



Fly Lines

November 2024

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Welcome.

▶ **Next Meeting:**

Tuesday 5th November 2024.

7:30pm

Collegians, North Wollongong.

Presentation:

▶ **Casting Practice:**

Sunday 10th November 2024.

10:00am

Towradgi Reserve, Towradgi

▶ **Save the date: IFF Xmas party**

Sunday December 8th

Venue and time tbc



Club meeting September

Fishing Report – Club Meeting 1st October 2024

With the end of the trout closed season still in force there were only a few reports of fishing activity

Pam Mort, along with Glenn Short, fished Thompson's Creek Dam (excluded from seasonal closure) and had a cracker day, landing 10 fish. She was particularly happy that they were all on self-tied flies, being Flash-back Pheasant Tail, Green Dream and Pink Tag nymphs. Glenn only managed 2 fish. A subsequent visit yielded nil. Glenn reported that Fisheries officials electro recently fished the dam and discovered only 2 fish.

Ken Gordon fished the Wollondilly river (also excluded from closure in the Goodman's Ford area). The water was clear and looked "fishy", but he succeeded in taking 2 small trout, dropping a good fish, plus 1 carp. Peter Henderson made a recent trip to Europe, fishing in Slovenia then in Finland. In Slovenia he fished a chalk stream with crystal-clear water, catching grayling and brown trout on dry flies. In Finland he fished for pike, which was the subject of his presentation to the club meeting.

Phil O'Brien did more fishing than most in the past couple of months, with trips to Christmas Island, to Hervey Bay, and to Jindabyne.

Christmas Island was tougher than previous trips with considerable wind, yet he managed to catch a good variety of tropical species. In Hervey Bay he met up with Mike Parkinson and said he "watched Mike catch flathead". At the lake in Jindabyne he land a nice 42cm rainbow on a Bead Head Woolly Bugger.

Mal Lowe got some fishing time in on an extensive trip to Queensland. At Hinchinbrook he managed to kook 2 barramundi on a Barra Bunny. But he reported frustration that being only land-based his fishing options were very limited. AT Forest Beach near Ingham he caught 2 trevally on the incoming tide. And at Squidders Creek (?) he hooked what at first he thought was an eel but was in fact a lung fish, probably a first for the club.

Mike Parkinson chased flathead both at Hervey Bay and Brunswick Heads. Best fish was 55cm at Hervey Bay. At Brunswick there were plenty of fish, many above the legal take limit, so several tasty fish meals ensued. The fly of choice was of course a Chartreuse Clouser.

Dave Cannon went south to Lake Burrumbeet west of Ballarat, where he participated in two-handed Spey casting lessons. Fishing the edges he "threw everything at 'em" but the fish were not cooperative. A similar story occurred at Lake Bullen Merri near Camperdown. But the fun is in being there

Club meeting September



Winning

flies: Charley Boy Hopper

First Barry Gentle

Second Peter Henderson

Casting Results.

Casting for 6th October,)the results were as follows:

Accuracy - 1st Peter Fragiaco 30 points, 2nd Peter Henderson 27 points, and 3rd Michael Parkinson with 23 points

Distance - 1st Peter Henderson 29 metres, 2nd Michael Smith 25 metres, and equal 3rd Michael Parkinson and Neil Nelson 24 metres.

There were a total of 6 attendees on the day.



Spring Fishing

Bass on Fly

The air is getting warmer (sporadically) and there has been rain in the catchments: so the bass should be returning from the winter downriver spawning. In my own experience you want a high pressure system (low pressure means lockjaw) and if the circdas get active its time to get the surface lures on.



When

The most essential attribute you will require to consistently produce bass while surface fishing is low light. My best surface sessions are usually just on sunrise or sunset although low light throughout the day can be productive and is not entirely restricted to dawn and dusk. Even under a midday summer sun any dark shaded water is a potential target zone to catch a bass on the surface. Every system will have its own idiosyncrasies but most wild bass habitats are in the upper fresh reaches of a river that will have a lot of overhanging trees along its banks and large snags protruding from the water. Accurate casting will be duly rewarded, as bass will rarely venture out from the protection of shade to hit a surface fly.

Surface fly-fishing at night can be quite frustrating and difficult to fish; however, the full moon can provide enough light to surface fish relatively open areas. The biggest problem is that substantial accuracy is lost because of poor visibility when fishing in these conditions. Bridges that have bright lights shining onto the water can also prove to be hot spots. In lit up areas bass are usually stalking in the dark water often on the edge of light waiting for schooling bait to venture into the darkness. Casts are made into the light and often hit as the fly crosses over the ring of darkness.

Spring Fishing

Weather

It pays to be mindful of sudden changes in weather as these can cause bass to actively feed or at times totally shut down. The build up to a storm or rain, as with many other species, see bass really come on the chew. The first run off before a major flooding creates small streams that bring all sorts of food into the tributaries for fish to gorge on and this can set bass into a feeding frenzy, so is a great time to get out and have a crack.

Windy days are not ideal when surface fishing and particularly with fly gear. Glassed out days are a dream and there is nothing better than watching a bass hit a popper from the surface of a glassed out waterway. If I surface fish on undesirable and windy days I try to work small pockets of smooth water that are tucked behind wind breaks and try to avoid casting directly into the breeze.

On average, afternoons have proven to work slightly better than mornings especially when there are lots of insects flying about. Bass are usually not as finicky as trout so matching the hatch to the same degree is not all that important, however, downsizing to smaller flies similar to the insect can improve the strike rate. As the water cools leading into May the local bass in my area seem to slowly go off the surface bite and start to slurp at surface flies more so than aggressively smash them. Most of the fish I catch around this time are taken below the surface on sinking flies such as Bass Vampires and the like. When the season opens and the water starts to warm from September onwards they are fairly feisty and willing to surface feed all the way through the hotter months until May the following year.



