



Club Newsletter

June 2016

Welcome everybody!

Welcome to the June newsletter. We're a little short on content this quarter so this edition is a little shorter than usual but this will give you all more time to fish and thereby have more adventures to document for the next newsletter!

THIS MONTH'S FEATURES

This edition we have an excellent review by Jason Stratford on the fisherman's camera of the moment, the Nikon AW1. Then a film review from myself of Gin Clear's latest release, *Back Country: South Island*. Then Tom's quarterly joke. And finally some moral musings on my recent trip to the Eucumbene River.

But before we launch into it, some housekeeping.....

LURE FLY AND OUTDOORS EXPO 16-17 JULY 2016

Blommy is again spearheading our presence at the Lure & Fly Expo this weekend (Three cheers for Blommy! Hip hip....) which is on again at the Ipswich Showground. Blommy does a sterling job at spruiking the club around the place and most notably at this show. So if you've got some free time that weekend, get along and give him a hand. More information about the Expo can be found [here](#).

CLUB OPEN DAY 23-24 JULY 2016

It's that time of the year for our Club Open Day. As usual it will be held at Currumbin Special School, 5 Hammersford Dr, Currumbin Waters. **All are welcome, club members and non-members alike.**

We have plenty of Certified Casting Instructors in the club so if you want brush up on your casting, this is a good time. There will also be fly tying and Duncan from Fishhead will be there to do a presentation.

Proceedings kick off at 3:30pm on the Saturday and continue into the evening and then resume again on Sunday morning. Food and drinks for Saturday dinner and Sunday lunch are provided.

IMPORTANT DATES

July 2016

Gold Coast Seaway

Date TBA

16-17 July 2016

Lure Fly and Outdoors Expo

23-24 July 2016

Club Open Day

9 August 2016

RISE Film Festival

10 August 2016

Annual General Meeting

August 2016

Lake Wivenhoe Trip

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our AGM comes around again on 10 August 2016 where the club committee is dissolved and new members are elected. So if you have beef, this is the time to get on a pole with a committee member and try to knock them off and take their place. Or we could just take a vote. Either way, now's your chance to leave your mark on the world.

FLY TYING COMPETITION

Speaking of the AGM, this is also the time when we judge our fly tying competition and entries are now open!

This year we're looking for a **saltwater fly tied in all natural materials and a freshwater fly tied in all synthetic materials**.

There's two trophies up for grabs: the Lefty Kreh trophy for the best outright flies and the penultimate novice trophy for the runner up. So there's a prize for beginners and masters alike. Entries must be submitted before the AGM to be eligible.

So get tying, people. The more entries we get, the greater the value of the trophies.

CLUB FORUM

As many will know, we maintain an online forum for club members' use which is well patronised by a core group of members sharing stories, advice or otherwise just chewing the fat. It's also used by the committee to send out any day to day club related news betwixt meetings.

If you're not currently on our forum, we'd like to encourage you to sign up and join our online community. It's a fun place to be and easily allows members to stay in touch between meetings and also allows our out-of-town members to engage more effectively with the club.

To join up, go to the following address and click on the forum link:

<http://seqflyfishers.asn.au/node/10>

Then complete the application form. After you've completed the application form, be sure to send an email to seqffmsgs@skymesh.com.au with your username so that I can approve your application. (Unfortunately this two stage application process is necessary to guard the forum against spammers and bots.)

RISE FLY FISHING FILM FESTIVAL 9 AUGUST 2016

This years RISE is once again showing at the Eldorado Cinema in Brisbane. Gin Clear presents some of the best fly fishing films you'll see during the year and is well worth the visit. It's also a great social evening and a good opportunity to meet other fly enthusiasts from our neighbouring clubs and other like-minded individuals generally.

