

Hastings Fly Fishers Inc.

From out of the Gutters.

Newsletter Vol. 9 Num. 5 December 2017



Webmaster Julian Tapping in action at Hinchinbrook

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Editorial – heat and fears

As the humidity builds and there's a hint of extreme temperatures in the wind, my mind turned back to other summers past ... most of them fun ... but occasionally there have been hot spells that bring fear and foreboding to my anticipation of this summer.

My memories of three summers in Canberra are of zillions of large bush flies that attacked every part of the face and covered backs of every person who ventured outdoors. For some reason, the old suburbs had plenty of box hedges ... and every hedge had at least 40 million flies waiting for you to pass. And there were strange dry thunderstorms.

Back in the northern Sydney suburb of Hornsby, summers brought bushfires almost every year. At Waitara Primary School, kids living near Spring Gully would be sent home in case fire cut off their access to their homes (Spring Gully is where the freeway runs into Wahroonga).

In January 1959, heat brought fire up the lava-formed Hornsby Valley to take out the technical college and Anglican church in the civic centre opposite the council, library, post office, court and police station. It spotted in our yard more than a kilometre away and took out a woody shrub before we hosed it out.

Just after Christmas 1961, a "heat wave" hit in the Davis Cup final while Australia was playing Italy. We weren't going to miss the live radio broadcast from Kooyong with Laver, Emerson and Fraser representing us. It was far too hot inside the 2-room flat of my grandparent's house so we parked ourselves outside on kitchen chairs out under trees with a transistor on and plenty of iced drink. With Norse blood, Dad was always averse to heat and sat bare-chested looking pale all day with a wet towel on his nape.

During an extended train strike in 1969, my employer arranged for those of us with cars to pick up people near our homes and drive them. I picked up a young lady from Berowra and a couple of people from Asquith. Coming home one day, a fire threatened to cross the (old) Pacific Highway between Asquith and Mt Colah. Firefighters stopped all traffic and we sat windows wound up for twenty-five harrowing minutes as they fought the head of the fire with flames licking the side of the road metres away. Nobody died however!

The summer of 1994 brought me 19 days in a row of temperatures of 32-41°C. Business in my touristy shop opposite Timbertown was negligible as people stayed near beaches. Timbertown and several businesses in Wauchope closed that year. Then there was 1998 when humidity higher than normal persisted for four months. But nothing was ever as fearsome as the 46-49° day last February when Pappinbarra and other places burned.

Yet, summers are just great fun ... surf, BBQs, less washing, walks, Christmas, nor'easterlies ... but please don't give me another 46° day this summer.

Brian Tolagson, Fearless FOOTG editor

President's message – December 2017

Greetings to all our Club Members,

Bonnie and I are back from our USA trip and it occurred to me that our love for fly fishing can introduce us not only to beautiful and different parts of Australia but also some of the most wonderful parts of the world that we may not have visited unless they had the added attraction of enabling us to indulge in our passion.

By the time you read this, six of our members will have returned from fishing the Hinchinbrook area with Clinton Isaac and will hopefully be regaling us with tales of a variety of large fish that will encourage us to travel there in the near future.

Unfortunately, my Key West trip was unsuccessful as far as the fishing goes so no tales there; 20-25 knot winds, choppy seas and low visibility made the fishing difficult. The bonefish could only be seen as they departed the area at high speed after seeing us first and although we sighted about ten permit, I only managed to cast at three and one of those spooked even before my fly hit the water. I was using a 10wt Scott flyrod that I christened the 'wind wand', as soon as I waved it the wind seemed to increase by at least 5 knots. Nonetheless I did learn a great deal about fishing Key West from my guide Drew Delashmit, who proved to be a patient and dedicated guide. Also, Key West proved to be a great place to visit and is steeped in history, beautiful architecture and has great bars and eateries.

I once read in a FlyLife article that the permit is the "fish of a thousand casts" so I'm not too discouraged – I still have another 990 casts left before I admit failure.

