



South Coast Fly Anglers



NEWSLETTER January 2026

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Preparing to cast.

I'm sorry to say that this is a rather patchy newsletter. Not the start to the year that I was hoping for. Hibiscus Hospital paid out a decent dividend in mid-December, but decided that they needed to recover that expense 400-fold, so they called me into ICU for a few days. My computer skills are limited when sitting at a brightly lit desk, but a bed in ICU has a hugely negative impact on them, so please accept my apologies for the mis-shaped words. Mistakes are mine and not those of my proof-reader. Back home and on the road to recovery. Thanks for the support guys.

Not very much to report on the fishing front, but there are a number of planned events in the pipeline. See you there.

Events Calendar

Date	Event	Venue	Time
January 11th	Saltwater outing	Umzimkulu River	06h00
January 14th	Fly-tying workshop	Neil's home	18h15
January 21st	Committee meeting	Steve's home	18h00
January 25th	Saltwater outing	Impenjati	Early
January 29th	Monthly meeting	Umtentweni Tennis Club	18h00 for 18h30
February 8th	Saltwater outing	Rocky Bay	Early

Coming Events

Our first outing is the long-planned trip to the **Umzimkulu River**. **On Sunday 11th January, we plan to launch kick boats from the Umzimkulu Marina, which is about half a kilo upstream of Fish on the River.** As mentioned in the previous newsletter, there may be a small charge, R 50.00 should do it.

Things actually don't look good at the moment, as the copious rains that we have had, have really dirtied the water, so keep an ear open for the SMS from Steve, as to what alternative is planned if the river is no good. If we do fish the river, braai facilities are available.

The **fly-tying workshop on Wednesday 14th is at Neil's home at 18h15**. We will tie the Black Muishond and the Gully Bugger. Members should have received the recipes for these by now. Come along, bring what materials you have and bum the rest from one of the other chaps.

The **committee meeting on Wednesday 21st is at Steve's home**. Flies for the coming year will be sorted out, so if you have a suggestion for a fly that you would like to tie next year, please drop me a line and we will try and accommodate you.

Impenjati is the venue for the saltwater outing on Sunday 25th January. Gates open at 06h00. I'm unsure as to how safe it is to fish the lagoon, but the sea should be OK. Braai afterwards, so you know the drill for that.

The monthly meeting is as usual at the Umtentweni Tennis Club on Thursday 29th, at 18h00 for 18h30. Don't forget to bring your raffle tickets **and money of course**. Steve hates to see a partially completed raffle list, so make sure that all spaces are filled in. If you do not yet have a list, please give me a shout and I'll send one across.



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Although in the past, most of us have not had much luck at **Rocky Bay, we will once again try this area on Sunday 8th February.** Best to get there early and pick your spot. Hoping for good weather this time out, as in the past we have been blown away. No braai facilities, but a good restaurant right on the beach serves a great brekkie. If you do not know the way, ask Steve and he will give you the pin. Hope to see a good turnout, as Bruce really clobbered them on our previous outing.

Past Events.

John's holiday trip to New Zealand. Mid November to mid-December. By John New.

My river fishing skills were no match for the Kiwi fish. The water was clean and one could watch the fish check the fly, swim up to it, then turn away.

I don't know if they gave it a bite, as I felt nothing. While fishing one could see all sorts of fish swimming around, but no bites.

The sea was also clean with small surf. At the beach, near to where I was staying, there was a lot of sea weed, depending on the tide and wind and as I was not using a stripping basket, the weed would stick to my fly line and mess up each cast. I did have a take and a bump, but the fish were small.

At one spot Clint was fishing with bait, but also got nothing. In one spot that was a reserve and fishing was not allowed, the buggers would swim past, without a care in the world.

I was disappointed, but I enjoyed it anyway.

Fry, Fingerling and Stockie Stories.



I do not seem to be able to get a newsletter out without a number of errors and last month was no exception. I mistakenly referred to the floating trophy, donated by Mitch, as the "Gully Buggers" trophy. It is in fact the "Salty Buggers" trophy and will be presented to the member who catches **and records** the most salt-water species from South African waters. My apologies, Mitch



While on the subject of trophies, Annual Prize giving is on Saturday March 14th at Steve's home. Please ensure that any trophy that you hold is returned to John or to Steve by the end of February, so that the new engravings can be done in time.



As mentioned above, completed raffle lists should be handed in to Steve at the first opportunity, but certainly no later than the monthly meeting on 29th January.



Another reminder about Flies of the Month for 2026. The committee will draw up the list at their meeting on the 21st January. If you have a suggestion, read page 1 again.

Last Cast.

Well, as the old year winds down and we start a fresh one, may I take this opportunity of wishing all readers and their families the very best of luck for 2026. May you enjoy good health and much camaraderie, both on and off the water.

I do not wish you full creels, as Catch and Release is the name of the game, but I hope that you manage to fill many a page in your respective Catch Record Books.

Cheers. Arthur.



