FLY LINES

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

October 2026

Cover Photo - Rushies Bay, Lake Eucembene, September 2026,

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Left: Gary Batey with, a "stinky Carp", Lake Hume

CLUB NEWS

Newsletter Editor (Still) Wanted

We **still** need a volunteer to prepare the *monthly newsletter*, so if you have some time that you could devote to preparing the newsletter, please give consideration to volunteering your services.

Wanted - Newsletter, Facebook & Instagram Content

For the newsletter, our web page and our INSTAGRAM and FACEBOOK social media platforms we also need **YOUR** input for them to function. This input includes forwarding:

- photographs and yes, "grip and grin" photos are completely O.K.;
- details of your fly fishing trips, outings, adventures or epics either here in Australia or overseas, however long or short you wish those details to be. Feel completely free to leave out all the details of your particular "Spot X"; and
- any articles found in magazines, e-zines or on web pages that you consider may be of interest to club members. However, all I ask is that the source is identified so that it is acknowledged in the newsletter.

Contacts to send any of the above are:

- INSTAGRAM Co-ordinator — Joe Manzano (lanaandjow@yahoo.com);
- FACEBOOK Co-ordinator — Jeremy Reid (jeremyreidau@gmail.com);
- Newsletter Editor (the "spare") — Neil Nelson (Neil.Nelson1953@gmail.com); and
- Web Master — Gary Hickson (gch92553@gmail.com).

Quite simply, we need input and content from our members to provide content for all forms of the club's media platforms.

September Club Meeting Review - Nicholas Reay and The Cocos Keeling Islands

Our guest speaker at the September club meeting was Nicholas Reay, a member of the Berrima and Districts Acclimatisation Society, who spoke of his recent do-it-yourself trip to the Cocos Keeling Islands chasing Bonefish.

Nick's presentation covered subject matter such as:

- how to get there;
- the Cocos environment, including dealing with the Blacktip and Grey Reef Sharks that patrol the flats;
- the best time to travel to the islands;
- recommendations on rods, reels, lines, flies, wading apparel and other equipment, highlighting the fact that being so remote, there is no opportunity to replenish equipment in the unfortunate case of loss or breakage;
- accommodation types;
- the places to fish, particularly on the East coast of Home Island;
- tips on fly presentation, the hook set and identifying and targeting fish; and
- trip costs;

Club News Continued

- most importantly, the “Golden Rules on the Flats.

Left: Nicholas Reay, September’s guest speaker

Above: Cocos Keeling Islands Vista (Photo courtesy of Nicholas Reay)

If you missed the meeting, you missed a great presentation on fly fishing a remote Australian destination.

Club News Continued

Nick Reay Presentation Review

Phil O'Brien

Our September guest speaker, Nicholas Reay, discussed his April 2026 trip to the Cocos Keeling Islands.

Nick's presentation included a summary list with gear suggestions and the like and an introduction to the history of the area, supported by photos of fish, flats scenery and maps; he also ran a YOU TUBE video, one of fifteen he had taken on the trip.

Nick and five colleagues spent a two- week do-it-yourself trip chasing, primarily, Bonefish and Trigger Fish. The trip cost $4,500.00 per person with flights being approximately $1,300.00 return. The $4,500.00 included accommodation at approximately $2,600.00 per week and car hire at $200.00 per day car hire and was shared between the group. For six people in the group, two cars were utilised to travel between fishing locations. Because of the high cost of food on the island, they bought frozen meat from Perth.

The islands are a five hour flight from Perth and Nick suggested travelling to Perth a day before flying to Cocos to ensure that your luggage is on the plane.

As Nick was fishing without a guide, he carried a net to assist in reducing the stress on a fish during landing.

In terms of gear, Nick recommended:

- 9 weight rods;
- Scientific Angler "Grandslam" tropical floating lines matched with 20lb tapered leaders and 20 lb tippet; and
- size 2 and 4 Gotcha flies with bead chain eyes as fishing is mostly in ankle deep water..

Nick advised that most of fishing was along the Eastern shore abutting the airport, although the group found easy access and walking along the fringing shores. He identified an area on the map where, one morning, he caught fifty fish and his total for the trip was well in excess of two hundred fish. Nick suggested that the local Bonefish were larger and more prolific than he had encountered on his two previous trips to Christmas Island.

