



The Vice



Newsletter of the Tasmanian Fly Tyers' Club Inc.

Volume13 , Issue 3 Winter 2016

Inside: Tiger Hut, Anna's Year, Champagne on Tooms, RSL Tying Day *and much more...*

Cover shot – Laurie Matcham and Dave Lipscombe on the Macquarie

President's Report

Well its almost Annual General meeting time and Doug who is off "Grey Nomading" for a couple of months has cracked the whip so here goes with an early annual report.

We are indeed fortunate to have Doug as Editor. I know as the retired editor just how much work Doug has put in to make The Vice a top fly tying magazine. The 2015 clubman of the year attends more meeting than most, rarely misses a club activity and runs the eastern shore Wednesday fly tying night. Thank you Doug you do a great job.

The changes we made to the constitution last year have worked and we have attracted 5 new members under 35 and 2 new ladies. We have 100 on the membership list including 8 life members 2 honorary members and 5 associates. The book is full and we have 3 on the waiting list. All goes well for the future. Chris Medwin has been instrumental in establishing a core of new young members.

All activities have been well attended this year and Ian Stokes has done a great job managing this side of the business. I would like to thank all the co-ordinators of our events and the helpers who together made these events so successful. A special thank you must go to Henry Edgell for making his farm and his fish available for an enjoyable weekend.

The monthly Monday meetings have been very well attended this year and thank you Jason Garret for organising speakers and to club members for their input. Tony Dell made a huge effort to compile a complete history of the club, in response to a request from Jason for a Monday chat.

It is pleasing to see the club doing more to promote fly tying. The tying days organised by Steve Butler have been successful. 10 willing learners have taken up Brian West's training day on fly tying for beginners. The course, is operating on a cost recovery basis, and will make a contribution towards the capital cost of the 10 sets of tying gear we now own. The Tiger Hut fly tying run by Cubby is a great forum for sharing skills among members as was the extension organised by Andrew Hood. Thanks to all the members contributing to these important activities.

David Hemmings, Tim Munro and Bruce Barker continued their efforts to improve our casting. With the prospect of more members with casting qualifications the club can do more in this area. We have invested in maintaining and improving our assets. Macca, with support from Delly, continues to do a great job maintaining and improving the lodges at Miena and Lake Sorell. Malcolm Crosse has made a major contribution with the installation of solar power at the Lake Sorell shack assisted by Macca and Ross Scrim.

It has been a privilege to be president of a great active club with so much knowledge and willingness to share. A willing committee has also made my task easy. Tim Lewis does a fantastic job as Secretary, as does Andrew Blackwood our treasurer. Thank you also to Andrew Hood for taking on the vice presidency and for organising the dinner.

With new club members and new committee members come new ideas not only to maintain this great, club but to make it better. I think the club is in good shape and I am happy to hand over the reins knowing it is in good hands for the future.

Thank you all

John Smith

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Editorial

It doesn't seem that long since the Autumn Vice came out but I am going off to the mainland for a 'grey nomad' adventure over the next two months. We will be traveling in our slide on camper and intend to explore some of the out of the way places along the east coast of Australia. Hopefully it will be a bit warmer than Tasmania!

This is a bit of a bumper issue with some really good articles. There are reports on the ever-popular Tiger Hut Weekend, the RSL Tying Day and two excellent

pieces from members Zuie Howard and Anna Bellette, which make for some very good reading.

As it is the off-season there is a bit of a focus on fly tying with ideas for patterns from The Tiger Hut and from an article by Mick Hall that Malcolm Crosse managed to appropriate for me to include in The Vice. Malcolm is certainly busy with his new book (www.abtfrevisited.com) and organising the World Championships. I wonder what he does in his spare time?

This edition comes out before the Annual Dinner, which I will unfortunately have to miss this year. I wish everyone well for this event and for the coming of the 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!

This time the award goes to... Anna Bellette for her wonderful report on her year since becoming a member of the Club. Well done Anna!

