

## July, 2024

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## Welcome.

### ► Next Meeting:

Tuesday 2nd July, 2024.

7:30pm

Collegians, North Wollongong.

Presentation: Mickey Finn

Guide with Toms Outdoors, Tumut.

### Casting Practice:

Sunday 7th July, 2024.

10:00am

Towradgi Reserve, Towradgi







### Why Softy Sish



Why I fly fish – it's pretty simple to explain. I often get asked, "Why do you fly fish? What do you like about it?" This question typically comes from folks who are dabbling in it or thinking about trying the sport. If that is your question, let me try to answer it

Several years ago, I tried to improve my golf game so that I could spend more time with a friend. I soon realized that I didn't love golf. In fact, I found it frustrating. I remember golfing on the Cottonwood Hills Public Golf Course just west of Bozeman, Montana, and looking down the hill at the Gallatin River. I longed to be fly fishing. My friend didn't fly fish. So I found other ways to connect with him. We both loved to play softball. But I decided that day I was done trying to do things I didn't enjoy.

But exactly why do I love fly fishing for trout (and salmon at times)?

#### **Engaged with the Outdoors**

Fly fishing allows me to experience the great outdoors in an interactive kind of way. I love mountains and the clear rivers or streams that flow through or below them.

Obviously, there are other ways to experience my favorite parts of nature. I've done outdoor photography, backpacking, hiking, and a bit of non-technical mountain climbing. I even reached the summit of Long's Peak in Colorado (14,259 feet) twice. All these were great experiences. But unless I'm photographing my fishing trip or heading to a high mountain lake or stream, neither photography or backpacking does it for me. There's something about standing in thigh-deep water as the snow softly falls or sneaking up on rising fish that allows me to interact with nature in a way that other pursuits do not. This is not a knock on outdoor photography or hiking or anything else. It's just a reflection of how I'm wired. Pursue whatever lets you engage with nature most fully and brings joy.

#### Addicted to the Riser

I'm also addicted to seeing a trout rise to take a dry fly and to the fight that follows. What else can I say? Fly fishing gives me an adrenaline rush and a sense of satisfaction that most other outdoor sports do not. One exception is calling in bull elk during the rut in archery season. But nothing else quite compares with fly fishing.

#### Connected to the Art and Skill

Years ago, I fished with a spinning rod and a box full of Mepps spinners.

That brought me a lot of joy at the time. But I love the aesthetic side of fly fishing. There is a grace to casting (when done well). There are also endless ways of improving my craft – reading waters, identifying insect hatches, tying flies, maneuvering a drift boat, and casting.

Fly fishing gives me the chance to be part of something that I can never fully master. It offers a lifetime of learning. Even the literature of fly fishing is rich and often reflective.

I should add that fly fishing is more doable at this point in my life than other outdoor sports that bring me joy.





## AS Tumut Weekend, 4th and 5th May.

As I mentioned, I also love bow-hunting for elk. The crisp September mornings, the bright yellow aspen leaves, and the echo of an elk bugle across a canyon make me happy. But this is where reality kicks in. I no longer live ten minutes from good elk hunting.

A decade ago, I moved to the Chicago area.

The time and cost of hunting elk in Montana as a non-resident are simply prohibitive. It's the cost, mostly. So out of my two outdoor passions, I'm grateful I can still pursue one of them. Fly fishing for trout is generally less expensive. I can afford to go to Montana at least once or twice a year to fly fish. Besides, I can find great fly fishing three seasons of the year (spring, summer, and fall) as opposed to a three weeks of the year (for bow-hunting elk). I'm hoping to bow-hunt for elk again one of these days with my brother in Colorado. But until then, I'm content to fly fish.

If fly fishing appeals to you, give it a try. The sheer thrill of landing a trout on a fly rod might turn out to be something that brings you as much joy as it brings to me.

Courtesy: 2 Guys and a River.

### Fishng Reports.

Six members attended the club outing to the Eucumbene area over the weekend 24-26 May. It was a pretty tough weekend with only **Chris Harding** catching fish (3). **Barry Gentle** and Chris first fished the Eucumbene at Denison, with the river running very low. Chris took one there on a Globug. He noted the "highway of industrial fluoro jackets" of the many spin fisherman, one of whom nearly sconed Chris flicking his lure into Chris' space. Chris' second fish was from the Maclaughlin on a Magoo, and the final take was a nice fish in the Moonbah.