Spring Fishing

Migration

All great bass fishermen will have an above average understanding of the feeding and migration patterns of this species. I certainly do not proclaim to be one of the greats but never the less I have taken the time to research bass over the years out of curiosity and a desire to be more productive. Most species are impossible to consistently predict to perfection however there are definite times when you have much more of a chance of catching some fish than others. Although bass are predominantly a freshwater species they need to migrate down to the brackish waters of our estuaries to breed. This occurs during the colder months, which coincide with the closed season from June to the end of August. They can be an easy target in closed season as they school together and are often trapped at man made obstacles like weirs or dam walls. There is also a 400mtr no fishing zone either side of these structures for this reason. Once winter is over and bass have bread they tend to migrate back up the river system dispersing into the far upper reaches. My most productive surface sessions on wild bass are leading into the closed season from March to April as they start to school and the reopening from September to November until they disperse far upstream. However, wild bass are still a very viable target from December to February but are more scattered throughout the system.

Getting set up

I started out saltwater fly fishing many years ago with a JM Gillies 9 wt beginners outfit which was sufficient to knock over the fish I usually encountered. It was great to get a feel for the sport before splashing out on specialist gear. To target bass on the surface I prefer to use an 8wt fly rod (although a rod 6 to 9wt will do) with a light small capacity reel and a floating line. Some would say that an 8wt rod is over gunning it when targeting the average size bass encountered, and its true, most can be comfortably landed on a 6 wt, however, the sole reason I choose to use an 8wt is because I like to throw fairly large surface flies that have a lot of wind resistance when casting. Using an oversized rod like an 8wt will punch large flies much further through the air, giving you better accuracy, a far more natural casting style and will increase the all round enjoyment of your fishing. If you are intent on using a 6wt you are sometimes limited to smaller or compact surface flies to avoid compromising your casting. Leaders should be 9-12 feet long depending on your casting ability and experience. My advice to novices is to keep leaders a little shorter when learning to cast as it is easier to manipulate the line into lying out neatly. Using a longer leader will give extra stealth and is preferred but is not the most important factor to determine a successful outing. Tapered leaders serve a purpose and will help in rolling out a cast but once again they are not essential. I tend to use a good quality monofilament or fluorocarbon leader when surface fishing for bass of around 12 lb depending on the average size of the fish and the type of structure I am fishing.

Flies

ere are so many ingenious fly patterns to work on the surface with such varied subtle actions that it is sometimes hard to make a decision as where to start. If I were only allowed one fly to use for a session it would have to be the humble gurgler, which is quite a simple pattern to tie and use. I also favour cup face poppers, wiggle minnows, small Dahlberg divers and other deer hair patterns tied on a #2 to 2/0 hook. The strike to hook up rate can be very poor at times on fly compared to using conventional surface lures. One single hook compared to two or three trebles equates to far less hook ups. This is just part of the challenge. I have experimented by adding assist or stinger hooks to some of the larger surface flies as of late and my hook up rate has improved greatly. There is a down side to using the assist hooks though. Firstly, hooking yourself when a bung cast shoots the fly at your body equates to a far greater chance of hooking yourself and I have also found that many fish end up foul hooked in the eyes and gills which is not good if the intention is for the fish to be released. Wild bass are one species that I always like to return to the water. Weedless surface flies are a good option for beginners to use as they will assist in dragging flies over structures that you may accidentally cast over or into.

Spring Fishing

Tactics

Fly fishing from a vessel is generally easier and more productive than bank bashing as you can cover more ground and position yourself to make for relative carefree casting. Smaller rivers or streams may constrict your casting because when casting a fly you need equal area to back cast otherwise your fly ends up hooking trees behind you. An electric motor is a great help to keep you on track and a huge advantage, however, it is still possible to fish without one. For most scenarios I fish about ten metres from the target zone and cast from the water toward the river bank aiming the fly as close to structure or shade as possible. If you are not a great caster hang in a little closer so that you're reaching the target zone comfortably.

When I am fishing grass or reedy edges relatively free of major snags I like to fish close to and almost parallel to the bank casting up in front of the boat and working the vegetation line. Many fish hang right on the edges and at times you need to hit the fly right on them to entice a strike. When fishing like this the angler at the front of the boat has a distinct advantage for obvious reasons so taking turns keeps everybody happy. Kayaks, canoes and land based are all possible but I would recommend learning from a stable boat before venturing into these realms as there are many more factors to account for.

The fly basics are the same no matter what you are fishing from and that is to cast a fly as close to structure as possible or as far under shaded overhangs with out snagging up. Casting sometimes needs to be very accurate particularly in bright areas with minimal shade cover. In the middle of the day you would be wasting your time continually casting short of shade, on first and last light fish will be more willing to come out from shelter to attack a surface fly.

The most successful retrieve can only be determined on the day as it can vary dramatically from system to system and on a daily basis. I have had bass hit flies whilst they are motionless, when quickly winding in, popping, blooping or slowly pushing on the water surface. I usually start with a subtle pop and keep it constant, if that isn't working make variations with pauses, harder pops etc. Experimentation is they key on the harder days and often a code can be cracked.

One should not be disheartened when a bass strikes and misses the fly on retrieval as they will commonly strike again on the next cast placed in the same vicinity or there may be other bass schooled that are also willing to have a crack. I have at times pulled half a dozen fish from the same snag and then not had a hit for the next hundred metre stretch. Certain areas of the rivers will regularly hold fish and only through practical experience and time on the water will these become known in your local water way.

Good luck and persist, Carter

Courtesy Hooked up magazine

Know Your Fish.

Australian bass have a moderately deep, elongated body that is laterally compressed. They have a forked **caudal** ("tail") fin and angular **anal** and soft **dorsal fins**. Their spiny **dorsal fin** is relatively high, strong and sharp. They have a medium-sized mouth and relatively large eyes that can appear dark in low light or red in bright light. The **opercula** or gill covers on Australian bass carry extremely sharp flat spines that can cut fishermen's fingers deeply.

