



The Vice



Newsletter of the Tasmanian Fly Tyers' Club Inc.

Volume13 , Issue 1 Summer 2016

Inside: *Henry's Place, Macquarie Weekend, Burbury, Western Lakes and much more...*

Cover shot – Peter Langton lands a nice one early morning

President's Report

Hi Friends,

It was with great sadness that I learned of the death of our valued Life Member Ian Madden. Not only has Ian been a great mate to many of us he has made an outstanding contribution to the Club.

He joined the club in 1956 that's 60 years of membership. Ian has been a very active member, a clubman of the year, playing an important role in the social fabric as well as the operation of the club. He served on the committee for 18 years, 4 years as secretary and 8 years as Vice President. The club was an important part of Ian's life and he has made generous donations in building materials for the shack and to the future trust to enhance the club's future.

The strategy meeting at Miena went well and we made a decision or two. We have agreed to go ahead with installing a solar power system in the Lake Sorell Shack. Malcolm Crosse has generously put together a project with the opportune purchase of batteries, and donated solar panels. Crossie and Macca will be installing the system in March. We will have lighting and limited power for things like toasters, microwaves, recharging and so on. Thanks to Crossie and Macca.

We agreed to conduct a small fly tying training course later this year, on a cost recovery basis, with Brian West as the driving force. The concept is six to eight people, one day, with all materials supplied to tie four or five useful flies. The intention - Learn to use the equipment and some basic techniques of fly tying. We will be discussing this with members and calling for support to make it happen.

Activities have gone very well this year and have been well attended coupled with some good fishing. Coordinators have done a great Job. Henry Edgell deserves special thanks for the farm dam weekend. Thanks to Tim Lewis's organisation and to Randall Tretheweie for allowing a group into Fergus for a great days fishing. All members attending club functions need a pat on the back for their contribution. To all our new members: Get along to club events it is the best way to get to know active members and to get the most out of the club.

The lack of water with Bass Link down is causing concern and with Arthurs not up to scratch Penstock and the Pine are under increased pressure. Sustainability of these small waters is becoming an issue again. I think the best we can do at this stage is to use common sense, stick to the speed limits, keep

the motors up and be aware of what you can do to have minimum impact.

Hope to see a good turn out at Penstock our next activity. Oh - Tony Dell has done an amazing job on the Club's history, which you will hear about later this year.

That's all for now.

John Smith
President
(but...not for long)

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Editorial

I have managed a lot of fishing between the Spring Vice and this one. It all started with the Macquarie trip, which melded seamlessly into the early trip to Burbury and then onto the wonderful weekend at Henry's Place. I managed to catch a few fish at each place and had a brilliant time.

I was also busily training so that I could go on the Western Lakes walk to Lake Silver. Daily urban hikes taking in Linton Avenue, Napoleon St and Mellifont helped me build my walking capacity to at least 15km – well within the projected distance of the walk into Lake Silver. I managed to first 15km quite well but the final 5 were, to say the least, extremely challenging. Andrew Blackwood again took pity on me and carried my pack for a while – he is very fit! The trip was

absolutely magnificent and my fitness levels have soared. I even managed to lose 5kg on the way! In this issue there are stories about all these events and some tips on safe handling of fish. The only other fishing tale of note was the day that Chris Berndt and I had on Penstock in a thunderstorm with torrential rain and lightning. The fishing was sensational! It was certainly proof of that old saying – the two best times to go fishing are when it's raining and when it's not!

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!

This time the award goes to... Pete Murphy for his fantastic article on the trip to Lake Silver. Well done Pete!

Have a go
Simply send your entry to Doug Miller
55dmiller@gmail.com

Lake Silver Trip photos



Macquarie Trip 2015



Once again Craig Granquist managed to pull together the annual Macquarie Trip. The base was once again the wonderful Mt Morrision Station 18 km out of Ross. The weather was relatively kind and the broadwater very tempting – particularly for those of us eager enough to hit the river at dawn.



The accommodation was at the 'shooters hut', which was again very comfortable. Such was the turnout though some of us slept in tents, vans and even impressive caravan trailers to ease congestion in the

hut. Evening meals saw us all congregating in the kitchen sharing a great meal, and fine conversation.



