



THE ILLAWARRA FLY FISHERS' CLUB

1989 to 2019 - The First Thirty Years

FOREWARD

As the following document details, 2019 marked the thirtieth anniversary of the Illawarra Fly Fishers' Club.

By any measure, the passage of thirty years is a significant milestone in any endeavour, be it on a personal, social or business basis or, as in the case of the Illawarra Fly Fishers' Club, the establishment and uninterrupted continuity of a specialist social club.

That the Illawarra Fly Fishers' Club has existed for thirty years is a remarkable achievement. Thirty years ago Bob Hawke was the Prime Minister of Australia, Nick Greiner was the Premier of New South Wales, Australia had, the previous year, celebrated the bi-centenary of the arrival of the First Fleet, acid wash jeans were the rage, the "Game Boy" console was released by Nintendo, Crocodile Dundee II was a hit movie, Madonna's "Like a Prayer" was the number one music single and for higher education students, the Hawke government had scrapped free University education and introduced the Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS) scheme. Whilst the HECS scheme remains, other political and social highlights of the time have, fortunately or unfortunately depending upon your point of view, passed into history. Fortunately for past, current and future members, the Illawarra Fly Fishers' Club continues to exist and continues to maintain a strong, active and social membership.

This is certainly a remarkable achievement on many fronts. Remarkable that Kevin Brown, the founder of the club, had the foresight to canvas the idea of starting a regional fly fishing club, remarkable that fly fishing captured the imagination of the founding members and those that followed and remarkable that management committees have, over all those years, provided the cohesive leadership and direction so necessary to, amongst other things, maintain and protect a positive financial position, honour the club's statutory obligations and plan for and implement a meeting and social programme that is meaningful and engaging for its membership.

The passage of thirty years has also seen a remarkable change in the make-up of the membership of the Illawarra Fly Fishers' Club and the manner in which it operates. The club is fortunate to have had and continues to have, a number of women members, pioneered as early as 1990 by Anne Lee amongst others. For mine, the membership of women continues to break down the gender bias toward male membership and the "blokey" reputation that fishing clubs generally and sometimes unfortunately, attracts. The Illawarra Fly Fishers' Club warmly welcomes the participation and friendship of our female members and will continue to promote a club culture that is inclusive to all that wish to pursue the sport of fly fishing.

Now, more than ever, a greater number of members have the opportunity to travel to all parts of the globe to indulge in their passion for the sport, with members having travelled to destinations including, but not limited to, New Zealand, the United States, Venezuela, Mongolia, Croatia, Slovenia, Christmas Island, the Cook Islands, Tahiti, French Polynesia and of course, all parts of Australia. Some members, such as past President, Stephen Chatterton, have even reached the highest accolades in fly fishing by competing at

a number of National, Commonwealth and World Fly Fishing Championships and hence the desire to compete at the highest level of the sport or travel the world to fly fish for all manner of fish species is born from members having roots with the Illawarra Fly Fishers' Club.

And who would have thought thirty years ago that mail, as a traditional form of communication, was to be all but replaced by a new means of communication collectively named "social platforms" that include email, the internet, Facebook, Instagram and text messaging, all of which making communication with the club's membership so much more easy, more effective, quicker and dare I say, cheaper. How times have changed!

As current President, there are many people who must be thanked for their involvement with the Illawarra Fly Fishers' Club over thirty years. With reference to the following document, special thanks must be extended to Phil O'Brien for volunteering his service and time to research, collate and record the club's history.

To long time members such as Peter Hansen, Bevan Goodall, Steve Chatterton, Ted Morrison, Glen Southwell, Tom Rafferty and others, thank you for your participation in not only the meetings and telephone conversations with Phil, but responding to correspondence, providing feedback on draft documents and providing the verbal history and anecdotes on which Phil's document is based. We are indeed fortunate that the club has, as current members, several who were founding members and with whom reference was possible to provide the valuable information, insight and assistance so essential to ensure, as much as possible, historical accuracy and chronology. In particular, a very special thanks to Peter Hansen for making available his vast collection of past club newsletters for research and electronic archival which proved to be a significant historical source and treasure trove of information.

To those members who have volunteered their time and made the effort to serve on the club's management committees over past years and who may serve in the future, thank you. Whilst your service mainly goes unrecognised, it is invaluable and necessary to ensure not only the continued financial viability of the club, but ensures that statutory obligations are met and club meetings and activities are meaningful, appropriate and satisfy the expectations of the membership. It is to those volunteers to whom a great debt of gratitude is owed.

Last, but certainly not least, thank you to you, the club's membership, past, present and future, as without members, there is no Illawarra Fly Fishers' Club and no basis on which to reflect on a club history in another thirty years; the management committee appreciates your involvement, no matter how great or little that involvement is, was, or will be in the future. Nonetheless, in order for the club to grow and ensure its longevity, it needs your participation in what it does, be that attendance at a monthly club meeting or casting workshop, tying a fly for the monthly fly tying competition or attending a club trip or activity. Participation is not dependent upon skill level, but it will ensure a healthy exchange of ideas, a sharing of knowledge, promote an increase in skill level across all facets of the sport, drive friendly competition and develop a culture that reflects, amongst other things, friendship and encouragement of others to enjoy such a wonderful sport.

The Oxford Dictionary defines history as being “the study of past events, particularly in human affairs” and whilst this history of the Illawarra Fly Fishers’ Club is insignificant in the greater scheme of things in human endeavour, it makes for an interesting read for members and forms but a small part of the social fabric and makeup of Wollongong and the Illawarra Region.

Neil Nelson - President

July 2020

1989 to 2019 - THE FIRST THIRTY YEARS

Introduction - The Author

The following information was sourced from club minutes, club newsletters, personal communication with club members and the memories of a number of club members of long standing, including those who were foundation members; if any person has been unintentionally omitted, or any aspect of the following appears to be erroneous, please accept my apologies.

Nevertheless, should you have any potential corrections to the facts or dates presented, any details or stories of past club activities or of notable club members, humorous anecdotes or photographs that you consider may be worthy of inclusion in this club history, we would certainly welcome the opportunity to correct the record or include items of interest in future revisions. Similarly, if you are able to identify persons noted in photograph notations as being “unknown”, we would certainly appreciate your assistance in identifying those persons to complete the historical record.

Phil O’Brien, December 2019

Our History

The Illawarra Fly Fishers’ Club as we now know it was originally named the Leisure Coast Fly Fishers and was conceived by local resident Kevin Brown.



Leisure Coast Fly Fishers’ Club cloth badge, circa 1990/1991

Kevin was an avid fly fisher and prior to the formation of the club, was a member of the NSW Ambulance Service; upon leaving the Ambulance Service, Kevin opened a fishing tackle store in Windang, NSW ¹.

Seeing the opportunity to advertise and benefit his business, as well as promoting fly fishing in the local area ², Kevin canvassed patrons of his tackle store with the idea of commencing fly tying classes. With interest being generated through the store and by word-of-mouth, Kevin

subsequently became satisfied that there was sufficient Interest and classes commenced in 1989 with Kevin as tutor; classes were held at the Windang Hotel, with Les Eccles, Graeme Smith, Tom Rafferty and one other person initially in attendance. As news of the classes spread, others became interested and attendance grew ³.

Tom Rafferty, a founding member of the Leisure Coast Fly Fishers, recalls that after each class attendees would sit and talk over a drink or two and on one occasion, Kevin asked those gathered if they thought there were enough people in the Illawarra who fly fished and who would be interested in starting a fly fishing club. The response was positive and as those attending the classes also knew people who fly fished, Kevin placed an advertisement in all the local tackle stores that a fly fishing club was to be established ⁴. On a personal level, Glen Southwell, another founding member, recalls that “the club was a result of Kevin being a keen fly fisher and there was a doctor who was also very keen. I heard about it simply from Kevin at his shop as I went in to purchase some flies (I was very new to the whole game)” ⁵.

Subsequently, on June 5, 1989, it was decided to form a club. The objectives of the proposed club were, in essence, the same as those today, namely to provide members with the opportunity to meet and share experiences with fellow fly fishermen, to share knowledge and to encourage others to enjoy the sport.

The inaugural meeting was held on July 12, 1989, in the “old Chinese restaurant” above what was then the Dive Shop at Windang. Nineteen people ⁶ were present at that meeting and the first management committee was formed comprising:

Kevin T. Brown	President;
Frank Diggles	Vice President;
Stewart Burke	Secretary; and
Shane Rosengrave	Treasurer.

Among the items of business of the first meeting was the decision to hold meetings at 7.30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month and whilst a number of suitable venues were discussed, initial meetings were held at the Coniston Hotel in Coniston.