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



Tiger Hut 2016

The Tiger Hut Weekend is always a highlight of the year and this one was no exception. When Cubby put the call out for nominations for the 15 spaces he was inundated with requests and was fully subscribed in record time. As a result of this a number of 'regulars' offered to sit out so that other members could have a turn – a wonderful gesture that speaks very highly of the attitude of inclusiveness that enriches our club.



I think it was Andrew Hood who suggested booking the Tiger Hut for an extra couple of nights so that the 'older retired regulars' could come along for a more genteel couple of nights. This offer was eagerly accepted by about half a dozen members and the second shift arrived on the Sunday afternoon just as the wilder and ever so slightly younger weekend ones departed. Andrew offered to coordinate this part of the trip and I am told he did it wonderfully and that the Pinot in particular was incredible!



During the main part of the weekend there was the usual fantastic spread of food, wine and laughter but it was the fly tying that was the central theme. It is fascinating to watch such a talented and innovative group of tyers go about their business and it was impossible not to be inspired and impressed at the skills on display. I have decided to focus on a few of the flies tied with their recipes so that other can tie them and add them to their boxes.

The decision to document what Tony Dell was tying was a no-brainer as you can always learn something from watching him tie. Delly demonstrated tying a Tom Jones – John Lanchester's tie used as a stick caddis pattern.



Hook - B175 size 8-10-12

Tail – Possum

Wing - Olive wallaby – 2 wings

Body – Possum black or olive

Head - Fluoro green possum or uni yarn



The Duck – can be used as a wet or dry
 Hook – B170 12-14
 Barred Wood Duck Flank
 Body – Rabbit – Centre part of the pelt – darker with lot of guard hairs
 Tail – Brown feathers and sometime Claret Cock fibres – even Blue Goose Feather tail as a variation



Macca was off to Darwin in the very near future and was knocking out amazing looking Darwin Flies like there was no tomorrow. If the Barramundi didn't scoff them (unlikely) they would certainly have not looked on a Christmas tree!

Hook - SL 12S Gamakatsu Spirit river Dumbell eyes
 Tail – White Bucktail
 Wing – White Goat
 Lateral line – Thin Grizzle hackle
 Overwing – Yellow Goat
 Flash – Pearl Sparkle Flash
 Collar – Streamer Dubbing brush in Black
 Weed Guard 50lb Seagar optional

It will be of no surprise to anyone that watching Lyndon Cubbins tie flies is also a very worthwhile pastime. He seems to create things that just seem to scream 'bite me!' Cubby's Cat Fly or Yellow Body Fur Fly was similar to Bill Beck's Cat Fly with a couple of twists



Hook – B830 in 8
 Tail – Fluoro red – quite short

Body - Bright yellow chenille
 Rib – Spun Peacock herl and gold wire crisscrossed
 Wing – Zonker strip

Last year Steve Butler announced that he was only going to fish Bibios and nothing else – mainly to irritate Mark 'Aspro' Aspinall. He managed to be true to his word and apparently caught a very respectable number of fish. For his part, Aspro decided that the coming season was going to be the year of the Blob. These amazingly garish creations are apparently the go-to fly in English competition fishing and Aspro is the leading devotee who thinks everyone who is anyone will become a disciple of these flies in 2016/17. Bless you brother.



Aspro's Coral Blob
 English reservoir fly that has been in use for years. Tie it on as a top dropper and use it in Penstock with a Shrek and a damsel nymph. Mark Aspinall says they are dynamite.
 Hook – B175 10
 Thread – Coral
 Tail – Coral Marabou and 2 strands of coral crystal flash
 Body – Veniard FAP (Plush Fritz)
 Coral (pink, gold, red etc) bead head optional

The meals of course were amazing with Duck Pie, Pea and Ham soup, Home made relish, Ginger cake, magnificent roast pork and lamb, casseroles and the occasional glass of red ensuring that no one went hungry or wasted away as the mercury hit -5 outside.

