



ILLAWARRA FLY FISHERS' CLUB

MINI NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2025

Introduction

With the club's Newsletter Editor, Nigel Pennington, being currently overseas, there will be no formal newsletter issued for the month of October.

Nonetheless, in order to prepare members for a number of upcoming events on the club's social calendar, this "mini newsletter" is issued to keep you informed of what is programmed for both the remaining club meetings and social events for the remainder of this year. I also draw your attention to the attachments for more detailed information where appropriate and noted.

Hopefully with the commencement of the 2025/ 2026 trout season in one weeks' time (at the time of writing) there will be lots of fishing reports to discuss at the October meeting, but remember.....no photos, no proof!

Membership Re-newals

Michael Parkinson, our poorly paid and overworked Secretary has asked me to remind members that membership subscriptions for the 2025/ 2026 club year are now due; the club year extends from the August AGM to the end of July the following year.

Given that subscriptions are only \$25.00 and have not increased in the twenty three years that I have been a member of the IFFC, it represents excellent value to be part of a great, active fly fishing club.

So to assist Michael in what is an annual chore chasing members, if you have not renewed your membership would you kindly do so as quickly as possible. If you do not wish to renew it would be appreciated if you would advise Michael of the fact and we thank you for your past membership of the club.

Guest Speakers

To round out the year we have secured a number of excellent guest speakers for our October and November club meetings.

In October (October 7), **Royce Shanks** will be speaking on fly fishing for Luderick; you may know of Royce by way of his social media presence on various Luderick fishing Facebook and Instagram pages in addition to his appearance in a number of YOU TUBE videos from Steve Peach and Steve Starling. When it comes to Luderick fishing, whether it be with a fly rod and traditional float and weed, Royce is an absolute mine of information and you will definitely take a lot away from his presentation.

How to Catch Blackfish on Fly - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hX1izPLYHeM>

Royce Shanks Enjoys a Beer with Starlo -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YaOurW1Nnpw>

In November (November 4) **Steve Peach** returns to give a presentation on fly fishing for Bass. Steve's presence on social media and in particular on YOU TUBE is well known and the topic is timely as the Bass fishing should be well and truly on song in November.

Casting Workshop

The next casting workshop will be held on Sunday, **October 12** at Towradgi oval.

This will be our first workshop that will commence at the earlier time of **9:00 am** and run until around 11:00 am in order that we can be finished before it becomes too hot; the earlier time will be in effect for the Summer months.

Last month's casting competition was held in very trying conditions, with a stiff Southerly playing havoc with both the accuracy and distance events.

However Barry Gentle overcame the elements and shot a remarkable 46 points in the skish (dry fly accuracy) event with Neil Nelson running second with 29 points and Michael Smith running third with 27 points.

In the distance casting, results were impacted somewhat by the very windy conditions. Results were: 1st Barry Gentle with 25 metres, 2nd Michael Smith with 24.5 metres and 3rd Chris Harding with 21.5 metres.

Fly Tying Competition

The Christmas Island Special was the subject fly for the September fly tying completion and the successful flies judged by the meeting attendees were Barry Gentle and David Connon equal first and Neil Nelson third.

The competition fly for the October meeting is the **Pheasant Tail Nymph**, a fly that will take trout anywhere in the world.

A YOU TUBE reference that may assist you with the tie is Barry Ord Clark's "The Feather Bender".

November's fly is the Possum Emerger; look for the tie on Tom Jarmen's YOU TUBE channel.

Fishing Reports

Fishing reports at the September meeting came down to two, with Paul Emms detailing his (then) recent trip to Kiribati (Christmas Island) chasing Bonefish and Triggerfish and Ron Lynch speaking of trips to Googong dam. Ron reported good captures of (from memory) Yellow Belly, particularly in the deeper water around the water aeration plant.

Major Christmas Raffle

Tickets for the major end-of-year Christmas raffle are on sale and what a prize chest we have on offer this year, assisted in no small measure by our partners Brett and Cherie at BWC Flies at Tuggerah.

Full details in the attachments (Attachment No.1).

Christmas Lunch and Presentation

Please note that November will be the last formal club meeting for 2025. Our annual Christmas function and presentation will again be a luncheon at Russell Vale Golf Club on **Sunday, December 7.**

Final details to be advised.

Fishing Trips and Invitations

Southern Bass Invitational

The annual Southern Bass Invitational run by the Southern Bass Fishing Club and based at Bendeela Camping Ground in Kangaroo Valley is being held over the weekend of **October 8 and 9.**

Full details are in the attachments (Attachment No.2).

Lakeside Fly Fishing Club "President's Challenge"

Inclement weather unfortunately forced the rescheduling of the LFFC's "President's Challenge" from July to the new date of **Saturday, November 16**, commencing at 9:30 am at Kyle Bay (Blakehurst).

The President's Challenge is a light hearted casting competition in dry fly, skish and wet fly casting events and IFFC has had some great results in past years.

Full details are in the attachments (Attachments No.'s 3 and 4).

IFFC Club Trip to Jindabyne

We have had to push the date of the proposed trip to Jindabyne back a week to the weekend of **November 8 and 9**, unfortunately the same dates as the Southern Bass Invitational.

If you plan to attend, could you advise either Malcolm Lowe or myself so that we are able to provide names/ numbers of attendees to the lodge Booking Officer early October in order to secure the lodge booking.

Full details are in the attachments (Attachment No.5).

Council of Freshwater Anglers – Future Directions

The Council of Freshwater Anglers (CFA) has forwarded the attached flyer and email relating to the possibility of broadening the membership base to the Council; the IFFC is a member of the CFA.

A discussion paper has been developed and released for review and comment by members and details are attached. Should you wish to comment on the

proposal you may do so as detailed in the attachment (Attachment No.'s 6 and 7)

Twelve Trout Fishing Tips

Twelve tips on which to ponder for the start of the new season – attached.
(Attachment No.8)

Neil Nelson

President,
Illawarra Fly Fishers' Club