"Remember, remember the fifth of December" – forget gunpowder, treason and plot, but think bass fingerlings. Don has arranged a pickup time of 8.30am down near Tea Gardens and the releases will be in the order of Logans Crossing, Wilson River, Hastings River at Koree Island, Hastings River at Ellenborough Reserve, & finally at the Forbes River.

Also remember that our only December meeting and activity is the Christmas Party on the 9th of December. I hope to see you all there and, for those travelling over the holiday period, have a safe journey.

Although there is no official December outing due to the festive holiday period I encourage members who are planning to go fishing locally to advise other members via the google group.

Merry Christmas and a Happy (and Fishy) New Year
Iain

Timetable

December	9	Xmas Party	Telegraph Point Community Hall
January	9	Monthly meeting	Port City BC
	16	Fly-tie	Port Senior Citizens Centre
	28	Outing	Googly's Lagoon
February	14	Monthly meeting	Port City BC
	20	Fly-tie	Port Senior Citizens Centre
	23	Outing	Hat Head
March	14	Monthly meeting	Port City BC
	20	Fly-tie	Port Senior Citizens Centre
	23-25	Outing	Nundle
April	11	Monthly meeting	Port City BC
	17	Fly-tie	Port Senior Citizens Centre
	22	Outing	Long Flat
May	9	Monthly meeting	Port City BC
	15	Fly-tie	Port Senior Citizens Centre
	25-27	Outing	McDonald River, Woolbrook
June	13	Monthly meeting	Port City BC
	19	Fly-tie	Port Senior Citizens Centre
	22-24	Outing	Stuarts Point
July	11	Monthly meeting	Port City BC
	14	AGM	Telegraph Point Community Hall
	17	Fly-tie	Port Senior Citizens Centre
	28	Outing	t.b.a.
August	8	Monthly meeting	Port City BC
	21	Fly-tie	Port Senior Citizens Centre
	25	Outing	t.b.a.
September	12	Monthly meeting	Port City BC
	18	Fly-tie	Port Senior Citizens Centre
	29	Outing	t.b.a.
October	10	Monthly meeting	Port City BC
	16	Fly-tie	Port Senior Citizens Centre
	27	Outing	t.b.a.

Outings Report – Nov. 26th-Dec 2nd, Hinchinbrook

Our trip started on time with our pick up by Tony with Rodney at 10am & off to the airport to catch our 12.25 flight to Brisbane change planes & on to Townsville where we to pick up our rental car at 4.30pm. Well that was the plan, but it did not happen that way.

Arriving at Port Mac airport around 10.00am we were informed our flight was delayed two and a half hours, now leaving at 3.00pm, BUGGER.

Leaving Port at 3.00pm and arriving Brisbane at 3.00pm (Qld time) only to be informed our flight to Townsville was delayed a further 8 hours – instead of leaving at 2.30pm it would now leave at 10.45pm. Well that didn't happen either with the flight leaving Brisbane at around 11.15pm – more BUGGER.

This of course meant we would arrive at Townsville A/P at around 2.15am and still with a further drive of 2 hrs. to get to our destination of Cardwell which we did and arrived at 4.15am Saturday with fishing due to start in approx. 3 hrs.

We were all buggered after the long drawn out trip.

My thanks go to Thrifty Car Rentals for organising our car (the keys were left behind their computer monitor) as their desk closed at around 5.00pm on the Friday – I had contacted them from Port Mac. A/Port indicating our delays – they were most helpful.

But we made it, had a great time, everyone caught fish and I ended up with around 50-60 sand-fly bites which are driving me nuts.

Don Dixon



One of the Hewes 16 boats with 90hp engine; one of 4 barramundis that Don caught



Filling in time at Brisbane Airport



Rodney Adams shows his better side



Don catches another; Rodney in action



Don showing his style

Murray cod season opened Dec. 1st

NSW DPI Senior Inland Fisheries Manager, Cameron Westaway said this species found in the Murray-Darling system is prized catch as the country's largest freshwater fish.