Membership subscription was set at \$20.00 per annum for adults and \$5.00 per annum for juniors, meaning that as at the time of writing in 2019, subscriptions have increased by only five dollars in thirty years! In addition and as a means of raising funds, \$1.00 was collected from members attending each meeting.

Other items of business discussed included the basis of a club Constitution, potential locations at which to hold monthly casting workshops, Sport and Public Liability insurances and the like. More important, the club was named the Leisure Coast Fly Fishers, a name that was to change to the Illawarra Fly Fishers’ Club some years later. In addition, it was decided that casting competitions and fly tying, being an integral part of the sport, were to be regular club activities.

The first newsletters were prepared by the first newsletter Editor, Tom Rafferty and distributed by post, the first appearing as the January/ February edition in 1990 ⁷; it was a

one or two page bi-monthly publication in black and white.

Other active contributors to the club at the time were Peter Van Der Zanden, Les Eccles, Mick Collins, Ron Barker, Mal Janson, Ted Morrison, Glen Southwell and Peter Hansen.

In those early years, some members also attended fly tying and casting courses held at the Lake Illawarra Police Citizens Youth Club (PCYC) which were also conducted by LFF club President, Kevin Brown; Kevin was assisted by future IFFC President, Ted Morrison and later by Peter Hansen.



Extract from the Illawarra Mercury, circa 1992 (Article Courtesy of Peter Hansen)

The second club meeting, held in July, 1989, was attended by twenty three people and the standard agenda of attending to formal business items, including tabling of minutes of meetings and financial reports and addressing various items of correspondence prior to members providing fishing reports and undertaking "education" activities, was established.

Initially the Constitution, meeting locations, casting venues and insurances were priority issues discussed at meetings, although other items of discussion included fishing reports and the results of the club's casting competitions.

Ken Christopher, the owner of a fishing tackle store that was located further West of Ern Webb's original store in Crown Street, Wollongong, was the presenter of fishing reports on radio 2WL each Saturday morning and became interested in the club and its activities⁸. Also at this time the long association with the "Illawarra Advertiser" and the "Illawarra Mercury" newspapers began, with club reports or newsletters being forwarded to and published in both publications. During his term as newsletter editor in the 1990's, Chris Harding would provide a copy of the club newsletter to the fishing columnists of both newspapers, who would then use the contents as a source for their respective fishing reports. To this day club activities, when provided, are reported by Gary Wade, a former member of IFFC, in the fishing reports column of the "Illawarra Mercury" and this has provided the club with an additional source of membership interest and enquiry.

The third club meeting in August, 1989, was held at the Coniston Hotel, with twenty five people in attendance; the club's initial bank balance at that time was \$375.00!

On September 1, 1989, the club's first field day was held at Fitzroy Falls near Robertson, NSW, with the then newsletter stating that the trip "will go ahead, rain, hail or shine". There is no record as to whether it rained or hailed..... Subsequently a trip to Jindabyne was planned for the following November.

Eighteen people and one visitor attended the fourth meeting in September, 1989, with the minutes recording that the numbers were low as "everyone not there was obviously out fishing". Shane Rosengrave and Bevan Goodall gave a report on their trip to Taralga, NSW and Pejar Dam, near Goulburn, NSW, was set as the venue for the next club outing.

Members of Illawarra Fly Fishers, Peter Hayes (left), Ann Lee and president Stephen Chatterton discuss the finer points of fly tying at a recent meeting.
Picture: GREG TOTMAN



My club

Stephen Chatterton has been a recreational fisher all his life. He discovered the Illawarra Fly Fishers Club (of which he is now president) and was taken under the wing of an experienced member Ted Morrison. The club is a sports fishing club so all fish caught are handled carefully to minimise harm and released. As well, members clean up the environment whenever they go fishing and assist in the preservation of the sport by buying hundreds of fish from breeders and releasing them into their correct environment.

Years of operation: 15.
Number of members: 70 including several women.
Aims of the club: To enhance the members' enjoyment of the sport of fly fishing by providing opportunities to increase their knowledge and skills and to assist with maintenance of the environment.
Membership restrictions: None for actual membership - we have juniors from around 16 to a couple of older gentlemen, one in his 80s. However, we do not allow children under 13 to go on fishing trips unless accompanied by a parent.
Meeting times: 7.30pm on the first Tuesday of each month (except January) at Collegians City football club. The club has been very generous to, and supportive of, the group over the past three years.
How did the club start? A group of about six dedicated fly fishers got together for the camaraderie and to discuss their common interest - including stories of the ones that got away. We don't only fish for trout at Lake Jindabyne but enjoy fly fishing for Australian native fish, bass, in rivers including the upper Shoalhaven, Kangaroo and Nepean.

Most enjoyable aspect of the club: Sharing fishing experiences with others.
Major annual events: Every year we run one or more fly tying schools and one or more fly casting clinics in Wollongong that are open to the public.
Why did you join the club? I had been fly fishing for a couple of years and had not caught a fish. It's hard to get started with fly fishing but once you understand it, it is relatively easy.
How long have you been a member? Since 1994.
Final comment: I have found it's a great way to get a whole lot of knowledge quickly by meeting people who already have that knowledge. I enjoy the club environment and the mateship - it's been excellent. Club membership has been growing steadily over the past few years and we have lots of outings and activities.
Club contact: Stephen Chatterton 4285 3180.

- GAY MACKIE
If you would like to publicise your club in this section contact 4221 2303 or email gmackie@illawarramercury.com.au

ILLAWARRA MERCURY, Monday October 18, 2004 53

Illawarra Mercury "My Club" Article, October 18, 2004

The fifth meeting in October, 1989, saw the same eighteen members and three visitors attend, with the club coffers swelling to \$958.00 due largely to the commencement of a raffle at each meeting. To this day the monthly raffle continues to be the chief form of fundraising for the club, generously assisted by the club's sponsors including Collegians Rugby League Football Club and The Compleat Angler, Sydney.

Whilst members recorded catches from Fitzroy Falls, Jindabyne and the Eucumbene areas, early fishing reports were very similar in nature to those presented today, with comments offering a range of information such as:

“Paul and Ken - no luck at Adaminaby;

Wayne and Tom fished the Eucumbene for seven fish;

Pete fished Burrinjuck; and

Tom fished Wyangala - too hot”.

The concept of “Spot X”, that elusive, secret location that was not to be divulged under any circumstance, was yet to develop amongst members and information was freely disseminated amongst the membership.

Most of the early club meetings involved open discussion regarding club rules, the Constitution and the formation of small working groups to tackle club objectives, one objective being the commencement of liaison with other fly fishing clubs/ associations including the Berrima & District Acclimatisation Society, ANSA and the like. Tom Rafferty recalls that “when the club was on the go, the Secretary contacted the Sydney clubs to inform them of us and Lakeside sent us their newsletter but there was no real inter club action at that time”⁹.

However Lakeside Fly Fishing club did provide assistance to Don Edmonson, an early member, by providing him with the rules of international fly casting competition which IFFC (loosely) uses at its monthly fly casting workshop and competition. This was initiated following an agreement to hold a casting competition between both clubs.

In addition, club representatives have, over many years, developed close relationships with other fishing clubs and fly fishing clubs in particular including Southern Bass, Sydney Fly Rodders Club, NSW Fly Fishers’ Club, Hastings Fly Fishing Club and the Council of Freshwater Anglers (CFA). At the time of writing, IFFC representatives regularly attend meetings of the CFA, compete at the annual CFA Meet at Wallerawang, compete at the “Southern Bass Invitational” at Lake Yarrunga, Kangaroo Valley, NSW and compete at the annual Lakeside Fly Fishing Club’s “President’s Challenge” casting competition.

As the result of a friendship developed between IFFC and LFFC Presidents Neil Nelson and David Screen at the CFA meet in 2005, each has also been guest speaker on several occasions at the club of the other.

