FLY LINES

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

September 2026

Cover Photo - Nicholas Reay, Our September Guest Speaker,
With a Resident of the Cocos Keeling Islands (Photo: Courtesy of Nicholas)

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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.

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.

August Club Meeting Review - Annual General Meeting (AGM)

On behalf of both the outgoing and incoming Management Committees, I sincerely thank those members who accepted the unashamed bribe of a complimentary beverage and made the effort to attend the Annual General Meeting and August General Meeting on a cold Winter’s evening.

The AGM is the only purely business meeting that the club holds each year and yes, it is acknowledged that it is certainly a dry affair. Nonetheless, the club is required to comply with its statutory obligations by holding an AGM at which, amongst other things, Committee positions are declared vacant and elections for a “new” committee are held, the club’s financial accounts are tabled and various reports are provided including those of President, the fly tying competition co-ordinator, the fly casting competition co-ordinator and the largest fish competition co-ordinator.

The only motion raised for which a vote was required by the attending membership was that of increasing the annual subscription from $25.00 to $40.00 per annum. Whilst the club’s Constitution allows a recommended increase to be presented for ratification at an ordinary club meeting, the Committee considered that as the annual subscription had not been increased for some thirty years, the proposal ought reasonably be addressed at the AGM for formal ratification by members. The motion was carried unanimously in the affirmative.

Club News Continued

While I used the term “new” committee above, the new committee basically consists of the old committee and I thank those newly-elected committee members who once again held up their hand to volunteer their services to manage the IFFC’s statutory, financial and social obligations.

Those elected at the 2026 AGM were:

President	Neil Nelson
Vice President	Peter Henderson
Secretary	Michael Parkinson
Treasurer	Barry Gentle
Raffles	Malcolm Lowe
Public Officer& Web Master	Gary Hickson
Casting Competition Co-ordinator	Peter Fragiacomp
Fly Tying Competition Co-ordinator and Librarian	Kenneth Gordon
Largest Fish Competition Co-ordinator	Phillip O’Brien
Newsletter Editor (the “spare”)	Neil Nelson
Inter-Club Liaison	Neil Nelson
Instagram	Joe Manzano
Facebook	Jeremy Reid

The President’s Report and the reports of the fly tying competition co-ordinator, the fly casting competition co-ordinator and the largest fish competition co-ordinator are appended to this issue of the newsletter.

On behalf of the members of the IFFC, I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to both the members of the old and newly elected committee for volunteering their time and expertise managing the statutory and social aspects of the club.

September Club Meeting - Guest Speaker, Nicholas Reay

We are fortunate to have local, Nicholas Reay, speak at the September meeting of his recent do-it- yourself Bonefishing trip to the Cocos Keeling Islands, a remote territory of Australia located in the Indian Ocean, North West of Broome, Western Australia.

The Flyfisher describes Cocos Keeling as “Remote and pristine, the Cocos Keeling Islands offer some of the world's finest sight-fishing”, while Nicholas states:
“Stalking the endless, crystal clear flats and reef edges whilst surrounded by endless marine life, 32,000 turtles live inside the lagoon where they share this domain with the ever-present blacktip reef sharks.

This fishery is a world class tropical flats fishery. Where is it exactly?
Well, it’s Australia's best kept secret.

8-9wt rods are the standard here for very good reason. THE FISH ARE BIG!

Club News Continued

Come along, learn and be inspired to plan your own Cocos island trip, in reach of the average angler!

Enough said! Come along, be inspired and hear about some fantastic fishing for Bonefish and other tropical species. Don't miss out on what should be a great presentation.

When:	Tuesday, September 1, 2026
Time	7:30 p.m.
Where	Collegians RLFC, Charlotte Street, Wollongong

Above – Photos: Nicholas Reay

Club News Continued

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.

Club Trips

Opening of Season Trip to Jindabyne - October 16 to 18

We are proposing to hold an opening of season trip to the mountains, based in Jindabyne, over the weekend of October 16 to 18; hopefully there will be some fish given the experiences of the past two seasons.