Australian bass vary in colour from metallic gold in clear sandy streams to the more usual bronze or bronze-green colouration in streams with darker substrates and/or some tannin staining to the water.

Australian bass are, overall, a smallish-sized species. Wild river fish average around 0.4–0.5 kg and 20–30 cm. A river fish of 1 kg or larger is a good specimen. Maximum size in rivers appears to be around 2.5 kg and 55 cm in southern waters, and around 3.0 kg and 60–65 cm in northern waters. Australian bass stocked in man-made impoundments (where they cannot breed) grow to greater average and maximum weights than this.



Australian bass are found in coastal rivers and streams from **Wilsons Promontory** in **Victoria** east and north along the eastern seaboard to the rivers and creeks of the **Bundaberg** region in central **Queensland**.

Australian bass are not found in the **Murray-Darling system**. Although the system is extensive, it terminates in a sequence of coastal **lakes** and **lagoons** and has only **one shallow and changeable entrance** to the **Southern Ocean** — features that appear to be incompatible with the estuarine breeding habits of Australian bass and other aspects of their life cycle.

year or slightly more and in the estuarine reaches in winter, and are highly migratory in general.

- **September:** re-enter lower freshwater reaches after spawning
- **October–November:** movement through middle freshwater reaches
- **December–February:** maximum penetration into negotiable upper freshwater reaches
- **March–April:** slow movement back down through freshwater reaches in anticipation of spawning run
- **May:** strong spawning run to estuarine reaches
- **June–July–August:** aggregation and spawning in estuarine reaches

One for the Trouties

Editors note: I found this a pretty good nymphing guide you'll have to ignore the US specific tips, but other than that covers the basics and some handy tricks as well.

Guide Tactics for Tough Trout: Nymphing

by [Chris Jackson](#) March 2, 2024

Nymph fishing is an essential tactic for fly anglers who want to catch fish year-round.

Nymph fishing is an essential tactic for fly anglers who want to catch fish year-round. Dry-fly fishing is always at the top of the list for most fly fishermen, and I love the fun and challenge of matching the hatch on top, but what about when there are no insects showing and no rising fish?

Note: On The Water is reader-supported. When you buy through links on our site, we may earn an affiliate commission.)

I categorize nymph flies into two categories: attractors and imitations.

An attractor is just that—it attracts trout via shape, color, flash, or the use of unique material. It provides an impressionistic profile of a mayfly nymph, stonefly, aquatic worm, or even a larvae or grub without being a close match.

Guides tend to lean on attractors, especially when no insects are showing. When we tie on attractors, we're looking for a response from the fish. Sometimes, the response is lukewarm; other times, it can be lights out. That's why it's important to remain positive and methodical in your approach when nymphing—you could be merely a fly change away from a banner day.



Attractor Flies

L to R: Bead Head Hare's Flashback, Klinkhammer, Tunghead Prince, White River Fly Shop Mop Fly

Spring Fishing

Knowing when to go specific or use an attractor is usually determined by insect activity. If you know Hendrickson mayflies have been hatching in the early afternoon, it makes sense to fish a Hendrickson nymph in the morning, well before hatch time, since the fish will be on the lookout for those bugs. This is important because trout can key in on a food source to the exclusion of all others, known as selectivity.

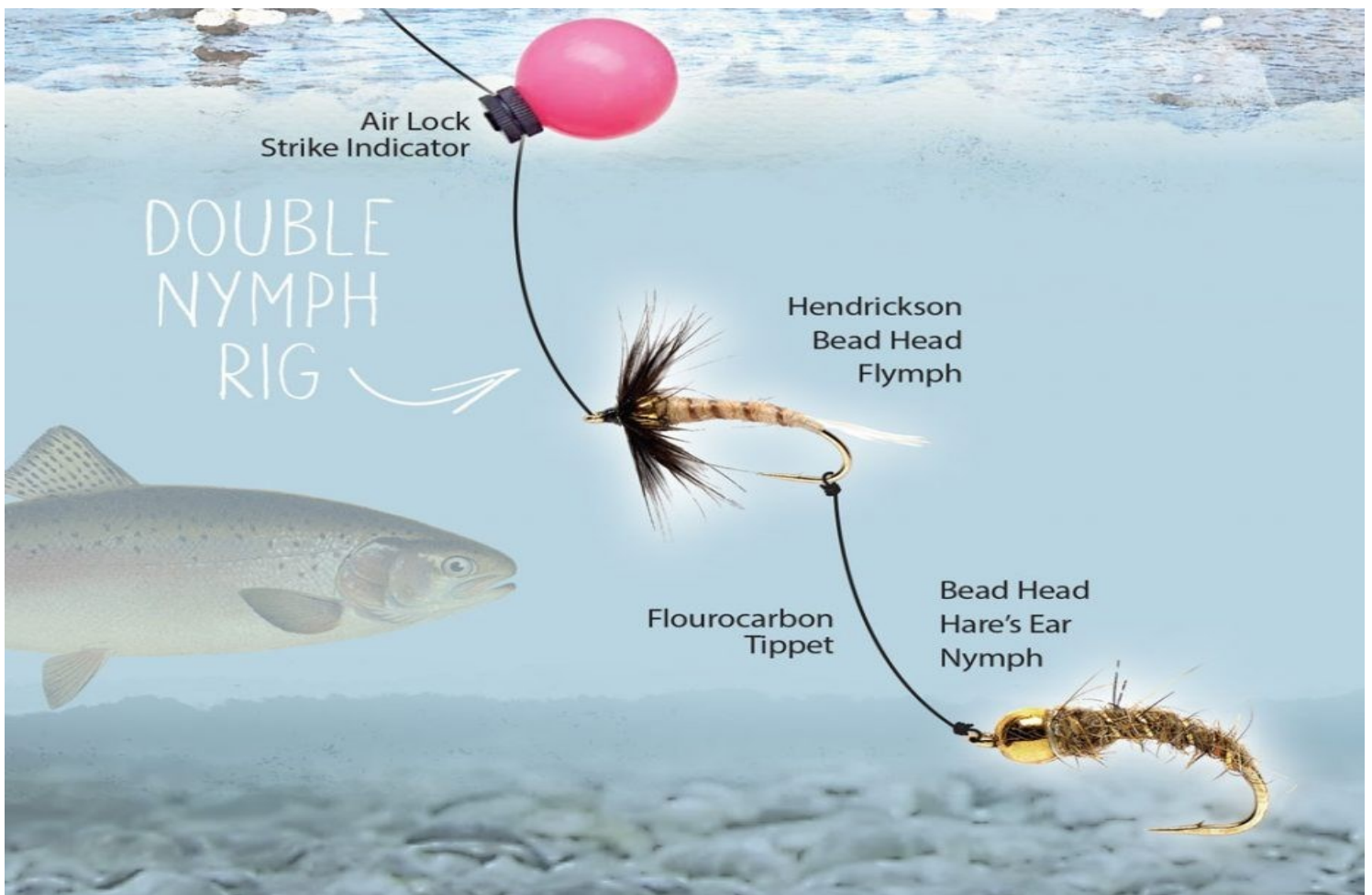
Conversely, you may be fishing in the late fall or winter (or even the dog days of summer) when the water seems devoid of bugs. This is a great time to put on an attractor. [San Juan Worms](#), flashback nymphs, [Mop Flies](#), hot bead nymphs, [Prince Nymphs](#), and [Hares' Ears](#) are just a sampling of effective attractors.