Whilst other visitors to the islands have highlighted a large loss of Bonefish to sharks, Nick said he lost only six fish to the small to medium sized Black Tip Reef Sharks; he did, however, show a video clip in which two very large and fat Bonefish did not escape being eaten in half by the resident sharks and in another scene, of Nick jousting a four foot "reefy" with his landing net.

Nick suggested that it was easy to organise a low cost DIY trip to the islands and that there was a substantial amount of information available on line and via The Cocos Islands Tourist Bureau.

Club News Continued

His final tips - November to April are the best months for calm, clear, water and to book your accommodation before you work on the rest.

October Club Meeting - Everything You Wanted to Know About Leaders

Leaders are an essential part of the fly presentation system, come in a range of tapers, materials and styles and most importantly, affect the manner in which a fly is presented.

We have off the shelf tapered leaders, furled leaders, braided leaders and knotted leaders, all available in a variety of materials including monofilament, fluorocarbon and thread. BUT do you know anything about the physics of what you are tying onto the end of your fly line or why you should or should not adjust your leader in various fishing or weather conditions?

Well, all your leader questions will be answered at the October meeting when Peter Henderson, Barry Gentle and Tony Dimitrieski will give a presentation on everything you wanted to know about leaders. Mark West will also talk about a computer programme he is fiddling with relating to leader selection and construction.

The presentation may be technical in nature but you WILL leave the meeting knowing a good deal more about leaders and why they are so important to fly fishing. If you don't know, you don't know and this presentation will go a long way to filling in the gaps for you.

and so on and the type and range is extensive.

Management Committee Meetings

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

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

Annual Subscriptions

Annual subscriptions are due as at the August Annual General Meeting.

If you haven't renewed your membership, would you kindly either advise Michael Parkinson that you no longer wish to be a member OR submit your subscription as quickly as possible.

Club News Continued

Club Trips

Opening of Season Trip to Jindabyne - October 16 to 18 **CANCELLED**

Due to there being no interest shown by members for the proposed opening of season trip to Jindabyne over the weekend of October 16 to 18, the trip has unfortunately been cancelled.

Proposed Day Trip to **Shoalhaven Heads**, Saturday, November 21

We are proposing a day trip to Shoalhaven Heads on Saturday, November 21 to chase Flathead and anything with fins and a tail. High tide is at 8:03 am and low is at 2:19 pm.

For details of where and when, see the flyer accompanying this newsletter.

28th Lake Yarrunga Bass Fishing Competition

Southern Bass is holding it's annual (and 28th) Lake Yarrunga Bass Fishing Competition over the weekend of November 13 to 15, 2026; adult competition will be conducted over the Saturday only this year. IFFC is sponsoring the award for the largest Bass caught on fly.

Please not that an entry fee of $100.00 per angler applies, although an "early bird" fee of $80.00 applies if the fee is paid on or before October 1.

For full details, including an entry form, see the flyer accompanying this newsletter.

Club Competitions

Largest Fish Register

The Largest Fish Register starts afresh for 2026/ 2027 commencing as at August 1. The current register as at September19 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.

2026/ 2027 Fly Tying Competition Flies

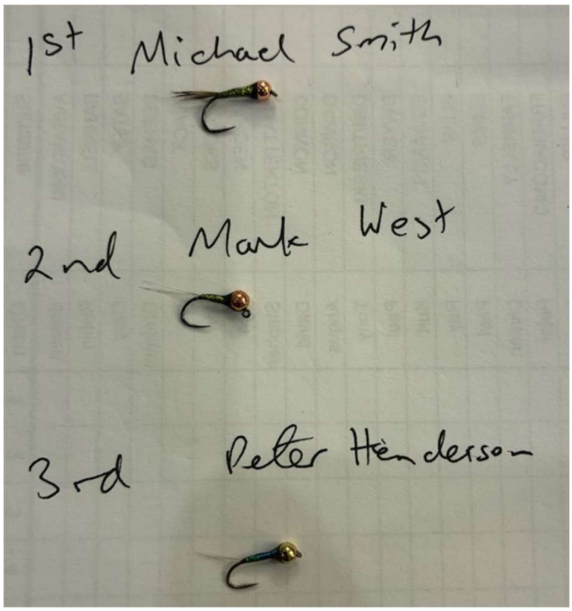
Fly patterns for the remaining months of 2026 are detailed in the fly tying competition pages located in the Annexures to this newsletter.

