



The Vice

Newsletter of the Tasmanian Fly Tyers' Club Inc.

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Winter Vice 2014



Inside this issue:

Dying Made Easy, Tiger Hut 2014, Droque Design, Carp on the Fly, and much more...

President's Report

With the new season soon to be on us and with the flurry of activity that usually accompanies the first trip out it may be time to just look back at the events of the past quarter.

From my last letter to *The Vice* in April and even though most of the time has been in the closed season, many events have taken place worthy of mention.

With our aim of "Cultivating and encouragement of the art of fly tying" thanks goes again to Lyndon Cubbins and his team who again had a booked out weekend for the popular Tiger Hut fly tying. With the ability to have only limited numbers at this weekend the event is booked well in advance by members and enjoyed by all who attend.

Still on the fly tying front Steve Butler must also be congratulated for arranging our first interclub fly tying seminar at the Lenah Valley RSL. This day, which was publicised on Southern Cross TV brought attention to our art and also the 150 years of the introduction of Trout into Tasmania. The success of this day will surely be the lead in for more of this type of interclub activity.

A number of members have again ventured offshore for the winter. I have heard that John O'Halloran, David Hemmings, Tim Munro and Ashley Artis experienced Christmas Island and bone fishing for the first time. I am sure there will be a presentation from these guys at some stage.

Of special note was the effort by new member Glenn Eggelton who as part of one of the Australian Teams to compete in the last Commonwealth Fly Fishing Championships in Devon this June came third and took out the overall individual Bronze medal. Go the old guys!!!!!!

John Smith has been into Ireland and the UK and cast a line in some interesting locations.

For myself I again travelled with Kaylene into Kashmir in June to experience the spring fishing this country has to offer.

Basing myself out of a high mountain lodge I was again able to catch large numbers of trout and other local species from this amazing fishery and can highly recommend the experience.

In the UK I added to my fly fishing experience bucket list with an day of "Carp on the Dry" this edition of the *Vice* details the outing.

In the past quarter we have heard from a couple of guest speakers of note and would like to thank Chris Wisniewski and his team for the update on the Carp program at Lake Sorell. Hopefully the huge amount of effort put in by these guys will be rewarded soon.

Also of note was the presentation by Corey Harris on the appraisal of the Tasmanian Fly Fishers Club and the steps they have taken to encourage more active participation by members.

From our members comments at that meeting it would certainly be a worthwhile exercise to conduct a similar style of appraisal and take an inward look at our club as it is in 2014.

Amongst the membership of The Fly Tyers Club there has been for the past few years' different suggestions and options put forward and discussed on our membership and member participation.

This past year it was again a topic that took up much time at our committee meetings, the current view of the committee is that no changes to the constitution will be made regarding membership.

However John Smith's presentation on membership highlighted some interesting observations on member's monthly meeting attendance and involvement with club activities.

The fact that a significant percentage of members possibly due to health, age business commitments, etc. are unable to actively participate has been the subject of much discussion.

I am sure these members are just as keen and look forward to *The Vice* and talking and fishing with others.

To these members I would like to suggest that it may be an option for you to apply to the committee and transfer your membership to that of an Associate Member as per our existing constitution. By doing this you will still retain all of the club privileges and benefits of full membership relinquishing only the right to vote on club matters. Your annual subscription fees will be reduced to half the annual membership fee and if your personal situation changes you can be readmitted to full membership when a position becomes available.

What will this mean for the club membership? Well, as associate members are additional to the normal full membership any member taking up the option of associate member will enable a full membership position becoming available for a prospective new applicant. Certainly worth considering!!!!

In the last two weeks I have been fortunate to be involved and witness some of the field activities of the IFS field staff. One in particular has been the transferring of Brown Trout from the new fish traps on Arthurs Lakes. The new fish traps located at Tumble Down Creek and in the Cow Paddock area have allowed for the trapping and transfer of Arthurs Lakes fish to other waters in the state. To this end many thousand fish are now swimming in other waters waiting to be caught this season.