When not getting bites, adjust your depth before changing your fly.

Right Fly, Wrong Depth

A friend who mentored me many years ago told me nymphing is a game of inches—you can be only 6 inches from success. Never has a statement been so true, in my estimation. Trout, especially big trout, rarely move long distances for a tiny meal. If you observe trout feeding on nymphs, you'll notice they're often moving side to side and up and down in a small area, close to the bottom (except when there are emerging insects swimming to the surface). Getting your fly to the proper depth is of utmost importance.

Setting your indicator properly is step one. I set mine based on depth and current velocity with the goal of getting my point—or lowest—fly close to the bottom. I want it near enough to occasionally tick.



Spring Fishing

I use screw-top indicators and tie blood knots at each diameter change in my leader. The knots function as indicator stoppers and give me precise depth control. I tie the last blood knot a foot to 20 inches above the top fly on a two-fly rig. This allows me to run drifts in water that's relatively shallow, two to three feet deep, as well as setting up for deep holes by changing the indicator position. I prefer to use tungsten beads on my nymphs instead of split shots, and I sometimes add weighted wire behind the tungsten beads to make them sink like anchors. I put the heavy fly on the point in deeper water, with a smaller fly above it on a dropper.

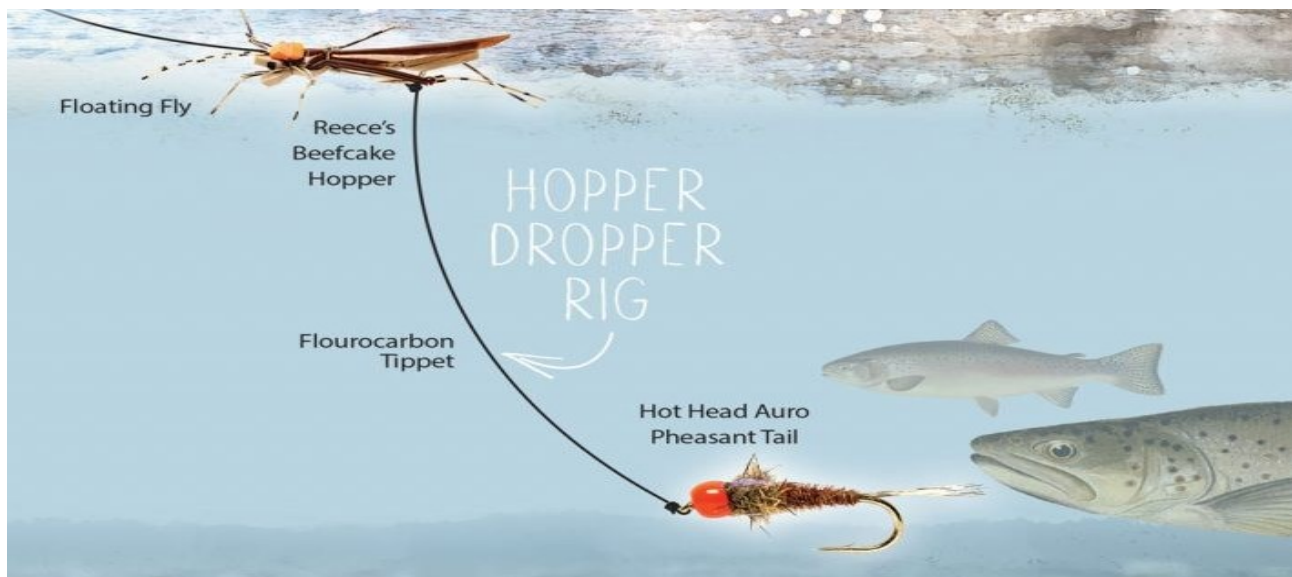
When fishing shallow water, I may select a lightweight nymph with a brass bead – or no bead at all – to keep the drift looking natural. I experiment with bead color too; sometimes, the brass disco ball spooks pressured fish. A black or brown bead can really make a difference when trout have seen a thousand brass-bead nymphs float by.

An indicator can spook heavily pressured fish, so replacing it with a dry fly or removing it entirely can be the key to a bite.