Early morning saw the broadwater alive with fish. Black spinner and midge in particular were on the menu. Some landed a few small fish but the early sea breeze put things down quite early. There were still many pockets of shelter, which saw fish rising throughout the day.



We wandered far and wide throughout the day. Some took to the water in float tubes. Others walked for miles around the property on search of the elusive trout.



A highlight of the trip saw Noel Wilson visit the neighbouring property Trefusus and met the owners, Hamish and Georgie Wallace. This was particularly pleasing for him as his mother used to work on the property and Georgie remembered her and treated Noel like a long lost friend. A wonderful experience!



The traditional Saturday night barbeque was eagerly anticipated by all and Craig took charge. He set off to light the barbeque, which was always in the back shed in plenty of time for a great evening event. The problem was that the barbeque wasn't there! After a little panic and creative thinking we managed to rescue the situation by riding the vans and supplies of all the happy campers. It was lucky that Mark Rampant was there as he is never short of gear and managed to produce a sizeable barbeque from the depths of his camping trailer.



The evening was excellent with plenty of red wine, conversation and even song helping us while away the hours until the final dawn raid, pack up and farewells saw us leave around lunch time on Sunday.

Many thanks go to Craig for his efforts in organising this event yet again. It is not a simple task and he does it so well. I would recommend this trip to anyone and am already looking forward to it next season.

DM

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.

Black Spinners are a must in any good fly box and I had tied a few in preparation for the Silver Lake trip and other Summer related excursions. The tie was pretty simple with a tail made from black paintbrush hackles, a body of black thread with a silver madeira thread rib and a black genetic cock hackle in front. They were tied in 12s and 14s. I was generally quite happy with them. That's when I visited Laurie Matcham – always a good move.



Black Spinner tied by the Editor – not Laurie!

Laurie is recovering from a nasty accident at work where he ended up with a fractured back and neck. He had been immobilized for about 8 weeks and was going a bit stir crazy. As usual he had a fantastic little tip to really make my black spinner come to life.

The answer was pretty simple – just add a few turns of iron blue dun hackle to the front of the fly. This gives it an impression of silver wings, particularly when viewed from underneath. It was easy to do and very effective.

I used the black spinner with great success on the fish on Lake Silver and can't wait to use them on other lakes – Burbury in particular.

So thanks for yet another great idea Laurie and get better soon!

DM

Henry's Place 2015



The trip to Bothwell is always eagerly anticipated and very well attended. The lure of big fish from the 3 dams on Henry's property and the wonderful Weasel Plains provide us with a very special fishing opportunity.



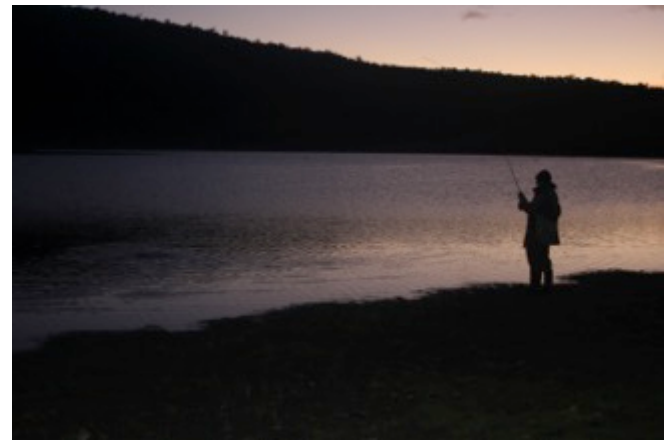
This trip was very well attended and some excellent fish were caught. Participants were allowed to take one fish each from Henry's place and browns only from Weasel. Some absolute rippers were caught, kept and released. Some even had the rod ripped from their hands!

David O'Brien was particularly happy with the fish he caught that was over 10lbs! He said it was his first double figure fish and was great cause for celebration. Henry also landed some fish on a fly and was suitably impressed.

The trip was dogged by extremely strong winds, which made casting a bit of a challenge but most managed to find a spot that they could work with.



Early rising was again in offing and many of us traveled up to Weasel Plains for the dawn rise. When I arrived Peter Langton was walking to the edge of the dam at first light. One cast and he was onto a beauty. The smile on his face was brilliant!



There is something very special about being on a lake at dawn when the world comes to life and fish start to rise to a well-presented fly...