In addition I witnessed a fish population survey, and I have to say that the effort the IFS guys put in to catch,

measure, weigh and take blood samples and return to the water safely from over 200 fish in three days in freezing working conditions is to be commended. These unsung heroes of our sport deserve many thanks.

The final out of season event has been our get together dinner at the “Stables” in Hobart, thanks again to Grace and Laurie Matcham for their efforts in making this an enjoyable night.

To the generous members who donate the prizes for our raffle your contributions were warmly received and I am sure the winners of the prizes will be themselves very grateful.

This is my last newsletter as President as I will be stepping down from this position in August to take on other fly fishing duties.

I would like to thank all of the committee team I have worked with over the past two years and have much appreciated the support and counsel they have given me.

To the incoming president and committee my best wishes, to all the members enjoy the fishing the coming season will bring you.

Kind Regards
Malcolm Crosse.

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Editorial



I am writing this editorial having just returned from my first trip of the new season. I went with Steve Martin with the aim of catching a trout on opening day. The weather was ordinary and snow and winds were forecast so we decided that a visit to the top was out. We headed for the relative safety of Tooms Lake. With new flies to try and a brand new motor to play with I was really anticipating a memorable start to the 2014/15 season.

The trouble started just near Oatlands. A whining sound from the front of the car made me nervous. The black smoke and accompanying loss of power added to my already agitated state. The theory that it might just get better proved to be untrue and Steve's suggestion of turning up the stereo and keeping going didn't resolve the situation either. The result was a long trip home with the RACT man with the car on the back of the truck and the boat towed along behind. The new season off to an auspicious start!

During the off-season however there have been many club activities going on. The Tiger Hut weekend was sensational as usual and is a real example of the fantastic camaraderie and teamwork that our club is built on. Cubby does a great job coordinating it but he is always quick to acknowledge the fact that everybody pitches in by bringing casseroles, specially baked pies, stainless steel spit roasts, amazing cuts of meat and even the occasional bottle of red, that makes it the enduring success that it is.

I also attended a really great Dying session at Brian McCullagh's new house in Tranmere. He and Tony Dell put on a very informative afternoon and everyone who attended came away with enough beautifully dyed fur to last many years. The method is outlined in this issue thanks to Tony and Brian's amazing generosity.

The dinner was a triumph too with Laurie and Grace Matcham excelling yet again. The efforts that Laurie goes to in making amazing displays really makes the dinner an event to be proud of and Grace's abilities in coordinating and planning such a great event is absolutely wonderful! Photos from the night are scattered throughout this edition.

The open day at the Lenah Valley RSL was also a great success and Steve Butler seems to have started something that will only grow into the future.

The Winter Vice has been published on my new laptop – a Mac – and I am still learning all the ins and

outs so it looks a little different. Hopefully I will get better at it over the next editions. Thanks to associate member Jim Jones for suggesting that it would look good with a cover page. The photo on the cover was taken from the front verandah of the President's shack at Penstock Lagoon.

This issue also features the last President's Report from Malcolm. It has been an absolute delight having Malcolm as president and I am sure all members would want to thank him for his tireless efforts and his amazing energy. Enjoy his article on catching carp on the fly and seriously consider going to Kashmir!

If you are heading off on a trip or have any ideas or stories please consider writing an article for the Spring or Summer Vice. Any photos or tips or suggestions would be more than welcome. Have a great new season!

DM



The boys at Spot On fishing tackle have kindly provided the Club with 4 vouchers to the value of **\$30** each for this year's **competition**. I'm sure everyone will join with me in thanking the lads for this kind support, and continue to patronise Steve's shop. Vouchers can be picked up from the Editor at your leisure!