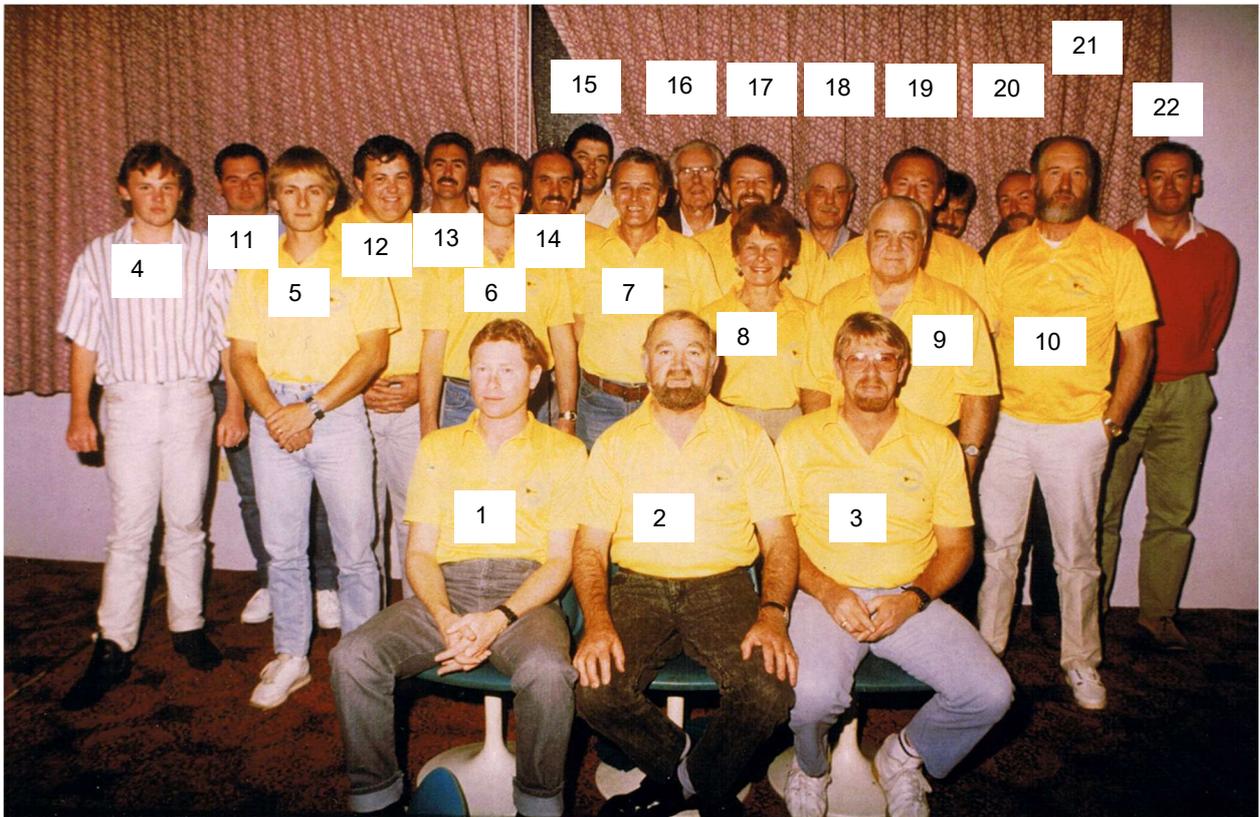
In June, 1990, Ann Lee joined the club as its first female member and with the membership of Frank Crawford and Bill Dalzele, membership grew to thirty.

The club’s library was initiated in 1990 and the idea of a “Fly of the Month” fly tying competition was suggested and introduced into the meeting programme.

Over the course of its first year to June 1990, the club had experienced significant expansion in both its membership and the activities in which members participated. The club had grown from fledging meetings of interested people in 1989 to achieving a substantial overall membership in 1990. It had established a formal business procedure into its

meetings, had encouraged the dissemination of information and had encouraged the upskilling of members by way of fly tying and casting competitions and participation in club activities.

Club members continued to be active, with reports from “secret” places such as those in the Khancoban, Providence Portal, Upper Murray and Tuena areas and the Eucumbene, Numerella, Badja, McLaughlan and Gungahlin Rivers.



Club Photograph circa 1990/ 91 at Coniston Hotel (photo taken by Steve Starling; Photograph courtesy of Peter Hansen) [Left to Right]

Front Row - (1) Shane Rosengrave, (2) Kevin Brown, (3) Stewart Burke

*Second Row - (4) **Unknown**, (5) **Unknown**, (6) Peter Van Der Zanden, (7) Bevan Goodall, (8) Anne Lee, (9) **Unknown**, (10) Paul Harvey*

*Third Row - (11) **Unknown**, (12) Bob Sheedy, (13) Glen Southwell, (14) John Fell (15) Craig Simpson, (16) Ted Morrison, (17) Tom Rafferty, (18) Les Eccles, (19) **Unknown**, (20) behind 19, **Unknown**, (21) behind 10, Graeme Smith, (22) Wayne Wells*

In July 1990, the first club tee shirts were ordered and the club library expanded with subscriptions to international and local fly fishing magazines. By September 1990, the club tee shirts had still not arrived, although a post office box had been arranged for receipt of club mail. Thirty years later and with so little mail currently passing through the post box, the management committee decided in February 2020 to gauge the volume of posted mail for a period of twelve months before deciding whether or not the cost of the post box was justified. There is little doubt that in 2021, the need for a post office box service will cease.

In August 1990, the club’s first guest speaker. Andrew Brozzos from the Australian Fly Fisherman store, then located in Rushcutters Bay, Sydney, demonstrated the latest fly fishing equipment and presented slides on fly fishing in Argentina and the Northern Territory.

Finally in November 1990 the club's tee shirts arrived at a cost of \$ 20.00 per item. November also proved to be a busy month for fishing reports, which included one report outlining a trip to New Zealand, a report that may have been a first for the club.

In December 1990 the club's cloth badges, designed by Kevin Brown, arrived. The club also commenced actively pursuing access to the lake at Fitzroy Falls for its members, with communication being made to a number of Authorities requesting access. Communication with these Authorities has been ongoing and made on a regular basis since 1990 with little success, the last attempt being made in 2017.

In March 1991 and in what must be a significant milestone in any club history, Ann Lee commenced acting as club Secretary. Meetings had now extended to ninety minutes in duration, although most of that time appears to have been dedicated to business or management issues and not to fly fishing proper. One long time member recalls that the general sentiment of the majority of the membership at the time was that there should have been "less talk about the club and more about the fishing".

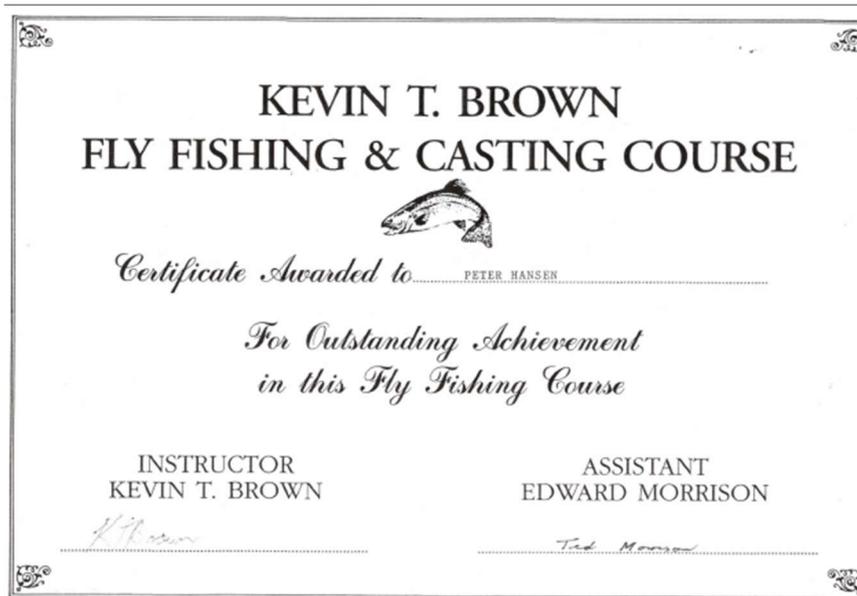
By June 1991 the club was searching for a permanent casting pond to use for its monthly casting workshops and Wollongong City Council was approached to use Coomaditchy Lagoon near Warrawong in Wollongong's Southern suburbs; although this potential venue was never used by the club, there appears to be no record of Council having approved or rejected the club's approaches. Thirty years later and despite a desire to have a permanent "home" for casting activities, a permanent venue remains as elusive as ever and the club has used a number of venues over the years including the University of Wollongong ponds, Stuart Park adjacent to North Beach and as at the time of writing, Towradgi Park.

The August 1991 AGM saw the election of the following office bearers:

Shane Rosengrave - President;
Peter Van Der Zanden - Vice President;
Stewart Burke - Secretary;
Treasurer - Ann Lee; and
Public Relations - Tom Rafferty.

The general committee comprised Ted Morrison, Paul Harvey, Bevan Goodall, Kevin Brown and Brian Rainbird.

1992 saw fly tying nights and casting courses being held for members and non-members from that wider Wollongong area, also organised by Kevin Brown, assisted by Ted Morrison and later, Peter Hansen. These were held at the Lake Illawarra PCYC and the cost of attending was \$5.00 per evening, with attendees needing to take their own equipment. However it was somewhat separate to normal Leisure Coast FFC club activities.