For more information and tickets go to:

<http://www.gin-clear.com/filmfest/>

STOCKED IMPOUNDMENT SCHEME EXPANSION

Fisheries Qld have just added 31 new dams to SIPS which is great news for recreational anglers. The key point of interest for us locally is that **Hinze Dam is now part of the SIPS scheme** so we shall no longer require a separate licence to fish it! Huzzah!

See [Fisheries Queensland](#) for more details.

Happy reading and see you at the next meeting on 13/07/16, folks!

Stu Jamieson
Vice President

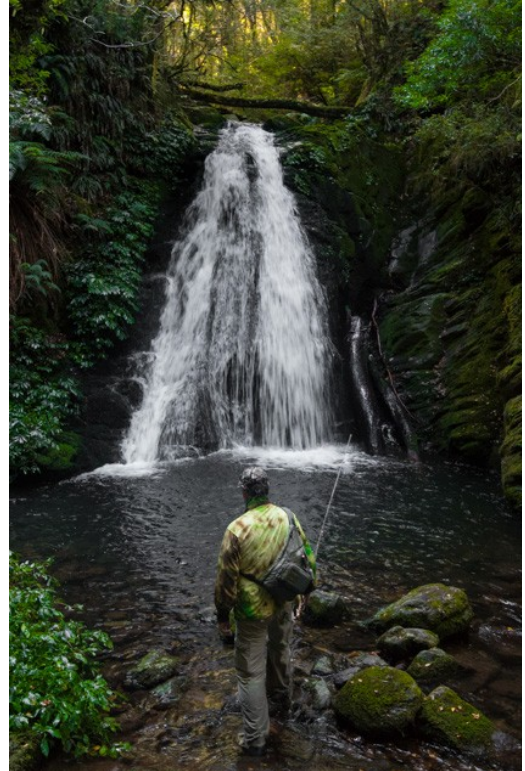
GEAR REVIEW: NIKON AW1 WATERPROOF DIGITAL CAMERA

By Jason Stratford

There's really nothing that compares to the feeling of landing your 'fish of a lifetime'. Whether that's a magic meter Barra or Murray Cod, a double digit CXI Bonefish, a wild Himalayan Golden Mahseer or a massive Tarpon...we are all struck by that same feeling of euphoria. It's something you'll crave afterwards...like a dirty drug...wanting to re-live the moment over and over. For most, the only practical way to do that is to reminisce with photos!

Despite the advance of the digital camera, including smartphones with cameras inside, these electronic gizmos don't mix at all well with water. Nor in fact do they much like the general environment that we fisher folk operate in.

Banging around in boats, rock-hopping ocean break-walls, bashing through barbed wire fences & blackberry bushes getting to that remote back country stream are not the places most cameras (professional grade equipment included) are suited for.



Luckily we avid fisherman have a solution, of sorts, available to us in the form of waterproof and ruggedized versions of the digital camera.

Options for 'wet' fishing photography & video...

My original foray into the waterproof pocket camera world was an Olympus 'Tough' TG-3 with its fixed inbuilt zoom and superb 'microscope mode' for close-ups. Capable of taking photos and video above and below water, the TG-3 was somewhat limited in its creative image controls which is something more advanced photographers want when trying to produce great photos. On the whole, the TG-3 delivered somewhat average image quality. Being waterproof, the TG-3 was still much better suited to 'wet work' than my high end digital cameras and lenses. While robust (read: 'heavy & bulky'), without a specialised housing, the 'big boy gear' wouldn't survive a dip in the ocean or a creek nor a fall onto rocks.

So it's understandable that I became quite reluctant to take 'the good gear' out fishing. As a result, many great photo opportunities were missed. I started to realise that an average quality photo from the TG-3 was much better than NO PHOTO at all. So the TG-3 became the general purpose camera while fishing.

So I started to look for a camera that gave a bit more user control and improved image quality, both above and below water, but could still handle the rough and tumble of fishing. Enter the Nikon AW1.



AW1 – the ultimate fisherman’s camera!?!?