Kenneth has requested suggestions for potential competition fly patterns for February through to July 2027, so if you have a pattern that could be included, please contact Kenneth on fishken66@gmail.com.

Fly Tying Competition Results - September

The fly for the September fly tying competition was the **Olive Perdigon** and once again we had a number of excellent flies presented for judging.

Club News Continued



Winning flies (**left**) were tied by:
First - Michael Smith;
Second - Mark West; and
Third - Peter Henderson

The pattern for the **October meeting** is the **Joe's Shrimp** (left) - for details on how to tie this pattern, see the fly tying competition pages in the Annexures to this newsletter.

Monthly Casting Competition and Casting Workshop - September

There was no competition casting at the casting workshop on Sunday, September 7, with the seven attendees using the opportunity as a skills development morning.

FFI Casting Skills Programme

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

Other Competitions

None during the month of September.

MAJOR END OF YEAR RAFFLE

With the assistance of our good friends and sponsors Brett and Cherie from BWC Flies, we are again running a major end of year raffle.

The main prize will be a five weight package comprising::

Club News Continued

- a 9'-00", 5 weight TFO "Blue Ribbon" fly rod;
- a TFO "NTR II" fly reel complete with Scientific Anglers 20lb dacron backing;
- a Scientific Anglers "Mastery Infinity" WF5F fly line; and
- a Scientific Anglers 6lb leader three pack.

The value of the prize is **$990.00**!

Tickets will be available at club meetings in October, November and the December casual Christmas dinner, as well as the February 2027 meeting; tickets will also be available via email through Barry Gentle (bwgentle@bigpond.com).

The prize will be drawn at the February 2027 meeting.

Don't delay, spend up today! Tickets are $5.00 each or five for $20.00, so buy big and get a free ticket for every $20.00 you spend.

And many thanks to BWC Flies for assisting IFFC offering such a great prize.

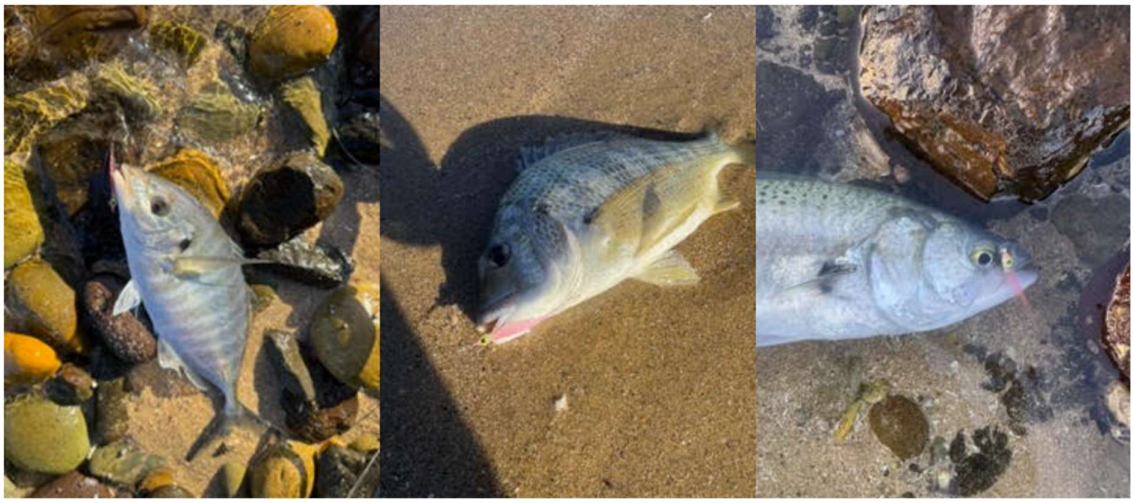
FISHING REPORTS

Local and Interstate Reports

Grant Hilder reported very active fish in Lake Wallace (Wallerawang) with most of his clients doing well. The most effective fly was a Size 14 Black Buzzer.

Fishing Reports Continued

Barry Gentle fished the Minnamurra River on several occasions from early morning (ie. sunrise) until the sun rose above the headland. His best result was a Bream/ Trevally/ Australian Salmon trifecta in one session on a small Surf Candy.