Also at the club outing, **Mark West** and **Hayden Sully** first tried their luck at the Kiandra bridge, noting again the river was exceptionally low. They saw fish but had no success, commenting on the cool temperature with the fly line sticking to the ice on the water. Other waters covered included Denison, Racecourse Creek, 3 Mile Dam, and finally the 'Bidgee at Bolero, all for nil.





## <del>S</del>ishing Reports.

A similar story for **Peter Fragiacomo** and **Mike Parkinson**. They too covered several waters, starting with the Maclaughlin on the Snowy Mountains Highway. Some rises were seen but the fish showed no interest in dries or wets. On the Saturday they tried the upper Tumut on the Elliot Way, where the water was low, clear and apparently absent of fish. That was followed with some "casting practice" at 3 Mile Dam, with some fish rising but not taking. The day finished off with an hour at Bolero, again casting to rising fish but no takes were had. An hour or so on Yaouk Creek at Yaouk concluded the weekend. The creek was running well but very dirty; a real shame that cattle are allowed to mess up such a pleasant little stream. Mike also had a couple of days in Victoria. He first fished the Steavenson for 1 small brown and a 30cm rainbow. The following day he fished a 2 kilometre stretch of the Rubicon with **Mitch Thornton**. Mitch was euro-nymphing and Mike using dry dropper. They neither saw nor caught any, at which Mitch was totally surprised, as that stretch of river traditionally yielded plenty of fish. They finished off on a quiet stretch of the Goulburn just above Alexandra where fish were rising to something very small. The only take was a 2lb brown for Mitch on a #18 Parachute Adams.

**Dave Connon** based in Jindabyne for a few days prior to the club weekend. He first fished the Gungahlin which was running low and clear, and he saw only 1 fish. The next day was on the Moonbah off Big Yard Rd. Here he saw and spooked fish but no takes. A similar story the following day at Paddy's Corner. However, his efforts were later rewarded with three nice fish in the 4lb range in a small creek on private property, location undisclosed!!











**Ken Gordon** and **Steve Newton** tried the Eucumbene at Sawyers, where the water was very low and clear, and had nothing to hand. Efforts were equally unproductive just upstream of Providence Portal. A different story, however, on the Murrumbidgee at Bolero, with Ken taking 6 fish to c. 30cm. A different story though at Yaouk with zip.





### Fishing Reports.

**Trent Milne** is the exception in this report, having some great fishing – on the Goulburn river in Victoria, the Goobragandra near the Thomas Boyd Track Head and the Eucumbene at Denison. He took several rainbows in the Goobragandra, all on nymphs. His experience at Denison was notably different to everyone else in this report, with 16 fish to hand on the first afternoon, then a further 5 the following day, again all on nymphs.





**Neil Nelson** visited the Central Tablelands and found the fishing pretty tough. The Cudgegong was extremely low, with minimal release from Windemere, however yielded 2 small fish. The Fish river above Tarana was "pumping" but no fish were seen. Neil commented on the scouring and damage that had occurred from recent flooding.







### Fish with Someone Setter than You.

I love fishing with really good anglers — anglers who possess those innate fly fishing traits that, while they can be taught, come more naturally to some than to others. It's fun to watch a really good angler with a butter-smooth cast unleash a haymaker across the river. It's enjoyable to watch someone with a lot of experience in the salt not only put the cast on the money, but then spend the next half hour battling a big tarpon to the boat.

For me, a man of ever-developing angling skills despite my passion for the craft, fly fishing with a better angler offers a chance to become a better angler. You've likely heard in the sports and business worlds that it's important to find someone who "floats all boats" — someone who is in possession of so much talent that he or she makes those around them better.

That's the person I want to fish with. And you should want to fish with them, too. Too often, we get caught up in the competitive spirit. And, sure, the "first fish, biggest fish, most fish" game we've all played during a fishing outing can be a lot of fun, especially if it's good-natured and nobody takes it too seriously. But, instead of the pressure that comes with the competition, consider pairing up with an angler who's been there and done that a few times before and couldn't give a damn about who catches the first bonefish, the biggest trout or the most pike.

If you have the means — and none of your buddies are markedly better fly fishers than you are — spring for a guided trip now and then. I've never, ever, come home from a guided fishing trip without having picked up at least a few simple nuggets of angling wisdom. First, you'll be fishing with a pro — someone who is paid to help you cast to and catch more fish. Second, you'll fish with someone who knows the water, knows the subtleties of the fishery and, most importantly, knows where the fish are going to be at any given time. These are obvious benefits to fishing with someone who knows more than you do. But it's more than that.