Through his contact with the lodge at which we propose to stay, Malcolm Lowe is chasing up the lodge's availability for the weekend. Further details will be provided once the lodge accommodation is finalised, but should you wish to attend, could you please advise Malcolm on maltrade1@gmail.com

Club Competitions

Largest Fish Register

The Largest Fish Register starts afresh for 2026/ 2027 commencing as at August 1. The current register as at August 31 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

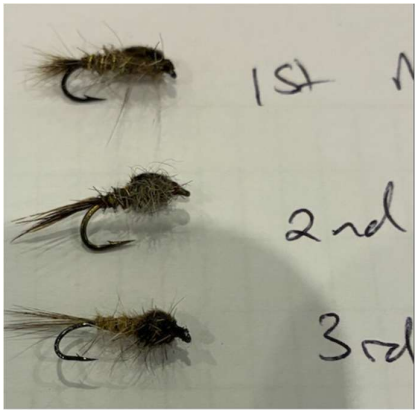
Fly patterns for the remaining months of 2026 are detailed in the fly tying competition pages located in the Annexures to this newsletter.

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 - August

The fly for the August fly tying competition was the **Gold Ribbed Hares Ear** (immediate

below left) and five excellent flies were presented for judging; it was extremely difficult choosing which was the better tied fly.



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

The pattern for the **September meeting** is the **Olive Perdigon** (immediate 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 - August

Finely the weather Gods proved to be favourable for our August casting competition, although a Sunday soccer competition on the fields relegated us to the Northern margins; nonetheless we still had plenty of room to cast and welcome Blake Hocking to his first introduction to casting a fly rod. Given our captive audience, we fielded a number of “Hey there. What are you doing?” type questions.

Results for August were as follows:

Accuracy - Skish	First	Barry Gentle	41 points
	Second	Neil Nelson	36 points
	Third	Michael Parkinson	24 points

We have now also introduced a **wet fly** task to the casting competition with the results being:

	First	Michael Smith	39 points
	Second	Neil Nelson	35 points
	Third	Michael Parkinson	30 points

Club News Continued

Distance	First	Barry Gentle	29 metres
	Second	Michael Smith	24.80 metres
	Third	Neil Nelson	22.70 metres.

As a general note, if you are considering attending the monthly casting event at any time and the weather looks to be “iffy”, please check your emails as a decision as to whether we will proceed is usually made relatively early in the morning.

Similarly, if the fields are being used for their intended purpose, we relocate to the North of the fields proper, a bonus if the weather is too hot as the stand of trees affords us some protection from the sun.

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 August

FISHING REPORTS

Local and Interstate Reports

Much the same as the July meeting, fishing reports for the month were very scarce indeed – well it is Winter after all I suppose.

Paul Emms, **Craig Stephens** and **Phil O’Brien** spent two weeks on Christmas Island recently. They reported excellent fishing, with plenty of Bonefish and GTs, but the Triggerfish proved very frustrating. Many of their catches were taken close-in where wading was easy. Fishing was interrupted only a couple of times with squally weather. However, Paul was “laid up” for a couple of days with some bug, along with several other island visitors. He reported that the hospital situation on the island was well short of what we are used to in Australia and the advice is “Don’t get sick”. Craig’s trip report follows.

Six members went to Merimbula to chase Australian Salmon - **Kim Prehn**, **Barry Gentle**, **Mike Smith**, **Chris Harding**, **Neil Nelson** and **Mike Parkinson**.

Despite the BOSS OUTDOORS’ glowing fishing report on YOU TUBE the previous week, no fish were seen in Merimbula Lake except for a small Squire taken by Michael P; however, it was a different story in the Pambula River.

