



The Vice



Newsletter of the Tasmanian Fly Tyers' Club Inc.

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Summer Vice 2015

Inside this issue:

The LM Emerger, Casting Tips, Henry's Place, Halkyard and much more...

Cover shot – Noel Wilson with a nice one from Henry's place

President's Report

It's all happening - club activity, dun hatches and hungry fish ...well sometimes.

The Farm Dam weekend was great with excellent attendance where everyone caught large rainbow trout; Thank you Henry Edgell and Scott Bowden.

The Miena weekend went well although conditions made fishing a bit tough. Fish were captured sharking the Great Lake, wading Lake Kay for dun feeders, and using wet and dry methods on

Penstock, and Arthurs Lake. A dozen quite magnificent people attended the Saturday night BBQ and a good time was had by all. Stokesy continues to do a great job as event organiser. The Penstock weekend at the end of January will be a ripper as Penstock is fishing well so get in Early.

The Committee had its weekend in the Highlands and we enjoyed some fishing and a Roast Pork Dinner and some bonding, sound good? Why not think about having a run on the committee? We need some new blood. Looks good on the cv too; although not much use on mine.

We had a really productive meeting and we benefited from having Chris Medwin, our youngest member there to help shape our future. His research suggests that young fly fishers are scarce and it will be difficult to recruit young members. The joining fee and the hoops such as fly tying are a bit daunting for potential members. The committee believes that we do need new young members.

Ten years ago the committee was concerned that the average age of club members was over 50, so guess what, the average age is now over 60 with 30% over 70, it is time for action now to offset or at least slow this trend while we are a strong club and it will not be easy.

As a starter the club joining fee for people under 30 has been waived.

The committee is also keen to simplify the entry criteria, which will require constitutional amendment. We are thinking that fly fishers with a genuine interest in fly tying who are committed to becoming active members of club could be the appropriate entry criteria. This would be more welcoming than the existing conditions and would recognise the opportunity for on the job training in fly tying.

We are also looking to create 10 positions for people under 30, which would not be counted in the cap on membership. Even though we have doubts about finding this many young members, it is a nice welcome mat that we don't have now. This will also require constitutional change.

The committee is also keen to see training courses in fly tying go ahead and Malcolm Crosse is on the job preparing a plan.

We have ordered three sets of fly tying tools for the Peacock Lodge with a view to encouraging more fly tying at the shack, and we will acquire other material as we go along. This will also allow both informal and formal training. Laurie Matcham is ordering the gear and I am hoping that "Westy" will become custodian of the kit.

It was great to see 50 entrants in the Fowler Trophy event. The results can be entered on our web site thanks to Tim Lewis. All we need now is action and results, so get into it.

Tight lines
John Smith

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Editorial

As a newly retired gentleman of leisure I thought this would be a great summer with endless days of fishing dry in the gentle stillness of a warm summer afternoon. I forgot about wind, rain and general coldness that seemed to coincide with the opportunities presented to me so far. In fact I managed only 2 trips to the shack – both were fun but only one was successful. I had a brilliant couple of days fishing the LM Emerger with its creator - Laurie Matcham. The fish at Woods were all close to 5lbs each and couldn't resist it. See the article on how to tie this irresistible fly it is well worth it!

My second trip was with Mark Quinnane and we tried hard but everything seemed to avoid us even though it looked promising everywhere.

Unfortunately I missed the Penstock Weekend due to my foray into the wilderness with Pete Murphy, Andrew Blackwood, Peter Langton and Mark Rampant. Our destination was Lake Halkyard. To say that it was a challenge for me is an understatement. I was in awe of the strength, fitness and stamina of the others who went. It was an immense challenge – but one that I think I will try to do again now that I have survived it virtually unscathed!

I know that this edition of The Vice is later than it should have been but there has been so much on that it has been impossible to get it done any earlier. As I sit and write the last bits I am preparing to once again go up to the Dee Weekend with the remarkable Dave Choate. This is a sensational trip and one which I learn so much about fishing, the Dee and life in general from one of our more remarkable members. If you haven't done this trip yet then you don't know what you're missing! Try and get there if you can.

Finally I am making a plea for some other members of the club to write some stories for the Autumn Vice.

The quality of this publication will lift if there are more contributors so if you have been on a trip, caught some fish, bought some new gear or have tied a great fly that you are finally willing to share now that the fish are used to it please send it in. Even a couple of photos would be a great thing.

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
vice@tasmanianflytyersclub.org**



The LM Emerger

Bright day dark flies

Dull day bright flies

And the result...



On a bright sunny day with next to no wind – where should you go? On this day we decided to brave the road and head into Woods. You might be surprised to hear that, on such a lovely day in January, we were the only ones on the whole lake. Everything was still and warm with only the occasional early March Fly to keep you on your toes.