During the same year, Bevan Goodall suggested that the top pond at the University of Wollongong had the potential to be a suitable location for the club's fly casting activities and as a result, the top pond became the unofficial venue for the next twenty years. Although only five members attended the first challenge, subsequent casting days were better represented, with ten or more members attending to cast, discuss techniques and mentor beginners. Anecdotal advice is such that the University was never approached for permission to use the pond and hence permission was never granted. Surprisingly, at no time over those twenty years were LCFF/ IFFC members confronted by University security officers, University representatives or passers-by questioning the club's presence at the site; staff, students and others most likely determined that the club's casting activities, whilst being held on a Sunday morning, were merely part and parcel of campus life!



Casting at the UOW Ponds, November 6, 2005 [Left to Right] - Anne Lee, Paul Harvey, Gordon McComb, Michael Parkinson, Stephen Swan (Photograph courtesy of Neil Nelson)

The club's casting days became a popular meeting place for members to show off their tackle and new acquisitions, particularly fly rods and provided experienced and not so experienced

members with a forum to discuss and trial a wider range of different rods than would otherwise be the case in order for individuals to gauge a rod's performance for their particular casting action. Given the social context of the casting days, they also afforded attendees the opportunity to discuss all manner of things related to fly fishing and nothing has changed in that respect over thirty years.

At this stage of the club's existence it was fortunate that several members were excellent fly casters and tutors, notable amongst those being Paul Harvey and Harry Fuller. Both were thorough gentlemen and would have no hesitation providing a member with a quick lesson or identify a potential casting fault. Further, both were keen to notice what rod a member owned and would discuss the technology of the rod with the owner prior to demonstrating how best to cast it and then providing a "kind" review of what they thought of it.

Both are treasured members and although age now impinges on Paul's ability to attend casting days, he attends when he is able and still is able to make a long cast. Unfortunately Harry Fuller retired to the New England district of NSW and LFFC lost a great contributor to the club.

With the establishment of a club library, missing or late returns of borrowed books became an issue and again, nothing has changed in this respect in the ensuing thirty years. The library has grown from not only being a repository for books, but also for magazines (Fly Life et al), videos and then DVDs covering all aspects of the sport from fly tying, casting and travel.

Club trips to the Snowy Mountains were organised and regularly supported by the membership, with groups also traveling to Tasmania. Bass fishing in the Shoalhaven River was noted for the first time.

Club fly tying nights, as distinct to those being held at the Lake Illawarra PCYC, now commenced at an Illawarra County Council property which was co-ordinated by Paul Harvey, although minutes from the time incorrectly record the venue as being at a Sydney Water Board property.

Guest Speakers for the year once again included Andrew Brozzos, who spoke of fly fishing in New Zealand and Sage rods, NSW Fisheries gave a slide presentation and club slide shows and video nights were added to the meeting programme.

By 1993 the club membership had grown largely focused on the capture and *sometimes* release of Trout, where a "kill and grille" approach was a common and standard practice for the time. However in the past thirty years, the attitude of club members has changed dramatically, particularly with respect to our Salmonid and native species, with catch and release being the norm rather than the exception. Lee Wulff's sentiment that a fish (in his particular case, Trout) were "too precious a resource to be caught once", has certainly struck a chord not only with members of the Illawarra Fly Fishers' Club, but also with fly fishers all over the world.

1993 also saw the introduction of the Christmas dinner and presentation evening which

replaced the December club meeting and completed club activities for the year.

Guest Speakers became a regular occurrence, including Allan Barber, then owner of Tiewell fly tying products, who tied a number of Bass and saltwater flies. Other guest speakers included representatives from NSW Fisheries, Scott Mitchell, then owner of The Alpine Angler and Chris Batey from the Complete Angler, who both gave presentations and provided discounts to club members.

1994 saw another year of growth with the AGM electing:

Ted Morrison - President;

Tom Rafferty - Vice President;

Stewart Burke - Secretary

Shane Rosengrave - Assistant Secretary and Corporate Affairs Representative; and

Anne Lee - Treasurer.

Other committee members included Les Eccles, Bevan Goodall, Peter Hansen, Paul Harvey, Keith Godfrey and Peter Van Der Zanden

Trips to the Snowy Mountains, Tasmania and New Zealand featured heavily in fishing reports and 1994 saw the first report of Flathead taken on a fly.

Anne Lee became very active in liaising with other fly fishing clubs and attended the meetings of a number of freshwater fishing organisations including the Council of Freshwater Anglers (CFA) and reported on the outcomes of those meetings at club meetings.

During the year Anne also provided a detailed presentation on one of her first New Zealand visits and another that focused on entomology. Other guest speakers included a rod building demonstration by Craig Brown and Rowley Hoyer, at the time employed at Ern Webbs Sports Store in central Wollongong, organised well known fly tyer and writer Mick Hall to also speak. Mick donated a fly tying video, a "Blackridge" fly rod (inscribed by Mick) and a reel for the club's raffle which was won by Paul Harvey, who reputedly declared that "it was the best two dollars I ever spent" ¹⁰.

1995 saw the first publication of the club's re-named newsletter "Fly Lines" with Chris Harding joining the management committee and Glen Southwell responsible for both publicity and publication of the newsletter.

In August 1995 the club officially changed its name from Leisure Coast Fly Fishers to the Illawarra Fly Fishers' Club. Past President Stephen Chatterton recounts the background to the name change ¹¹...

"I am pretty sure this happened when we lost our meeting venue at Tarrawanna and we set out to find a sustainable home for the club.

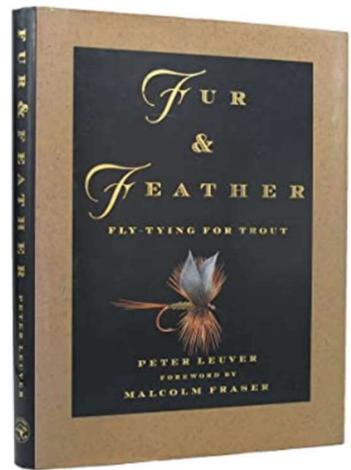
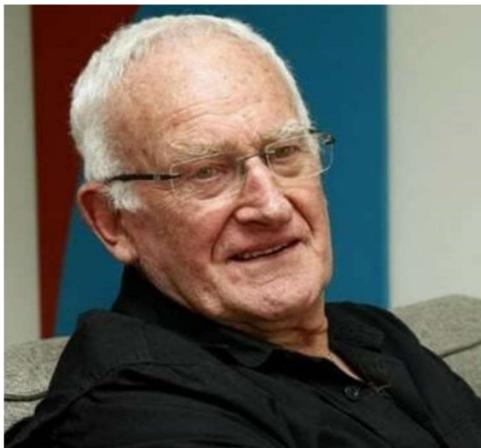
I am pretty sure that up to then we had been Leisure Coast Fly Fishers (or something like that which included "Leisure Coast" in the name) and I think that as we started shopping around for an affordable and sustainable venue, we realised that the "Leisure Coast" tag (which I think was a Tourism Wollongong promotion that hadn't really worked) did not really reflect what we were and consequently we took on the "Illawarra" mantle instead".

Chris Harding also recalls:

“At the time Wollongong City Council had dropped the name “The Leisure Coast” as part of its tourism agenda which had taken a different direction ... and so did we. “Illawarra Fly Fishers” gave us better identity of where we lived compared to the rest of the world”.

Due to the change in club name, it was then decided to initiate a suitable club shirt and with the assistance of Ted Morrison , Ted sourced a long sleeve shirt in dark green which has become the favourite of many members. Through her association with the CFA and other fishing organisations, Ann Lee contacted Peter Leuver with a request to design the current logo which Ted subsequently arranged to have embroidered on the shirt.

The input from Peter Leuver is significant, as amongst other things, he was a distinguished artist, particularly of all things fly fishing, he was the author of two books, “the Fisher’s Logbook” and “Fur and Feather”, the latter first printed in 1991. Peter also wrote dozens of beautifully illustrated articles in many issues of “Fly Life” magazine over the years and his illustrations also appear in the books written by Chris Hole ^{11a} and in several other trout books. ¹²



Peter Leuver 1940 - 2019

The AGM in 1995 also saw the election of the management team comprising:

- Ted Morrison - President
- Shane Rosengrave - Vice President;
- Don Adams - Secretary; and
- Anne Lee - Treasurer.

Paul Harvey, Bevan Goodall, Harry Fuller, Peter Van Der Zanden, Frank Reilly, Peter Hansen and Andrew Wheeler were regular contributors throughout the club year.