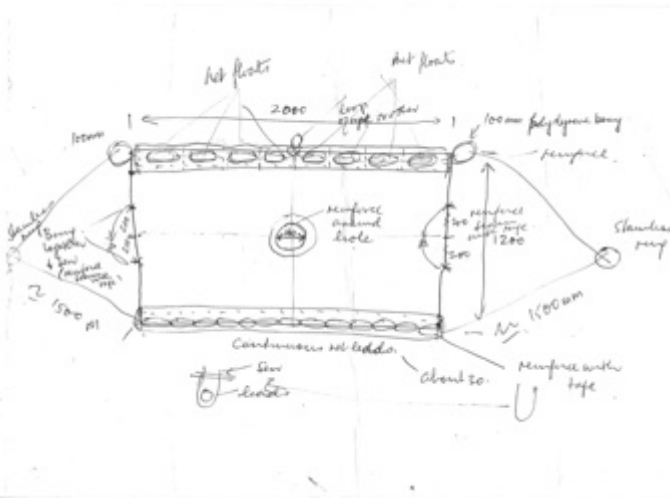
So...Write the best story and win a \$30 Spot On voucher!

Have a go
Simply send your entry to Doug Miller
douglas.miller@education.tas.gov.au

*This time the prize goes to **Tony Dell** for his brilliant contribution on making your own Droque, and for sharing the information on dying your own materials, and for doing so much work on the shack, and for documenting club assets on the Assets committee, and for... you get the idea!*

Drogue Design

NOTES ON SAILING DROGUE DESIGN



Development History in Tasmania

- Development of the sailing drogue which is now in common use in the Fly Tyers' Club (and elsewhere, I strongly suspect) was undertaken by Phillip Fisher and Charles Peck in the early 1980's drawing inspiration from a 1983 book on English Reservoir fishing by Steve Parton entitled 'Boat Fishing for Trout' talking, among other things, about dagger boards and rudders to control drift in fishing situations.
- The first generation of sailing drogue development followed the use of a fixed war surplus Air Force parachute drogue with a wire frame (tied onto rowlocks) in conjunction with a rudder on the stern the boat for the purpose of controlling drift besides slicks on the Great Lake and for fishing the Penstock. The problem with this configuration was that it did not slow the drift enough.
- From this, the idea of a drogue with a larger surface area on a continuous line to steer the boat when drifting was developed, following which the first prototype of the sailing drogue as we now know it was developed, using shade cloth, around 1984-5. Charles Peck first used a sailing drogue, somewhat smaller in surface area than current models, on a continuous line at Lake Sorell in the mid-1980's. Philip Fisher liked a slower rate of drift than Charles and increased the surface area closer to today's models.

- Development went on from there and the first hand-me-down made from shade cloth went from Phillip Fisher to Noel Wilson in the late 1990's for the consideration of half a dozen stubbies. Phillip then passed the basic design to a number of others, including me.

- A shade cloth version made to the design below still works admirably and can be made cheaper than any other version. It was superseded because of the amount of water it brought into the boat at a time when bilge pumps for small boats were a mere glint in our eyes, thus later versions of the sailing drogue began to be made using various water shedding materials particularly sail cloth.

The Drogue

- The scanned design is the result of cumulative improvements over about 30 years (see also various attached photos).
- The pictured drogues are professionally made by a sail maker with net floats, net leads and reinforcing over the leads to minimize wear during operation. The cost several years ago was about \$A220.00.



- As noted above, a much cheaper version can be made out of 2 metres of 70% shade cloth, 1840mm wide, using pool noodles for floats and a length of ¼ inch chain as the weight. Rope and rings should be added as per the scanned plan and self-sewn enclosing both the chain and the floats, with a loop in the centre top to allow the addition of a collapsing and retrieving rope. This makes a drogue 2 metres long by about 1200mm deep. This version requires no central hole or side

pockets. It works beautifully BUT it does bring aboard much more water than those made out of a smooth water shedding material. You should be able to put together this version for about \$A50.00.



- The continuous loop should not be so long as to allow the drogue to set more than about 1 to 1½ metres away from the boat as, particularly in strong winds and shallow waters, this will exacerbate the bottom of the drogue digging into the lake bottom and catching snags. The right distance for a particular boat requires a bit of experimenting and fine-tuning.