The AW1 was released in late 2013. Some might consider that to be ‘old’ in modern technology terms but in actual fact...the original model was probably 2 years ahead of its time. It remains the world’s first (and to this day – only) waterproof dustproof and shockproof interchangeable lens compact camera.

Google is your friend when looking for detailed specifications...but the key features of the AW1 are:

- **14.2 megapixel** sensor and **SD memory card** compatible.
- **Captures images as jpeg files** - the ‘standard’ digital image format. You can print these images at any digital image centre or at home on your computer with little fuss. The camera can also shoot in **RAW** file format which is like a ‘digital negative’ and requires some external ‘processing’ to maximise the file format’s many image enhancement benefits. RAW file format is what ‘pros’ use.
- **Waterproof to a depth of 15m** using either of the two available interchangeable waterproof lenses. There are probably a dozen non-waterproof lenses also available for the AW1.
- **Full Auto & scene modes** mean easy use for casual snappers (photographers...not the fish!) as well as **program and manual modes** for those that are reasonably photography savvy!
- Shoots **high definition (1080p) video AND still images** at up to 60...yes **60 frames per second!**
- **GPS** feature which allows location data to be stored with images. This won’t help with finding your way home though.
- Price ranges from **\$350 AUD for an ex display / clearance model** (if you were lucky like Paul G!) to around **\$800 for brand new** item from a retail chain like ‘Hardly Normal’.

User Impressions...

The **standard waterproof kit lens** is a **11mm – 27.5mm zoom** while another fixed 10mm wide angle lens is also available. The standard lens, in my view, would suit 95% of the photography / video you would want to do around or in the water as a fisherman. This lens doesn’t have a huge zoom length. So you won’t be able to spot which fly Vince is catching bass on from the opposite side of Hinze Dam...but then again, why would you need to? We all know that fly will be a brown clouser!

The body is **cold resistant to at least -10°C** at which point underwater use becomes a moot point anyways. (Think back to your science lessons from school!). The feature would be handy when fishing an alpine stream and a cold snap with some snowfall hits.

The metal body is **shock rated for a drop of 2m**. That won’t help with a direct hit on the glass though!

If you are doing a lot of video, running the GPS to tag locations within your images OR just operating in very cold conditions, you will need **spare batteries**. The battery capacity is OK...but just like spare flies...there will be a time when you absolutely wish you had at least one.

A screw on **circular polarising filter** is also a handy (but not essential) addition to maintain colours in bright days and reduce glare and reflections. But remember...don't try and use one on the camera and then dunk it for an underwater shot. Water will leak into the air gap between the filter and lens which in most cases will lead to poor focusing and blurry images.

The **Easy Panorama** feature is something I never thought I would use, but have found it is a great feature for wide landscapes. Select the Easy Panorama, compose the image you want to shoot, press shutter button then rotate level and smoothly left (or right) across the scene you want to capture.



You can even do the same Easy Panorama in a horizontal direction to capture a tall building!

Your success with **underwater photos & video**, will depend heavily on water clarity, otherwise the colours and focus may not be spot on.