The club’s long standing members have stated that life-long friendships were formed over this early period, similar to those friendships that have been forged between members thirty years later. Hence little has changed with respect to making friends through fly fishing, as a result of being a member of IFFC and the camaraderie developed between club members.

In 1996 the club had another burst of growth and the newsletter, “Fly Lines”, expanded to a massive three pages thanks to Chris Harding, the new newsletter Editor. The Management

Committee remained the same as the previous year.

At this time two “youngsters”, Andrew Wheeler and Andrew Susani, joined the club and both became active contributors with fishing photos and fly patterns. As both worked for Ern Webbs Sports Store at the time, they were able to stock more fly fishing gear including tying materials, rods and reels for local fly fisher folk and arranged for discounts on purchases for club members. Later, both became significant contributors to and developers of the club’s web site and to the fly tying manual that was produced for the club’s beginner’s fly tying course in 2003.

The interest in fly tying also grew, with fly tying nights being a regular activity due mainly to the enthusiasm and organisation of Frank Reilly who was the fly tying coordinator during the 1998-1999 season; regular saltwater fly fishing reports were also now being given at club meetings, generating an interest in salt water fly patterns.

By 1999, “Fly Lines” had become a larger mail-out publication, with the management committee comprising:

Ted Morrison - President;
Stephen Chatterton - Vice President;
Don Edmondson - Secretary; and
David Wheeler - Treasurer.

Other Committee members included Leo Harding, Chris Harding, Ron Hall, Greg Pond, Frank Reilly, Shane Rosengrave and Peter Van Der Zanden.

Saltwater reports continued to be a regular occurrence at meetings, including those from Ray Ellis, who spoke of catches of Australian Salmon and other species off the rock platforms at Coalcliff. Bass fishing reports also became regular at meetings during the Summer months.

1999 also saw Stephen Chatterton providing reports on both the Australian Fly Fishing Championships and international fly fishing events at which he was to compete some years later. Scott Mitchell, then owner of the “Alpine Angler” was a regular contributor to “Fly Lines” by providing fly fishing advice and fishing reports from the Snowy Mountains.

That year the club also made special mention of the membership of three women, Tracey Aggar, Karen Browning and Anne Lee. Since those early years, IFFC has been fortunate to have had a number of female members who have not only been involved with the management and activities of the club, but have also become highly competent fly fishers.

By the year 2000, a well established routine for club meetings had evolved, although by all reports, club meetings were often torrid affairs. It is fair to say that club business was excessively drawn out and in many cases, argumentative, resulting in friction in the membership and impacting on meeting proceedings and programme. In order to divorce business from the social aspects of the club, a significant change was implemented when the management committee began meeting the evening before the monthly club meeting, ensuring that more time was available for the presentation of fishing reports, planning of club

trips, presentations by guest speakers and other social events and activities. Founding member Glen Southwell is quoted as saying “Thank you Stephen Chatterton for making this happen” ¹³.

Due to the increase in club membership there became a need to find an alternative and more suitable venue than the Coniston Hotel to hold meetings and fly tying nights and subsequently meetings moved temporarily to Ern Webbs sports store and then to Bruno's Restaurant adjacent to the Tarrawanna Lodge aged care facility in Tarrawanna.

However the use of Bruno's ¹⁴ became tenuous as Stephen Chatterton explains ¹⁵.....
“The building we met in for quite a few years had been Bruno's Tarrawanna Restaurant. We had been meeting there for a long time and that continued for about a year after the Illawarra Retirement Trust (IRT) purchased the property. Then out of the blue, the IRT advised us that they were going to redevelop the property and the club had to find a new home.

I was President at the time and whilst even on the back of not being able to find an affordable and stable home for IFF and despite the naysayers, I started approaching local hotels and clubs. I met with both the Balgownie Hotel and North Wollongong Hotel and most leagues clubs in Wollongong, in addition to the Fraternity Club at Fairy Meadow. This was a pretty anxious period in our history and after repeated knock-backs, at one stage it looked pretty grim.

Anyway, we continued and I was chuffed when, over a number of meetings, I was able to negotiate a new home for IFFC with Collegians and I am so pleased that the then Board of Collegians and our IFF members agreed with that and the arrangement continues today”.

Chris Harding recalls that the first club meeting at Collegians was held in May 2002 and since that time “we haven't looked back”.

Since 2000, the membership of the Illawarra Fly Fishers Club has grown and continues to evolve around the original ideals of its founding members. Many life-long friendships have been formed, with countless fish hooked and an even greater number self released. Thousands of flies have been tied and lost to fish, trees, rocks and even passing birds; unfortunately in the case of the passing bird, a Rosella, Neil Nelson has advised that it did not survive ¹⁶.

Our members have travelled throughout Australia and internationally to fish and have reported about their experiences; whilst early fishing reports centred on captures of Trout, the annual Largest Fish Register now records a plethora of fresh and saltwater species taken on a fly.

The club has moved away from communicating with its membership by way of mailing its newsletter to the use of the internet, Facebook and the like. However the value of meeting and sharing thoughts, experiences and enthusiasm remains a core function of the club to this day.

Management committees

Past Presidents

The difficult job of subtly managing and directing the mixed interests of the club's membership and management committee has fallen on only a few shoulders and at the time of writing, the club has seen only five Presidents over thirty years, these being:

Kevin Brown (1989 to 1991);
Shane Rosengrave (1991 to 1993);
Ted Morrison (1993 to 2002);
Stephen Chatterton (2002 to 2005); and
Neil Nelson (2005 to the present [2020]).

Without them, we would not have had a club.



Neil Nelson [Left] and Ted Morrison, June 2020 . (Photo courtesy of Michael Parkinson)

Committee Members Who Have Provided Continued Motivation

The Club Membership has truly benefited from the contribution of a number of members who have donated a significant amount of personal time and effort, a number of whom being:

Ted Morrison - long standing club member, past President and motivator. Ted was recognised for his contribution to the club by it conferring him with its first Life Membership in 2014.

Anne Lee - over many years, Anne was a significant contributor to the club's growth and exchange of knowledge. On several occasions Anne gave presentations on entomology which were accompanied by photographs and which demonstrated the relationship between the natural insect and fly patterns. Anne also regularly represented the Illawarra Fly Fishers' Club at public forums relating to fly fishing, one of which included a Ministerial briefing and representation at the Council of Freshwater Anglers; Anne was also heavily involved in Inter-club liaison.



*Conferring Life Membership to Ted Morrison, March 23, 2014
 [Left to Right] Leo Harding, Neil Nelson, Gordon McComb, **Ted Morrison**, Paul Harvey, Michael Parkinson, Roger Woodward (Photograph courtesy of Neil Nelson)*

Stewart Burke - Stewart was a very active organiser. When Stewart passed away from cancer, a memorial dinner was held to commemorate his life and contribution to fly fishing. Stewart was held in such high regard by the fly fishing community that Potts Flies from Geelong, Victoria, designed a wet fly pattern named “The Stewie Burke” in his honour.



*The Stewie Burke Fly
 (tied by Peter Hansen; Photograph courtesy of Phil O'Brien)*

The Stewie Burke Fly (In Memory of a Friend)

- Hook size 10 Long shank
- Thread olive green monochord
- Tail olive Marabou
- Body light tan chenille & olive marabou
- Body feathers pair of hen badger hackle feathers tied either side of hook shank
- Cheek orange cock hackle tip each side, topped with jungle cock eye (or equivalent as shown)
- Head olive green monochord with 2 coats of head cement

Of Stewart. Tom Rafferty recalls ¹⁷....

“Stuart Burke, what can I say about a fly fishing nut and great bloke. He was a great committee member who was our roving representative. He went to all of the interstate meetings that were held by the Associations and became well known both in NSW and the Victorian clubs he would catch up with at those meetings. He was also a great fly tyer and had most probably tied the fly that became “the Stewie Burke” in a sign of respect after he had passed away with cancer”.

However another source recalls Stewart as being “a likeable but cantankerous bloke” ¹⁸.

Stephen Chatterton - amongst other things, Stephen established the club’s first website, restructured the original club Constitution, convinced the management committee to meet and discuss business issues at a separate meeting prior to the monthly club meeting and secured a more permanent venue for club meetings at Collegians Rugby League Football Club. The issue of the separate management meeting was, at the time, seen by the members as a bonus as they could “just focus on fishing”.

Stephen also developed a number of how-to tie fly patterns which became the basis of the

club’s fly tying manual that is distributed to and used by attendees at the club’s bi-annual beginners’ fly tying course. In addition, Stephen organised and led club groups to Tasmania to compete in the Tasmanian One Fly Competition and to New Zealand and went on to represent Australia in national and international fly fishing competitions.