Tony Dell,
Hobart, July 2014

Ad-Vice Tips and Tricks

Gadgets, gear and good ideas are always close to the surface whenever fly tyers get together. This section of The Vice features recommendations, quick reviews and tips to make the fishing experience even richer. Please feel free to send in any tips you might like to share.

Marc Petitjean is a name well known to many in the fly tying fraternity. He is best known for his loved of Cul de Carnard (also known as CDC or Duck's Bum Feathers) and innovative design of fly tying tools and gear. I bought his Magic Tool a few years ago after witnessing Ashley Artis demonstrating its possibilities at my first trip to the Tiger Hut many years ago. It is great to watch members like Craig Granquist and Dave Choate in action who are true masters of tying with CDC.

This tip involves a new (to me) tool of Petitjean's that I am looking forward to mucking around with. It is called a Petitjean Magic Tool Stacker and is a device that is used in conjunction with the Magic Tool. Essentially it is a specially designed clip that allows the tyer to 'stack' feathers and fur easily and quickly without the use of a traditional hair stacker.

The tying possibilities that this tool opens up is fascinating. With it, it is possible to 'stack' and mix soft hackles like marabou as well as CDC and even deer hair.

The link below shows some of the possibilities.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8d9vITFEi4E>



Rigging it to the boat



- The drogue works on a continuous loop principle, using marine - grade pulleys attached to the bow and stern and clips each end of the rope loop (we use water-ski tow rope) to attach to the rings of the drogue.
- The bow pulley should be mounted to the trailer retrieving point of the boat, preferably by shackle and the stern pulley either on the back drag handle, if one exists, or purpose mounted so that both pulleys are roughly the same height above the water when afloat.
- The inboard part of the loop should be fed through eyes on the gunwales fore and aft and, if you wish, you can add a jam cleat to ensure the drogue stays in the position you set it.

Carp on the Fly

Here is a story to add to a fly fishing bucket list: Late this June in the South West of England and the plan was to fish for Trout on Chew Valley Lake with my friend Martin Cottis who is known to many of the readers of this note.

With a recent week of unseasonal hot weather and reported algae blooms on the Lake Martin suggested instead of chasing Trout how about a trip with a difference “Carp on the Fly”, so with the promise of fish of over 10lbs all over the place we started out for the day.

The first stop was Veal’s Tackle shop of Bristol and the purchase of the day ticket to fish for Martin as a club member for £2 and me as a non-member at a cost of £7 and then after a look at the amazing amount of baits available to fish for the very popular numerous species coarse fish we went back home to get our gear - which by comparison was a small amount, when compared the amount of tackle the coarse fisherman (a coarse fisherman being a specialist bait fisher for the numerous non salmonoid fish species in Europe) takes to the water to fish - much more than a fly fisherman uses.

I said, “I will get my strong 6 wt. and gear”, Martin says “No - go with that idea we use at least an 8wt or 9 wt. system, mate these are serious fish!” So with 8 and 9 wt. rods and lines loaded in the car complete with a landing net which takes up the whole back seat of the car we head out on our next stop to buy ... Dog Biscuits! And not any old dog biscuits. The first shop only had chicken flavour and with a shake of the head seriously indicating a No .We then went to Sainsbury’s Supermarket passing by at least one pet shop before arriving at the pet food section where we found the “Right Stuff” - Sainsbury’s Dog multi mix - the major ingredient for the day.

Then after winding down a maze of small country lanes we arrived at a farm house and, after a short walk through a couple of fields, we arrived at “The Lake “ which was 200 meters wide by 500meters long all surrounded by trees and tall grass. At intervals around the pond were small landings called pegs which are fishing spots that are allocated when club coarse fishing competitions are held.

This day we virtually had the place to ourselves (apart from one old couple who arrived after us each towing hand trollies loaded with enough gear to stock a tackle shop) As soon as the water appeared so did the fish - huge dark shapes cruising just under the surface and looking for whatever surface food was available.