Evening meals were held in the shearers' quarters and again a wonderful evening of wine and banter ensued.



Ian Stokes took on the task of analysing the results of the trip and sent in a table of fish caught, the condition etc. They make interesting reading and will hopefully help in understanding this brilliant fishery.

*In all 25 members participated, some for a few hours and others for the weekend.
19 members sent in their results and I believe that that represents most if not all who caught fish.
The assessments of weight and condition are a bit subjective with no criteria for what is a good fish as opposed to an excellent fish.
Where the fish was actually weighed I have noted that in the tables but more of the fish may have been weighed.*

Following is a summary of the tables that Ian compiled – for a copy of the original click here on the [Results](#)

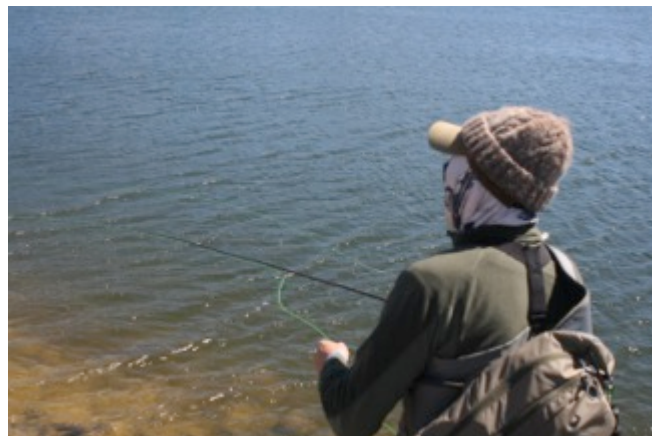
*Brickfields (The first dam)
41 ranging from 6-9.5lbs generally good to excellent condition*

*Little Dam
2 rainbows 10lbs each in excellent condition*

*Sheepwash (The top dam)
5 rainbows averaging 2-3lb
21 browns ranging from 1.5-3lbs*

*Weasel
Triploids 6 landed from 1.5-5lbs
Browns 32 were caught ranging from 1-4lbs*

In all over the weekend there were 54 rainbows and 53 brown trout caught for a total of 107 fish.



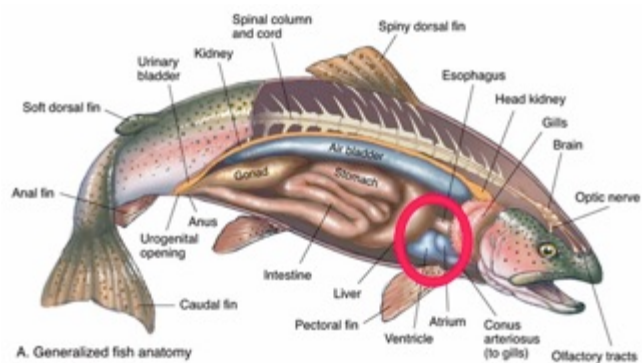
Everyone who attended had a brilliant time. Many sincere thanks go out to Henry and Scott for their generosity in allowing the club to attend such a brilliant weekend in such a sensational place!

DM

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.

I found this article on the safe handling and releasing of fish on this site from New Zealand. I have included the opening paragraph to give you an idea what its about. Read the rest here - <http://www.bishfish.co.nz/articles/fresh/grip-and-kill.htm>



Have look at the anatomical drawing above showing the main internal structure and components of a trout. Take particular notice where the heart is (red outline) - between and under the gills and liver, just above the Pectoral fins.

These three organs, heart, gills and liver are very susceptible to damage, although not always immediately obvious, unless the damage is very severe leading to immediate death.

Lake Burbury Adventure

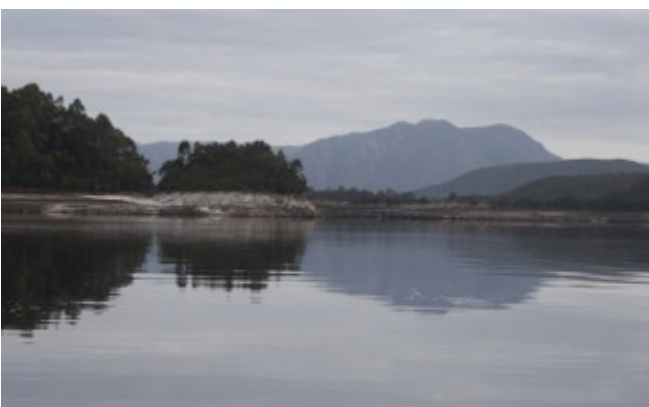
Tony Abel, The President, Zuie Howard, Peter Langton and I all had a great trip to Lake Burbury following on from the weekend at Henry's. We stayed at the same shack in Gormanston that we did earlier in March. The idea was to see how well the lake would fish earlier in the season.