It's probably been close to 20 years since I wandered into the Appalachian backcountry with a buddy of mine from Virginia. We hiked down into a little-known blue line on the map off the Blue Ridge Parkway in search of native brook trout. My friend knew this area well. Me? Not so much. But I was eager to latch into brookies where they belonged, and I was happy to "go to school" off the wisdom of my friend. So, following his lead, we plucked trout after trout from impossibly clear plunge pools and from slow, deep runs. All on dry flies. And, generally, all within a rod's length of where we stood. The little brookies were voracious — it was an excellent day.

And then we came upon a big tail-out, where the creek rounded a bluff and then opened up into a long, fairly deep run with modest structure. After a day of literally flipping little Stimulators over pocket water, this new feature in the creek was completely different than anything we'd seen. But my friend, who'd fished the creek dozens of times, knew exactly how to approach this new challenge.

He hopped back up on the creekside trail and we hiked a good 300 yards downstream to where the run tumbled over a modest cataract and the pocket-water fishing resumed. I watched as he slowly stepped into the creek and started casting upstream to a submerged boulder — it was the only structure I could see in the deep run, and, from where he was standing, it was a good 60 feet away.

Armed with little 3-weight rods for these diminutive wild fish, we weren't really in the "long cast" game. Literally, every fish we caught that morning, until we got to that run, was caught using subtle flips, bow-and-arrow casts and tight roll casts. The cover along the creek was so tight that any backcast we dared to make was destined to get tangled in the redbuds and dogwoods.





### Fish with Someone Setter than You.

But, here, with room to open things up a bit, my buddy started to stretch some fly line. And I noticed something I'd never considered before as he uncorked a 60-foot cast and put the fly just above the midstream boulder. As his forward cast unfolded, and he came to that 10 o'clock stop in his motion, the line continued forward. Just as the fly passed by his head, he tilted his shoulder, dropped the rod and pointed the tip right at the boulder.

The result? A pile of line at his feet that he'd never stretched tight on his backcast zipped through the guides and added a good 10 feet to his cast.

I remember asking, "What is this necromancy?"

"It's a saltwater thing," he said. "I learned it striper fishing."

No, he didn't double haul. But he did figure out a way, in tight quarters, how to reduce the friction between the rod guides and the fly line. And, seconds later, he hooked the biggest brookie of the day, a 13 -inch kype-jawed buck that I'll never forget.

And, of course, I'll never forget that little trick — that shoulder tilt that allowed my friend to use the line's forward momentum to get a few extra feet out of his cast. I use that cast today, and I use it a lot. A few years before that, while fishing the Rio Grande outside of South Fork, Colo., (maybe the best little town in Colorado that still feels like Colorado), I was fishing with a buddy of mine who's also a former guide.

It was maybe half an hour before sunset — that magic hour where sunlight filters through the cotton-woods and you can see everything that's happening. As we waded upstream, casting to rising trout during an epic PMD hatch, my guide friend grabbed my shoulder and pointed. There, about a 100 feet upstream, a trouty nose the size of a fist emerged from the river and sucked in a hapless mayfly caught in the surface film.

"Stop," my friend said. And he just kept looking at the spot where the fish rose. It was a modest stretch of pocket water, tucked in behind an almost-submerged rock, not five feet from a streamside willow that hung over the river to give the trout just the right amount of cover so that it could confidently dine without having to worry about an opportunistic osprey or eagle.

The fish rose again. My friend kept his hand on my shoulder. "Don't move yet," he said. "Let's make sure we can get to it when the time is right."

One more rise. That's all my friend needed. He took a couple of careful steps upriver, and I followed along, happy to be standing at this guy's elbow. Instinctively, I began to peel fly line off my reel, thinking that I'd need to make a pretty long cast to put my PMD pattern over the rising trout. My friend put his hand on my shoulder again. "No," he said. "We need to get closer."

And he was right. The light was on our side, and the trout was very likely facing upstream, away from us. We slowly walked a few steps at a time, and the trout continued to rise at a pretty regular clip. Soon, we were within 40 feet of the rising fish, and it continued to rise.

"Now?" I asked. "Not yet," he said. "When you can move your feet, you should move your feet. Your chances are better if your cast is shorter." And, he whispered, the chances are also better at a firm hook -set with a shorter cast and less line between the angler and the trout.