The first chore of the day was to get the fish interested and so out came the mystery ingredients



THE DOG BISCUITS which were not for the farm dogs but to get the Carp feeding on the top and this they did with great gusto. Slowly the giants would slide up to the floating “multi mix biscuits” carefully look and taste before opening their huge mouth wide and slurping in the tasty morsels meant more for any discerning dog.

So this looked easy - just put on a deer hair Sainsbury dog biscuit imitation and cast to the cruising gobbling fish. But we couldn’t have been more wrong! The first cast at a cruiser was totally ignored, as was the second then the third and so on, meanwhile the dog biscuits were closely inspected by the numerous fish and then slowly inhaled.

Ok ... so this was not the approach. I said to Martin, ‘I am going walkabout,’ (if you can call around the Lake in 20 minutes a walkabout).

Going around the corner of the lake I found a nice shady piece of water, chucked in a handful of the surface feed which would have fed a Rottweiler for two days and waited. Sure enough, up came the fish but still they are very choosy. Out of the corner of my eye I noticed a fish working the floating flotsam along the edge. So with a lift and a drop the deer hair dog biscuit was in place - no more than a meter from me.

Slowly what I thought was a reasonable fish came towards me, tasting all the bits of floating debris until it came onto my fly and with a wide-open mouth it just sucked it down towards its visible tonsils.

A lift of the rod was all that was needed to start what was to be a strong and ongoing fight. It's amazing how many times and how deeply a fish can travel around the puddle.



And indeed to try and control the fish on a 6 wt. would have been hard work and unfair on the fish which are all released as these fish are very much prized and respected here in the UK, so the eight weight battle went on for some 5-10 minutes, by this time Martin had appeared with a landing net large enough to land a dolphin. After some time the fish was still going strong and not really wanting to give up. However Martin was able to slip the net under it and land the fish which was bigger than I thought.



The net had a built in scale and the Carp (Species unknown to me) tipped the scales at 15lbs! Photos were taken and the fish released back into the water, which is mandatory for this lake.

My fish was by no means the largest fish I saw this day and on this basis there would have been fish in excess of 20lbs swimming around "The Lake".



The rest of the afternoon was taken up trying to fool another one, but after Martin had risen a few hooked and lost a couple, then landed one, the fish decided that maybe the chicken flavoured biscuits were needed after all as the Sainsbury multi-mix was not doing anything. So it was back to the car to hear of England's batting collapse against Sri Lanka followed by a pint at the local to help the pain of a sure defeat.



So ... Fly Fishing for Carp! I can see how this could become a fun thing to do and maybe the General Store at Bothwell should look at stocking up more on dog biscuits!

Malcolm Crosse

Fly Tying on the WWW

The World Wide Web is a treasure trove of information and tips for the fly tyer. YouTube in particular reveals a staggering number of responses to the most basic search. In this new trial section of The Vice the focus will be on some interesting tyers and techniques. If you have any favourites that you think should be shared with our members please send them in.

This site was brought to my attention by the ever-vigilant Tony Abel and needs no other comment ...

You may well have come across this site in your travels, but it is affording me infinite amusement and amazement, in about equal measures. Today's offering about takes the fly-tying cake - see mouse attachments.



The other Chernobyl thing is doing something which appears probably unlawful. The general link is:
<http://www.flytyingforum.com/index.php?act=special&page=flyindex>



The specific link for the rodents is:
http://d3nh6es96whrr8.cloudfront.net/uploads/thumbm_img4a7468bb28ed0.jpg
It might be seen as a bit of a challenge for the Tiger Hut assembly!!!

Cheers Tony

Fly Tyers Dinner 2014

It was a fantastic night and if you weren't there you missed something quite special. The food was wonderful, the venue was perfect and of course the company was great.

Laurie spent hours making displays for the table, which included model mayflies, complete with UV highlights and a new take on a Chernobyl Bug that was quite amazing.

There were raffles with great prizes donated by generous club members – all of which seemed to be won by the table just next to mine – (Steve Butler apparently promised they would win!)