Above: Barry Gentle's Trifecta (L to R - Trevally, Bream, Australian Salmon)

Barry, Kim Prehn, Neil and **Joel Nelson, Mick Smith** and **Michael Parkinson** fished the Port Hacking on several occasions, taking a good number of Australian Salmon up to 66 cm.

Above: Joel Nelson, Port Hacking River

The consensus was such that although the fish were only in metre deep water, a sinking line was significantly more successful than an intermediate line. The thought was that the Salmon could see the intermediate line whereas the darker sinking line ran along the bottom below the schooling fish.

Michael Smith reported that he had equal success with a variety of flies including Joe's Shrimp, Gummy Minnows and Surf Candies in a variety of colours.

Fishing Reports Continued

Adam Kearns spoke of a trip he took several months ago fishing the run off out of the. Barra Lodge in Arnhem Land and was a mixed trip of lures and fly.

The group caught or lost a number of large Barramundi and Black Jewfish and caught several large Brassy Trevally; the Barramundi, the largest at 90 cm, were taken on relatively small sized flies.

Cost of the trip was $12,000.00 for the week, with accommodation in glamping" tents.

International Reports

Peter Henderson fished Norway for four Atlantic Salmon to 75 cm / 9 lbs. The fish were all taken on the surface, although he experienced quite a few side swipes from fish that missed out on a hook up; Peter said that his results improved when he changed to a double hook.

Bomber Flies and baitfish tube flies were used, with the Salmon following the wake of the fly as they were being retrieved.

With respect to river access, Peter advised that beats had to be booked in advance on line. The booking was for a duration of twenty four hours and only five tickets were issued per day; each beat had its own restrictions regarding fly setups.

The daily fee of $100.00 was also managed by a roster system to ensure that an individual had only two opportunists per week to fish.

As the sun shone for 24 hours, working out night from day and when to stop fishing added a different dimension to the fishing.

After chasing the Atlantic Salmon, Peter then fished for Pike in the Baltic Sea, catching an average of ten fish per day. All up, the Pike fishing part of the trip cost approximately $2,000.00 which included car and boat hire and accommodation..

Peter finally finished his trip in Slovenia, although high temperatures and low water levels resulted in the closure of most of the rivers.

TRIP/ OUTING REPORTS

Kalkite: September 2026
Neil Nelson

Over the week of September 10 to 15, ten members of the Lakeside Fly Fishing Club and Illawarra Fly Fishers' Club joined together to fish the lakes around Jindabyne prior to the opening of the 2026/ 2027 Trout season.

Based out of a large house in Kalkite, organised by one of the Lakeside members, the group fished a large number of locations on both Lake Jindabyne and Lake Eucembene. To say that the fishing was poor is an understatement, given the number of anglers and days on the water.

Trip/ Outing Reports Continued

Michael Smith and I travelled down to Jindabyne on the Friday of the trip and the weather proved to be absolutely stunning. Luckily, the weather over Saturday and Sunday were exactly the same, with bright blue, near cloudless skies and no wind. The surface of both lakes was like a glass bottle and we rued the day when we decided against taking a boat.

Monday was a little cooler and overcast with a stiff breeze, but by Tuesday the stiff breeze had turned into a strong Southerly that ensured an early finish. It was three degrees C when we left for home on Wednesday morning!

Michael and I fished Kalkite boat ramp on Friday afternoon, but only saw several fish that took no interest in our flies.

Left: Kalkite boat ramp, Lake Jindabyne

On Saturday we headed to Yens Bay on Lake Eucembene with the same results, although a number of fish started to rise around 4 pm in the afternoon

Left: Yens Bay, Lake Eucembene

Trip/ Outing Reports Continued

On Sunday we fished Hatchery Bay and Waste Point on Lake Eucembene. Walking on the Southern shore of Hatchery Bay, Michael came across a number of fish swimming almost at his feet and several more rising just out of casting range in a wind lane.

Above: Michael at Hatchery Bay

Above: Waste Point

When a fish rose close by, Michael realised that he had an intermediate line on his rod, so I gave him mine that was loaded with a floating line and caddis pattern. Two good, short, casts presented the fly and the fish rose to it in a classic, head out of water take, but unfortunately, despite a good hook set, the hook pulled and the fish was gone. Needless to say, a few choice words were spoken!

Michael handed the rod back to me and I was lucky to have another fish rise close by almost straight away. A good first cast presentation saw the fish rise to the fly but I missed the take. That was the only action for the day and the first in three days!