“Every year a three month ban on taking, or attempting to take, Murray Cod in all inland waters other than Copeton Dam is put in place to protect this very important species during its breeding season,” Mr Westaway said. “Since the closure was first introduced more than a decade ago there have been numerous reports of significant increases in Murray cod numbers. Murray cod numbers have been boosted through government stocking programs including the dollar for dollar native fish stocking program. Over 920,000 were released last year and similar numbers of Murray cod are planned for release this season.”

The annual season opened 1 December, and fisheries officers will continue to monitor waterways to ensure fishers follow all recreational fishing rules. DPI's Director of Fisheries Compliance, Patrick Tully said fishers will need to adhere to Murray cod possession limits, size limits and catch and release best practice.

“A daily bag limit of two Murray Cod per person per day and a total possession limit of four will apply when fishing in any inland waters,” Mr Tully said. “Fishers are required to release Murray Cod which are smaller than 55 cm, or bigger than 75 cm, with the least possible harm.”

Other rules relating to the Murray cod include:

- Set lines cannot be used in any inland waters and are totally prohibited.
- Two attended lines may be used in all inland waters except some trout and closed waters, but these lines must be within 50 metres and in your line of sight.
- Live finfish including carp, birds and mammals cannot be used as bait.

Freshwater Fisher, December 2017

Thank you, Supporters!



Social Secretary Report

The birthdays for December are:

7/10 Tony Druce
22/12 Phillip Bush
26/12 Una Blair
29/12 John Rayner-Sharpe

Happy birthday to you all from all members of the club.

Welfare: No reported illnesses. Congrats to Bob Dove who successfully underwent heart surgery last month – may he win many more raffles. Ben Hicks has recovered after head-butting a rock at a casting day – to quote Det. Murtaugh from Lethal Weapon perhaps “I’m getting too old for this ...”. We hope everyone else is well.

Have a safe and enjoyable Christmas and a happy New Year.

*Social / Welfare Secretary
Gwelma Broadbent
Ph: 6559-6188*

Community engagement

The club is focused on Christmas festivities and has eased back on activities until the New Year. On December 4th, members released 4,000 bass fingerlings in headwaters of Camden Haven and Hastings Rivers using a DPI Dollar-for-Dollar grant. See page 11.

Brian Tolagson

Monthly meeting – 8th November

18 members and one guest were informed of club activities at an entertaining last meeting for 2017 conducted by VP Ron Hopkins. To quote the Minutes, Ron “... advised that the President was scouting out possible future outings venues. Gales of laughter ensued from those members (almost everyone in attendance) who couldn’t afford the travel time let alone the costs involved. The frivolity over VP Ron gave his report as follows: **“I’m here. All is well”**!!!! Never in the field of public speaking was so little said with so much feeling and appreciated by so few!!!”

The Acting Secretary Bob Dove “advised that he had received notification by phone and e-mail that the grant application to the Bowling Club had been successful” and we will be allowed use of Room 1 of the Port BC rent-free for 2018 for our meetings. The Sheriff waived all fines as a gesture of goodwill for the festive season and raffles were unevenly distributed with the Acting Secretary winning more than his share as usual.

Brian Tolagson

Bass fingerlings release – December 4th

The release locations in order were:

1. Logans Crossing at the Logans Crossing Rd bridge (Camden Haven River)
2. Wilson River near the Telegraph Point pumping station,
3. Koree Island off Koree Island Rd (Hastings River)
4. Ellenborough Reserve, Ellenborough (Hastings River)
5. Forbes River (barrier 10-15kms upstream from junction with the Hastings River)

These were the only DPI-approved release locations by Stocking Permit.

Don Dixon



Approx 900 Bass fingerlings

Getting the fingerlings used to the water temperature





Ready to be released



Released!!!



Up close!!!