In all a great night was had by everyone and many thanks to Laurie and Grace Matcham for once again coming up with the goods! More photos are spread throughout the following pages to fill in any gaps



FLY FISH KASHMIR

As a result of my two trips to Kashmir a group of guys are setting up a guiding operation, the attached flier details some of the operation. These guys are personally known to me and can be recommended.

Some members have indicated that they would like to have an "East meets West" "angling and cultural experience."

To this end I am planning to have two months (mid July to mid September) in 2015 in Kashmir and would be happy to arrange and help coordinate a FTC members trip to visit and fish this virtually untouched part of the angling world.

If any members are interested in knowing more about how a trip can be arranged please contact me on malcolmrosse@gmail.com

From the information on the brochure you will see that some planning time is needed so any interest is not too early.

Malcolm Crosse




REDISCOVER ADVENTURE WHERE EAST MEETS WEST IN ANGLING

The streams in Kashmir are ideal for everything and dry fly fishing and trophy sized fish are caught regularly on almost every stream. Along with streams a number of rarely visited high altitude lakes make Kashmir a must visit location.

The angling season starts on the 1st April and continues until the end of September. Trout fishing in Kashmir is low cost, accommodation is excellent and our guides are first rate.

BOOK WITH FLY FISH KASHMIR BOOK WITH CONFIDENCE!

Shah Therapan is a 11 hour based Kashmir born doctor and the main man on the ground outside of Kashmir for the "Fly Fish Kashmir" guiding and touring operation. Shah is a passionate fly fisher (he represented India in the 2012 Commonwealth Fly Fishing Championships) and will personally coordinate the "Fly Fish Kashmir" bookings from within Australia.

Clients can be assured of seamless tour transactions using Australian and business practices. Mustafa Coru and his team are the Kashmir based business end of the "Fly Fish Kashmir" operation.

Muzza and his family have been in the touring, hunting, fishing and guiding business for three generations starting with the early colonial fly fishers and hunters. Mustafa's extensive knowledge of the Kashmir fly fishing scene makes him the ideal man to ensure clients get the best East meets West angling experience.

www.flyfishkashmir.com.au

Come to Kashmir and let us show you some awesome fly fishing for Trout.





RIVERS AND LAKES ABOUND WITH BROWN AND RAINBOW TROUT TO TROPHY SIZE.

GETTING THERE...

To travel into India and Kashmir you will need a visa. Visa applications are downloadable online. Tip: Apply for your visa a month prior to departure. Nearly all the major air carriers transit via Delhi and there are always bargain air fares to be had. The domestic leg of your journey (one hour flight) to Srinagar, Kashmir is by local airlines carriers and tickets for this journey can be booked online. Make sure you have all your ticket documentation printed and available at the airport check in.

ON ARRIVAL
Your host from Fly Fish Kashmir will meet you at the airport, from there you will be in their gentle care 24/7 for the duration of your stay in Kashmir.

YOUR FISHING BASE
Fly Fish Kashmir has a number of accommodation options from river side tenting through to the main base at Pahalgam, which is a riverside lodge with four bedrooms, four bathrooms, lounge and dining area. Walk through the front gate to the river.

From here, within an hour's drive there are numerous streams and basins to be fished.

We recommend a stay for a couple of nights on a Dal Lake house boat in Srinagar and experience the scenic, colourful and romantic East.

Lonely Planet says 'Dal Lake is Srinagar's jewel, a vast mirror-like sheet of water reflecting the ornate wooden balconies of the houseboats and the misty peaks of the Pir Panjal mountains. Hundreds of gaily painted shikaras (gondola-like taxi boats) skirt around the lake, transporting goods to market, children to school and travellers from houseboat to shore.'

THE ANGLING SYSTEM
The angling system follows the British tradition of river 'beats' and 'Gillies'. The average river beat is in the order of 8-10 km. Fly Fish Kashmir will arrange all your angling horses and will suggest the rivers and lakes best suited to your abilities. A small daily 'Gillie' fee will be paid on your behalf by your hosts to ensure conformity in the payment.

