads with consistent quality and extensive colour selection;
- UNI: versatile nylon and polyester options for all-around tying;
- Semperfli: innovative materials including specialised GSP products;
- Veevus: Danish engineered threads with superior breaking strength for their size;
- Wapsi: reliable nylon and GSP threads for diverse applications; and
- Gordon Griffiths: specialised threads, including ultra-fine options for delicate work.

### Fly Tying Thread Selection:

Thread selection depends on multiple factors: fly size, materials being secured, tying technique and intended fishing conditions. For delicate dry flies, a fine thread like 14/0 or 70 denier is ideal to prevent bulk. For larger flies, such as streamers or bass bugs, a stronger thread like 210 denier ensures durability without breaking under pressure.

Most tyers use nylon or polyester threads for most trout-sized flies and polyester or GSP for larger streamers. For the smallest of flies, tyers are typically using GSP or Nano-silk, taking advantage of GSP's exceptional strength in minimal diameter.

### Fly Tying Thread Size Measurement:

Understanding thread sizing is crucial for selecting the right tool for each pattern. Two measurement systems dominate the fly tying world, each with distinct advantages and applications.

**Denier System:** Denier is a textile industry convention. A particular thread's denier equals the gram weight of 9,000 metres of thread. Therefore the lighter the thread, the lower the denier and vice versa. This standardised measurement provides consistent, comparable sizing across all manufacturers and materials. Common sizes range from ultra-fine 30 denier for delicate dry flies, to robust 280 denier for large streamers and saltwater patterns.

**Aught (0) System:** Aught (0) size is an older, less accurate definition, with the more '0's' indicating finer thread; lower numbers mean thicker threads, so 3/0 is much thicker than 8/0. While less precise than denier measurements, many traditional patterns and tying instructions still reference aught sizes, making familiarity with both systems essential.

- 24/0, 18/0, 16/0, 14/0 = Ultra-fine threads
- 12/0, 10/0, 8/0 = Fine threads
- 6/0 = Medium threads
- 3/0 = Heavy threads

## Interesting Reading - Choosing Fly Tying Thread Cont'd

### Fly Tying Thread Technical Specifications Chart:

To help you make informed decisions, J. Stockard has compiled detailed specifications for every thread it stocks. Its comprehensive comparison chart includes denier ratings, breaking strengths, material composition and recommended applications. Keep this reference handy at your tying bench for quick thread selection guidance.

Whether you're tying size 24 midges or articulated streamers, understanding thread characteristics ensures your flies will perform exactly as intended. The right thread choice enhances both the tying process and the finished fly's effectiveness on the water.

Acknowledgement of Source - J. Stockard Newsletter, June 10, 2025

## IFFC SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

The Illawarra Fly Fishers' Club is supported by a number of generous sponsors.

Please remember them when you are considering buying new fly fishing and/ or fly tying gear and materials or in the case of Collegians RLFC, consider joining the club as a member. Help support those businesses that support our club.

- **Collegians Rugby League Football Club** provides IFFC with the use of the Mu-Blu Room for our meetings and when required, a room in which to hold other activities such as IFFC's fly tying course. Collegians provides this facility to IFFC at no cost.

Please consider becoming a member of Collegians, as members receive discounts on both food and beverages.



- **BWC Flies**

Not only does BWC Flies offer IFFC members a 10% discount on purchases, but they have an outstanding range of both fly fishing and fly tying equipment, accessories and materials. In addition, the mail order and delivery service offered by BWC is without exception, second to none.



DNA Fishing Tackle offers a 15% discount on all rods, reels, lines and other DNA gear; contact Neil for details.

## CLUB SOCIALS

Follow IFFC on social media: **FACEBOOK** (when we are able to secure a new Facebook Co-ordinator) AND **INSTAGRAM**





**ILLAWARRA FLY FISHERS' CLUB**

**GUEST SPEAKER - MAY MEETING**

## **Jim Harnwell**

The management committee of the Illawarra Fly Fishers' Club is pleased to confirm that Jim Harnwell will be guest speaker at the club's May meeting. Jim is the Program Leader, Fish Stocking & Enhancement, with the NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD).

The topic for Jim's presentation will be the work that the DPIRD does to enhance fishing opportunities via stocking, including information on the State's hatcheries and stocking regimes for Trout and native and marine species.



As a background, Jim was born and bred on the NSW South Coast and currently resides in Jervis Bay with his family.