At Waste Point we saw a few rises but otherwise it was very quiet.

On Monday we travelled out to Braemar Bay, but a cold Northerly wind made sighting fish difficult and for unpleasant conditions to fish in, resulting in another early day, but only after some sniffing around for potential new spots to fish..

Left: Secret Squirrel Spot X

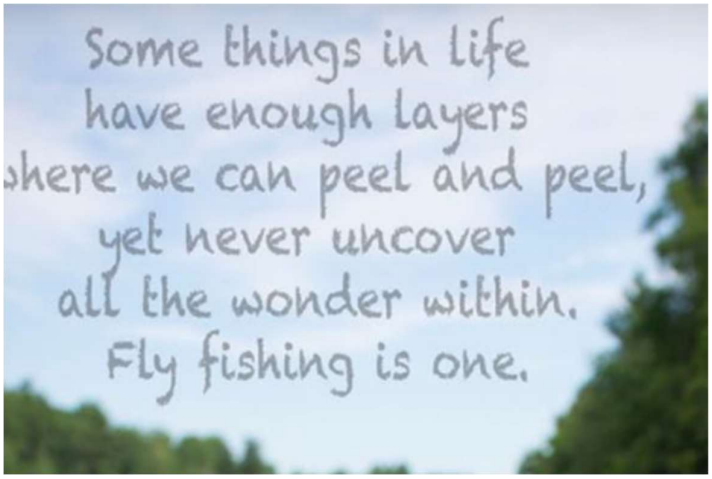
Trip/ Outing Reports Continued

Tuesday was the last day of the trip, but a Southerly change had swept into the mountains overnight. Although conditions were fine, the wind became stronger during the morning and conditions at Rushies Bay on Lake Eucembene were far from ideal, prompting us to pull up stumps quite quickly. We both saw no fish due to the conditions.

All in all it was a tough couple of days and we can only hope that the fishing results are more positive as the season progresses.

Left: Rushies Bay in less than ideal conditions

FISHING QUOTE/ MEME OF THE MONTH



BEING THERE

Above - Upper Big Thompson River, RMNP, Colorado, USA

Above - Charlie's Fly Box, Arvada, Colorado, USA

INTERESTING READING

Will Trout Hit the Same Fly Twice: What Happens After You Miss A Trout?

The trout was gone.

My client had just hooked a big rainbow trout at the tailout of a pool and the fish immediately charged downstream into heavy current. He tried to stop it, something that rarely ends well and the line snapped.

We both stood there for a second staring at the water.

Fish lost, or so we thought.

A few minutes later the trout slid right back into the same feeding lane. I could see it moving from side to side in the current, picking off drifting nymphs just like it had before.

“Cast again” I told him.

He made the same presentation with the same nymph, the trout ate again and this time he landed it.

That moment is why anglers often ask that simple question: “If I miss a trout or lose it on the hookset, will it hit again?”

The short answer is yes, trout will absolutely hit the same fly twice and over the years of guiding, I’ve seen it happen more times than you might think.

That’s one of the joys of being a fly fishing guide. Not only do I get to enjoy this great sport as a participant, but when I’m on the water with a client, I also get to observe trout behaviour in ways most anglers rarely do. Over the years I’ve watched trout do things that completely changed some of my earlier assumptions.

The next week, another client had a near identical experience upstream. He hooked a large trout, lost it and then hooked and landed the same fish less than five minutes later, again on the same fly.

These aren’t the only times I’ve seen this happen. I’ve watched trout strike twice on many occasions and it happens just as often with wild trout as it does with stocked fish; it also happens as often with dry flies as with nymphs.

But like many things in fly fishing, the real answer to the question “will a trout hit twice” is still “it depends”. Several factors determine whether a trout will give you a second opportunity.

Will trout hit the same fly twice?

Yes, trout will often strike a fly again after being missed or hooked briefly. When trout are actively feeding, a quick sting from the hook usually isn’t enough to shut them down. If the

fish wasn't spooked and continues feeding, anglers often get a second opportunity within minutes by presenting the same fly again with a better drift.

Tolerance for Disruption

First and foremost, keep in mind that every trout has a varying level of tolerance for disruption. Old, mature, wild browns are naturally paranoid creatures; they will invariably spook easier than those yearling 5-7 inch fish.