As distinct from previous trips, the fish were upstream from the boat ramp and were holding in much deeper water, up to 5 and 6 metres or so and everyone caught fish. Kim had Barry working hard on the landing net with a hookup on 15 fish and landing 11 on the first day. The most unusual catch was a Luderick caught on a Surf Candy by Barry.

Fishing Reports Continued

Neil Nelson chased salmon on Port Hacking and found it tough, with one good fish taken.

Grant Hilder and **Barry Gentle** fished the entrance at Minnamurra on several early (ie. sunrise) mornings with variable results. One day there were lots of fish but they proved finicky, with only a couple of hookups, other days there was nothing.

Paul Steffen visited Queensland and fished at Tannum Sands for a couple of Flathead. On a stopover in Caloundra, just for a bit of fun, he cast out a Surf Candy from a jetty in the pitch dark and landed a Bream

International Reports

Christmas Island 2026
Craig Stephens

Trip Preparation and Support

These notes capture my thoughts and observations from my first trip to Kiritimati, also known as Christmas Island or CXI. The name Kiritimati can be confusing at first, as in the Gilbertese language, “ti” is pronounced like “s”, hence the derivation from “Kiritimati” to “Christmas”. Phil O’Brien and Paul Emms, who travelled with me, were extremely helpful before the trip and their advice made the whole experience much easier.

We travelled with Andy Vokler’s well-organised operation, “In2fly”. Accommodation on the island was comfortable and air-conditioned, meals were fully catered and the overall service was very well run; drinks were available at additional personal expense.

Above - Craig with CXI locals, Triggerfish (left) and Bonefish (right) (Photos: Craig Stephens)

Fishing Reports Continued

Travel and Practical Arrangements

We flew with Fiji Airways to Fiji and then on to Christmas Island. There is only one flight in and out of CXI each week, so it is worth being organised before you leave. All island transactions were in Australian dollars, except for the mandatory fishing licence, which had to be purchased in US dollars cash.

A number of basic issues to consider prior to departure include:

1. pack a basic medical kit, including broad-spectrum antibiotics, antiseptic cream and Panadol;
2. take medication for potential stomach upsets or urgent bathroom needs; it proved useful when a bug went through town during our trip; and
3. double-check all essentials before departure, as weekly flights make forgotten items difficult to replace.

Boats, Guides and First Session

Access to the remote flats was by traditional island outrigger-style boats powered by outboards. Each boat usually carried four anglers, with one guide per angler. It was a great setup and the guides were invaluable: skilled, friendly and genuinely good people.

Because of the flight timing, we were able to fish an afternoon session on arrival day. My first attempt at Bonefish was made harder by drizzle and overcast conditions, but a few breaks in the cloud gave us enough visibility for brief sightings - and my first Bonefish of the trip. Their speed, power and determination are remarkable and the fishing quickly became addictive.

With more cloud and drizzle, we spent much of the rest of the day blind casting off a small sand flat. I finished with another five Bonefish, a couple of small Bluefin Trevally and a Goatfish.

Learning the Flats

The second and subsequent days were a constant learning experience. I had to learn how to read the water, spot fish in changing light, place casts quickly and choose the right fly weight and colour. Sighting fish was by far the biggest challenge.