*Some of the fry hung around
Rodney's feet*



*Tony, Rodney and Don arriving
at Koree Island*

*Rodney and Don releasing at
Koree Island*



*Koree Island – Robin prepares
Second bag for release*

Don supervises as Robin gets fingerlings acclimatised to water temperature at Koree Island



The team at Koree Island – Robin Shenton, Rodney Adams, David Hall, Tony Bendeich and Don Dixon

Rodney at Ellenborough River



Rodney and Don at the last site, Doyles River

The fingerlings after release at Doyles River



Don Dixon and Dawn Hopkins

Fly-tie night photos – November 21st



*Julian Tapping,
Rodney Adams,
Don Dixon,
Dawn Hopkins
David Curry and
Tony Bendeich*

*Ben “the rock
star” Hicks
explaining*





Ben Hicks

*Robin Shenton
explains a
finer point*







Treasurer Robin Shenton and Secretary David Curry

Chris Hogg draws Lucky Attendance Prize from VP Ron Hopkins





*Tony Bendeich
another from
Ron Hopkins*

*Who knows what
Dave Curry
and Ron
Hopkins are
up to here?*



Brian Tolagson

Snake bites – a new study

The Royal Flying Doctor Service South-Eastern Section has updated its advice and procedures following the publication of a new snakebite study.

The Australian Snakebite Project is the most comprehensive ever carried out, involving more than 1500 patients, and collating snakebite data from 10 years (2005 – 15).

“The publication of this study is very timely as the warm, dry winter and sudden rise in temperatures has brought snakes out early this year,” said Tracey King, Senior Flight Nurse at the RFDS South Eastern Section, who has attended snakebites during her career.

“As venomous snakes are found in every state and territory, we urge everyone, and not just those in the warmer Outback locations, to be vigilant.”

“There are around 3,000 reported snakebites each year in Australia, resulting in 500 hospital admissions and an average of two fatalities.”

The Australian Snakebite Project threw up some surprising statistics, that challenge many long-held perceptions about where snake attacks occur and how best to treat them.

In those attacks in which the snake was positively identified, the brown snake was the most common biter (41%), followed by the tiger snake (17%) and red-bellied black (16%).

Three-quarters of the people bitten were males aged in their 30s. Most snake attacks occur near houses, and not in the bush. Half of all bites occurred while people were out walking, with gardening and trying to catch a snake the two other most common scenarios.

While only 20-25 out of the 835 cases studied resulted in death, the effects of a snakebite can be debilitating and far-reaching. Three-quarters of those bitten experienced venom-induced consumption coagulopathy that causes blood clotting and life-threatening haemorrhages. Acute kidney injuries, brain and muscle damage and cardiac arrest are other possible side effects.

“That’s why it’s important that people act quickly after a possible bite,” said Tracey. “Surprisingly, they’re often painless and may go unnoticed as tissue damage is mostly light – lacerations, scratches or light bruising along with some bleeding or swelling. As more than 90% of snakebites were found to occur on the upper and lower limbs, these are the places to check first.”

“Common symptoms include an unexplained collapse, vomiting and abdominal pain, bleeding or paralysis.” Many dangerous myths surround the treatment of snakebites. The most important dos and don’ts include these:

- **Do NOT** wash the area of the bite or try to suck out the venom. It is extremely important to retain traces of venom for use with venom identification kits.
- **Do NOT** incise or cut the bite, or apply a high tourniquet. Cutting or incising the bite won't help. High tourniquets are ineffective and can be fatal if released.
- **Do** bandage firmly, splint and immobilise to stop the spread of venom. All the major medical associations recommend slowing the spread of venom by placing a folded pad over the bite area and then applying a firm bandage. It should not stop blood flow to the limb or congest the veins. Only remove the bandage in a medical facility, as the release of pressure will cause a rapid flow of venom through the bloodstream.
- **Do NOT** allow the victim to walk or move their limbs. Use a splint or sling to minimise all limb movement. Put the patient on a stretcher or bring transportation to the patient.
- **Do** seek medical help immediately as the venom can cause severe damage to health or even death within a few hours.