Trout are remarkably individualistic in this regard. Some will dart for cover at the slightest hint of danger while others have more patience. Streams that have lots of avian predators, such as herons, tend to have spookier trout. That's been my experience, at least.

There's a difference in wild versus stocked trout as well. Stocked trout are naturally more conditioned to human presence. They were reared in a hatchery and fed by humans after all, but once released into a stream, they can wise up quickly. Within a few weeks, they can be amazingly selective and sensitive to disturbances.

In my experience, how I approach the holding water has a direct impact on this. If the trout has no clue of my presence, then it has no reason to fear. A slight graze of a hook from a miss does little to raise caution. It will likely continue feeding and may be caught within the next few drifts.

However, if the trout is already alerted that a predator is near, the reaction can be completely different.

The presence of avian predators can also impact whether or not trout will hit twice. In streams where trout are ultra wary, there is less likelihood they will hit again.

Trout Are Often Locked Into Feeding Mode

When trout are actively feeding, it's surprisingly hard to knock them out of that rhythm.

Think about the environment trout live in. Their world is filled with drifting insects, debris, small fish and all kinds of things moving through the current. Trout constantly encounter objects they don't fully understand. Because of that, they can't treat every strange sensation as danger.

Sometimes a trout eats a fly, feels the quick sting of the hook and gets away. In many cases, that brief moment is not enough to completely shut down its feeding behaviour.

In fact, the more focused a trout is on feeding prior to being hooked, the quicker it will resume feeding. If a fish is keyed in on food, especially during a hatch, it may feed again almost immediately.

That's why anglers often see trout rise again only moments after being missed. Of course that doesn't mean the trout will take the exact presentation the same way again. Usually,

the drift has to be more technically perfect, or you may need to change up your presentation in order to fool that same trout a second time.

This behaviour is much easier to see when trout are feeding on the surface of course. The trouble with fishing subsurface flies is that you can't see your nymphs to know how trout are reacting to them.

When nymph fishing for trout, if we sting one and don't get a strike on follow up drifts, we can reasonably assume that we have put the fish down.

That's usually not the case, though. Trout are still feeding, but as we just mentioned with fishing dry flies during a hatch, they're doing so more selectively.

In other words, our presentation has to be a little better. We need to focus on getting that drag-free drift and making sure our nymphs ride in that feeding zone (or seam) where trout expect the naturals to be.

Ninety-percent of the time, the **presentation** is more important than the specific fly you've tied on. Fix the presentation and you'll catch the fish, even those you missed the first time.

The Difference Between "Stung" and "Spooked"

There's an important distinction between two situations:
1. stinging a trout; and
2. spooking a trout

A trout that gets briefly stung by a hook may continue feeding, whereas a trout that gets spooked by seeing you or sensing danger usually shuts down much longer. From my experience guiding, spooking the fish is the real problem, not the hook.

When a trout is played all the way to the net and then lost, something else often happens during the fight:
- the fish may see the angler;
- it may see movement along the bank; and
- it may detect vibrations or shadows.

Once the fish recognises an actual threat, the game changes. That trout is far more likely to abandon its feeding lane and disappear.

Despite that, I've still seen trout played hard almost to the net before escaping and then still hit again within 10-15 minutes. In these cases though, we walked away for a bit and returned later.

It has nothing to do with a trout's memory. Studies have shown that trout can "remember" things for several months. They can be triggered by specific flies they might have been caught on months before.

Interesting Reading Continued

Instead, I think it has more to do with the fact that trout are eating machines. Their belly and instinct tells them to take the easy meal when it's available as long as it is presented correctly and in a way that raises no suspicion.

Also keep in mind that trout have brains roughly the size of a pea. Trying to understand how they'll react in any given situation can be frustrating, because sometimes it is as simple as throwing your fly back out there and they'll hit. I've seen trout do crazy things.

I've seen trout hooked, landed, photographed and released…only to have it swim right back out to its feeding lie and be caught again a few casts later by the same angler on the same fly.

When Trout Resume Feeding

One of the biggest mistakes anglers make is casting again immediately after missing a fish.

If you have just pricked a trout and then fire another cast at it right away, you risk turning a recoverable situation into a lost opportunity.

Even when trout are spooked, they rarely stay shut down forever, especially when there's a hatch going on. During heavy hatches, trout often feed aggressively. Understanding trout rise forms can help you recognise when a fish is locked into feeding mode. Even if you sting them, they often just slide off their feeding lane for a few minutes.