We ventured straight over to the shore opposite the boat ramp, near where the river comes in. There were occasional fish showing – always about 100m away and began the search for a more consistent rise. Particular attention was paid to the weedy areas as this was the most likely spot for the black spinners to start.

After about half an hour of searching we noticed some fish rising in some slicks, taking some sort of fly. Closer inspection showed them to be emerging duns – size 12 I was informed. Tie on the LM Emerger! Just the one, don't complicate it!

The next 3 hours was some of the best fishing of the summer with fish everywhere in the slicks. They were powerful and beautiful fish with bright red flesh, they

took the emerger with complete confidence and seemed totally shocked to discover that they were hooked!

So how to tie the LM Emerger...

The fly is a variation on the Nelson Green Emerger designed by Laurie Matcham. The story of this fly appeared in Fly Life a few years ago (<http://www.flylife.com.au/library/articles/12/12b.html>). The 'LM' is of course Laurie and this fly matches the hatch beautifully. It is relatively easy to tie and can be tied on both straight and curved hooks. It hangs in the surface beautifully and the dark wing makes it easier to see. Many thanks to Laurie for being generous enough to let me photograph him step by step while he tied this.



Hook - Mustad 80 000 size 12

Thread – Brown or black 8-0

Wing - Furnace brown

Under wing - Chocolate roving* and brown Arctic fox

Post - Closed cell brown foam

Rib – copper Madeira thread

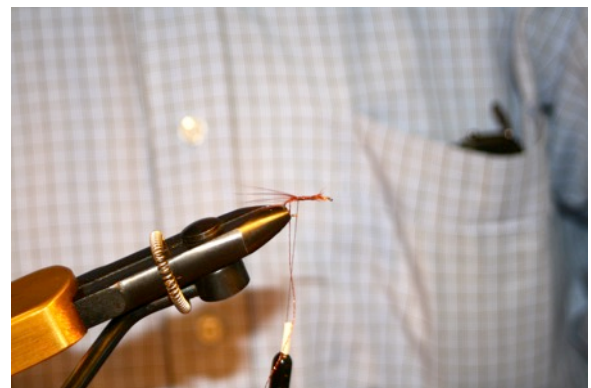
Body – brown roving

*Roving is a great synthetic style dubbing and can be bought in a range of colours from Spotlight.

Instructions:

Run the thread to Hook bend and tie in Madeira thread

Tie in a short tail with the hackle – chocolate or furnace



Dub on a carrot shaped body with the roving
Rib the body with the Madeira thread in open turns



Tie in the wing of dark chocolate roving and a little bit
of Arctic fox to give it a profile
Tie in the foam post - about 2-3 mm wide



Select a hackle from the brown furnace saddle (size 12
or equivalent to the gape of the hook)
Wind it around the roving wing and the post
Tie off around the eye of the hook



Pull the foam post forward, - this makes the wing sit
up
Pull back the hackle so that it sits flat with the body at
the back of the post



Tie off the foam at the eye – push it back from the eye
a bit with your thumb to make a space
Whip finish and glue



Finally trim the wing to give it a profile like the natural



This is a great fly for a bright day and the right fly for a
great day!

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.

I am always looking at different ways of making a dry fly float. My fall back floatant has been Gink and it is ok of course. I have also tried a range of other brands and have been bemused by how expensive they seem.

I have also heard from gurus like Macca and Tony Dell that they spray their dries with a waterproofing agent commonly used for boots and coats.

However I found this product and it seems quite good. It is called HydroStop and is made by Loon. It works simply by plunging your fly into the container for a few moments and then taking them out and letting the dry overnight. The waterproofing is said to be very long lasting.

I bought this online and ended up getting it for around \$15. I am not sure how much it retails for here or if you can get it.

The product description is below



*HydroStop permanently treats new flies with a floatant. Coming in a conveniently large container hundreds of flies can be treated, dozens at a time. Flies allowed to soak for 5 minutes and then dried overnight will float higher when they are used. Perfect for yarn-type indicators as well as pre-treating dubbing.
Model #F0951*

A Weekend at Henry's Place

Word has no doubt got around about the wonderful club weekend held at Henry's place before Christmas. It was an absolute privilege to fish in the 3 dams on this absolutely beautiful property and those who went certainly had a memorable time.

The accommodation was fantastic (as long as you managed to avoid snorers – a resource which our club seems particularly blessed) but the fishing was even better!



It is important not to give too much detail away but the water quality was superb and the fishing challenging in many ways. My afternoon spent chasing fish that you could easily see confidently taking that things that I couldn't easily see was some of the best fishing I have had without hooking up. Whilst the fish I caught on the smallest dam was easily the biggest I have ever caught. Check out the smile on Noel Wilson's face (front cover) to see how much he enjoyed it.