Jim has always been a keen angler and spent his formative years fishing the Shoalhaven River and the rock ledges around Jervis Bay. He enjoys all forms of fishing, but particularly likes fly fishing for Trout, lure fishing for Bream and Flathead, swim baiting for Murray Cod and light tackle sportfishing for Snapper, King Fish, Marlin, Tuna and the like.

Jim trained as a newspaper journalist and worked for numerous regional and metropolitan newspapers before starting work as editor of Fishing World magazine in 1995 where he worked for the ensuing 20 years. He was lucky to be able to write about a range of national and international fisheries including most of Australia, the South Pacific, Asia, Europe and the Americas. Highlights

Guest Speaker - May Meeting: Jim Harnwell

include New Caledonian Bonefish, Coral Sea sportfishing, Top End Barramundi, NZ & Tassie trout and Central West natives.

Jim commenced with DPIRD Fisheries in 2015, originally in angler access, then communications and for the past five years he has headed up its stocking and enhancement program which he really enjoys and appreciates the opportunity to contribute in a small way in making our fisheries better and more resilient for future generations.



Jim's presentation will be fascinating and provides us with the opportunity to question him on stocking programmes and the work that DPIRD does, particularly with respect to Fisheries.

**DO NOT MISS IT!**

**When** 7:30 p.m., **Tuesday, May 5, 2026**

**Where** Collegians, Charlotte Street, Wollongong

Neil Nelson  
President

## 2025/ 2026 IFFC MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



**Neil Nelson** - President



**Peter Henderson (MCI)** - VP



**Michael Parkinson** - Secretary



**Barry Gentle (CCI)** - Treasurer



**Joe Manzano** - Instagram  
Co.ordinator



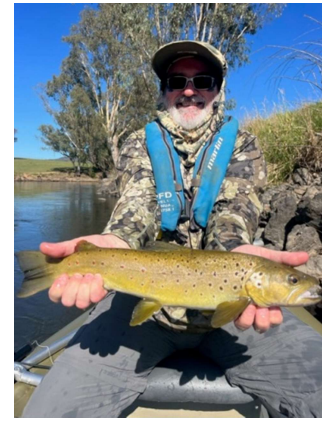
**Gary Hickson** - Web Master &  
Public Officer



**Phil O'Brien** - Largest Fish  
Competition Co.ordinator



**Malcolm Lowe** - Raffles Co-ordinator



**Kenneth Gordon** - Fly Tying  
Competition Co.ordinator



**Peter Fragiaco** - Casting Co-ordinator



Facebook/ Newsletter Editor



## **ANNEXURES**

**(DRAFT) CLUB PROGRAMME - JANUARY TO AUGUST 2026**

<b>MONTH</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>MEETING</b>	<b>EVENT</b>	
January		No meeting	No events	
February	2	Management Committee Meeting via ZOOM - 7:30 pm		
	3	Club Meeting - 7:30 p.m.		
	8			Casting Workshop - Towradgi 9 a.m.
March	2	Management Committee Meeting via ZOOM - 7:30 pm		
	3	Club Meeting - 7:30 p.m. <b>Fly Tying</b> demonstration with Barry Gentle, Joe Manzano and Grant Hilder.		
	8			Casting Workshop - Towradgi 9 a.m.
	20			Harrington Fly Festival
April	6	Management Committee Meeting via ZOOM - 7:30 p.m.		
	7	Club Meeting - 7:30 p.m. Guest Speaker - Peter Morse: "Spey Casts"		Tuesday immediately after Easter
	12			Casting Workshop - Towradgi 9 a.m.
May	4	Management Committee Meeting via ZOOM - 7:30 p.m.		
	5	Club Meeting - 7:30 p.m. Guest Speaker - Jim Harnwell		
	10			Casting Workshop - Towradgi 9 a.m.
June	1	Management Committee Meeting via ZOOM - 7:30 p.m.		
	2	Club Meeting - 7:30 p.m.		
	7			Casting Workshop - Towradgi 9 a.m.
July	6	Management Committee Meeting via ZOOM - 7:30 p.m.		
	7	Club Meeting - 7:30 p.m.		
	12			Casting Workshop - Towradgi 9 a.m.
August	3	Management Committee Meeting via ZOOM - 7:30 p.m.		
	4	Club Meeting AGM - 7:30 p.m.		
	9			Casting Workshop - Towradgi 9 a.m.

## ILLAWARRA FLY FISHERS' CLUB - LARGEST FISH REGISTER



Fish must be caught on fly, in season, in NSW public waters and equal or exceed the minimum length requirements.