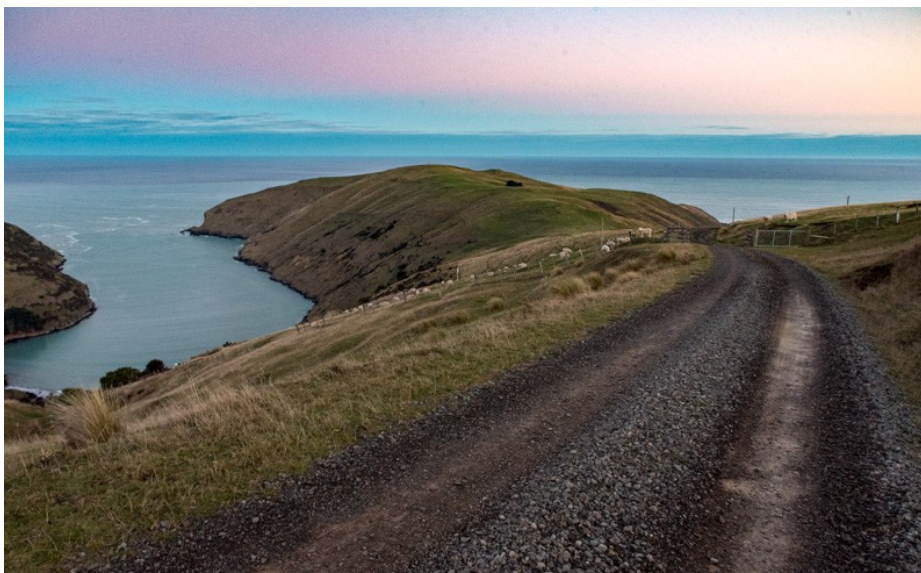
So fishing the flats of CXI you can expect to get some amazing shots with the AW1.

Fishing the algae ridden water of Lake Keepit... images are a bit ho-hum. Can't really blame the camera for that!



Images from the AW1 benefit from post process **sharpening** if you want a bit nicer look.

Low light / high ISO shots from the camera can be 'grainy' so be a bit careful. I try not to exceed ISO1600 and will mostly manually set the camera not to exceed ISO800 - Done via a simple menu setting.



For a 6x4 print you can get away with a little higher ISO, (maybe ISO3600) but it depends on the image and its use. A quick snap to Facebook or a fishing forum and you won't have a problem.

The image here of Flea Bay (NZ) looks fine at ISO5000 but you will notice grain if the image was enlarged.

Looks like you've blown a seal mate?

There were some early reports of water leakage in a few AW1 cameras. It's not clear if this was user error (likely) or a product design issue (possible). It is worth noting that the removable lens area of the body has a large seal which must be 'serviced' to ensure it remains free of foreign objects like sand and debris. Some seal lube is supplied to be applied from time to time per the user manual (easy). If you only use the kit lens, there will be no need to remove it from the body - so almost no chance of leaks!

The Verdict...

The AW1 is a great performing, easy to use 'portable' camera of 'rugged' build. When paired with the 11-27.5mm waterproof kit lens or optional 10mm waterproof lens, you'll be prepared for the day that the 'fish of a lifetime' turns up on the end of your fly line! Chase prices hard as the AW1 will probably go out of production in the next year. If it is replaced (which it may not be) expect to pay a lot more!

FILM REVIEW: BACK COUNTRY – SOUTH ISLAND

By Stu Jamieson



Following on from [Back Country: North Island](#), Gin Clear now follow up with their *South Island* chapter and if you enjoyed *North Island* you'll find much to like here.

Like their previous film, *South Island* follows a bunch of ordinary Joes to their favourite remote spots and uncovers the natural wonders which are to be found there. Those who have fished New Zealand before will well recognise the beauty on display, while those who have not previously fished NZ will be booking flights post haste.



Over the years I've spruiked the extremely high production standard of Gin Clear films and well, frankly, I'm running out of adjectives. Suffice it to say that the same high quality can be found in this film. If you've seen a prior Gin Clear film, you'll know what to expect. If you haven't, jump in and be amazed at the captured visuals.

I've often decried the lack of bluray releases in the fly fishing genre especially when the production quality these days is so high. There's still no bluray release for *Back Country: South Island* BUT HD quality can be downloaded from [Gin Clear's Vimeo channel](#) so this is currently the preferred option for sourcing their films - and it's a fraction of the cost of purchasing the DVD to boot!

If there's a criticism of *Back Country: South Island*, it's that it is largely a rerun of the previous film albeit in different locations. There's less diversity in the *Back Country* series of films than in Gin Clear's previous films but this does not negate the great beauty depicted therein.

3 Lefties and a half Joan.



A man got stopped by a Game Warden with his basket full of fish.