Others Members of Note

Andrew Wheeler and Andrew Susani - the involvement of both in and enthusiasm for saltwater fly fishing was contagious and significantly increased the interest of the membership in saltwater fly fishing. Both Andrews were heavily involved in the creation and management of the club’s website and were heavily involved in club fly tying activities.

Paul Harvey - in the earlier years, Paul managed the club’s casting workshop and motivated new and established members to attend and compete in the club’s accuracy and distance casting competitions.

Paul is an exceptional caster and Neil Nelson recounts one Sunday casting workshop around 2012 when Paul attended with a broken leg and a full length plaster. Due to his incapacity, Paul was seated, but nonetheless proceeded to well and truly out-cast all other competitors in the distance event !

Kevin T. Brown - Kevin was the driving force in establishing the club, first known as the Leisure Coast Fly Fishers’ Club and then later, the Illawarra Fly Fishers’ Club. Kevin also provided casting and fly tying tuition to members and others at the Lake Illawarra Police Citizens Youth Club.

Bevan Goodall and Peter Van Der Zanden - both encouraged new members and organised trips away.

Peter Hansen - Peter was heavily involved with fly tying and assisted others including Kevin Brown and Ted Morrison run fly tying courses at the Lake Illawarra Police Citizens Youth Club.

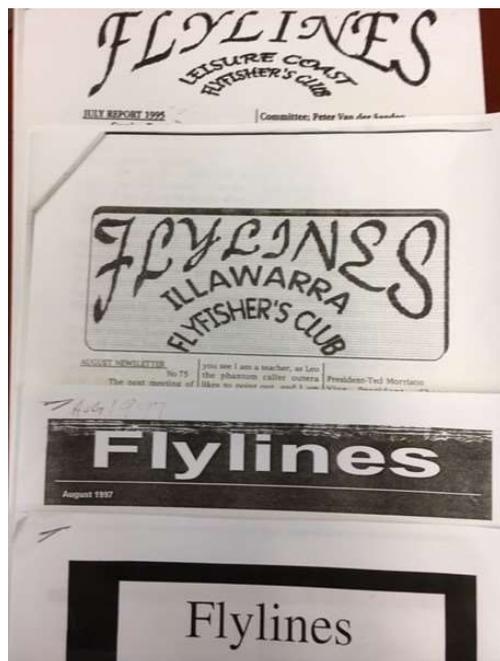
Tom Rafferty, Shane Rosengrave, Leo and Chris Harding - all were members of the management committee for considerable periods of time, with Shane serving as President for two years and Leo and Chris serving in various positions for well over twenty years. Tom was Vice President, amongst other positions, for some time.

Club Interests and Activities

Newsletter Editors and Publishers

Production of the newsletter pre email and word processing times was a lengthy affair requiring typing, copying and stapling before each edition was folded and mailed each month. Suffice it to say, word processing made the preparation of the newsletter so much easier and email has negated the need to prepare and mail hard copies.

Each Editor has contributed immensely to the distribution of the club newsletter, making the club what it is today; the newsletter provides information to members who are not able to attend meetings, provides tips and technical advice and due to the dedication of Editors, is circulated on a regular basis.



Newsletter Editors have imposed their own creative licence in the preparation of the club's newsletter which came to be named "Fly Lines".

Newsletter Editors over the years have included:

- Tom Rafferty;
- Ken Brunner;
- Glen Southwell;
- Chris Harding;
- David Vale;
- Neil Nelson;
- Julian Watson;
- Ben Campbell;
- Fiore Costa;
- Mitch Thornton; and
- Robin Bannell.

Guest Speakers

It takes a considerable amount of effort on the part of the committee to locate and encourage suitable and willing speakers to provide a presentation at club meetings, particularly as most invitees are not located in the Wollongong region; hence travel to and from meetings, generally late at night, has been problematic. Nonetheless, the club has been fortunate to have twisted the arms of the following and with some, on several occasions:

- Mick Hall - master fly tyer and producer of a number of fly tying DVD's: fly tying;
- Mick Newman - travel;
- Alan Barber - founding owner of Tiewell fly tying products: fly tying;

- Alan Griffiths - owner of the Shellharbour Tackle Shop: tips, fly tying and equipment;
- Ashley Artis - from Tasmania: fly tying;
- Brett Clark - owner of BWS Flies, Central Coast, NSW: fly tying;
- Chris Hole - artist and author: local fishing to Canberra;
- Chris Batey and Derek Maynard - The Complete Angler: techniques and equipment;
- John Coles - Central Tablelands fishing and equipment;
- Jonathon Clewlow - "FlyLife" contributor and raconteur: travel;
- Nick Taransky - fishing the central North Island, New Zealand;
- Peter Morse - author, television presenter, FFF Master Casting Instructor: travel and , casting clinics; a regular guest of IFFC;
- Peter Hayes - Tasmanian fishing guide and FFF Master Casting Instructor: presentation on "Being There" and techniques and casting clinics;
- Paul Miller - Berrima Acclimatisation Society: stream fishing and casting clinic;
- Antti Vapula - Australian representative for Vision fly fishing equipment: competition fishing techniques through personal international competition experience;
- Justin Duggan - Sydney Harbour and Pittwater fly fishing guide: casting techniques and casting clinics;



Mick Hall Fly Tying Workshop at the Wollongong Campus, NSW College of Technical and Further Education, July 1, 2012, attended by members of Illawarra Fly Fishers' and Lakeside Fly Fishing Clubs (Photograph courtesy of Neil Nelson).



Mick Hall Fly Tying Workshop at the Wollongong Campus, NSW College of Technical and Further Education, July 1, 2012 attended by members of Illawarra Fly Fishers' and Lakeside Fly Fishing Clubs (Photograph courtesy of Neil Nelson). [Left to Right] Front Row - Gary Parton (LFFC), Michael Mansell, Roger Woodward, Robbie Thornton, Neil Nelson Second Row - David Beconsall, Ian Davis (LFFC), Mick Hall, Gordon McComb, Phil O'Brien, Noel McMahon, Kim Prehn, Chris Harding Rear Row - Leo Harding, Trevor Taylor (LFFC), Michael Parkinson, Barry Gentle, Peter Hansen, Bill Morrison (LFFC), Margaret Morrison (LFFC), Ray Mazuran (LFFC), Ray Ellis, Ben Campbell, Trevor Newman



Peter Hayes, Casting Workshop at Stewart Park, Wollongong, July 5, 2009 (Photograph courtesy of Neil Nelson)

- Clinton Issacs - Northern Queensland fly fishing guide: North Queensland fishing and travel;
- Joshua Hutchins - Sydney based fly fishing guide and owner of The Aussie Fly Fisher: travel;
- Steve Hoagland - changes to equipment through technology;
- Scott Mitchell - former owner of the Alpine Angler, Cooma: travel, equipment etc.;
- James Laverty - Fly Odyssey: fly fishing travel;
- Alistair McBurnie - NSW Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries): River access;
- Muzz Wilson - fly tying;

- David Wilson - fly tying.
- Juan Del Carmen - Advanced Fly Fishing School: techniques and casting courses;
- Mark Goodger - rod building and repairs;
- Adrian Tarmo - Snowy Mountain fishing and motorised bicycle fly fishing tours;
- Department of Fisheries - several presenters;
- Australian Bureau of Meteorology (BOM);
- NSW Roads and Maritime Service - Boating and Safety Officers covering safety, regulation, first aid, PFDs etc.
- Danny Spelic - travel; and
- Micah Adams - presenter of “Adventure Angler” television series and keen fly fisher.

Club Member Presentations

Since the inception of the Illawarra Fly Fishers’ Club, members have been willing take on the role of guest speaker and share their experiences and knowledge to members at club meetings, with subject matter including:

- fly tying demonstrations by Peter Hansen, Ray Ellis, Barry Gentle and Mitch Thornton;
- techniques such as knot tying, knot strength, shooting heads, line management techniques (stripping baskets) and equipment maintenance etc.
- fishing travel, including New Zealand (North and South Islands), the United States (Montana, Wyoming, Idaho and Colorado), Canada, South America (Venezuela, Argentina and Patagonia), Britain (including Ireland and Scotland), Japan, the Cook Islands, Slovenia and Croatia, Mongolia, Christmas Island, French Polynesia etc.; and
- Australia, including Tasmania, Darwin, Hinchinbrook, Weipa and Hervey Bay.