We got to within about 30 feet of the trout, and my friend kind of took stock in the surroundings. Nothing behind us to catch an errant backcast. Yes, the cast might require a short reach to get around the overhang. But I think he figured I had what it took to put the fly where it needed to be.

"If you had 10 chances to make that cast, how many times could you hit that pocket?" he asked.





### Fish with Someone Setter than You.

The question caught me off guard. I'd never considered something as simple as probability. I thought about it for a second, and opted for utter honesty.

"Maybe six," I said. "Good enough," he said. "Go get it." A few minutes later, we released a gorgeous 18 -inch wild brown that sipped in the fly on the second drift. "You caught that fish because you moved your feet."

Good tip, right? Could I have caught the fish from 40 feet? From 50 feet? Maybe. But drawing upon my newfound appreciation of fly-fishing probability, my chances would have been significantly less, I'd wager.

The lesson? Find somebody better than you. Watch them. Learn from them. Then, one day, somebody's going to ask to go fishing with you, and maybe you can pass on a little nugget of wisdom. Maybe you'll be the better angler.

#### Courtesy of Guide Recommended

## Pasting Results.

Casting results for June 2024 were as follows:

Accuracy: 1st Barry Gentle 28pts

2nd Michael Parkinson 16pts

3rd Neil Nelson 8pts

Peter Henderson 8pts

Distance: 1st Barry Gentle 23m

2nd Mark West 22m 3rd Peter Henderson 20.5m

There were 12 attendees on the day, with 7 participating in the competition.





Neil Armstron

## Know Your Sish.

### Mangrove Jack.

#### **Scientific Name**

Lutjanus argentimaculatus

#### Other Common Names

Jack, snapper

#### Size

Up to 1 m and 12 Kg, but usually much smaller.

#### **Conservation Status**

Common, widespread



Coastal swamp areas and lower river reaches, although has been found more than one hundered kilometres inland.



#### Distribution

This species has a huge range throughout the Indo-Pacific region as well as the Red Sea. In Australia its range includes all northern coastal rivers systems from northern New South Wales, through Queensland, the Gulf of Carpentaria, the Northern Territory into Western Australia as far south as Shark Bay.

#### Reproduction

Little known. Like other fish from its group, mangrove jacks are thought to produce a large number of pelagic eggs, spawning in estuaries.

#### Diet

Carnivorous, feeding on other fish.

#### Angling

An excellent sport fish. Mangrove jacks respond well to lures cast into heavy cover. The angler needs to exercise authority soon, or risk getting busted off by these fiesty characters. Mangrove jacks out pull many other fish many times their size and are great fun to take.

### Merchandise.



IFFC Shirts - vented back, gusseted pockets, long sleeves, UV protection

- IFFC badge decals
- IFFC hat pins
- IFFC embroidered Patches
- IFFC Hoodies (in season only)

Support your club. Buy some merchandise...wear a shirt, put a sticker on your boat or on your car or esky. Buy an Illawarra Fly Fishers embroidered patch and sew it on your vest!"



# Fish Register. 4th June, 2024

Species	Fly Fisher	Length (cm) Weight (kgs)	Fly / Hook Size	Tippet (lbs)	Location.
Australian Bass	Ray Ellis	44cm	Baitfish Pattern	20	Glenbawn Dam
Atlantic Salmon					
Bream	Barry Gentle	37	#6 Olive Raw Prawn	10	Shoalhaven River
Brook Trout	Jon Brooks	31	#10 Olive Wooly Bugger	4.8	Three Mile Dam
Brown Trout	Nigel Pennington	50	Mudeye	8	Braemer Bay
Carp	Ray Ellis	78cm	Brown Nymph	14	Split Rock Dam
Herring (Freshwater)	Ray Ellis	25.5	Brown Nymph	14	Lake Corunna
Flathead	Michael Parkinson	49	Chartreuse Clouser	6	Minnamurra River
Luderick	Alan Griffiths	46	#16 Stretch Cord Shrimp	8	Ballina
Snapper / Squire	Michael Parkinson	25	Chartruse Clouser	6	Dalmeny
Murray Cod					
Rainbow Trout	Joe Manzano	54	Wooly Bugger	6	Oberons
Whiting	Barry Gentle	34	SK Skipping Prawn	6	Forster
Mahi Mahi Dolphin Fish	Peter Henderson	75	Clouser	30	Kiama Fad
Trevally					
Yellowbelly					

