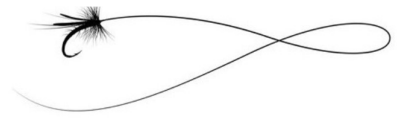




FLY LINES



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

February 2026



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Front Cover Photo - A sight all we fly fishers love to see.

Acknowledgement to the photographer whose name I unfortunately misplaced.

CLUB NEWS

End of Year Dinner - December 9, 2025

Despite the poor response to the end-of-year lunch that was scheduled to be held at Russell Vale Golf Club on December 7, resulting in the cancellation of the function, the hastily arranged casual dinner at Collegians on December 9 proved to be a great success.

With twenty five or so members attending on the night, it was a relaxed evening talking of all things fly fishing, including the most notable topic, the current parlous state of our trout fishery. A complimentary beverage or two for attendees may have also prompted the good turnout.

The cancellation of the more formal function highlights a number of issues relating to both an end-of-year celebration of the Christmas and festive season and presentation of club awards that need to be addressed, namely whether:

1. early December is too busy a time of year for members to attend a function, given that Christmas is only two weeks later;
2. given the above, a dinner may better suit the busy pre-Christmas period;
3. an end of year function may no longer be fit for purpose; and
4. a function may be better patronised if it were to be held in August or September after the end of the club year (in August), the benefits being that:
 - a) it is the fishing "off season" when members are not as active as the Summer months; and
 - b) club competition winners (fly tying, casting accuracy and distance and largest fish) are known.

Should you have an opinion or comment the management committee would certainly like your input.

Newsletter Editor and Facebook Co-Ordinator

The club needs a new newsletter editor following the resignation of the previous Editor. in addition to a Facebook Co-ordinator.

The newsletter is the primary source of internal communication and information between club members, while our now dated Facebook page broadcasts the club news and happenings to the fly fishing community and other interested people at large.

Yes, preparing the newsletter each month does take some time, but if you would like to participate in the management of the Illawarra Fly Fishers' Club and contribute to the ongoing success of the club, please consider taking on either of the roles. The club is fortunate to have a team of fellows who strive to ensure the club is successful and provides the membership with a quality meeting and social programme and both the newsletter and Facebook page play an important part in achieving those goals.

Club News Continued

End of Year Raffle

Further to previous advice regarding the postponement of the drawing of the end of year/ Christmas raffle prizes and awarding the annual club competition prizes, both will either Be drawn or presented at the first meeting for 2026 in February.

Tickets for the major raffle prize are still available from the club's Treasurer, Barry Gentle at bwgentle@bigpond.com OR on the night; tickets are \$5.00 each or five for \$20.00.

The major prize this year pictured below comprises:

1. a 9'-00" four piece Primal "Revel" 7 weight fly rod;
2. a Lamson "Liquid Max" fly reel;
3. an Airflo WF7F "Flats Universal" fly line;
4. a spool of Vision 30lb thin backing; AND as an extra sweetener,
5. Barry is tossing in a BWC sticker!

The total package is valued at \$1,280.00 and is made possible with the generous support of **BWC Flies**.



Next Club Meeting

The first club meeting for 2026 is on Tuesday February 3 at 7:30 p.m. at Collegians RLFC, Charlotte Street, Wollongong when we shall be drawing the end of year raffles and presenting awards for the 2024/2025 season annual club competitions.

There should also be PLENTY of fishing reports from members' exploits over December and January.....hopefully.

Management Committee Meetings

The club's Management Committee meets once per month via ZOOM for approximately one hour to discuss the necessary business, financial and social affairs of the club and attend to the club's statutory obligations that demand attention.

Nonetheless, Management Committee meetings are not a "closed shop" and as such, an open invitation to all members to actively participate in committee meetings and engage in

Club News Continued

the management of your club. ZOOM offers us the opportunity to attend a meeting without the need to leave the comfort of home and discussing things fly fishing is a far better option than sitting on the couch watching “Home and Away”.

