

CHRIS DAWSON

Chris Dawson has been trout fishing since the age of 4 when he caught his first trout - a brown of about a kilo in the Maclaughlan River in NSW on a bunch of garden worms. He took up fly fishing in his early teens and, more seriously at about age 20.

Chris has lived most of his life in Canberra, close to the heart of trout fishing on mainland Australia- the Snowy Mountains. He has fished all of the larger impoundments and most of the rivers and streams of the area over the past 30 years, first bait fishing, then spinning and trolling and these days, as a self-confessed fly fishing addict. He ties all of his own flies. He tends to favour drifting from a boat on these impoundments but feels equally comfortable fishing a dry or nymphing in a river, polaroiding browns at Jindabyne in the middle of winter, fishing the Eucumbene evening midge rise or just walking the banks searching for any sign of a trout.

After dabbling in several careers, Chris has settled as a primary school teacher, is married to Caroline and has one son, Patrick. As yet, Patrick is too young to drag along for a fish.

In the past, Chris has enjoyed the challenge of many team sports, some at representative level. He has played grade cricket and various codes of football. As is the case with many sport addicts in their mid thirties, age and common sense begin to materialise and Chris now reluctantly restricts his sporting pursuits to a couple of nights a week of touch football (still at grade level) as a means of keeping fit for his life passion – fly fishing!

Chris has fished for trout, salmon and grayling in many countries around the world including Canada, parts of the U.S., both islands of New Zealand, the Czech Republic and Finland. He rates the fighting capabilities of a fresh-run salmon in the Campbell River, in Canada as a fish hard to beat or was it the 4.4 kilo rainbow caught nymphing in the Tongariro?



His first taste of competition fly fishing was in 1999 in the NSW State Championship. He failed to qualify for the National Championship from that event. He then followed a steep learning curve, which included catching a large brown at a national competition on a barbed hook, rendering the fish as disqualified! He has qualified for all National Championships and represented NSW ever since. He won the NSW State Title in 2003 and has placed second at State Championships on several occasions. Chris feels that one of the added attractions to fishing in competitions is that they provide anglers with the opportunity to converse with like-minded people who have the same addiction that he does, spending time learning from each other, and making long-time friends. As his wife will testify, he spends way too much time talking on the phone about this fly or that up-and-coming competition.

He represented Australia at the Oceania Championships in New Zealand in 2005, The World Championships in Finland in 2007 and the Commonwealth Championships in New Zealand in 2008. His competition fishing highlight to date was placing second at the Australian Championships in Tasmania.