Club Trips

Club outings, be they day or weekend trips or those further afield, require considerable pre-planning and at times, financial expenditure, but they play an integral part of the fly fishing experience and development of an inclusive club culture.

Club trips are too numerous to detail but have included:

- a) day trips - Thompsons Creek Dam (trout), the Shoalhaven River (Bass and saltwater trips to the lower sections), Lake Wollumboola, Greenwell Point (Bream), Lake Yarrunga, Kangaroo Valley (Bass), St. Georges Basin (saltwater species), Swansea (Australian Salmon), Broughton Creek (Bass), Maianbar (saltwater species), Canberra lakes (carp), Yass River (carp);



*Lake Wollumboola, May 21, 2006
[Left to Right] Chris Harding, Kim Prehn,
Tim Barry, Leo Harding, Ron Williams
(Photograph courtesy of Neil Nelson)*



The body language tells the sad story of no fish, Kerry Nichol [L] and David Vale, Broughton Creek, December 2, 2006 (Photograph courtesy of Neil Nelson)



Thompsons Creek Dam, September 22, 2007 Left to Right] Phil O'Brien, Adam Kearns, Neil Nelson, Allan Gardener (Photograph courtesy of Neil Nelson)



Canberra Lakes, January 31, 2009 - Ray Ellis [R] and Robert Webley (Photograph courtesy of Neil Nelson)



Swansea, NSW, June 30, 2018 -Leo Harding (Photograph courtesy of Leo Harding)

b) weekend trips - Snowy Mountains (Adaminaby, Kalkite, Thredbo, Jindabyne), Swansea, CFA Meets (Wallerawang), Tuross Lakes, Lake Yarrunga, Southern Bass Invitational;



Swansea, July 28, 2020 - Michael Parkinson (Photo courtesy of Neil Nelson)



Lake Yarrunga, Kangaroo Valley, January 15, 2011 - Kim Prehn, Leo Harding Barry Gentle (Photograph courtesy of Neil Nelson)



The days of short shorts circa 1992/3, on the road to Eucumbene [Left to Right] Front Row - Walter Robinson, Noel Hannah; Second Row – **Unknown, Unknown, Unknown, Kevin Brown, Unknown, Unknown, Ted Morrison, Unknown**



Lake Illawarra Fly Fishing Course graduates circa 1992 [Left to Right] Front Row - Ian Simpson, Noel Hannah, Margaret Potzian, Glen Southwell; Back Row - Walter Robinson, Peter Hansen, Keith Parson, Michael Potzian, Kevin Brown

c) other trips - Tasmania, New Zealand, Weipa



2008 Weipa Trip - [Left to Right] Chris Harding, Kerry Nichol, Neil Nelson, Phil O'Brien, Leo Harding, Kim Prehn, Paul Dwyer, Barry Gentle

Ladies' Weekends

Ladies' Weekends were introduced into the club programme in 2016 with the objective to, amongst other things:

- increase the skill set of our female members in casting, stream craft, entomology and fly knowledge and selection;
- with a low instructor/ female ratio, accelerate the learning and knowledge processes;
- dispel any sense of competition with male members;
- encourage female members to arrange trips between themselves



Liz Russell, Perisher Creek, November 10, 2017

- encourage greater participation in club activities and management; and
- have a fun time.



*Sheena McGhee [L] and Robin Bannell
Thredbo River, Ladies Weekend, April 2016*



*Robin Bannell, Thredbo River, Ladies Weekend
December, 2017*



*Ladies Weekend, December 2017 - Upper Snowy River at Charlottes Pass.
[Left to Right] - Neil Nelson, Liz Russell, Robin Bannell, Sheena McGhee (Photograph courtesy of Michael Parkinson)*

Fly Tying - Fly of the Month

Whilst fly tying has been a basic activity of our club since 1990 and is practiced by a significant number of members, the club has always struggled to maintain interest with the monthly fly tying competition. The “Fly of the Month” competition involves members tying a fly that has been selected in advance for a particular month of the year by the Fly Tying Co-ordinator and when submitted, entries are passed around those attending a meeting and judged as to which is the better tied fly. Points are awarded and the overall winner for the club year is celebrated at the year-end Christmas Dinner and Presentation evening in December.

Over the years the club has held separate fly tying nights in an attempt to generate interest in the fly of the month competition, although this was discontinued in 2015 due to lack of numbers. However, with Kim Prehn’s persistent work in collaboration with Barry Gentle in recent years, members have had bursts of enthusiasm with the fly of the month competition from time-to-time.

Nonetheless, fly tying has played an integral role in the club’s meeting and social programme, with numerous guest speakers and club members having provided practical demonstrations on meeting nights over many years. The “next big thing” in fly tying patterns is always discussed if a fishing report highlights the success of a particular pattern.

In 1999 the club held the first beginners’ fly tying workshop which was replicated again in

2003, with the objective of introducing members and non-members to the craft of fly tying. At that time, Stephen Chatterton, Andrew Wheeler and Andrew Susani collaborated to produce a fly tying manual which was made available to participants and which was then expanded by Neil Nelson for the resumption of the course in 2013. Since 2013 it has been the intention of the management committee to hold the beginner's fly course on a bi-annual basis, although the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 caused the cancellation of the course proposed for that year.



*Beginner's Fly Tying Course at the UOW, Sports Building, September 24, 2011.
[Left to Right] -Robbie Thornton, Steven Jobson, Peter Hansen, Russell Haddock, Shane McKay, (seated), Paul Hansen, Noel McMahon (Photograph courtesy of Neil Nelson)*



*Beginner's Fly Tying Course at the UOW, Sports Building, August 16, 2014
[Left to Right] - **Unknown**, Chris Harding (obscured), Joel Nelson, **Unknown**, **Unknown**, Barry Gentle, **Unknown** (obscured), Clinton Farrelley, Robin Bannell (Photograph courtesy of Neil Nelson)*



Beginner's Fly Tying Course at Collegians RLFC, Balgownie, August 25, 2018

[Left to Right] - Chris Harding, Saskia McMartin, David Russell, Michael McMartin, Barry Gentle (seated), Liam Harding, Grant Flawith, Robin Bannell, Ken Gordon (back to photographer), Steve Newton (back to photographer); David and Liz Russell not shown (Photograph courtesy of Neil Nelson)

The club maintains an impressive collection of fly tying materials available which is available for use by members at fly tying venues.

Casting Workshops

Monthly casting practice, at which members are able to hone their skills, mentor those less experienced or provide instruction to those beginning with the sport, has been a regular activity since the club's inception.

A light hearted casting competition also forms part of the practice regime, with points being awarded for both accuracy and distance. The overall winner in each category over the club year is celebrated at the year-end Christmas Dinner and Presentation evening in December.

In addition, expert casting instructors have also been invited to provide casting instruction to club members who have wished to increase their skill-set and these have included Paul Miller (Berrima and District Acclimatisation Society) Peter Morse (several occasions), Peter Hayes, Justin Duggan and Juan Del Carmen (Australian Fly Fishing School).



*Peter Morse Casting Workshop, November 19, 2006 at the UOW ovals [Left to Right] - Peter Morse, Barry Gentle, **Unknown**, Robert Webley, Don Edmonson, Kevin Muschett, Neil Nelson (seated), Gary Batey, Kim Prehn, Leo Harding, Gordon McComb, **Unknown**, Peter Hansen, Bob Hurt (seated)*



*Peter Hayes Casting Workshop at Stewart Park, Wollongong, July 5, 2009 [Left to Right] - **Unknown**, Peter Hayes, Chris Harding (obscured), Gary Batey, Peter Harding, Leo Harding, Adam Kearns, Ray Ellis, Kim Prehn*

Liaison with Other Fly Fishing Clubs

As detailed previously in this club history, club representatives have, over many years, developed close relationships with other fishing clubs and fly fishing clubs in particular including Southern Bass, Sydney Fly Rodders Club, NSW Fly Rodders' Club, Hastings Fly Fishing Club and the Council of Freshwater Anglers (CFA). At the time of writing, IFFC representatives regularly attend meetings of the CFA, compete at the annual CFA Meet at Wallerawang, compete at the "Southern Bass Invitational" at Lake Yarrunga, Kangaroo Valley, NSW and compete at the annual Lakeside Fly Fishing Club's "President's Challenge" casting competition. Club representatives have been fortunate to have had repeated success in both angling and casting competitions, particularly in the Southern Bass Invitational, LFFC's "President's Challenge" (Aggregate Score and Handicap casting categories) and CFA Meet casting competitions.