As with any organisation or social club, a regular exchange of ideas from both within and outside the Management Committee will ensure that the club continues to grow and does not become “blinkerered” in its approach to its management style and the many and varied club issues that arise from time to time

Largest Fish Register

The latest Largest Fish Register 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 for inclusion in the Register.

Better still, if you have any photos of your fish or of your trips, please consider forwarding them to Joe Manzano, the club's INSTAGRAM co-ordinator at anaandjow@yahoo.com or to the newsletter editor (currently me) at Neil.Nelson1953@gmail.com or to the FACEBOOK co-ordinator, whomever that may be when we have a volunteer!

Guest Speakers/ Presenters

The club was fortunate to have not only a number of external guest speakers present to the club over 2025, but also a number of club members also took to the stage to present on a range of fly fishing subject matter.

Speakers and subjects included:

March	Jo Starling speaking of her competition fly fishing experiences.
April	myself, speaking of fly fishing in Southland, New Zealand, over the 2024 Christmas and February 2025 periods.
May	myself and Peter Henderson speaking of a trip to Weipa that we and other IFFC members undertook in April/ May.
July	David Wilson (Sydney Fly Rodders Club) - core fly tying skills and techniques.
October	Royce Shanks - Fly fishing for Luderick
November	Steve Peach (Sydney Fly Rodders Club) - Fly Fishing for Bass

If you would like to present to a meeting on any fly fishing related topic including trips or are aware of any potential external speakers whom we may be able to contact, please contact one of the committee members with suggestions.

Club News Continued

Club Trips

We are always open for suggestions regarding day, weekend and longer trips in which members may participate; these can be either fresh or saltwater trips.

Please contact one of the committee members with any suggestions or recommendations that you may have.

Club Events

Twilight Casting & FFI Casting Skills Programme Assessment/ Qualification - [December 16](#)

On the evening of Tuesday, December 16, nine members met at Towradgi for the opportunity to be assessed for their proficiency in the various FFI casting skills by Barry Gentle (CCI) and Peter Henderson (MCI).

The FFI casting programme comprises Bronze, Silver and Gold skill levels, with a staged and standardised programme for casters to develop and improve their individual knowledge and skill set over a number of specialist casts at each assessment level. With the invaluable assistance and enthusiasm of both Barry and Peter, IFFC has been running the FFI casting skills programme in conjunction with its monthly casting workshop and casting competition at Towradgi.

The weather for the evening was absolutely delightful and as proceedings commenced at 5 p.m., the temperature was much cooler in the early evening than throughout the day and thankfully there was no Nor' Easterly blowing to spoil everyone's casts.

As casting is the very essence of fly fishing, your casting proficiency needs to be at a level where you are able to put your fly where it is needed and when it is needed and that holds true whether you are fishing in either fresh or salt water. If you want to improve both your casting knowledge and skill level, consider coming along to our casting workshops held at Towradgi the Sunday after the monthly club meeting and maybe enter the accuracy and distance casting competitions.

Barry and Peter are excellent casters and communicators and you WILL learn how to cast better under their instruction.

Twilight Casting & FFI Casting Skills Programme Assessment/ Qualification - [January 13](#)

Another great turnout of twelve members gathered at Towradgi for an evening of twilight casting and tuition - given Peter's donation of a refreshing cold beer or two for the inevitable post casting banter, the event has now taken on a new acronym "CAS"...cast and sip.

The Nor' Easterly that was puffing in caused a few issues at times with back casts, although both Peter and Barry mentioned that the regular staging of casting events such as CAS has improved the skills of a number of attendees, which, of course, is the aim.

Club Competitions Continued

Club Competitions

Fly Tying Competition - December

The fly for the December fly tying competition was the Parachute Adams which was judged by members who attended the casual end-of-year dinner at Collies RLFC on Tuesday, December 9.