We also had a chance to fish Weasel Plains in the morning. Arriving before dawn it was absolutely beautiful – it was a real privilege to catch a fish on a dry at your feet in first light!



The evening meal was also a memorable experience and thanks to everyone who organised it.



Thanks Henry for your wonderful hospitality and for sharing your wonderful part of the world!



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.

Peacock eye feathers are a great fly tying resource – particularly when they have the flue stripped from them. There are a number of ways to do this for individual herls ranging from using your thumbnail to an ordinary pencil rubber. These are simple methods but only do individual strands.

I found and tried the following method for stripping a whole set in just a few moments. The key is to use 1 part bleach to 3 parts water to strip the flue and then use a mix of 1 part vinegar to 3 parts water to stop the reaction. Some people use a mixture of bicarb and water as well but I haven't tried this.



The procedure is as follows:

Make a mix of ordinary 1 part bleach and 3 parts warm water in a bowl and a mix of 1 part white vinegar to 3 parts water in a separate bowl. This is best done at a kitchen sink, as it is good to rinse your feathers after they have been dipped.

Casting Evening - David Hemmings

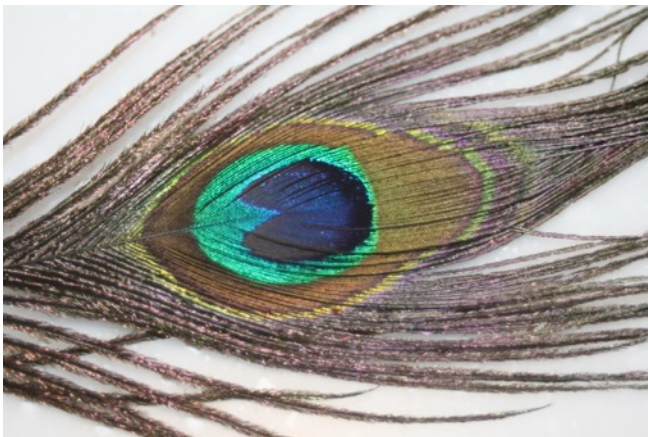
Take your peacock eye feathers and dip them in the bleach, swirling them around for a few moments. You will see the solution start to go cloudy as the flue gets stripped.

When you decide you have left it there long enough you need to neutralise the bleach by dipping it in the vinegar.



Finally give the feathers a good rinsing under cold running water and let it dry on absorbent paper.

The stripped herl makes magnificent body material for all sorts of flies. You can also colour them to suit by judicious and creative use of a permanent texta.



For more information and a look at what 'Johnny Utah' does see the link below.

<http://youtu.be/wCUFskWaKzc>



Five go to Halkyard



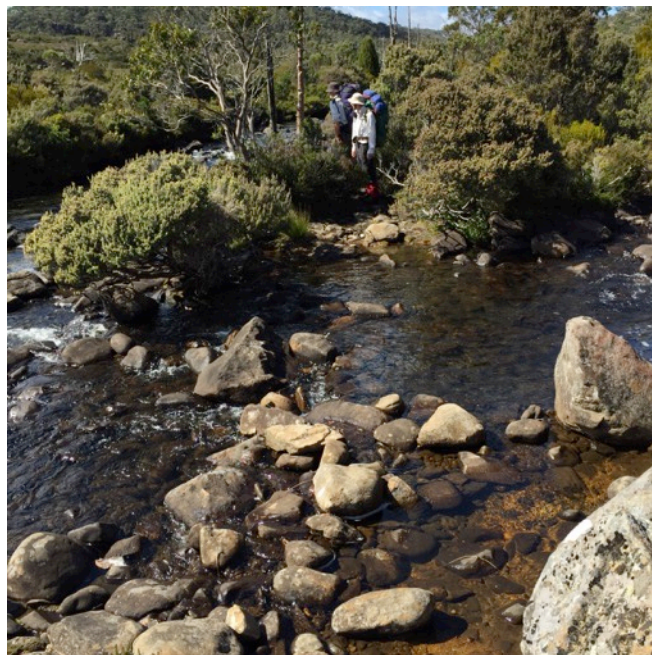
The Five - Pete Murphy, Andrew Blackwood, Mark Rampant and Peter Langton and the Editor donned gaiters, boots and packs and set off from the car park at Lake Mackenzie for what was described to me as a short walk into Lake Halkyard. We would walk for about 3 hours, set up camp and then spend 3 days fishing. What could be better! This was my first serious bushwalk since having a hip replacement about 6 years ago and my fitness levels were pretty ordinary. I had done some practice walks along the beach near home and to the shops though so I was feeling slightly prepared. I Googled and YouTubed everything I could about wilderness hiking, questioned experts like Andrew very closely and put together all the gear I thought I needed well before our departure. Each day I would refine the clothing and gear to reduce the weight that I would have to carry.