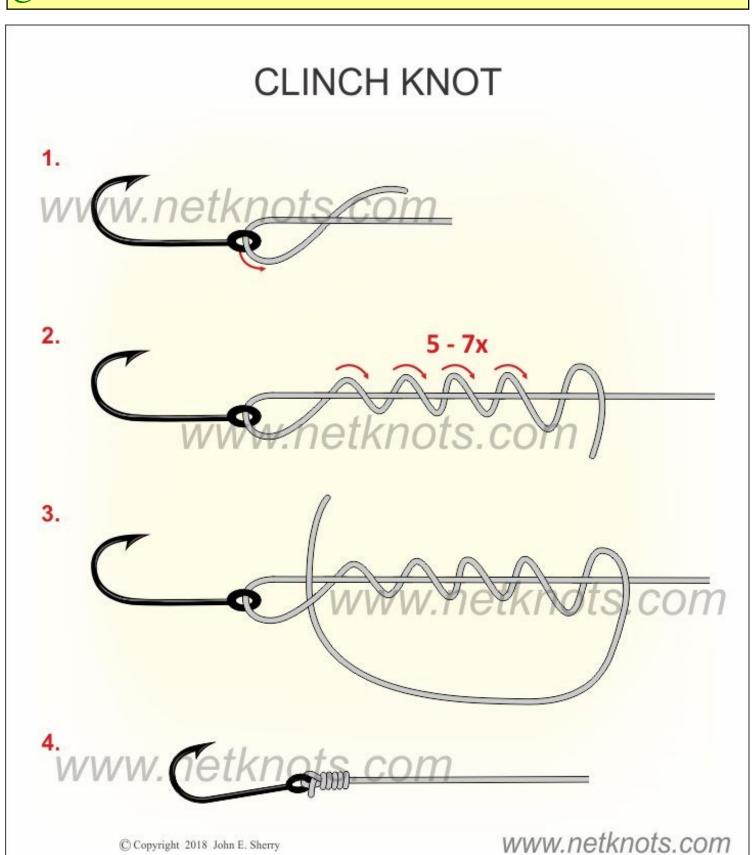
Interstate and International - Catches of Merit.

Peter Henderson Tarpon 46kg Cuba





# Get Knotted.







# fly Tying Competition - 2023 / 24

	February	March	April	
		Rubicon Bomber  Txoutlore	Plume Tip size 18	
	Fly: Dobson Fly	Fly: Rubicon Bomber	Fly: Plume Tip	
	Channel: Hooked on Flies Australia	Channel: Troutlore	Channel: Tom Jarman Fishing	
May	June	July	August	
SIMPLE GAME CHANGER			How To Tie: Richie's Frumpy Toad	
Fly: Simple Game Changer	Fly: Carp it Beetle	Fly: Balloon Caddis	Fly: Frumpy Frog	
Channel: Erich Gross	Channel: Martyn White Flicking Feathers	Channel: Tom Jarman Fishing	Channel: Ole Florida Fly Shop	
September	October	November	December	
Fly: Micro Jig Wooly Bugger Channel: Tuckaseegee Fly Shop	Fly: Charlie Boy Hopper Channel: In the Riffle	Fly: The Fully Sicada Channel: Hooked on Flies Australia	Fly: Sand Eel - Chartreuse Channel: Postfly	