The flies were all of a very high standard and it was extremely difficult to decide on which was the better tie. Nonetheless, place getters were:

1. Joe Manzano
2. Michael Parkinson
3. Mark West

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 Annexures to this newsletter

Have a crack at tying a fly for the competition. Participation is all part of club "life".

Monthly Casting Competition and Workshop

There were no competition casting/ casting workshops in December and January due to the Christmas and festive seasons. The monthly workshops will recommence at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, February 8, 2026 at Towradgi.

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

OTHER COMPETITIONS

The Lakeside Fly Fishing Club's "President's Challenge"

Neil Nelson

After having been postponed to a later date for the second consecutive year due to inclement weather, the Lakeside Fly Fishing Club's "President's Challenge" was held on Saturday, November 15, 2025. Fifteen or so members of the Lakeside Fly Fishing Club participated in the event with Neil (Nelson) representing the Illawarra Fly Fishers' Club.

The President's Challenge is a fly casting competition comprising dry fly, skish and wet fly rounds that are conducted in accordance with international fly casting competition rules, although the "rules" were loosely interpreted on the day to assist the less experienced or

Other Competitions Continued

competent casters; competitors competed in either the handicap or aggregate score category.

Despite a fine day, some fluky breezes sprang up from time-to-time with just enough “puff” to send a good cast wayward, which made consistency in presenting the fly difficult at times.

Nonetheless, while all competitors were faced with the same conditions, scores were notably lower than in past years, mine included.

The aggregate score event in which I participated was won by Jim Screen (Lakeside Fly Fishing Club), with David Screen (LFFC) in second place and myself in third place, two points, or one errant puff of wind, behind David.

The President’s Challenge is a great day of light-hearted competition between our clubs and each other, with a fair bit of fly fishing chat along the way. The bar-b-que lunch sealed the day.



Above - First Place: Jim Screen (aka “Uncle Jim”) with LFFC President Russell Roxburgh (left)



Above - Second Place: David Screen (LFFC)



Above - Third Place: Neil Nelson (IFFC)

Other Competitions Continued

Southern Bass “Yarrunga Challenge”

The Southern Bass “Yarrunga Challenge” fishing competition was held over the weekend of November 11 to 13, with Peter Henderson and Ray Ellis competing.

Peter reports that the fishing was tough and catch rates were down, with “not many fish caught on fly or lures for that matter”, with conditions being “extremely cold and windy.”

Despite the challenging conditions and tough fishing, Peter came away with the largest Bass on fly award (see below).



Left - IFFC Vice President Peter Henderson with Southern Bass President Ray Halley (right) - Largest Bass on Fly winner

FISHING REPORTS

Local Reports

If the reports are anything to go by, it would certainly appear that the 2025/ 2026 trout fishing season is already in dire straits and the Bass fishing isn't all that better.

No matter the source, whether it be the advice of members, members of other clubs or social media platforms, they all tell the same story, that being that fishing is, to be frank, dreadful at the moment.

Despite reports of some excellent fish being caught out on the Monaro, for the second successive season reports of trout catches are poor and the comments of Kenneth Gordon and my own later in this newsletter attest to that fact and there appears to be no relief in sight.

See also the “Gaden Trout Hatchery Report 2025 Production Period” dated December 2025 issued by Mitchel Elkins, the Gaden Trout Hatchery Manager included in the Annexures to this newsletter.

Local Reports Continued

On the Bass front, although there has been some quite warm weather over December and into January, the cicada hatch appears to be slow in eventuating and hence the Bass bite has been sporadic. The results of the Southern Bass Invitational competition held in December were also poor.

Lake Conjola - December 2025



Angler - Paul Dwyer

Fish - 50cm Estuary Perch

Location - Lake Conjola

Tippet - 8lb

Fly - Kim Prehn's "Disco Shrimp"

Interstate Reports

Michael Parkinson recently travelled to Western Australia, but what fishing was done was largely unproductive, particularly chasing the local Herring that he was targeting on fly.