The new study has prompted the Royal Flying Doctor Service to reverse previous long-standing advice about the importance of identifying the colour and type of snake.

“Staying in the area after an attack can be dangerous and recent advances in medication mean we can now treat any snakebite with a generic polyvalent anti-venom, so identification is no longer necessary.”

Information courtesy of Fly Lines, November 2017, VFFA

[Rock fishing lifejacket moratorium](#)

The NSW Government has extended the moratorium on fines for rock fishers not wearing a lifejacket in the Randwick Local Government Area until 31 May 2018 while an independent assessment of the implementation of the *Rock Fishing Safety Act 2016* (RFSa) is undertaken. The RFA has been lobbying the government for a 12-month extension due to what we see as a failure of the trial due to lack of baseline data, issues of funding and resourcing, lack of engagement with PFD manufacturers and retailers, to name just a few of the problems with the trial to date.

The NSW Government has commissioned an independent evaluation to review the data and feedback collected over the past 12 months in Randwick, and says it will include a multi-lingual attitudinal survey of rock fishers in the community. The community will also be able to make a submission to the evaluation.

The evaluation will provide a basis for the Government to consider the potential further roll out of the RFSa to other NSW coastal communities and how that could best be implemented.

NSW RecFisher, December 2017

Lost in the Present – a short story

A man drives alone across the Nullabor. A sign approaching indicates an unmarked sideroad. Instinct directs him to turn into it even though it's not shown on his SatNav. He's alone on a dusty journey. Dust billows behind his bright red Porsche. But he is curious – after all there must be a purpose for this road. Yet it continues for minute after minute into the nothingness of saltbush plains and he continues on his journey into wanting-to-know. Then ... faintly at first ... a building ... yes, it's clearly a building ... in the distance. He nears and cautiously guides the Porsche past a rusting petrol tanker, its tyres deflated and body spattered with strands of vegetation. "Jack's Truck Stop" is still legible on a sign over the door. Behind the building there are other old trucks ... perhaps dozens. A truck-stop here, he wonders but is driven by his intrinsic curiosity.

He pauses at the door then tentatively pushes the door open but is immediately overwhelmed the loudness of a beatbox that starts as he enters. There's no melody ... just doof-da-da-doof-da-doof! Wafts of cooked bacon add hope there is someone around ... even though he knows there's no way someone could make a living here on this salty semi-desert on an unmarked road in a place like this that defies both time and credulity. He calls out ... but there is no response. He calls again!

He is dressed in air force fatigues even though he is certain when he left the base he had civvies on. He walks behind the counter and into the kitchen. Indeed, there is bacon cooking in large frying pan on an electric stove. A tap is dripping into the sink. A cigar is burning in an ashtray. He calls again ... but still no answer.

He pushes a screen door open heads out to the endless expanse behind. It falls off its rusting hinges into the dust. This area is a graveyard for the rusting trucks he had seen when he drove in. He wanders among them, through the emptiness of this junkyard. He grows increasingly unsettled.

He passes the cab of a post-war Foden intrigued that it's a marque he's not heard of. He then looks behind and there's a road train – five bogeys and a modernish Kenworth. There's a man sitting in the cab. He runs over to it and jumps onto the step to talk to him. Relief eases his tension and he says through the open truck window "Hello, I'm so glad to find somebody ..." His glee is truncated when he realises it's a only store mannequin sitting. Apprehension turns to fear. Should he run ... or should he continue? He is torn for a moment but opts for the latter. He is a serviceman. He's trained to overcome fear. Behind the Kenworth he trips over a skeleton, perhaps that of a human male ... and a hand has a book in it, an old paperback. He reads the title ... "The Last Man on Earth".