Warden: Do you have a permit for all these fish?

Man: No sir. These are all my pet fish.

Warden: Your pet fish? How's that?

Man: Well, every night I take all my pet fish for a walk to the lake, I let them swim for about half hour and then I whistle and they all come back and jump in my basket and we go home. We do this every night.

Warden: Well that's just a crock of lies!!

Man: Here I'll show you... (Releases the fish into the lake)

Warden: Well this I got to see!!

5 minutes pass...

Warden: Well??

Man: What?

Warden: The fish!! Where's your pet fish??

Man: What fish??

Submitted by Tom Boylan

EUCUMBENE AND THE ART OF ETIQUETTE

By Stu Jamieson



My love of fly fishing had its genesis on the banks of the Eucumbene River. Once on a semi-regular spin fishing jaunt, my Canberran friend, John, pulled out his Rex Hunt fly combo outfit and said, "here, give this a go".

I suspect my first experience with a fly outfit was similar to most: I struggled to make it work properly but it intrigued me enough to splash out for a fly rod when I got home - a 6wt 9' Innovator Distance. It's a rod that I still own to this day and I still quite like it. The main reason I no longer use it is because it is a two piece and, well, we all know how inconvenient a two piece can be.

So I played with my Innovator for a bit but it was all a bit too hard and so it spent the next few years in the wardrobe without ever seeing water.

Then in 2010 John calls and suggests another trip to Eucumbene to fish the spawn run but this time he wants to fish fly only. He's been playing with his rod, see? And his enthusiasm for the sport has been building while mine has been languishing in the cupboard. But it sounds like a good idea so I'm up for it. So John, myself, fellow future club member Jason Stratford and our school mate, Rodge, embark on what will prove to be the first of regular (roughly) annual trips to the Euci.



Eucumbene Crew v1.0: Jason Stratford, Stu Jamieson, Andrew "Rodge" Rogers & John Klose

Looking back from this year's trip, I can see I have learned several things:

1. None of us could cast for shit. Upon my return, I quickly hooked up with Shaun Ash for some casting lessons so he could de-program my "unique" self-taught casting style - Shaun has retrospectively used the words "monkey", "hoeing" and "cabbage" when referring to my original "style".
2. I really needed to acquire a 4 piece rod for travelling - and thus began the gear addiction from which we all suffer.
3. The fishing pressure on the Eucumbene seemed so much less even those few short years ago.

During our last trip to Eucumbene in 2013, we all got a taster of things to come – and a bitter taste it was.

Towards the end of our 2013 trip, the spawning browns were beginning to school in very large numbers in a pool near the Denison campsite. As a result, anglers (fly and spinners alike) snuggled shoulder to shoulder to hammer the pool and systemically rip out the fish one by one - most of them foul hooked.

In the years since I've often likened this behaviour to a football team lining up to nail the prom queen, such was our distaste for the behaviour on display. At the time, we referred to it as the "whore hole". Considering it the dirty sex of fishing, none of us wanted anything to do with it. The punchline was when one of the snugglers pulled out a fish and quipped, "Hey, I hooked one in the mouth this time!" No fish was better than fish caught in this manner, in our opinion.

Flash forward three years and things have noticeably degraded further.

Traffic on the river is higher, both foot traffic and 4WD. Indeed official figures now put 4WD river access at Denison at up to 140 vehicles per day! With the 4WDs ploughing the soft earth into a slurry, other anglers dropping in on you regularly, and large numbers of anglers ripping out fish after fish, it's all becoming a little unpleasant. It's like the Wild West - every man for himself; a race to snag the fish before the guy next to you does.

Doubtless this ever increasing fishing pressure exposed our inexperience on this river and we subsequently found the fishing very hard. Actually, I take that back. Finding the fish was easy - just look for the 4WD carpark along the riverbank and that's where they were. We had no interest in elbowing our way into this throng, however. For us, fishing is a quiet, contemplative sport, so we looked elsewhere on the river less fished - well, less fished at that particular moment, at least.