Stealth

The guiding season for trout typically starts out easy, particularly when the stocking trucks are out. These are the times when every angler you run into is smiling because of the speed at which they are catching these trout. By mid-July, you'll see a lot of long faces in the same locations and reports that the river is "fished out." I can assure you that rivers like the Swift, the Deerfield, and the Westfield (all in Massachusetts) are not fished out—the fish that have survived the initial onslaught have become very selective and spook. The experienced guide understands this and adjusts tactics to deal with it.

I switch from bright indicators to white, even downsizing the indicator to tiny sizes, when fishing low, clear water. Sometimes, the presence of any indicator is too much. At such times, I use a grasshopper fly or a highly visible and buoyant emerger like a Klinkhammer as my indicator. This is the western technique called hopper/dropper, which is an incredibly productive tactic for spooky trout, and there's an added chance of a surface strike should you choose the right terrestrial for your indicator.



Spring Fishing

Another tactic is losing the indicator altogether and tight-lining or **Euro-Nymphing**. I rarely incorporate this technique while guiding from the raft, but it is deadly effective. Instead of a visible fly line or indicator on the water, you're basically fishing a leader with a "sighter" at the connection between the leader and running line to help identify strikes. You can cover all depths by virtue of fly weight and leader setup. I have friends who are high-level competitive anglers and they clean up using this tactic.

Right Fly, Wrong Tippet

Rivers like the Swift in Massachusetts have gin-clear water and highly pressured trout. Often, you'll see a trout show interest in your fly only to turn away at the last moment. Instead of giving up, try downsizing your tippet 6x (or even 7x) to fluorocarbon and run the same fly through again before you switch. The trout that refused at the last second may demolish the same fly—it happens to me all the time!

Water conditions, weather, and insect activity all impact fish activity and are all beyond our control. The difference between scratching out some fish or getting blanked resides in the variables that we can control. Achieving proper depth, selecting the right fly, choosing the right indicator, and choosing the right tippet will help you achieve success on days when no one else is catching.

Courtesy: On the water (a useful US online magazine).



Fishing reports

Snowy Mountain and Fish River reports very slow days Might be time to go chasing Bass, the Grapevine tells me the upper Shoalhaven fishing well...

Fishing Report 14/10 to 17/10

Gary Batey and Gary Hickson, with cameos from Barry Gentle, Kim Prehn and Mitch Thornton

All in all it was a pretty poor trip and no one else was doing any better.

Session Where Fish seen Fish fooled Fish hooked Fish landed

Mon pm Denisson 0 0 0 0

Tues am Kiandra 0 0 0 0

Tues pm Providence 1 2 1 1

Wed am Yaouk 10 rises 1 1 0

Wed pm Yens bay 0 0 0 0

Thurs am Frying Pan 0 1 1 0

More snakes than fish

That's not quite true, two snakes versus four fish and a platypus. Matt went to grab a branch that turned out to be a big brown and gave him the most excitement of the trip.

Matt and I fished from Monday evening to Wednesday lunchtime of the opening weekend. The fishing was very slow everywhere. It had been really windy over the weekend but Tuesday was a beautiful weather day so we fished above 4 mile Track. Usually very reliable. Water levels still quite high and dropping but very clear. We got a fish each (just average rainbows and browns). The day before in the windy conditions I dug out a pretty good Jack Rainbow in spawning colours and fair condition . Matt got another Brown in the same run of water right at the campsite. Both took nymphs. Wednesday morning we fished the Lake at Rushys. Matt spotted a pretty good Brown cruising when we got there the afternoon before but couldn't find him by the time we had lines in the water. The next morning was also a blank. The lake was lower than we've seen for a couple of years so we took a decent walk over to where there was a yabby bank and slightly deeper water but couldn't find a fish there. So overall probably one of the slowest trips we've had for had for a long time. If you have a look at Phillip Weigalls online magazine called Flystream Steve Dunn (a regular Snowy Mountains contributor) argues that in the current conditions we should fish the deep water with hovering yabby pattern/woolly buggers.

So the question is were the fish in the river but just not feeding because it hadn't warmed up enough, or have they been washed down to the lake by the high water as I recall happening a few years ago .



Fishing reports

On Friday, October 4, the "Flathead Whisperer", Michael Parkinson and I headed to Shoalhaven Heads to see if we could tempt any fish, particularly Flathead, to come to the fly; accompanying us was Ken Godwin from the Lakeside Fly Fishing Club whom I know well from my association with good friends at that club.

A mandatory meat pie and vanilla slice from the ever-busy Shoalhaven Heads bakery had us primed for an afternoon of sizzling fishing action and it was quite warm gearing up in the carpark before we headed out onto the flats.

The first thing that struck us was the amount of driftwood that had been deposited on the beach in the bay opposite the carpark and amenities block in the adjacent park. There was a massive amount of timber as can be seen in the photograph, so much so that being high tide, it was almost impossible to walk along the shore line.

Nonetheless, the "inland" track allowed us to avoid maneuvering around the piles of timber and gave us access to the flats beyond and with the tide dropping and despite the channel being unfortunately closed, we quickly found what looked to be good water to fish in numerous little gutters and an obvious drop off.

After an hour or so of fruitless casting, that's when expectation met reality. Although the conditions were promising, our expectations were becoming increasingly dashed and while Ken may have had one bump on the fly, that appeared to be the sum total of the afternoon's action. To pour salt onto the wound, a very cool Sou' Westerly breeze sprang up which made being exposed on the flats quite uncomfortable.

We experienced challenging weather conditions from the get go as it was cold (10 degrees) throughout the day, there was cloud, a smattering of rain and a cool/ cold breeze; unfortunately to cap it off, the river was high and coloured.

**When the flathead whisperer doesn't turn a scale you know its been a tough day
Neil Nelson**



04 October 2024

Fishing Reports.

From our travelling correspondent, David Treiner

(if he reads our reports he might not come back at all!



?