Flight engulfs fight! He runs and runs ... from truck to truck ... a seemingly endless trail of rusting hulks. He examines each cabin ... they are all empty. Then he reaches the very last and finds it too empty. He is desperate and close to losing control. But the experience wasn't finished with him yet.

He sits in the dust, defeated, confused and isolated. His mouth is dry and his neurones are in overload. He is approaching his own destiny ... and he knows it. Had the world ended? Had someone actually nuked Australia ... or was it terrorism? He is a fighter pilot trained to have a cool head ... yet he is so out of his depth he is panicking. He starts to review his circumstances. "I am a trained professional. If anyone can figure this out, I can," he says aloud. He rises to his feet. He has one last look around, perhaps for the last time, he is unsure.

Standing there, calm again, he notices there are poles placed beside each truck and wires linking them. His gaze was so fixed on the trucks and his increasing desperation to find life he had not noticed them before. The wires continue into the scrub beyond the spot where he collapsed. He walks further on ... dry and dehydrating but otherwise okay.

There is another pole partly hidden behind a large saltbush. He approaches cautiously. But, to his great joy he finds a water-cooler ... complete with plastic cups. Ah, he thinks. The worst of this ordeal is at last over. He quickly yanks a cup from the dispenser and places it under the tap. Cool, refreshing water! He smiles. He turns the tap on excitedly. The cup fills with sand. Coarse, red sand. He tosses the cup into the bush in mild rage.

Angry now at his peril increases and options diminish and he has a nagging discomfort across the top of his midriff indicating dehydration. He knows he must return to his car, his beautiful Porsche, where he has bottled water.

He walks purposefully back under the line of wire, past the truck gravestones and into the cafe and out again to his car. Weakness from lack of water is now evident. He looks around and looks again at the place where he parked the Porsche ... or at least where he thought he had. But the only vehicle there is the rusty tanker he saw when he arrived.

But ... and he hadn't noticed it before ... there was a traffic light on the far side of the tanker. Now staggering with diminished energy, he pushes the button on the light as he stumbles. He collapses in the shade beside the truck. As he's settling down in the dust he notices the button he pressed reads "Panic button".

"Suck on this, son" says a voice holding out a chilled bottle of water. "I'm Air Commodore Jim Freeman and this is our psychological test facility. You've done well! The barrier to human development is loneliness, a need in humans for companionship. There's more to fighting wars than weapons and we need to understand the limits of our service personnel to avoid psychological problems."

"Sir," he says, "if I could get up I would punch your lights out". Inside, though, he is grateful to have a future ... any future! Gradually recovering his awareness, he asks "How did you know I would turn off the highway to this ... this place, sir".

"Subliminal suggestion back at the base." In service, he is trained to overcome fear ... but fear needs an enemy ... and he now understands the greatest enemy is the one within.

Brian Tolagson

Who's who in the zoo

President	Iain MORRISON
Secretary	David CURRY
Treasurer	Robin SHENTON
Vice-President	Ron HOPKINS
Management committee members	Ben HICKS Don DIXON Frank WHITE Brian HENDERSON
Patron	
Club captain	Dawn HOPKINS
Outings co-ordinator	Don DIXON
Outings committee	Dave WIGGINS Dawn HOPKINS Iain MORRISON
Native Fish Release Co-Ordinator	Don DIXON
Legal/public officer	Brian WALKER
Sheriff	Ben HARVEY
Deputy sheriff	Ben HICKS
Social welfare secretary	Gwelma BROADBENT
Webmaster	Julian TAPPING
Clubroom attendant	Dawn HOPKINS
Fly tie co-ordinators	Ben HICKS Robin SHENTON
Catering officers	Bonnie MORRISON Lexie CURRY
Grants and funding	Phil BUSH
Gear steward	Ron HOPKINS
First aid officers	Sue SHENTON Ron HOPKINS
Newsletter editor	Brian TOLAGSON
Life Members	Bob DOVE David WIGGINS Tony BENDEICH

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