Fishing Reports Continued

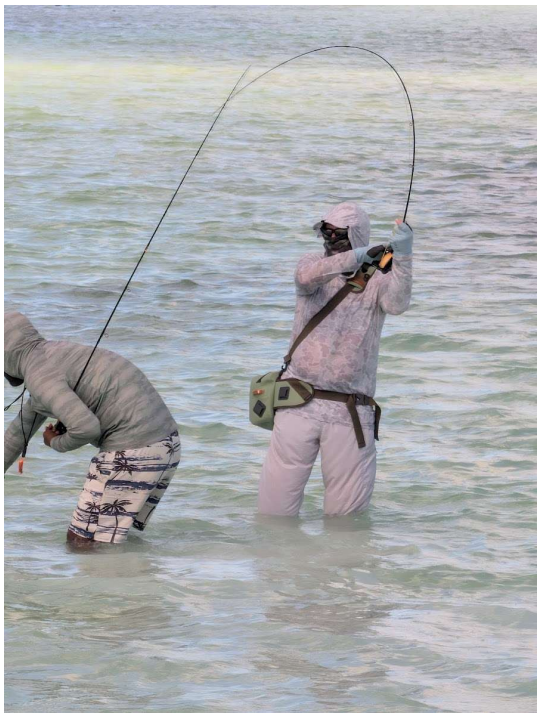
After a few days I started to get the hang of it, but Bonefish are called “ghosts of the flats” for good reason. You can be standing in shin-deep water with a fish coming toward you and the moment it turns side-on it seems to vanish. Sometimes there is a shadow, depending on the sun and angles, but often the fish simply disappear and even the guides lose sight of them. In overcast conditions it becomes even harder, which makes the guides’ ability to spot fish even more impressive.

It is a challenging and highly addictive style of fishing and being able to cast quickly and accurately makes a real difference to catch rates. For me, the best windows were during the first half of a rising tide, before the water became too deep.

Triggerfish and Trevally

Triggerfish were present throughout the flats. I cast to more than a dozen and although a few gave my crab fly a half-hearted look, most spooked before committing. I did manage one hook-up.

Trevally also crashed the flats at times, including GTs, Bluefin Trevally and a medium-sized Striped Trevally that the guides referred to as a Golden Trevally. They hit the flats hard and fast and if you were not ready, they were gone before you could get a cast away. Some were big fish and all were great fighters on fly rods.



Above - Christmas island Action (Photos: Craig Stephens)

Fishing Reports Continued

Conditions and Fishing Quality

Before the trip I also spent a morning with Peter (Henderson) and Barry (Gentle) brushing up my casting skills. They also shared useful casting tips, gave me a heads-up on the guides and helped set expectations for what I would encounter. Their advice was very much appreciated.

I was told the fishing this year was below its usual standard, possibly due to the current El Niño event. Apparently, conditions were wetter than normal, tides were higher and the wind swirled from different directions rather than holding steady. Even so, I had no complaints about the numbers of fish and while some sessions constantly produced fish, others involved long walks across flats with little to show for the effort, with sometimes only a couple of fish, or none at all.

Casting distances varied from long presentations to fish so close that the leader was inside the rod tip. It is a unique fishery and absolutely worth the effort required to get there.

Beyond the Fishing

There is more to Christmas Island than the fishery. The birdlife is remarkable and often unafraid of people. At one point, a Booby Bird, about the size of a small Albatross, hovered a metre from my face, fixated on a fly stuck in the peak of my hat. Birds such as Frigate Birds, Booby Birds and Terns nested at ground level with their young and seemed unconcerned if you stopped for a closer look.

The lagoon held manta rays, small Blacktip Sharks cruised the flats as we walked among them and crabs seemed to be everywhere, even in the bar room. The local people were a highlight as well. One afternoon, while fishing in front of “The Villages”, I shared the water with some local children swimming nearby. Their English was better than my Gilbertese, but we finally worked it out with high fives and fist bumps all round.

Final Tally and Reflections

My personal tally for the trip was somewhere north of 80 Bonefish, along with a few Bluefin Trevally, a few small GTs, Goatfish, a Puffer and one Triggerfish. I tried to keep a tally on my phone, but it died partway through the trip; by then I was already up to 52.

I was told the fishing was not as good as it usually is. If that is true, I suppose I will just have to go back and see just how good it can be.

TRIP/ OUTING REPORTS

Port Hacking Salmon: August 2026

Michael Smith

Thursday morning, August 13, was a “bankers’ hours“ meet-up at the boat ramp in Grays Point, near Gymea in the Sutherland Shire, with Barry and Kim (who made the trip from down South) and Neil and I teaming up together with the aim of finding some Australian Salmon that were supposedly still hanging around in Port Hacking.