It is a long way to Burbury but it is definitely worth it. The scenery is spectacular to say the least and there is a feeling of journeying back in time when you arrive in the little township of Gormanston.



There are only about three or four houses that are inhabited in a town that once had its own proud footy team. Practically everything is for sale and there are some bargains to be had!



The lake itself was extremely low – over 8 metres below full – but it is still a totally amazing place.



I can't say that we have done much towards mastering this water but we are certainly getting to know it better. Records in the shack diary talk of groups catching 70 – 80 fish in a week. We are nowhere near that (7-8 perhaps)!

The most memorable day was the Wednesday which saw little or no wind, humidity and overcast conditions. Fish were up on midge and they were everywhere. There were wide wind lanes all over the lake with more fish than I had ever seen on them. The midge were thick on the water and the fish were totally focused on eating them. I learned a lot about the frustrations and the joy of midge feeders casting to about a million fish and only landing two!



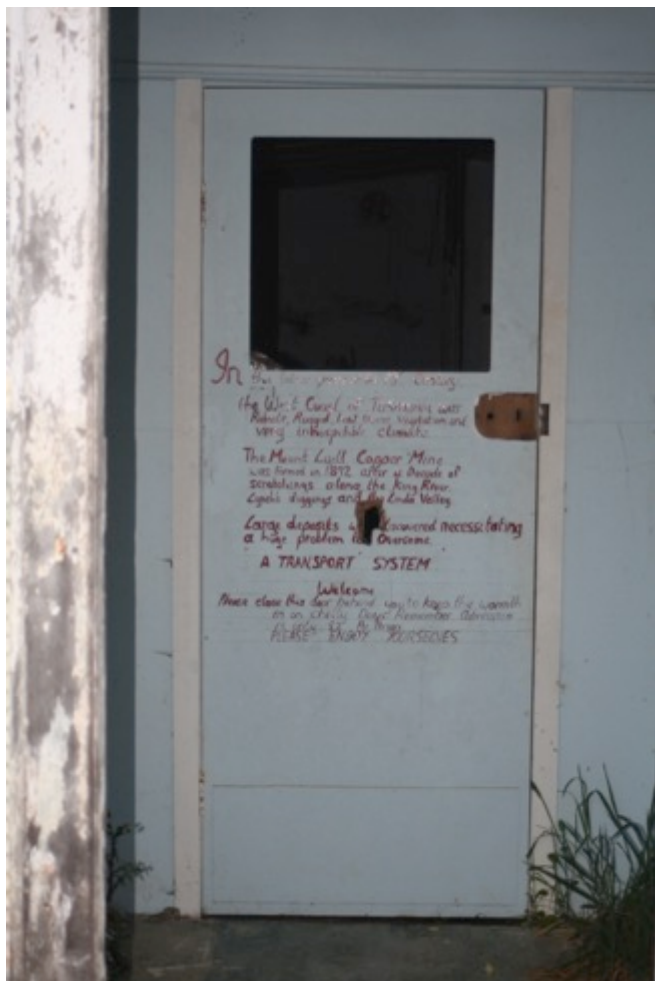
The next few days saw the weather being a little less than perfect and the fishing was quite tough. Some nice fish were landed but they were again few and far between.

The accommodation was again fine – I don't fit in the kitchen very well as the ceiling slopes down rather low. This meant that others generally did the cooking so it all worked out quite well really!

A feature of Gormanston is the number of rabbits. The President had a plan to trap one and turn it into irresistible food and flies but was sadly thwarted by their reluctance to cooperate. It was fantastic to walk around the township and even wander down to the famous gravel footy ground, now sadly overgrown and just take in the unique atmosphere.



Another trip is planned for March and, although the levels appear really low I am keen to keep on clambering up the learning curve that is Burbury.