I did this pretty well until it came to the food situation. Andrew suggested getting some salami, twiggy sticks, maybe some cheese, dry biscuits and some pre-prepared curry from the supermarket. There would be no need to bring any water, as the lake was full of it. This I did but not quite as I was supposed to. I bought a pack of Twiggy Sticks with about a dozen in there, a sizeable chunk of peperoni salami, a huge slab of cheese and a pre-prepared box of Green chicken curry – all of which weighed about 5kg. Andrew meanwhile pack 3 Twiggy sticks, some ultra thin slices of salami and an ultra light dried curry that almost defied gravity. As a result my pack was much heavier than it needed to be.

As we gathered in the car park I realised that the others were comparatively super-fit and infinitely more experienced than me as they talked about earlier



adventures. They looked confident with their weather-beaten packs and comfortable in their well-loved brand-name apparel.



As we set off it became obvious that my walking pace would be much slower than everyone else and I worried about being left behind but they were all brilliant! I have never felt so well looked after! They waited for me, had many more 'rests' than they obviously needed and Andrew even carried my pack (and his) when I 'hit the wall' after about 2 hours. Andrew is certainly a very impressive walker who seemed to me to have superhuman capabilities. Pete Murphy also looked after me really well by walking back to where I was languishing and carrying my pack again to help relieve the cramps I was getting in my lower back and to ease the load on my blistered feet.



We finally reached Halkyard at lunchtime and the air was thick with black spinners. Duns were starting to pop up all over the lake, which was much larger than I expected.

Tired limbs were forgotten as we rigged up and set off to explore.



I managed a nice brown on a sheltered shore, which took a black spinner whilst Pete, Andrew and Peter Langton caught fish. They were rising everywhere but that didn't make them easy. We dubbed them 'Cadbury fish' as they always seemed to be 'a cast and a half' away!

The second day was overcast and we anticipated duns but it never really got going. There were fish caught again but the number rising just outside of casting range was amazing.



Evening meals were wonderful with some great creations. Mark, who carried in the heaviest pack I had ever seen seemed to have an endless supply of useful camp gadgets that kept emerging throughout the night while 'Plankton' was in fine form with stories and theories. The soft grass around the edge of the lake also made for a comfortable night sleep. The snoring could be heard for miles!

The 3rd day dawned misty and overcast with a stiffish northerly blowing. I made my way around the three arms of the lake again whilst the others set off for distant lakes. Andrew and Plankton went over to Little Throne and caught one fish between them. Pete went off to Snake Lake and hooked a nice one, but not the monster he thought it might have been. Mark, who was fishing in Sandals in order to save his boots for the walk out chose to swear at all the fish that took, slash and busted off for most of the day. Just sitting and watching an area of lake is a brilliant thing to do. You notice the spinners rising, the stick caddis

moving about and hundreds of tiny frogs scattering around you. Brilliant!



We woke to light drizzle on the final morning and decided not to fish at all. Tents were packed and the site returned to pristine condition and we set our sights on the walk out. My pack felt so much lighter with most of the twiggy sticks gone.



It was amazing how much easier it was to walk out and I was able to go for close to 3 hours before 'the wall' once again reared its ugly head. But, as they did in the trip in Andrew and Pete were there to help. It must have been so dull for Andrew who could have walked in and out twice in the time it took me to cover the track. We met another fisherman who told us about people setting nets in some of the trophy waters! He said he cut them up and told the Parks people. It is staggering to think that some people would do this. I will not grizzle about regulations and rules if that's what people do!

I was left alone to cover the final 500m from the dam wall to the cars and managed to get lost. I ended up having to scale the wall of the spillway to get back to where I should have been. The mocking I received was well deserved and the bottle of cider that Mark gave me when I finally reached the car hardly touched the sides. In the final wash up we caught 14 fish between us – some released, some eaten and 2 carried out to show off with. We covered some serious kilometres, fished some great water and most of all had a great time. It was brilliant to go with such wonderful and supportive people. Next time I promise to walk a little faster, grizzle a little less and actually make the coffee in the morning. That's if they'll have me.



Planktons Plate



For payments to the club

BSB: 807 007

Account No: 12130456

Name: Tasmanian Fly Tyers Club Inc

Then email the details to

Andrew Blackwood treasurer@tasmanianflytyersclub.org

Please remember to clearly identify yourself for ease of recording your payment

Club Website

<http://tasmanianflytyersclub.org>