Lakeside Fly Fishing Club "President's Challenge" Casting Competition at Lansvale, July 17, 2010



Lakeside Fly Fishing Club "President's Challenge" Casting Competition at Lansvale, July 14, 2007
Front Row - Fourth from left: Jeff Randall
Second Row - Second from left: Neil Nelson; Third from left: Ray Ellis



Lakeside Fly Fishing Club "President's Challenge" Casting Competition at Lansvale, July 17, 2010



*Robin Bannell,
Lakeside FFC President's Challenge,
Kyle Bay, July 27, 2018*



*Noel McMahon,
Lakeside FFC Lakeside FFC President's Challenge,
Kyle Bay, July 27, 2018*



Robin Bannell with Ken Trench (LFFC), Lakeside FFC President's Challenge, Kyle Bay, July 27, 2019 (Third on Handicap)



David Connon with Ken Trench (LFFC) Lakeside FFC President's Challenge, Kyle Bay, July 27, 2019 (Second on Handicap)



Neil Nelson with Ken Trench (LFFC), Lakeside FFC President's Challenge, Kyle Bay, July 27, 2019 (Second, Aggregate Score)



Largest Fish

The club has, for many years, conducted an annual competition for the capture of the largest fish of any species landed in New South Wales' waters, either in salt or fresh water; awards for the largest of each species are presented at the annual Christmas dinner and presentation evening held in December each year.

Fish captures were originally reported verbally at club meetings, then recorded on a white board and since 2011, in the club newsletter.

Library

For many years the club has maintained an extensive library of books, magazines, videos and DVD's relating to all manner of fly fishing subject matter, from fly tying and casting to travel destinations, all of which being freely available for members to borrow.

Committee in General

The club has been most fortunate to have had and still has, individual members who are prepared to donate their free time toward managing and stimulating the club's growth.

Without them we would not have:

- a venue at which to meet;
- fishing outings;
- a newsletter;
- guest speakers;
- funds to finance club activities and equipment;
- a library;
- learning experience options;
- a Christmas dinner and presentation evening;
- a place to make new friends; and
- the opportunity to meet with, discuss and learn more about the fly fishing experience.

Obviously without them we would not have a club, so perhaps if you consider that you could help with the management of the club, then please volunteer to assist. It will be appreciated.

Special thanks to Peter Hansen for his diligent retention of club newsletters and other memorabilia and to all the club Secretaries who retained a truck load of documentation and records.

Thanks to Bevan Goodall, Glen Southwell, Mike Parkinson, Chris Harding, Leo Harding, Neil Nelson, Barry Gentle, Ray Ellis, Dianne Ellis, Stephen Chatterton and others who have volunteered their service to the Illawarra Fly Fishers' Club and last but not least, to you our members who keep the club alive.



It's not always about the fishing - Kerry Nichols and new friend, Weipa, 2008.

IFFC COMMITTEE MEMBERS, 2019/ 2020



President - Neil Nelson



Vice President - Chris Harding



Secretary - Michael Parkinson



Treasurer - Barry Gentle



Librarian - Gary Batey



Newsletter Editor - Robin Bannell



**Facebook Page -
Julian Watson**



Largest Fish Co-ordinator - Phil O'Brien



Fly Tying Competition Co-ordinator - Kim Prehn



Raffles - Malcolm Lowe



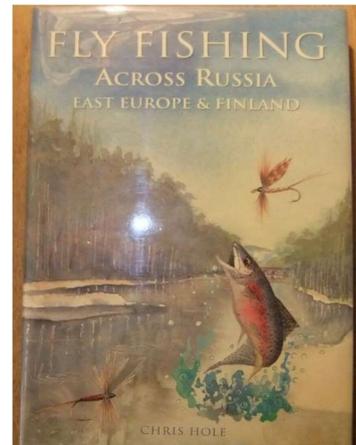
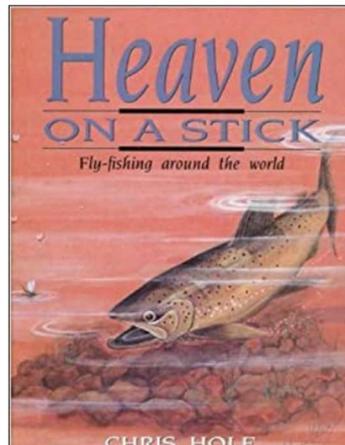
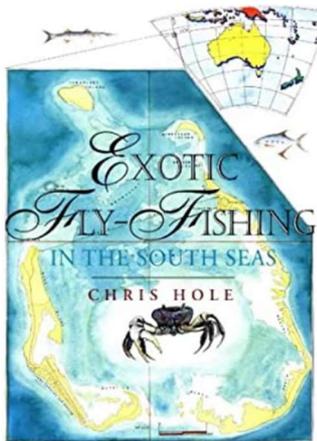
Casting Co-ordinator - Peter Fragiaco



Web Master and Public Officer - Gary Hickson

REFERENCES

- 1 Correspondence Tom Rafferty to Neil Nelson, July 20, 2020
- 2 Personal account by Ted Morrison to Michael Parkinson and Neil Nelson, June 29, 2020
- 3 Correspondence Tom Rafferty to Neil Nelson. July 20, 2020
- 4 Correspondence Tom Rafferty to Neil Nelson. July 20, 2020
- 5 Correspondence Glen Southwell to Neil Nelson, July 18, 2020
- 6 Tom Rafferty believes that thirty five people were in attendance, Correspondence Tom Rafferty to Neil Nelson, July 20, 2020
- 7 January/ February 1990 edition of the newsletter is replicated at Appendix No.1
- 8 Correspondence Glen Southwell to Neil Nelson, July 18, 2020
- 9 Correspondence Tom Rafferty to Neil Nelson. July 20, 2020
- 10 Personal account by Paul Harvey to Phil O'Brien, 2019
- 11 Correspondence Stephen Chatterton to Neil Nelson. July 16, 2020
- 11a Chris Hole was another avid fly fisher, author and artist. Chris' books include "Exotic Fly Fishing in the South Seas" (1996), Fly Fishing: Across Russia East Europe & Finland (1997) and his most notable, "Heaven on a Stick" (1993).



- 12 NSW Fly Rodders Society obituary, February 17, 2019
- 13 Personal account by Glen Southwell to Phil O'Brien, 2019
- 14 The continued use of Bruno's Restaurant was provided with the generosity of the Illawarra Retirement Trust (IRT) and assistance of Don Edmonson, an IFFC member and IRT Board member.

However Bruno's remained undeveloped until its demolition in approximately 2005 and completion of construction of the new aged care facility in 2013.
- 15 Correspondence Stephen Chatterton to Neil Nelson. July 16, 2020
- 16 Personal account by Neil Nelson to Phil O'Brien, 2019
- 17 Correspondence Tom Rafferty to Neil Nelson. July 20, 2020
- 18 Personal account to Neil Nelson, 2020

APPENDIX No.1 - January/ February 1990 Newsletter (Edition No.1)

JANUARY/FEBRUARY.

NEWSLETTER
Compiled By:
Tom Rafferty.
11, William Beach Rd
Kanaooka
2530
Tel: 042 615756

Well here it is the first of our Bi-Monthly newsletters.

The only future I can foretell is with the information that the members of our club pass on to me.

I can be very good at telling what has already happened because I know that you will be passing on all sorts of fishing tales and all the hints/tips that you have stored away.

If you have any items that you want to sell, swap etc., either give me a ring or write them down and post them to me.

Please dont let me down, keep the information flowing.

As most of you know the club had a weekend away at Tredigar on the Delegate River, the accommodation was very good but can only cater for about 7 people comfortably.

The house and surrounding area was very interesting but on this weekend the fish were not very accommodating but the socialising (Hic!) was great according to all reports.

Our members over the past two months have given the Delegate, Numerella, McLachlan, Upper Murray, Turon, Kybeyan and lakes Jindabyne and Eucumbene a fair bit of thrashing, plenty of Browns have been caught but very few Rainbows most have been taken nymphing. A couple of our members have also been Saltwater Fly Fishing on the Shoalhaven River at secret spot 27! and landed a few good Bass to 2lb.

The fly tying nights are beeing well attended with an average of 6 members at each night. Hopefully we shall name the flies that will be tied at the next two meetings in the newsletter so if you would like to learn how to tie a certain fly let me know and I'm sure it can be fitted in.

The last fly casting day at the Uni was not very well attended and we are hoping that now we have a calender of events support will be forthcoming.

Scores: Les Eccles 5 & 5
 Ted Morrison 5 & 20
 Peter Hanson 0 & 5

DOCUMENT REVISIONS

DATE	REVISION	AUTHOR	AMENDMENT(S)	REVIEW
December 2019	Initial Issue	Phil O'Brien		Neil Nelson July 2020

