



# SALE FLY FISHING CLUB INC.

PO Box 1812 Sale, Vic. 3850  
Incorporation No. A0017993A

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## APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER OF THE SALE FLY FISHING CLUB INC.

All members and interested persons are invited to attend the next meeting of the Sale Fly Fishing Club Inc. **Meeting to be held on MONDAY 15 APRIL 2024 at Sale Sporting Legends Club, Commencing at 7.30pm.**

### Minutes of March 2024 meeting.

Date: - 18 March 2024

Meeting opened – 7:51PM

Attendance – 9 Members

### Apologies –

The following members were not able to attend:  
Mick O'Brien.

### Visitors:

Nil

### Minutes of the previous meeting – As per emailed newsletter.

Moved: Dean Cousin, Seconded: Pete Neligen

### Business arising from previous minutes:

Web Site photos – Under development.

### Inwards / Outwards correspondence:

All sent to members by email.

Moved by Ray Throup. Seconded by Ian Brideson.

### Business arising from correspondence:

Nil

### Treasurer's report:

Total Income - \$450

Total Expenses – \$834

Net Income - \$-384

Bendigo Bank A/c balance. \$3,775.07

Moved by: Dean Cousin, Seconded Mark Lawrence.

### General Business:

1. Item by Ray Throup to be included in April newsletter.

2. Jack – Looking for fly tying gear for a friend of his.

### Fishing reports:

Max Simmons – 2 fish, Merrimans Creek.

Ray Throup – Eucumbene club trip. 5 fish to 2lb.

Peter Murray – Eucumbene club trip – About 10 fish on club trip. 28 further fish to about 3lb afterwards.

Dean Cousin – Wellington River, 17 fish.  
34 in Barkly River.  
20+ in Barkly River.  
Omeo – 8 fish to 39cm.

Neil Morrison – Merrimans Creek, 6 fish to 28cm.  
Barkly River. 30+ fish to 32cm.  
Barkly River. 20+ fish.

Ray Clissold – New Zealand.  
Fish to 8lb.

Mick O'Brien – NZ. Fish up to about 5lb.

Max Simmons – fish to 10lb.

No fish numbers kept.

### Meeting closed 8:30PM.

### Show us your fly:

### Fly for January 2024 –

Borcher Special -

1<sup>st</sup> – Ian Brideson. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Ray Clissold.

Great Lake Special

1<sup>st</sup> – Ian Brideson. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Ray Throup.

### **Some thoughts on fly fishing for bass. By Ray Throup**

For some time, I have been fishing for bass. When I first started most of the patterns used were based on fly fishing for large or small mouth bass (Not native to Australia). These patterns are reasonably successful, basically drawing an aggressive response from the fish, not necessarily presenting an imitation of the food bass eat. Regardless of bass having a large mouth, their diet is much the same as all other species in the lake (trout, redbfin, and carp). I have observed bass selectively feeding on ants, beetles, crane fly's, caddis fly's, mayfly's, moths, damsel, and dragon fly's, smelt and cicada, which is a popular choice for lure fisherman on the lake. The cicada in Blue Rock Lake is much smaller in size compared to species further east, a muddler minnow fished dry in either tan or black and be very effective when they are on the water.



**This foam Daddy matches the local Crane fly and supports a strong hook.**

A recent autopsy revealed a stomach full of beetles, shrimp and lots of unidentifiable food matter.

So far most of my catches have been on hook sizes # 4 to # 12. Many of my fly's incorporate clipped deer hair or EVA foam, some flies have been successful with hackle also. Bass are not shy, but they prefer low light or shade, normally holding close to structure. Look for steep banks, rocks, timber, and overhanging vegetation. The best spots have all these features.



**A small olive shrimp, tied on a # 10 hook.**

Bass are fun to catch off the surface, but they seem to prefer a sunken fly. Deer hair flies like the Muddler minnow work well, if they are refused on the surface, they are often excepted submerged while left to dead drift for as long as possible.

A bit of flash in your fly always helps and when in doubt, try purple.



**This small bass took a Muddler minnow variant, close to the bank and timber.**

I fish an 8-weight rod. A 6 weight will handle bass but the 8 has more stopping power and I do encounter carp, its handy to have a strong rod when this occurs.

The bass are not line shy, eight foot of ten lb. leader, either mono or Fluro carbon works fine. Sometimes I take two rods. One with mono, the other with Fluro carbon, just so I can fish dry or wet with less time switching systems. A shooting head line is a good choice mainly to reduce back casts when trying to avoid trees on the back cast.

My thoughts at present are that bass at times selectively feed on insects, crustaceans, and smaller fish. However, matching the fly perfectly is not totally needed, matching Colour and size is more effective.



**This fly has been very effective this year, tied to match the damsel flies in the lake.**

Hook strength is a major factor, I feel you could catch bass on a # 16 spent spinner, however the fine gauge would make it almost impossible to turn the fish without straightening the hook.

Recently I have focused on fishing wet fly's as they are normally stronger hooks. I just match the size and Colour.