Best wishes from the Rockies, where I'm wrapping up my fall fishing with a couple of recent outings. First, I volunteered for a 3 day outing in Paradise, UT as a "buddy" (a guide or mentor of sorts) for several participants of reelrecovery.org. This group uses fly fishing to help cancer patients deal with their journeys, and it attracts mostly novices. Being out fishing offers a respite for those who might be struggling with their disease or (we hope) recovery. Great bunch of folks, and it's even offered in AU/NZ as well—a very worthy cause to support. Here's a pic of what the locals called an "albino" rainbow—a hatchery release—at a good 20". Which, I hasten to add, I took on my Tenkara with 2 nymph rig (and a net!)



Fishing Reports.

Mark West and I fished the Fish River this past Wednesday (October 16).

We experienced challenging weather conditions from the get go as it was cold (10 degrees) throughout the day, there was cloud, a smattering of rain and a cool/ cold breeze; unfortunately to cap it off, the river was high and coloured.

We experienced challenging weather conditions from the get go as it was cold (10 degrees) throughout the day, there was cloud, a smattering of rain and a cool/ cold breeze; unfortunately to cap it off, the river was high and coloured. Despite fishing some nice runs and ruffles, we couldn't raise a scale, although the high water prevented us fishing a good deal more water as the river was a little dodgy to cross. Apart from a few caddis late in the day, we saw no other insects and luckily, no snakes. Neil Nelson

Editors note: with all the chatter about snakes a reminder to carry a proper snake compression bandage, and preferably also a PLB if you're likely to be out of phone reception range.

Summary advice: apply compression bandage, Immobilise the victim, get help.

Review this link: [First Aid for someone with a snake bite](#) | [Australian Red Cross](#)



Fishing Reports.

Season Opening '24

The Short-Mort crew made the pilgrimage to Adaminaby for the river season opening week of the October long weekend. Tom went to the dark side and abandoned his hopper/dropper obsession in favour of his Dad's new Euro rig. (and that's how families end up with multiple rods, I'll be visiting BWC soon)

Opening day was very quiet on the upper Eucumbene River, for both angler nos & fish nos. We had the place to ourselves but failed to see a fish. There was however, a very persistent snake near the car park. The 80 kph winds kept it interesting though, with no reports of injuries, other than our egos.

The wind picked up to over 100kph and for the next two days we left the rods behind & toured the lake shores to revisit past glories and old friends, particularly around the Frying Pan. Then came a day at Dennison, with four fish to the net between us, all in the 1 - 2.5 lb mark taken on orange beaded nymphs and a pheasant tail.

A disappointing day at Blue Water Holes followed. The water looked silted and lacking in life. No fish sighted. On the way back we dropped into Tantangara Ck and Glenn picked up a nice rainbow in front of the car, again on Tom's Green Dream nymph. Pam sat on a snake, quite loudly, and we moved on.

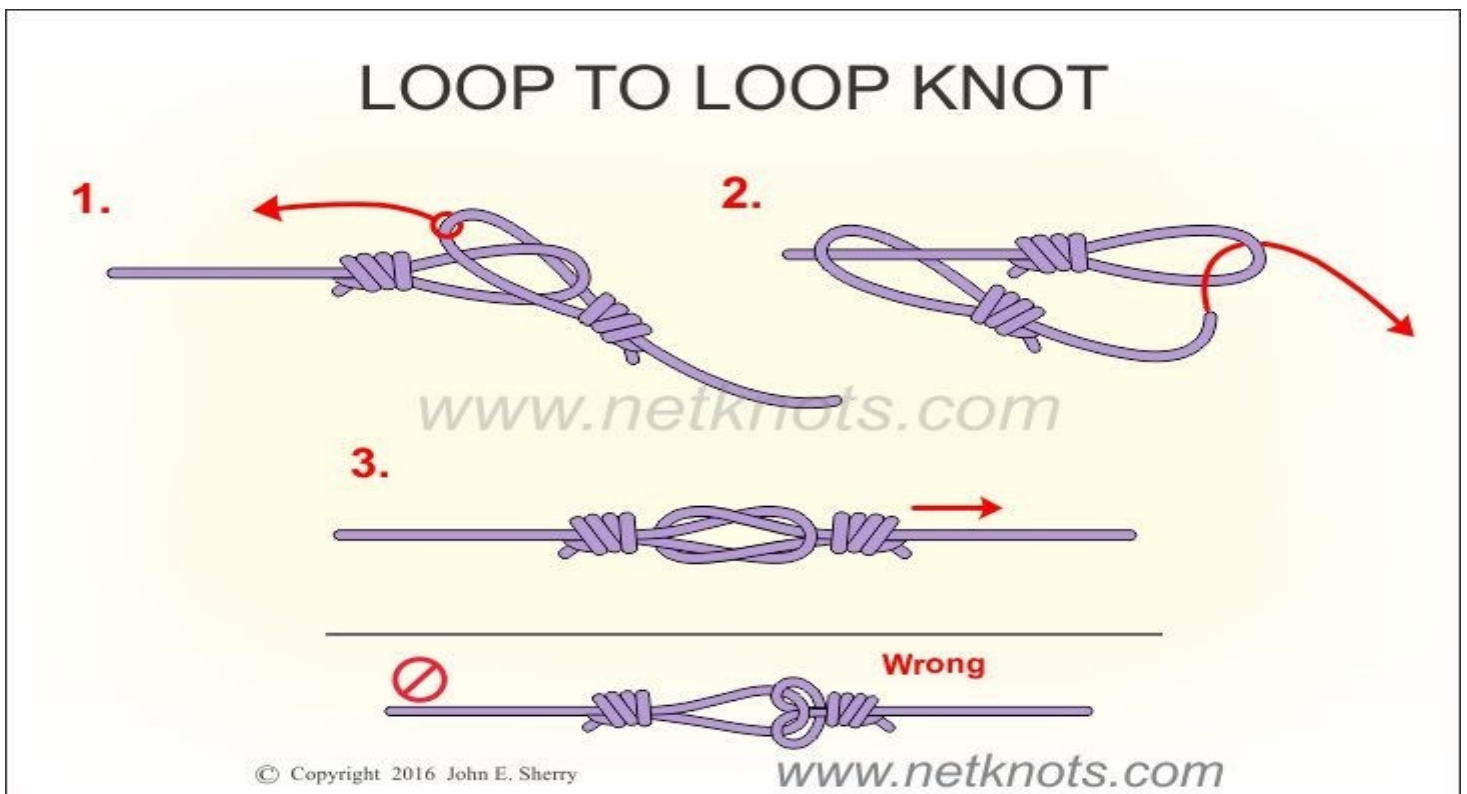
We tried another day on the upper Euc and Tom and Glenn managed two fish for the afternoon, but Pam upstaged us yet again by doubling our score. Again, all fish taken on the Green Dream. The river levels were very high when we arrived but settled to a full level by the end of the week. The water was clear and the creeks all looked in top condition, just not many fish about. Local theories ranged from mega flocks of cormorants to flooding rivers washing food out of the systems. We certainly came across a lot of anglers who had not seen a fish. Send your theories into the editor for publication!