Although he says that the trip is a real team effort special thanks must go to Cubby and his team for once again organising the weekend.

DM

Australia's Best Trout Flies Revisited

Through the generosity of some of Australia's recognised fly fishers and fly tyers I am pleased to announce the completely new **Australia's Best Trout Flies Revisited**.

This quality publication will be a presentation of thirty-four contributors and with the assistance of Rick Keam, Peter Whyte and Trevor Hawkins can be guaranteed of a 'truly good Aussie effort'.

MALCOLM CROSSE – COMPILER

Australia's Best Trout Flies Revisited is being produced to make available some of the in vogue fly patterns and worldwide angling experience of the contributors. This again will be an excellent and entertaining reference book.

A hard backed quality publication.

The easy readable format follows the popular layout of Australia's Best Trout Flies.



Pre-release sales are encouraged for mid October delivery

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.

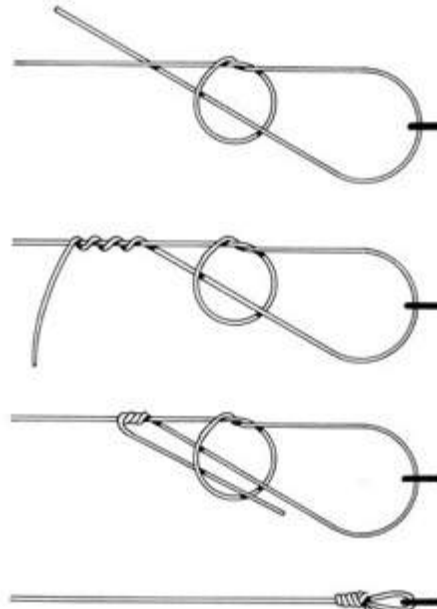
I found this after looking for instructions on how to tie on a Shaving Brush fly using a loop knot so that it would have a little more movement in the waves and came up with this. The web reference is

<https://thelimpcobra.com/2011/09/11/tying-the-lefty-loop-or-non-slip-loop/>

Also, if like me, you have difficulty following knot tying diagrams there is of course a natty little YouTube link that demonstrates it well too! <https://youtu.be/1PNuwrBN5b0>

DM

The Duncan Loop



I'm often asked which knots I use or recommend so the other night I pulled out some old mono and went through my repertoire to realize that there aren't that many, maybe four, and even if this particular knot isn't, most will be in one way or another based on the **Duncan Loop**.

This is a 'loop-knot' that doesn't tighten against the eye of the hook which allows the fly to swing freely in a more natural manner than if it was tight against the eye. Most often associated with streamers, this knot is equally at home with nymphs and even dries as the 'hinge' allows the flies to freely drift a bit better. Every little bit helps! The loop size doesn't really matter with big streamers and such but with smaller flies we'll try to get the smallest possible loop.

Created by Lefty Kreh, this knot is a much stronger and more reliable alternative to the popular Rapala knot.

Sorry, I can't give credit to this great diagram's author as I had pulled this from the net years ago to use as a personal reference without noting its source but a big thanks to whomever that may be! –

From – 'Limp Cobra'

A Season That Was

I have been asked on many occasions how long I have been fishing for, the answer - 5 years. The last season was really my first serious season. I have been fly tying for about 2 years now. I started tying by watching and following YouTube videos. I set myself a goal before the last fishing season began and that was to learn as much as I could by exposing myself to as many different fishing situations and to fish as much as I could. And to ask myself at the end "what had I learnt?"

Never ever in my wildest dreams did I think I would have accomplished so much in just one season. My journal is bulging with photos of rivers and lakes explored, insects discovered, fly boxes and flies and the many people who were kind enough to take me fishing and answer my persistent questions.

Almost every weekend I managed to go fishing, packing the car on the Thursday night so I could escape to the Highlands straight after work, not wanting to miss at thing. I remember making it to Miena, unpacked the car, and rushed to Penstock to fish before it became too dark. I did see fish but could not get close enough and stayed until dark to watch the magic sun set and hear the odd fish rise in the distance. I may not have come away this season with bags of fish, the fish I caught were a bonus as the places visited, experiences shared and friends I have made were really what made this such a great season.