Above - Ocean at Dawesville, Western Australia



Left - Cape Leeuwin, Western Australia

Fishing Reports Continued



Left - Typical River in the Karri Forests of South West Western Australia, home of the indigenous Marron (crayfish)

Meanwhile **Joe Manzano** has been fishing around the Pilbara region in Western Australia and was fortunate to pick up a number of classic Australian fish species such as Mangrove Jack (below left) and Barramundi (below right).

More details in the “Largest Fish Register” located in the Annexures to this newsletter.



International Reports

There are no international fishing reports this newsletter, but there will be plenty from those fishing New Zealand in February (Barry, Kim, Kenneth, Neil, Gary B, Gary G).

TRIP REPORTS

Georges River, Sylvania - December 18, 2025

Neil Nelson

When the daytime temperature is forecast to be 38 to 40 degrees centigrade, when there is not a cloud in the sky and when there is absolutely no breeze to speak of, the last place you ever want to be is out on the water fishing. Period!

So it was when a friend (Ross), a bait fisher and I “hooked up” after a number of false starts to fish the Georges River between Tom Uglics and Captain Cook bridges on a

Trip Reports Continued



stifling hot day in December and on a river that was as smooth and flat as a glass bottle.

Despite an early start to beat the forecast heat, both the morning air and sun were already unbearably warm as we slid the good ship “Ruff Nut” into the water.

A two minute motor out from the boat ramp had us drifting past the columns of both spans of Tom Uglys bridge on the last of the run-in tide, but prawn fly patterns cast hard up to, or bounced off the concrete unfortunately didn't elicit a strike. Reaching open water past the bridge, fishing with the ubiquitous chartreuse over white Clouser had the same nil result.

On the next drift Ross caught a lovely Flathead on a peeled prawn, but when some late comers thought that we were on the right drift and they weren't and unashamedly anchored right in the path of our drift, we decided it was time to move.

We then had three long, slow drifts from Tom Uglys down to Captain Cook Bridge on the first of the run-out tide where Ross took another good Flathead and two lovely Bream each of 33 cms, both on peeled prawn. Drifting in the channel between the bridges, the water proved to be too deep for fly fishing....or it may have been my lack of interest due to the heat. An hour or so into the change of tide, all the action on bait ceased for some unknown reason and Ross had not so much of a nibble.

Unfortunately the heat beat us in the end, although peeled prawns proved to be the saviour on the day for the bait fisho.

Jindabyne - December 10 to 14, 2025

Neil Nelson

Immediately after the end-of-year dinner at Collies RLFC in December, Michael Parkinson and I headed for the mountains for a few days with high hopes of catching a fish or two despite the poor fishing reports from members and on social media. In a nutshell, our high hopes were unfortunately dashed rather quickly and decisively.

Basing ourselves in central Jindabyne, our plan was to fish our regular haunts with at least one day spent travelling to fish a river that we had not fished previously and while we had a few ideas on what that river was, no suggestion really stood out as a viable option.

After unpacking and settling into our digs, we headed up the mountain to Perisher Creek which we found to be low and very, very clear. Fishing upstream from the pump house

Trip Reports Continued

toward the village, we may have seen one very small fish and that was all, so we decided to head further downstream hoping for better water and at least A fish for either of us.

The water downstream was a lot better than above, but the results were similar - no fish seen and no fish rising, so worst fears were confirmed. There had been no insects of note on the water upstream but we did notice some midge at our new location about 100m from our starting point. Having no midge patterns, I tied on a Slovenian black caddis pattern and on the first cast through a classic run, a lovely Brown of 30 cms or so came out of the depths and hammered the fly. Go figure!



Above - Michael Parkinson, Perisher Creek



Above - Michael Parkinson, Perisher Creek

The following day we decided to fish that wonderful river, the upper Gungarlin.