With a leisurely 10 a.m. launch, we were out scouting the bays and main channel looking for any sign of birds and top water activity.

About an hour in and after a delightful cruise around what is a very picturesque waterway, we found some commotion in Gunnamatta Bay that looked promising. There were schools of fish racing around over the sand and weed flats in only a few feet of gin clear water and luckily for us, they did seem keen to hang around. Although they were quite spooked by our boats and those of a few local boaties, we managed to stay amongst them for a few hours.

Left - The Dream Team on a Double Hook-up (Photo: Barry Gentle)

The Minn Kota “I Pilot/ Spot Lock” is an absolute winner in these situations (until such time that your fly line gets caught around the propellor) and proves to be extremely stealthy moving around spooky fish which can make all the difference.

A switch from intermediate lines to full sink lines had us making ground on Neil, who was slaying them from the outset on a full sink line. We were all using Surf Candies, but after working out that a good pause after delivery, waiting for the lines to sink to the bottom and then waiting some more for the fish to regather after being spooked by the fly line, the hook ups definitely increased. I’m still struggling at times throwing this style of line, but good casts paid dividends and these Aussie Salmon make a great account of themselves at that 600 to 650mm length. They are very solid, fat, fish that just put the biggest smile on your face, albeit, there was a fair bit of puffing and panting going on at the other end of the boat (guilty as charged - Editor).

Port Hacking Salmon Continued

Barry and Kim got a wriggle on with their catch rate in the afternoon, taking seven each and it appeared that every time I turned to look, one of them was hooked up. Although Kim lost his favourite, well battered, well eaten Surf Candy, there was still a heap of smiles back at the boat ramp.

Above – "They are very solid, fat, fish that just put the biggest smile on your face"

Above - The Dream Team hooked up (Photos: Neil Nelson)

Port Hacking Salmon Continued

Above - Neil (left), Kim (right) with some sensational Port Hacking Salmon

Above - Michael (left), Barry (right) with more sensational Port Hacking Salmon (Photos: Neil, Michael and Kim)

We all had a fabulous day, on what is still a pretty pristine waterway not too far from home.

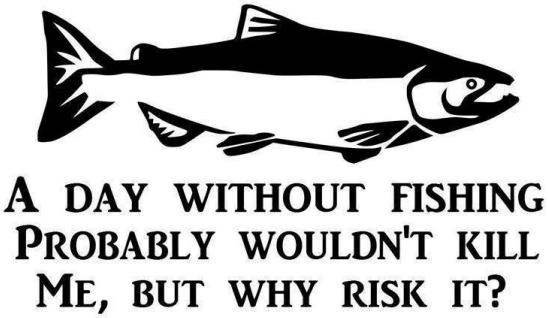
The local Shire boy took the best numbers with an even dozen to the boat and me lagging behind with five. We all lost a few, but that's salmon fishing!

TONY IN TURANGI

Tony Dimitrieski recently spent a week in Turangi, New Zealand and the sample of photos below indicate a successful trip. A full report to come in the October newsletter.

Tony in Turangi Continued

FISHING QUOTE/ MEME OF THE MONTH



BEING THERE

Above - Los Roques, Venezuela

Above - Michael Parkinson Heading to Dream Lake, Rocky Mountains National Park, Colorado, USA

INTERESTING READING

Emergers and Cripple Flies: Why Trout Love These Vulnerable Patterns

Emergers and cripple flies are specialised fly patterns designed to imitate aquatic insects at their most vulnerable stage. Unlike traditional dry flies that ride high on the surface, emergers and cripples sit *in* or *just below* the surface film. This is where countless real insects struggle, get trapped and become easy meals for feeding Trout.

I never used to carry emergers or cripple fly patterns. Most of my dry flies were “standard” ties that floated high on the water. When I hit a hatch and wondered why rout were feeding all around me, yet I struggled to catch one or two, I chocked it up to inexperience and poor casting. It wasn’t until I looked closer at the water’s surface and realised just how many insects were trapped in the film or just below the surface that I figured out these were what Trout were feeding on.