## June 2024 Competition Alp.



Fly: Balloon Caddis

**Channel: Tom Jarman Fishing** 









# 2024 Events Palendar.

Month	Date	Activity	Location	Time	Contact	Number
February	5th 6th	Management Meeting - All Welcome Club Meeting	Zoom Collegians	7:30pm 7:30pm	Neil	0418 258 146
	11th	Casting Clinic	Towradgi Zoom	10:00am	Peter	0418 956 606
March	4th 5th	Management Meeting - All Welcome Club Meeting.	Collegians	7:30pm 7:30pm	Neil	0418 258 146
Watch	10th	Casting Clinic	Towradgi Park	10:00am	Peter	0418 956 606
	1st	Management Meeting - All Welcome	Zoom	7:30pm	Neil	0418 258 146
April	2nd <b>7</b> th	Club Meeting Casting Clinic	Collegians Towradgi Park	7:30pm 10:00am	Peter	0418 956 606
	6th	Management Meeting - All Welcome	Zoom	7:30pm	Neil	0418 258 146
Мау	7th	Club Meeting	Collegians	7:30pm		
	12th	Casting Clinic	Towradgi Park	10:00am	Peter	0418 956 606
	3rd 4th	Management Meeting - All Welcome Club Meeting	Zoom Collegians	7:30pm 7:30pm	Neil	0418 258 146
June	16th	Casting Clinic	Towradgi Park	10:00am	Peter	0418 956 606
	1st	Management Meeting - All Welcome	Zoom	7:30pm	Neil	0418 258 146
July	2nd <b>7</b> th	Club Meeting Casting Clinic	Collegians Towradgi Park	7:00pm 10:00am	Peter	0418 956 606
			ŭ			
A 4	5th 6th	Management Meeting - All Welcome Club Meeting	Zoom Collegians	7:30pm 7:30pm	Neil	0418 258 146
August	11th	Casting Clinic	Towradgi Park	10:00am	Peter	0418 956 606
	2nd	Management Meeting - All Welcome	Zoom	7:30pm	Neil	0418 258 146
September	3rd	Annual General Meeting	Collegians	7:30pm		
	8th	Casting Clinic	Towradgi Park	10:00am	Peter	0418 956 606
	30 Sept	Management Meeting - All Welcome	Zoom	7:30pm	Neil	0418 258 146
October	1st 13th	Club Meeting Casting Clinic	Collegians Towradgi Park	7:30pm 10:00am	Peter	0418 956 606
	4th	Management Meeting - All Welcome	Zoom	7:30pm	Neil	0418 258 146
Mayarahar	5th	Club Meeting	Collegians	7:30pm 7:30pm	iveii	0410 230 140
November	10th	Casting Clinic	Towradgi Park	10:00am	Peter	0418 956 606
	2nd	Management Meeting - All Welcome	Zoom	7:30pm	Neil	0418 258 146
December	TBA	Christmas Function	ТВА	12:00pm		





## Committee Members 2023 / 24



President: Neil Nelson.



Vice President: Chris Harding.



Secretary: Michael Parkinson.



Treasurer: Barry Gentle.



Newsletter Editor Fly Tying Comp Co-Ord: Dave Connon.



Largest Fish Co-ordinator: Phil O'Brien.



Casting Co-Ordinator: Peter Fragiacomo.



**Webmaster & Public Officer:** Gary Hickson.



Instagram: Joe Manzano.



Facebook: Liam Harding



Raffles: Malcolm Lowe.



Librarian: Kenneth Gordon





## Ribrary.

Our Librarian, Gary Batey, wishes to remind members to return of any outstanding borrowed library items.



The Club maintains a library of books and DVD's, as well as over a hundred magazines including "Fly Life" and a number of English and American trout fishing magazines.

To borrow books etc., see the Club Librarian (Gary Batey) and fill out the appropriate sheet... it's as easy as that. Please endeavour to return your borrowings at the next club meeting.

### Our Sponsors.

The Illawarra Fly Fishers' Club is supported by a number of sponsors. Please remember them when buying new gear and support them as they support our club.

- Collegians Rugby League Football Club provides us with the use of the auditorium for our meetings at no cost and a substantial number of gift vouchers that we use in our raffles, so please consider becoming a member of the Club. You also receive discounts on food and drinks with Collegians membership.
- Complete Angler Sydney kindly donates a \$ 50.00 voucher for our monthly club raffle and members receive 10% discount on all purchases.
- BWC Flies









### Illawarra Fly Fishers Club Inc.

### **Application for**

### New 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:

- For Commonwealth pension card holders, holders of Commonwaelth 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 pf the Club's Constitution, a self funded retiree or superannuant is not a pensioner.
- For all others (including self funded retirees) \$25.00 per person per year.
- Where a new member joins on or after the first Tuesday in April, half membership fees apply, i.e.e
   \$5.00 for a pensioner and \$12.50 for all other members (including self funded retirees).
- An establishment (joining) fee, in addition to the annual fee, applies to all new members—\$2.00.

#### How:

To apply for membership, fill out the application below and either:

- Present it, together with your payment, to the Treasurer at the club meeting, or
- Email a completed form to: treasurer@illawarraflyfishers.com.au and pay via a funds transfer to CUA BSB: 814282 Account No: 42098170 Account Name: Illawarra Flyfishers Club Inc Please ensure your name is entered in the "payment reference" field.

Name:		Please	Tick: New Member
Address:			Renewal
State:	Post Code:		
Phone:	<u>M:</u>		
Email:			



## The Sinal Word.