We were out early and were surprised to see a vehicle parked near the stile and as we could not see anyone fishing, we assumed the occupants to be bushwalkers; as we could not be certain, we decided to head further downstream and fish up toward the cattle bridge.

We walked about a kilometre downstream before starting to fish back up and the water was a delight - clear and running well, but again, no insects of note on or about the water. After seeing a recurring rise at the tail out of a run, I took a small fish on a nymph pattern but it promptly threw the hook. However, despite the commotion of a flailing fish in the water, another fish started to rise in roughly the same location and a good cast had another small fish take the same nymph pattern. At least we were on the board!

Unfortunately the fishing didn't get much better the closer we got to the open paddocks, although I did pick up another fish on the nymph and Michael caught a small fish on a small Royal Wulff.

With distant rumblings of an approaching thunderstorm becoming louder and more frequent, we decided to get out of Dodge quickly in order to avoid getting an inevitable wet backside

Trip Reports Continued

and dealing with potential problems on the hill coming out of the river that becomes quite “greasy” after some decent rain.

And of course it didn't rain! The storm passed us by further West and we were in brilliant sunshine on the drive back to Jindabyne, so being early afternoon where next?

The answer was the Moonbah at Eagleview Road, so we again walked downstream from the bridge to within 100 metres or so of the large solar panel. Water levels were lowish and slightly coloured and despite fishing some nice runs, only one small fish took the nymph that I had used earlier in the day on the Gungarlin.

This was tough fishing!

Given the poor results over the two previous days, we decided to investigate something new on our final day and headed East to the Kybean River, North East of Nimmitabel, a river that both Michael and I had not visited previously.



Above - Michael Parkinson, Kybean River



Above - Michael Parkinson, Snowy River, Dalgety

The drive between Jindabyne and Nimmitabel was eye opening. The whole area was brown/ grey, very dry, there was very little ground water to be seen and it appeared very similar to the drought conditions some years ago. The Wullwye was dry, the Bobundra was basically dry between the pools, the MacLaughlin at Nimmitabel was hardly moving and almost dry near the old meat processing plant.

After having seen the poor looking conditions on the land driving to Nimmitabel, the only respite was a stiff coffee and cake at the Nimmitabel bakery where we were able to have a long conversation about rural life and conditions with the rather outgoing owner who also happened to mention that he was going through the process of opening another Nimmitabel bakery in Cooma.

Heading out of town toward the Kybean, the countryside appeared to be in better shape than to the West, although Kydra Creek was dry and the Numerella was low and slow. Upon

Trip Reports Continued

arriving at the Kybean, the river upstream of the bridge appeared fishable, but downstream appeared to be very low as it wandered through the paddocks to the North West.



We fished upstream through a long pool with no results, although several bow waves had us wondering whether they were from Trout, Carp or less likely, a platypus. At the head of the pool we were confronted with a very low and narrow “river” (of sorts) heading into thick scrub which looked to be very snakey indeed and so once again we decided to make the call to quit.

After a quick look, a stop at Lake Williams at Nimmitabel was out of the question as a large thunderstorm was brewing to the North West and was heading our way; a short, heavy dump of rain sealed the decision and we headed off to Dalgety to fish the Snowy at the weir, skirting around the Southern edge of the storm all the way. Although weather conditions were deteriorating, with the massive thunderstorm now to our North when we reached Dalgety, we were able to fish for a half hour or so before we thought it prudent to get out of Dodge once again...and quickly.

Luckily for us the storm was moving to the East and away from us and upon reaching Jindabyne it was obvious that it had received an absolute drenching; apparently the same storm had caused wide-spread flooding in Berridale as it passed through the town.

So, here is another sorry saga of the current state of affairs with our trout fishery which, unfortunately, reinforces the reports of others. No matter the results, it was still a lot better to be out there doing it rather than sitting at home talking about it.