Bass to be measured to tail fork.

**Largest Fish as at: April 30, 2026**

SPECIES	FLY FISHER	LENGTH (cm) or WEIGHT (Kg)	FLY AND HOOK SIZE	TIPPET (lbs/"x")	LOCATION
Australian Bass	Ray Ellis	46	Martin's Minnow	16	Glenbawn Dam
Australian Salmon	Mike Parkinson	56	#6 Surf Candy	16	Port Hacking
Carp	Ray Ellis	83	Brown Nymph		Split Rock Dam
Bream	Barry Gentle	38	Raw Prawn	8	Manning River
Brook Trout					
Brown Trout	Gary Batey	38	Orange BH Black nymph	6x/3.5lb	Denison
Estuary Perch	Paul Dwyer	50	Disco Shrimp	8	Lake Conjola
Flathead	Peter Henderson	50	Zonker Fly	14	Shoalhaven River
Luderick	Joe Manzano	39	Weed Fly	12	Bass Point
Mullet	Ken Gordon	35	Weed Fly	6	Minnamurra River
Trevally	Alan Griffiths	33	Bread Fly	10	Bass Point
Rainbow Trout					

Largest Fish Register Continued

<b>Tailor <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Neil Nelson</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>Chartreuse on White Clouser</b>	<b>16 lbs</b>	<b>Port Hacking River</b>

**Note 1** - Upgrade of fish size or new entry from previous issue

**Interstate and International - Catches of Merit.**

Barry Gentle	<b>Christmas Island (Kiribati)</b> 180 cm Barracuda	60lb tippet; 6/0 Black Brush Fly
Joe Manzano	<b>Karatha, Western Australia</b> 70 cm Blue Bastard 125 cm Queenfish 70 cm Barramundi 45 cm Mangrove Jack 55 cm Giant Trevally	20lb tippet; Joe's Shrimp Fly 30lb tippet; Pink on White Half and Half Fly 30lb tippet; White Clouser 30lb tippet; White Clouser 20lb tippet; Joe's Shrimp Fly
Joe Manzano	<b>Tokyo Bay, Japan</b> 60 cm Sea Bass	20lb tippet; Surf Candy

**FLY TYING COMPETITION 2025/ 2026 - FLIES FOR  
FEBRUARY TO DECEMBER**



<p>February</p>	<p>March</p>	<p>April</p>
<p><b>The Bredbo</b></p> 	<p><b>Kosciusko Dun</b></p> 	<p><b>Black Spinner</b></p> 
<p>May</p>	<p>June</p>	<p>July</p>
<p><b>Muddler Minnow</b></p> 	<p><b>Matuka</b></p> 	<p><b>Kate McLaren (Wet)</b></p> 
<p>August</p>	<p>September</p>	<p>October</p>
<p><b>Gold Ribbed Hares Ear</b></p> 	<p><b>Olive Perdigon</b></p> 	<p><b>Joe's Shrimp</b></p> 

## Fly Tying Competition Flies 2025/ 2026 Continued

November	December
<p><b>Lefty's Deceiver</b></p> 	<p><b>Coch Y Bonddu</b></p> 

### Tying References:

Month	Fly	Reference/ Web Site
February	The Bredbo	Rob Gee - Troutlore <a href="https://youtube/nrV8H4fxqXM?si=U0RLgFGNTDMj3jvC">https://youtube/nrV8H4fxqXM?si=U0RLgFGNTDMj3jvC</a>
March	Koskiusko Dun	Yarra Valley Fly Fishers newsletter - Page 13 <a href="https://www.yvff.com.au/userfiles/files/04%20-%20YVFF%20Fly%20Line%20May%202020(1).pdf">https://www.yvff.com.au/userfiles/files/04%20-%20YVFF%20Fly%20Line%20May%202020(1).pdf</a>
April	Black Spinner	Jan Spencer OR Red Tag Fly Tying <a href="https://youtube2TJ89Dew6o4?si=pHueFetHYIApCHYQ">https://youtube2TJ89Dew6o4?si=pHueFetHYIApCHYQ</a> <a href="https://youtube/mEqpK8lbbw?si=jXGA0-Z87NdSIJat">https://youtube/mEqpK8lbbw?si=jXGA0-Z87NdSIJat</a>
<b>May</b>	Muddler Minnow	Tim Flagler - Tight Line Video <a href="https://youtube/vTF8QuilHwM?si=50bTbDJdRO_Mdelj">https://youtube/vTF8QuilHwM?si=50bTbDJdRO_Mdelj</a>
June	Matuka	McFly Angler <a href="https://youtube/FyvCLrONvjE?si=d33SPDgJ7MTFwuDv">https://youtube/FyvCLrONvjE?si=d33SPDgJ7MTFwuDv</a>
July	Kate McLaren	Davey McPhail <a href="https://youtube/-c3Wg5E3lc0?si=jH2UtoMqXA_wZzYA">https://youtube/-c3Wg5E3lc0?si=jH2UtoMqXA_wZzYA</a>
August	Gold Ribbed Hares Ear	Charlie Craven - Charlie's Fly Box <a href="https://youtube/8V-PD6JV8tU?si=CJErVLGrkP2rKSi3">https://youtube/8V-PD6JV8tU?si=CJErVLGrkP2rKSi3</a>
September	Olive Perdigon	Tom Jarmin <a href="https://www.youtube/j6NUcYfyPj0?si=EgED0MxLb0a1bs63">https://www.youtube/j6NUcYfyPj0?si=EgED0MxLb0a1bs63</a>