After packing up we had a short flick down at the lake at Angler's Reach and Glenn managed a nice rainbow on an olive woolly buggie with a bit of sparkle through it, on a slow retrieve. All in all a great fishing trip, not so much a catching trip! Can't wait for the next one.



LOOP TO LOOP KNOT



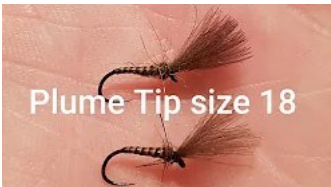






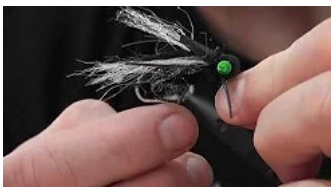

How to tie the Loop to Loop Knot. The Loop to Loop Knot is not really a knot per se. It is a method of joining or interconnecting two loops and is often referred to as interlocking loops. The method is simple enough but there is one pitfall to be avoided. That is where one loop folds the wrong way making a girth hitch. See illustration "Wrong" to avoid that. The loop to loop connection is exceptionally strong. Many fly lines now come with pre-made loops on their ends. Just tie a loop at the end of the leader you are attaching (Perfection Loop, Surgeon's End Loop, etc.) and use the Loop to Loop knot to join the two lines.



Loop to Loop Knot Tying Instructions

- Slip one loop over the other loop.
- Run leader line through same loop.
- Pull lines in opposite directions to lock the loops together. Be careful that the loops join together end to end and that one does not fold back forming a girth hitch

Fly Tying Competition - 2023 / 24

	February	March	April
			
	Fly: Dobson Fly Channel: Hooked on Flies Australia	Fly: Rubicon Bomber Channel: Troutlore	Fly: Plume Tip Channel: Tom Jarman Fishing
May	June	July	August
			
Fly: Simple Game Changer Channel: Erich Gross	Fly: Carp it Beetle Channel: Martyn White Flicking Feathers	Fly: Balloon Caddis Channel: Tom Jarman Fishing	Fly: Frumpy Frog Channel: Ole Florida Fly Shop
September	October	November	December
			
Fly: Micro Jig Woolly Buzzer Channel: Tuckaseege Fly Shop	Fly: Charlie Boy Hopper Channel: In the Riffle	Fly: The Fully Cicada The Fully Cicada - YouTube	Fly: Sand Eel - Chartreuse Channel: Postfly

November 2024 Competition Fly.



Fly: The Fully Cicada

[The Fully Cicada - YouTube](#)



Instagram

2024 Events Calendar.

Month	Date	Activity	Location	Time	Contact	Number
February	5th	Management Meeting - All Welcome	Zoom	7:30pm	Neil	0418 258 146
	6th	Club Meeting	Collegians	7:30pm		
	11th	Castig Clinic	Towradgi	10:00am	Peter	0418 956 606
March	4th	Management Meeting - All Welcome	Zoom	7:30pm	Neil	0418 258 146
	5th	Club Meeting.	Collegians	7:30pm		
	10th	Castig Clinic	Towradgi Park	10:00am	Peter	0418 956 606
April	1st	Management Meeting - All Welcome	Zoom	7:30pm	Neil	0418 258 146
	2nd	Club Meeting	Collegians	7:30pm		
	7th	Castig Clinic	Towradgi Park	10:00am	Peter	0418 956 606
May	6th	Management Meeting - All Welcome	Zoom	7:30pm	Neil	0418 258 146
	7th	Club Meeting	Collegians	7:30pm		
	12th	Castig Clinic	Towradgi Park	10:00am	Peter	0418 956 606
June	3rd	Management Meeting - All Welcome	Zoom	7:30pm	Neil	0418 258 146
	4th	Club Meeting	Collegians	7:30pm		
	16th	Castig Clinic	Towradgi Park	10:00am	Peter	0418 956 606
July	1st	Management Meeting - All Welcome	Zoom	7:30pm	Neil	0418 258 146
	2nd	Club Meeting	Collegians	7:00pm		
	7th	Castig Clinic	Towradgi Park	10:00am	Peter	0418 956 606
August	5th	Management Meeting - All Welcome	Zoom	7:30pm	Neil	0418 258 146
	6th	Club Meeting	Collegians	7:30pm		
	11th	Castig Clinic	Towradgi Park	10:00am	Peter	0418 956 606
September	2nd	Management Meeting - All Welcome	Zoom	7:30pm	Neil	0418 258 146
	3rd	Annual General Meeting	Collegians	7:30pm		
	8th	Castig Clinic	Towradgi Park	10:00am	Peter	0418 956 606
October	30 Sept	Management Meeting - All Welcome	Zoom	7:30pm	Neil	0418 258 146
	1st	Club Meeting	Collegians	7:30pm		
	13th	Castig Clinic	Towradgi Park	10:00am	Peter	0418 956 606
November	4th	Management Meeting - All Welcome	Zoom	7:30pm	Neil	0418 258 146
	5th	Club Meeting	Collegians	7:30pm		
	10th	Castig Clinic	Towradgi Park	10:00am	Peter	0418 956 606
December	2nd TBA	Management Meeting - All Welcome Christmas Function	Zoom TBA	7:30pm 12:00pm	Neil	0418 258 146

Committee Members 2024/25



President: Neil Nelson.