Adaminaby and The Eucumbene River - A Cautionary Tale: Early November 2025 Kenneth Gordon

So, Steve (Newton) and I were fishing the Snowies, based out of Adaminaby, for five days at the start of November. The fishing report is short and sad....one small brown landed and one "decent" rainbow lost during the fight, although it was very athletic! Pathetic results for five days effort.

But now for the cautionary tale.

We were parked at the Eucumbene River below the bridge at Kiandra and headed down stream to fish back up. I approached a small soak and took a big step over it and as my footing was not 100% secure, I took a half step back to regain my balance when suddenly BAM, WALLOP.... I'm up to my belly in a sink hole!

The mud was like quicksand, being very sticky and cloying and I was stuck **fast** and although Steve attempted to help me out, the resistance of the mud was too great. Panic

Trip Reports Continued

and adrenalin kicked in as I could not feel the bottom of the hole and could not get any leverage or purchase for my feet to get out!



I managed to shed my backpack and fishing vest, but this did not seem to help all that much. Luckily we had an EPIRB and were not too far from the main road and trust me, we were considering all options at this point! After what seemed to be an eternity, but more likely less than 10 minutes, I realised that I was not sinking any further but was not making any progress at all getting out, so I changed tack and had to commit to getting a bit dirtier.

By leaning over and laying almost face down towards the surface of the quagmire, I was able to bring my legs up toward the surface of the mud and eventually got a foot onto firmer ground and was then able to wriggle and crawl out.

Whew! What a relief!

I was absolutely exhausted and in a state of shock! After resting for a bit, I cleaned myself up as best as I could before we both tried to relax, although the adrenalin rush made me feel quite sick in the stomach. Despite the drama, we managed an enjoyable, if fish-less, day afterward.

A big shout-out to Steve for always having my back.....thanks mate!

The "take homes" are:

1. always fish with a buddy if possible;
2. ALWAYS carry an EPIRB; and
3. always be mindful of where you are walking.

Note: the small looking hole to the left of my left leg is where I was stuck. It looks so innocent!

I think this will make me a prime contender for the club's "Arse Up" award this year!

Editor's Note: The club has two EPIRBs that are available for use by members at no cost.

One is held by Michael Parkinson (0409) 321.361 [pick up and return to Keiraville] and the other by Barry Gentle (0416) 127.865 [pick up and return to Kiama].

Trip Reports Continued

And remember, **snakes are 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.

Similarly, if you don't know how to treat snake bite, do yourself a favour and learn how.



Above - Michael Parkinson Hamming it up on the Gungarlin

FISHING QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Great anglers never get skunked.
They only run out of time".

Anon



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.



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



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

MONTH	Date	MEETING	EVENT
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.	
	8		Casting Workshop - Towradgi 10 a.m.
	20		Harrington Fly Fest
April	6	Management Committee Meeting via ZOOM - 7:30 p.m.	
		Club Meeting - 7:30 p.m.	
	7	Guest Speaker - Peter Morse : "Spey Casting"	
	12		Casting Workshop - Towradgi 10 a.m. Note 1
May	4	Management Committee Meeting via ZOOM - 7:30 p.m.	
	5	Club Meeting - 7:30 p.m.	
	10		Casting Workshop - Towradgi 10 a.m.
June	1	Management Committee Meeting via ZOOM - 7:30 p.m.	
	2	Club Meeting - 7:30 p.m.	
	7		Casting Workshop - Towradgi 10 a.m.
July	6	Management Committee Meeting via ZOOM - 7:30 p.m.	
	7	Club Meeting - 7:30 p.m.	
	12		Casting Workshop - Towradgi 10 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 10 a.m.