When this happens, it's best to stop fishing, stand still and just observe the water. If wading into position is what spooked the fish, back out slowly and circle around downstream. Essentially, move out of the trout's field of vision.

If you watch closely, you'll often see them drift back into their original lie and begin feeding again. That's the moment you're waiting for. Once the fish resumes its feeding rhythm, you can fish to it again with confidence.

However, the second time around, the trout may spook easier, so your cast **has to be** more accurate and your presentation more precise. Any drag at all on your fly is usually enough to cause them to refuse it and if you spook the fish twice, you likely won't get another shot for quite some time.

Patience often makes the difference between missing a trout and landing it on the second try.

Should You Change Flies?

Another common question is whether you should change flies after a missed fish. The answer depends on the situation.

If the trout confidently ate the fly the first time, there's a good chance it will eat the same fly again once it settles down. After all, the fish has already identified that pattern as food.

Interesting Reading Continued

However, if the trout refuses the fly the second time, or shows hesitation, it can be worth trying something completely different.

Possible adjustments include:

- changing fly size;
- switching to a different pattern;
- adjusting presentation; or
- improving drift.

However oftentimes no change is needed at all. If a trout has hit your fly once, there's a strong chance it will hit it again. All you have to do is be patient.

Streams with high angling pressure typically hold more tolerant trout. They may shutdown briefly after being spooked, but they will resume feeding quickly once the threat passes. Pressure is more likely to make trout more selective than it is to cause them to stop feeding altogether.

High-Pressure Trout vs Wilderness Trout

Another factor that influences whether a trout will hit twice is how much fishing pressure the stream receives.

Trout on highly pressured rivers and creeks see anglers constantly. They are used to the presence of humans along the banks, shadows moving across the water and flies drifting overhead. Because of that, these trout can be extremely cautious, but they also tend to recover quickly after being disturbed.

If a trout on a pressured stream is spooked or briefly hooked, it may slide out of its feeding lane temporarily, but once the angler moves on or the disturbance passes, the fish will often drift right back into position and resume feeding and experienced anglers on busy streams know this well. Give the fish a few minutes, watch carefully and you'll often see it return to the exact lie where it was feeding before.

In contrast, trout in remote wilderness streams or lightly fished waters behave a little differently and they generally have a much lower tolerance for disruption!

These fish rarely encounter people and because of that, they can be far more sensitive to sudden disturbances. When a wilderness trout is spooked, especially if it clearly sees the angler, it may bolt for deeper cover or tuck itself beneath structure and stay hidden much longer.

Ironically, however, these same fish are often less selective when feeding and they may not hesitate to eat again once they feel safe.

In both cases, the key is the same: observe the fish and wait for it to settle back into its natural rhythm before casting again.

Interesting Reading Continued

Final Thoughts

So will a trout hit the same fly twice? In many cases, yes - it absolutely will.

Trout that are actively feeding often return to their routine quickly, especially if they were only briefly pricked by the hook. The biggest mistake anglers make is rushing the second cast or spooking the fish further. Give the trout a moment, let it settle back into its feeding rhythm and once it does, don't hesitate to try again, because more often than you might expect, the same trout that just got away will eat your fly a second time.

Acknowledgement of the Source:

Dark Skies FLY FISHING

Ralph Scherder
March 14, 2026

Left: In Barry's words, "As Good as it Gets". Fryans Creek, Victoria

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 at no cost to IFFC.

  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 above one hundred dollars, but they have an outstanding range of both fly fishing and fly tying equipment, accessories and materials. In addition, the mail order and delivery service offered by BWC is, without exception, second to none.

DNA Fishing Tackle offers a 15% discount on all rods, reels, lines and other DNA gear.

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IFFC Sponsors and Supporters Continued

- **Troutlore** has a great range of fly tying materials, tools and flies, including flies tied by our own club member Joe Manzano.

  Troutlore has offered a 10% discount on purchases to IFFC Members

NOTE: Would you please note that we have elected not to publicly advertise the discount codes offered by our sponsors in the newsletter; simply contact either myself, Michael Parkinson or any of the committee members for details prior to your purchase(s).