Since then, emergers and cripple patterns have become an essential part of my fly selection and not just for fishing on top. Weighted emergers fished at various depths can also be extremely deadly.

What Is an Emerger Fly?

An **emerger fly** imitates any aquatic insect, mayfly, caddis, midge, or stonefly in the moment it transitions from nymph or pupa into an adult. During this stage, the insect rises toward the surface, begins breaking free of its nymphal shuck and attempts to push through the water’s surface tension. Because real emergers often get stuck in the film, they present

Interesting Reading Continued – Emerger and Cripple Patterns

Trout with slow, helpless, irresistible targets, making emerger flies incredibly effective patterns.

What Is a Cripple Fly?

A **cripple fly** imitates an insect that *fails* to complete its emergence. Cripples may still have their shuck attached, may be partially emerged, or may simply be too weak to escape the surface film. These flawed insects drift sideways, hang suspended, or lie half-submerged. Their crippled posture makes them even easier for Trout to pick off and trout often prefer them over the fully emerged adults.

Left - Mole Fly (left) and Klinkhammer (right), are two excellent emerger patterns designed so that the abdomen of each fly pokes down through the water's surface while the wing remains upright on top. A variety of colours and sizes of these patterns can be used to match almost any hatch.

Why Many Insects Get Trapped in the Surface Film

Many mayflies get trapped in the water's surface during a hatch because the transition from nymph to winged adult is the most vulnerable and failure-prone moment of their entire life cycle. Several biological and environmental factors combine to create these "stuck" emergers and cripples:

1. The surface tension is a physical barrier

   The thin meniscus at the water's surface is surprisingly strong relative to a mayfly's size. To escape it, an emerging mayfly must break through with its thorax, split its nymphal shuck cleanly, and inflate its wings. Anything that disrupts that sequence can leave it trapped.

   Think of the surface film as a sheet of thin plastic wrap stretched over your stream. When the air warms, the film loosens; when temperatures drop, it tightens. Cooler weather thickens this "plastic wrap," making it harder for emerging insects to break through.

2. Incomplete or failed emergence

   Not every mayfly successfully sheds its shuck. Deformities, weak individuals, or

nymphs that mistime their ascent can partially emerge and then get stuck mid-transition. These are the classic “cripples” Trout love to eat.

3. Cold or unstable weather slows emergence

   Low water or air temperatures make the mayfly’s muscles sluggish. Their wings don’t inflate quickly, or their bodies can’t push through the surface film. Wind can also knock freshly emerged adults back onto the water.

   If you’ve fished through a hatch on a cold, drizzly day, you’ve probably seen small dimples and soft swirls where trout sip insects *just beneath* the surface. That’s a classic sign of Trout feeding on emergers and cripples. During these conditions, using high-floating dun patterns almost always produces fewer fish than switching to an emerger or cripple fly

4. High-velocity or uneven currents

   Riffles or swirly seams can flip mayflies during emergence or sweep newly emerged adults into the film before they can fly off.

5. Predators and exhaustion

   Emergence requires a lot of energy. Nymphs that rise too early or too late in the hatch, or that become stressed by Trout or minnows, may not have enough strength to complete the process.

6. It’s part of nature’s design

   Hatches produce far more mayflies than needed to sustain populations. A percentage is *expected* to fail, creating a food base for fish. From an evolutionary standpoint, it’s acceptable “loss.”

Left - Large mayflies such as March Browns or Green Drakes (pictured) can sometimes have trouble emerging from their nymphal shucks and end up trapped in the surface film. These crippled flies are easy targets for hungry Trout.

When Trout Prefer the "Stuck" Stage

I believe emergers and cripple flies trigger a Trout's predatory nature. An insect struggling in the film is an easy meal, not much different than a wolf culling a wounded animal from the herd, I guess.