THE FISH YOU WILL CATCH
Both brown and rainbow trout to double digiters are found in most of the river systems. Your hosts will also attract other local species that can be even bigger. On average, a successful angler could land 2-3 decent fish in a day. Please practice 'Catch and Release'.

FOOD AND DRINK
Your hosts go to great lengths to ensure you have access to exquisite Kashmiri cuisine, but Western food is also available. All your drinks, snacks etc are part of the package. Alcoholic beverages can be purchased at your own cost.

BEST TIME TO VISIT
The fishing season is 1st April to 30th September and there is good fishing throughout the whole season.

WEATHER
April and September weather averages between 4 to 20 degrees, June to August averages from a very comfortable 16 to 28.

For lots more information about this unspoilt trout fishing paradise including the history of trout fishing in Kashmir and more great information check out the web site... AND book your adventure today!

www.flyfishkashmir.com.au



Dying Made Easy

It was a Sunday afternoon in Intrigue Place. A dozen curious souls surrounded by feathers and furs of different kinds gathered amongst bubbling cauldrons to witness a well-rehearsed ritual presented by the wizards of the dark arts of dying – Macca and Delly.



The watchers formed a semi-circle, clutching beverages and tried to remember each step as ordinary materials transformed in front of their eyes. At the end, samples that had, in the best tradition of all those cooking shows you have ever seen, 'been prepared earlier', were divided up and shared between the eager watchers. The generosity of Macca and Delly continues to be boundless.



For those who missed out, or for those like me forgot each step as soon as it was completed, I have gratefully included a copy of the notes compiled by Tony and Brian.



The following is an extract from instructions for dying possum fur by Daniel Dempsey and was kindly supplied by Tony Dell.

Dyed possum fur is an excellent material for dubbing bodies on flies, the following method of bleaching and dying the fur gives good results. Possum fur is also good for dry fly bodies as the hair provides good buoyancy.

Ingredients and Utensils

*Bleach Hi-Liter (powder bleach) available from hair dressers
Cream Developer 40 vol*

*Dyes – Dylon or Rit from supermarkets or chemists –
(Veniard also makes excellent dyes in the right colours)*

Rubber gloves

2L Stainless steel pot

Newspaper

Gas burner or hot plate

3 possum skins (tanned or otherwise)

1 bottle of vinegar

Plastic ice cream container

The above will give enough dubbing for a lot of flies!

Method

Cut the possum skin into 4-inch square sections

Mix 3 tablespoons of the powdered bleach to some developer to make up a cream in the plastic ice cream container.

Moisten one of the possum sections with water then rub the cream thoroughly into the fur using the rubber gloves and place on the newspaper, repeat until you have the required amount of fur.

Place the fur pieces in the sun for 40 minutes or so.

Rinse the bleached fur pieces with water to remove the bleach. The fur is now ready to dye. If dying light colours you may need to repeat the bleaching.

Add dye to 1.5 litres of warm water using the pot and add 1 tablespoon of vinegar (or other setting agent). Immerse the fur pieces and simmer for 15 minutes then remove and rinse until clean.

Dry the fur in a tumble dryer or with a hair dryer.

It is possible to use the fur straight from the skin but a much better method is to trim the fur away from the skin with scissors and put it in a blender – coffee blenders are ideal and are sometimes found very cheaply at the Tip Shop. A few seconds in the blender will really fluff the possum dubbing up ready for use.

You can also blend various colours of fur with the grinder.

To give some idea of the cost; the developer and the powder bleach was \$34 and the various dyes \$5 each. The 3 possum skins produced 50 packs of dubbing material of excellent quality – Have fun!

Daniel Dempsey

Tony and Brian have refined this further with the use of Apollene and acetic acid instead of the bleach and the vinegar. Here are their notes which should give you even more ideas about how to create an excellent product.

Dying Instructions – Additional

Use only stainless steel or enamelware vessels. For stirring you can use either stainless steel or plastic.