Many thanks go to Tony Abel for once again taking on the task of organising the trip.

DM



Lake Silver Trip 2016



Eight of us, seven of whom are club members, left from Lake Ada at about 9.15am on February 1st to walk into the Lake Antimony– Silver Lake area on the Pine River. After crossing the foot bridge on the Little Pine River our fearless leader, Andrew Blackwood, relinquished his role, without a whimper, to David Young who apparently knew a shortcut.



After floundering around in the scrub for half an hour or so thinking we must be very close we finally found the track, and the two party members who had elected to go the 'long way'. Shortcuts were disallowed for the rest of the trip.



We had a break at Christy's Creek, where Youngie tried to catch one of the rising fish, before walking to Talleh Lagoons for lunch. Fish were moving here also so we tried our luck with no success.



From there we continued down the Powena Creek track to Lake Antimony, then across Clifton Flats to the southern end of Silver Lake. Andrew re-asserted himself as leader, and found a good campsite, with room for Stephen Butler to be located at a suitable distance. Youngie decided to camp out of sight for reasons that are yet to be adequately explained, but Bill Lark could have something to do with it. Some fishing was done that evening with no fish caught.



The next morning saw people going in various directions. Five went up the beautiful Bernes Valley to check out lakes Sally, Sonja, and Solveig. The latter proved to be the most productive with fish being caught by most anglers.

There were a few spinners about, with the occasional fish taking one. Floating a dry over the deep drop-offs brought fish up and most were caught this way. Youngie and Peter Langton fished a spinner hatch in

the northern part of Silver on the way back, and Plangers caught one.

Doug Miller and Chris Berndt spent the day fishing Silver Lake with Doug catching two well-conditioned



fish.

Stinky went off for a tour to lakes Rotuli,



Galaxias, Nearana and Antimony. He successfully polaroided and caught two fish in Antimony at the mouth of Powena Creek.

At camp that evening Stinky offered gin, lime and Silver aperitifs and the usual discussions of the events of the day were had. Plangers, with four fish, accepted the title of Top Rod with his usual humility. In total 14 fish were landed.



A weak front crossing overnight resulted in a few showers and a shift in the wind direction from the NE to the SW.

The morning of the 3rd was cooler and overcast with stronger winds. The skies cleared later but there were very few insects about. Andrew and Chris headed up the valley for their Fowler Trophy day and caught a fish each. Stinky went in the same direction and also visited Ah Chees Lake, catching one fish for the day, and finding a female's bathing costume in his size! After a fruitless search for the owner he returned to camp (we believed him).

Doug and I fished Silver and Antimony without success. A brace of septuagenarians headed for Rotuli, giving new life to the phrase 'go west young



man' and failed to find their fortune. Mark Dickenson went in a similar direction and also returned empty handed.

The evening was very cool but we were fortunate to catch a glimpse of the extremely rare Silver Lake Emerger. Some thought this creature to be extinct, and those who saw it thought it should be! The video clip can be viewed above.

The last day was perfect for fishing, so we packed up and headed out. Youngie, Plangers, and Stinky stopped at an unnamed tarn on an unnamed creek and were lucky enough to see a brief dun hatch



They each claimed to have caught a fish of about 5lb, (or did they each have their photo taken with a fish of about 5lb?) We only have their word for it.

The rest of the group continued on to Ada Lagoon where we polaroided a few fish, but couldn't fool them.

It was a very enjoyable trip, excellent company, great food, an outstandingly beautiful setting, and some interesting fishing. Thank you, Andrew, for being the coordinator.

Pete Murphy



For payments to the club

BSB: 807 007

Account No: 12130456

Name: Tasmanian Fly Tyers Club Inc

Then email the details to

Andrew Blackwood: andrew.blackwood1@bigpond.com

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

Club Website



Tasmanian Fly Tyers' Club Inc

Established in 1956, this club aims to encourage the arts of fly tying and fly fishing



<http://tasmanianflytyersclub.org>

Memories – Ada Lagoon 1975



Summer 2015

Index of Vice Articles

I have compiled a list of contents from previous editions of the Vice as some members have asked about various stories and the like. All these can be accessed directly from the club website under the link to The Vice. I will include it in all future editions and add to it where possible.

<http://tasmanianflytyersclub.org>

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