CLUB SOCIALS

Follow IFFC on social media: once again on **FACEBOOK** thanks to Jeremy Reid AND **INSTAGRAM** thanks to Joe Manzano

2026/ 2027 IFFC MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Neil Nelson - President

Peter Henderson (MCI) - Vice President

Michael Parkinson - Secretary

Barry Gentle (CCI) - Treasurer

Joe Manzano - INSTAGRAM Co.ordinator

Gary Hickson - Web Master & Public Officer

2025/ 2026 IFFC Management Committee Continued

Phil O'Brien - Largest Fish Competition Co.ordinator

Malcolm Lowe - Raffles Co-ordinator

Kenneth Gordon - Fly Tying Competition Co-ordinator & Librarian

Peter Fragiacomo - Casting Competition Co-ordinator

Jeremy Reid - FACEBOOK Co-ordinator

ANNEXURES

CLUB PROGRAMME - AUGUST 2026 TO JANUARY 2027

MONTH	Date	MEETING	EVENT
August	4	Annual General Meeting & August General Meeting - 7:30 p.m.	Collegians RLFC
	9	Casting Workshop	Towradgi
August	31	Management Committee Meeting via ZOOM - 7:30 pm	
September	1	Club Meeting - 7:30 p.m: Guest Speaker: **Nicholas Reay** Fishing the Cocos Keeling Islands	
	6		Casting Workshop - Towradgi 9 a.m.
October	5	Management Committee Meeting via ZOOM - 7:30 pm	
	6	Club Meeting - 7:30 p.m. Everything You Wanted to Know About - Leaders. Presented by Peter H, Barry G, Mark W and Tony D	
	11		Casting Workshop - Towradgi 9 a.m.
November	2	Management Committee Meeting via ZOOM - 7:30 p.m.	
	3	Club Meeting - 7:30 p.m. Guest Speaker - TBA	
	8		Casting Workshop - Towradgi 9 a.m.
	21		Day Trip - Shoalhaven Heads
November	30	Management Committee Meeting via ZOOM - 7:30 p.m.	
December	**1**	Club Meeting - 7:30 p.m. Informal Christmas Dinner Collegians 7:30 p.m.	
		NO CASTING ON SUNDAY IN DECEMBER (watch for bulletins for twilight casting during the week)	

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: **September 19, 2026**

SPECIES	FLY FISHER	LENGTH (cm) or WEIGHT (Kg)	FLY AND HOOK SIZE	TIPPET (lbs/"x")	LOCATION
Australian Bass	Ray Ellis	42	Martin's Minnow	16	Glenbawn Dam
Australian Salmon	Barry Gentle	66	Surf Candy size 2	10	Port Hacking
Carp					
Bream	Barry Gentle	33	Surf Candy size 2 (Pink)	8	Minnamurra River
Trout - Brook					
Trout - Brown					
Trout -R/Bow					
Estuary Perch					
Flathead	Michael Parkinson	52	Joe's Shrimp	6	Brunswick Heads
Luderick	Alan Griffiths	37	Bread Fly	10	Bass Point
Mullet					
Tailor					
Trevally	Barry Gentle	39.50	Surf Candy (Pink & White)	10	Minnamurra River

FLY TYING COMPETITION 2026/ 2027 - FLIES FOR FEBRUARY TO DECEMBER

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

Fly Tying Competition Flies 2025/ 2026 Continued

November	December	
Lefty's Deceiver	**Coch Y Bonddu**	

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_MdeIj
June	Matuka	McFly Angler https://youtube/FyvCLrONvjE?si=d33SPDgJ7MTFwuDv
July	Kate McLaren	Davey McPhail https://youtube/-c3Wg5E3Ic0?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/j6NUcYfYpj0?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/sJvzja0UHgY?si=BbxHiirMwcma3KjH
December	Coch Y Bonddu	Barry Ord Clarke - The Feather Bender https://www.youtube/-n2Rf4dJEqg?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	Michael Smith
Mark West	Mark West	
Michael Parkinson		
Kenneth Gordon		
Joe Manzano		
Craig Stevens		
Glen Short		
Bob Hurt		
Ron Lynch	Ron Lynch	Ron Lynch

CERTIFIED CASTING INSTRUCTOR (CCI) - SINGLE HAND

Barry Gentle

Peter Henderson

MASTER CASTING INSTRUCTOR (MCI) - SINGLE HAND

Peter Henderson

MASTER CASTING INSTRUCTOR (MCI) - SINGLE HAND SPEY

Peter Henderson