Month	Fly	Reference/ Web Site
October	Joe's Shrimp	Rob Gee - Troutlore <a href="https://www.youtube/MhGn0Nx3pC0?si=dxEDaJkr4G0r_Djw">https://www.youtube/MhGn0Nx3pC0?si=dxEDaJkr4G0r_Djw</a>
November	Lefty's Deceiver	Tom Rosenbauer - The New Fly Fisher <a href="https://www.youtube/sJvzia0UHqY?si=BbxHiirMwcma3KjH">https://www.youtube/sJvzia0UHqY?si=BbxHiirMwcma3KjH</a>
December	Coch Y Bonddu	Barry Ord Clarke - The Feather Bender <a href="https://www.youtube/-n2Rf4dJEgg?si=MFhvtIIWpiJdEGI">https://www.youtube/-n2Rf4dJEgg?si=MFhvtIIWpiJdEGI</a>

**FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL (FFI)  
CASTING SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**



**IFFC MEMBER ACHIEVEMENTS**

Bronze Level	Silver Level	Gold Level
Barry Gentle	Barry Gentle	Barry Gentle
Neil Nelson	Neil Nelson	
Michael Smith	Michael Smith	<b>Michael Smith</b>
Mark West	Mark West	
Michael Parkinson		
Kenneth Gordon		
Joe Manzano		
Craig Stevens		
Glen Short		
Bob Hurt		
Ron Lynch (TBC)	Ron Lynch (TBC)	

**CERTIFIED CASTING INSTRUCTOR (CCI)**

Barry Gentle

Peter Henderson

**MASTER CASTING INSTRUCTOR (MCI)**

Peter Henderson

## ILLAWARRA FLY FISHERS CLUB INC.

### Application for New Membership or Membership Renewal.



#### Cost:

Membership fees for the club year (August 1 to July 31 the following year) fall due at the AGM on the first Tuesday in August and are as follows:

1. For Commonwealth pension card holders, holders of a Commonwealth disability card, full time students, students under 16 years of age, or non-residents (those members residing a distance greater than 50kms from Wollongong) - \$10.00 per person per year. Under the provisions of the Club's Constitution, a self-funded retiree or superannuant is not defined as a pensioner.
2. For all others (including self-funded retirees) - \$25.00 per person per annum.
3. Where a person joins the club on or after the first Tuesday in April, half membership fees apply, i.e. \$5.00 for those persons described in dot point 1. above and \$12.50 for those persons described in dot point 2., including self-funded retirees.
4. An establishment (joining) fee, in addition to the annual fee, applies to all new members - \$2.00.

#### How:

To apply for membership, please complete the application form below and either:

1. Present it, together with your payment, to the Treasurer at a club meeting; or
2. Email a completed form to: [treasurer@illawarraflyfishers.com.au](mailto:treasurer@illawarraflyfishers.com.au) and remit the membership fee via a funds transfer to the IFFC bank account at:

Bank            CUA  
BSB             814282  
Account No.   42098170  
Account Name: Illawarra Flyfishers Club Inc.

Please ensure that your name is entered in the "Payment Reference" field to assist with the identification of your payment.

Application for New Membership/ Renewal Continued



**Applicant Details:**

Please Note: The personal details of all members are treated in the strictest of confidence and will not be provided to other persons/ groups without the express permission of a member or members.

**Name**

**Address**

**Telephone No.**

**Email Address**

**Please Tick**

New  
Applicant

Membership  
Renewal