Pre-soak material first!



Use luke-warm water, add one teaspoon of Apollene, soak for at least 15 minutes. Some materials may need longer.

Add 1 litre in a stainless steel container to one teaspoon of Apollene and one teaspoon of acetic acid.



*Use gloves at all times and an extractor fan if you are allowed to do this in the kitchen**



Heat to just below the boiling point

Mix ¼ teaspoon of dye and mix thoroughly in a small cup. Add the dye to the near boiling water – be careful not to let it boil.

Add the pre-soaked material and keep stirring until the desired colour is achieved. Some colours take a lot quicker than others.



Remove material and wash with cold water.

Dry the material. A hair drier is useful otherwise in can just dry in a warm spot over a few days.

**Not much possibility of this!*

Tiger Hut 2014 – A Story of Vice

Lynden Cubbins knows how to organize a great event. You plan it well, book it early and let everybody know how they can help – and help they do! The bewildering array of foods, wines, cooking hardware and general goodwill has to be seen to be believed. That is why this event is one of the most long-lived and eagerly anticipated club events on the calendar. If you haven't been, try to get there next year and I recommend booking early as I reckon it will be on a first come best dressed basis – such is its popularity!

My focus for this article was on the different types of tying vice that were being used. Of course they ranged from the 'old faithfuls' through to the Rolls Royce versions and included some surprise packages that were either much cheaper than you would imagine to a locally designed masterpiece.



Neil Pinkard's vice is one from Orvis and looks a million dollars. It, like most of the ones at the weekend, was a rotary vice, surprisingly it only cost him around \$70. The website is <http://www.orvis.com/p/ez-rotary-vice/8a11> if you are interested.



Macca's vice has certainly tied a fly or two! The original was from Ashley Pamola from Worcester in Massachusetts from an old bloke who made them in his shed. It is 15-16 years old and has served him very well indeed!



Ashley Artis' Petitjean vice – didn't cost \$70! So many features and an absolutely brilliant design used by a true master of the art. I am sure that if I had one of these I could produce flies as good as Ashley's. I have included a YouTube link to see just how good this is. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tOpQleJPsp4>



John Spencer's Renzetti Traveller is the bottom of the range he says. It apparently came as a bonus with the travelling bag he bought... and I believe him!





Denis, who treasures quality and tradition, uses an HMH traditional Vice – a beautifully made classic design with replaceable jaws to cope with bigger or smaller hooks. Denis’ ability to produce stunning dries seemingly at will needs to be appreciated and is worth coming to the Tiger Hut just to watch him in action.



Tony Abel had a fascinating vice that was really versatile, and, much like Tony himself, seemed to be capable of maximum creativity whether positioned normally, twisted or upside down!



Stokesy, Noel and Steve Butler all were impressed with their Danica Danvise which they thought was generally fantastic value and allows you to do the full rotary thing.

<http://www.nordicangler.com/snowbee-fly-mate-fly-tying-vice-pedestal-p-1173.html>

(If you want to get one it is worth talking to Laurie Matcham as he has advice about making the jaws more effective and long lasting.)



Tony Dell had a wonderfully designed travelling vice that knocks down into a much more compact size by local metal working genius. He apparently designed it himself and made it small enough to pack away in a small bag that takes up very little space at all. Again I imagined that if I had this I might tie flies like Delly too!

The range of vices on display was generally impressive – and not just in the fly tying arena! Plenty were unveiled after the meals and assisted by the refreshments available.

It was suggested that it might have been the 21st anniversary of the Tiger Hut trip but the conversation got a little hazy towards the end of the night. It might have been the 20th. Maybe next year will actually be the 21st – either way I will be there and you should too!



Tasmanian Fly Tyers Club Annual Dinner

A great night ...



For payments to the club

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Account No: 12130456

Name: Tasmanian Fly Tyers Club Inc

Then email the details to

Andrew Blackwood andrew.blackwood@education.tas.gov.au

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