Even large hatches produce surprising numbers of cripples. On two especially cold May days, I watched big March Brown duns ride the surface untouched while Trout slashed at struggling emergers caught in the film. By clipping the hackle on my March Brown pattern so it rode low, I matched what the trout were actually eating and immediately started hooking fish.

I've even seen this with Green Drakes, which are typically sizes 6-10. During one particular hatch, Trout were so keyed almost exclusively on Green Drakes fluttering on their sides on the surface. Once I clipped off the hackle on the bottom so that my dry fly rode flat on the surface, I had one heck of a day!

Riffles break the surface film and make it easier for insects to emerge successfully. That's why most hatches originate in fast water and why traditional dry flies work well there. But in softer pools downstream, the film reforms and emergers and cripples dominate the Trout's attention.

Left - The profile of this Baetis Emerger Cripple is just too realistic for a Trout to pass up! It rests on its side on the water's surface, offering a vulnerable profile that triggers strikes.

How to Fish Emergers and Cripple Flies

When fishing emerger flies or cripple patterns, an approximate match is often enough. Because cripples vary so much, some still in a shuck, some half-formed, some fully formed but stuck, Trout tend to be far less selective about size. If you nail the general colour and silhouette, you can often be off by a size and still fool plenty of fish.

The most important factor remains the same: a drag-free drift. However, in my experience, emergers don't always have to be dead-drifted. Sometimes added movement is exactly what the Trout want. After all, emergers are imitating nymphs that are in the process of transitioning into adults.

Emergers are designed to ride with part of the fly submerged, often with the tail dropping down at an angle. Trout see only the underwater portion, so subtlety and silhouette matter

more than high visibility. Patterns like the **X-Caddis** are deadly because that trailing shuck material perfectly imitates a caddis struggling to emerge.

Cripple flies can be fished just like emergers, but I often let them float on the surface, as long as they lie slightly on their side. That “crippled” profile can trigger strikes like nothing else.

Traditional emerger-style flies can be hard to see though. A simple solution is a dry-dropper setup comprising a high-floating, easy-to-spot dry on top and a lightweight emerger trailing approximately 450 to 600 mm (18 to 24 inches) behind

This gives you a built-in strike indicator and two chances at every drift.

You can also tie emergers with a bead head and fish them under an indicator, just like a nymph. Even near the bottom, the profile of an emerging insect, especially one with a trailing shuck or emerging wing, triggers instinctive strikes.

Emergers Work!

Emergers and cripples occur in every hatch, every day, in every season. Because they ride low in the surface film and often hang vertically, they are more visible and more vulnerable to Trout than cleanly emerged adults.

Even during the most ideal, textbook mayfly hatch, you’ll often catch more trout on emergers and cripple flies than on high-riding dry flies. For that reason, I never hit the water without a well-stocked selection of emerger flies and cripple patterns.

Acknowledgement of Source:

Dark Skies FLY FISHING Ralph Scherder

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.
	16-18		Club Trip – Jindabyne: Details TBA
November	2	Management Committee Meeting via ZOOM - 7:30 p.m.	
	3	Club Meeting - 7:30 p.m. Guest Speaker - TBA	Tuesday immediately after Easter
	8		Casting Workshop - Towradgi 9 a.m.
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)	
January 2027		No meeting or activities due to the festive and holiday season	

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: **August 27, 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	10	Port Hacking
Carp					
Bream					
Brook Trout					
Brown Trout					
R/Bow Trout					
Estuary Perch					
Flathead					
Luderick	Alan Griffiths	37	Bread Fly	10	Bass Point
Mullet					
Tailor					
Trevally	Barry Gentle	39.50	Surf Candy (Pink	10	Minamurra River

			& White)		

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

Interstate and International - Catches of Merit.

FLY TYING COMPETITION 2025/ 2026 - 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

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) - **$20.00 per person per annum**. 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) - **$40.00 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. $10.00 for those persons described in dot point 1. above and $20.00 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	☐