We were there from one Tuesday to the next and there was a noticeable decline in (visible, at least) fish numbers as the week progressed. Pools which ought to have been fruitful fished as though they were barren - perhaps they were. The numbers were replenished somewhat when it rained on the weekend as you would expect, this being spawning season, and this lent weight to the theory that the river was being fished bare between trout runs.

As an aside, I also observed that the intervening few years since our last trip had seen a great increase in short line nymphing methods. And it was easy to see why. Czech nymphers were easily outfishing their long line peers by several orders of magnitude. Though from what we observed, the method seemed to result in a higher rate of foul hookups - which didn't endear the method to us.

Nevertheless, I'd had a chat with Jim Williams regarding the Eucumbene prior to my departure and he had kindly given me some notes on leader construction, including Czech leaders, and so it was that I found myself tying a 30' mono leader in a bid to change my rapidly waning fortune.

The first thing which struck me after changing fishing styles was how easily the 30' mono leader cast, though it did take a little while to come to grips with the dynamics of casting with nought but a very long length of knotted mono.

The second thing which struck me was that I had come to this method too late in the week, after the river had seemingly been stripped bare. All the runs and pools which I fished with this method proved unfruitful but I persisted with it for a couple of days until I grew bored with it and returned to the traditional style. Much of the appeal of fly fishing to me is the elegant casting and there's nothing elegant about casting a 30' length of mono. If I was going to catch nothing, I'd rather be enjoying the casting.

But getting back to this issue of etiquette which I think is borne largely by fishing pressure and the competition it creates: what should be done about it?

Well, there's no doubt that my frustrations were a result of my own selfishness for what I consider the ideal fishing experience and it is therefore even questionable whether anything should be done at all.

There's a school of thought which says that the river bank is normally on the bottom of the lake (when the dam level is high) so any "damage" caused by 4WDs is irrelevant anyway.

There are also arguments for and against fishing spawn runs: there's the "it's cruel to catch fish when they're trying to reproduce" crowd; then there's the "it doesn't matter, brown trout are a populous and self sufficient species" crowd; then there's the "trout are an introduced pest species and ought to be eradicated" crowd; and finally there's the "hell, it's fun so we should be able to do it" crowd. Rob Sloane wrote an excellent and rational article in this quarters' Flylife Magazine on the subject, where he concludes that fishing the spawn run has little effect on overall population numbers. It's worth a read.

In any case, the Monaro Acclimatisation Society is investigating possible action with regards to restricting 4WD access to the bank. Such action would most likely take the form of an established car park at Denison and forcing anglers to walk to the bank. This would obviously reduce bank degradation and would probably temper angler numbers a bit also.

And herein lies the rub: reducing fishing pressure means reducing the quantity of anglers which means some people will miss out; and people don't like missing out. If any changes are to be made at all, it will require action from staunch policy makers who will ultimately determine who gets to fish. As much as I'd like to see restricted numbers on the river bank, I don't envy their position. And they'd better not stop me!

In the meantime, however, my most effective course of action this year was to abandon the main stretch of river altogether and head into the bush beyond the tree line at Denison. Etiquette was not observed well on this section of the river either - everyone seems to drop straight in on the "honey holes" rather than work up the river - but the angler numbers here are much reduced, no doubt due to the difficulty in lugging an Esky there. But with no one fishing the runs between the pools, I was able to fish these sections in peace and succeeded in hooking into sizeable fish. In this way, I was able to attain my version of fishing nirvana, insulated from the craziness downstream.

Would I fish the Eucumbene again? Absolutely! The river represents an integral part of my fly fishing history and I am emotionally bound to it. But I think in future I shall place more emphasis on fishing the upper sections of the river and leave the lower sections to the madding crowds unwilling to stray too far from their Esky laden SUVs.

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