Note 1 - Note the change in starting time due to Daylight Saving ceasing on Sunday, April 5

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: 2nd January 2026

SPECIES	FLY FISHER	LENGTH (cm) or WEIGHT (Kg)	FLY AND HOOK SIZE	TIPPET (lbs)	LOCATION
Australian Bass	Peter Henderson	36.60	Foam Cicada Style	12	Bendeela
Australian Salmon	Mike Parkinson	56	#6 Surf Candy	16	Port Hacking
Carp	Ray Ellis	83	Brown Nymph		Split Rock Dam
Bream					
Brook Trout					
Brown Trout	Neil Nelson	30	Slovenian Black Caddis	4	Perisher Creek
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

Interstate and International - Catches of Merit.

Barry Gentle	Christmas Island (Kiribati) 180 cm Barracuda	60lb tippet; 6/0 Black Brush Fly
Joe Manzano	Karatha, Western Australia 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	Tokyo Bay, Japan 60 cm Sea Bass	20lb tippet; Surf Candy

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



February	March	April
<p>The Bredbo</p>  A close-up photograph of a fly with a black head, a yellow body, and a large, fan-like tail of yellow and black feathers.	<p>Kosciusko Dun</p>  A close-up photograph of a fly with a light-colored head, a yellow body, and a large, fan-like tail of light-colored feathers, being held by a pair of tweezers.	<p>Black Spinner</p>  A close-up photograph of a fly with a black head, a black body, and a large, fan-like tail of black feathers, being held by a pair of tweezers.
May	June	July
<p>Muddler Minnow</p>  A close-up photograph of a fly with a light-colored head, a red and orange body, and a large, fan-like tail of light-colored feathers.	<p>Matuka</p>  A close-up photograph of a fly with a dark head, a dark body, and a large, fan-like tail of dark feathers.	<p>Kate McLaren (Wet)</p>  A close-up photograph of a fly with a black head, a black body, and a large, fan-like tail of black and yellow feathers, being held by a pair of tweezers.
August	September	October
<p>Gold Ribbed Hares Ear</p>  A close-up photograph of a fly with a light-colored head, a light-colored body, and a large, fan-like tail of light-colored feathers, being held by a pair of tweezers.	<p>Olive Perdigon</p>  A close-up photograph of a fly with a dark head, a dark body, and a large, fan-like tail of dark feathers, being held by a pair of tweezers.	<p>Joe's Shrimp</p>  A close-up photograph of a fly with a light-colored head, a light-colored body, and a large, fan-like tail of light-colored feathers, being held by a pair of tweezers.

Fly Tying Competition Flies 2025/ 2026 Continued

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

Tying References:

Month	Fly	Reference/ Web Site
February	The Bredbo	Rob Gee - Troutlore https://youtube/nrV8H4fxqXM?si=U0RLgFGNTDMj3jvC
March	Koskiusko Dun	Yarra Valley Fly Fishers newsletter - Page 13 https://www.yvff.com.au/userfiles/files/04%20-%20YVFF%20Fly%20Line%20May%202020(1).pdf
April	Black Spinner	Jan Spencer OR Red Tag Fly Tying https://youtube2TJ89Dew6o4?si=pHueFetHYIApCHYQ https://youtube/mEqpK8lbbw?si=jXGA0-Z87NdSIJat
May	Muddler Minnow	Tim Flagler - Tight Line Video https://youtube/vTF8QuilHwM?si=50bTbDJdRO_Mdelj
June	Matuka	McFly Angler https://youtube/FyvCLrONvjE?si=d33SPDgJ7MTFwuDv
July	Kate McLaren	Davey McPhail https://youtube/-c3Wg5E3lc0?si=jH2UtoMqXA_wZzYA
August	Gold Ribbed Hares Ear	Charlie Craven - Charlie's Fly Box https://youtube/8V-PD6JV8tU?si=CJErVLGrkP2rKSI3
September	Olive Perdigon	Tom Jarmin https://www.youtube/j6NUcYfyYpj0?si=EgED0MxLb0a1bs63

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

**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	
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 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