Vice President: Peter Henderson



Secretary: Michael Parkinson.



Treasurer: Barry Gentle.



Newsletter Editor :
Nigel Pennington



Largest Fish Co-ordinator:
Phil O'Brien.



Casting Co-Ordinator:
Peter Fragiacomò.



Webmaster & Public Officer:
Gary Hickson.



Instagram: Joe Manzano.



Facebook: Liam Harding



Raffles: Malcolm Lowe.



Librarian ;and flytying co-ordinator: Ken Gordon

Library.

Our Librarian, Ken Gordon, 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 (Ken Gordon) 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.
- Compleat Angler Sydney generously supports the club with prizes 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 Commonwealth disability card, full time students, students under 16 years of age, or non-residents (those members residing a distance greater than 50kms from Wollongong) - \$10.00 per person per year. Under the provisions of the Club's Constitution, a self funded retiree or superannuant is not 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:

H:

M:

Email:

Please Note: All members personal details are treated in a strictly confidential manner and are not provided to other persons /groups without the express permission of members.

LARGEST FISH REGISTER 16 October 2024

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.

16th October 2024

SPECIES	FLY FISHER	Length in CM or Weight Kg	FLY AND HOOK SIZE	Tippet in Pounds	LOCATION
Australian Bass	Ray Ellis	44	Martin's Minnow	20	Glenbawn Dam
Australian Salmon	Mike Parkinson	64	Eye Fly	16	Pambula River
Carp	Ray Ellis	77	Brown Nymph	14	Split Rock Dam
Catfish (eel tail)	Ray Ellis	52	Brown Nymph	8	Yalwal Creek
Drummer	Matthew Wright	40	#8 Green Wool Fly	18	Gerringong
Flathead	Mike Parkinson	50	Chartruse /White Clouser	6	Brunswick Heads
Luderick	Alan Griffiths	42	#8 Weed Fly	10	Brunswick Heads



Club 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!"



The Final Word.

Fly-Fishing World Mourns Loss of Beloved Author and Original Trout Bum John Gierach

Beloved fly-fishing author and original "trout bum" John Gierach passed away Thursday morning, October 3, of a massive heart attack, according to several of his close friends. Details are limited at this time, but *Fly Fisherman* has confirmed the news with those closest to him.

"Some people seem timeless... until they're not," said long-time friend and fishing artist Bob White. "I imagine John is sitting in a wonderful coffee shop, perched over a river, surrounded by all the friendly dogs in the neighborhood. That'd be heaven for him."

Gierach was one of the most beloved fly-fishing authors of all time, authoring such books as *Trout Bum; All Fishermen are Liars; Death, Taxes, and Leaky Waders; Sex, Death, and Fly Fishing; No Shortage of Good Days; Even Brook Trout Get the Blues; The View from Rat Lake; Still Life with Brook Trout; and Fool's Paradise*. His down-to-earth prose, easy-reading style, and serious-fishing-but-light-hearted approach endeared him to generations of anglers and made him feel like everyone's fishing buddy.

He was born in Illinois and raised in a Twin Cities (Minnesota) suburb. As an adult, he established himself in Lyons, Colorado where he frequented St. Vrain Creek and the Big Thompson River. According to [his Wikipedia entry](#): "Gierach began writing professionally because he needed money. Starting out, he wrote contributory notes and features for *Fly Fisherman* to pay his monthly rent."

Gierach was the prototype of today's ubiquitous "trout bum" made famous in his book of the same name: a bit dirty, sometimes cranky and staunchly protective of his spots. He was true to the character he portrayed in his books, warts and all.

"I knew John Gierach way before he ever knew me," said friend Mike Dvorak. "I met him on a free-book table during a tour of the Middle East; I was there in support of Desert Storm. The book was titled *Trout Bum* and since I was looking for something that would remind me of my home in Montana, I picked it up and devoured it. That book sits on my bookshelf to this day. Many years later I would meet John for real at Bob White's 'Musky Madness' in northern Wisconsin.

"Long story short we hit it off and I took a photo of him holding a coffee cup on the bank of the river which he then used as his author photo in his book, *A Fly Rod of Your Own*. Since then I have traveled with, fished with and photographed John in many different locations... Sadly John passed away yesterday morning, October 3rd, 2024... I won't go into details, but no he wasn't wearing waders... One of the most endearing things to me about John was his ability to find humor in seemingly serious situations. He'd deliver a zinger matter of factly and then he'd watch your face waiting for you to get it and laugh with you when you did. He was witty, humble, a true friend, a great fly fisherman and a fantastic writer. I am gutted and sad that I will never sit on the bank of a river with him again. We all are."

By all accounts, Gierach was true to the character he portrayed in his books. Gierach was a frequent contributor to *Fly Fisherman* and many other magazines, writing such gems as ["You Can't Eat the Scenery"](#) in the August-September 2017 issue, ["Blue-winged Olives"](#) from the December 1989 issue and many others that are not available online currently.

He was inducted into the Catskills Fly Fishing Hall of Fame (CFFHF) in 2015. According to [his entry on the CFFHF's website](#), "John Gierach is the most popular fly fishing author of his era. A gifted writer and keen observer, his essays are beloved for their wry humor, irreverent wisdom and unapologetic devotion to fly fishing as a way of life."

One of his titles, *All the Time in the World*, has sadly proven false. Rest in peace, John. We're better off for having your words.

Acknowledgement - Josh Bergan, *Fly Fisherman Magazine*, October 4, 2024