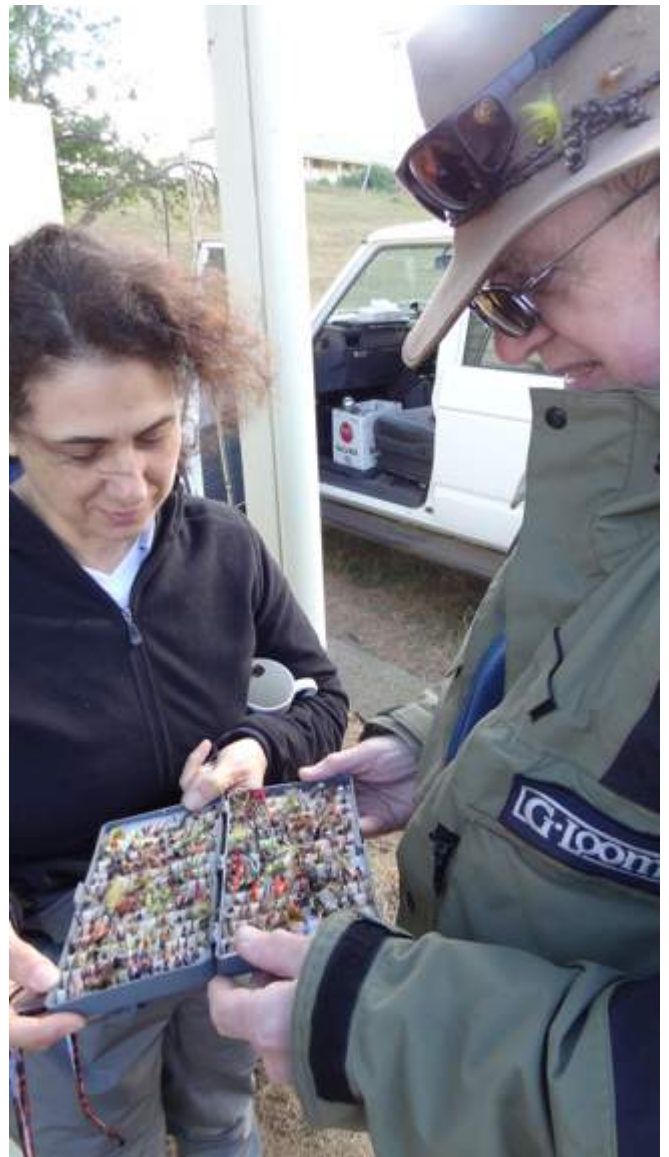
A highlight has definitely been becoming a member of this awesome club. Everyone has been so helpful and willing to share their knowledge, be it fly tying or fishing or simply encouraging me to keep going. Attending club events has assisted in getting to know members and given me the confidence to keep fishing. This is definitely a must for new members.

The Macquarie River trip in November organised by Craig Granquist was my first event attended. Daunted by the experienced anglers around me, I was determined to do my best and explore my surroundings. I headed off to Beverly property on the Sunday I finally spotting a feeding fish and by the guidance of Craig I managed to land my first and only trout for the weekend.



At

Miena with Nick Ingles



The Macquarie River trip



Fishing Great Lake with Tim Lewis



Andrew Hood with his catch on Little Pine

Other events I have attended have been the Little Pine fishing day with The Fly Fishers Club of Tasmania. Spending the day fishing with Lyndon Cubbins who gave me some invaluable fishing tips, we came away from the day with only one caught by Lyndon. After a full day of fishing on Little Pine, Heather and I headed off for an evening fish on the Shannon.

The Penstock weekend I received lessons in boat fishing from Malcolm Crosse and Noel Wilson and attended the long table dinner in the evening. It was an amazing weekend with great hospitality and a weekend I feel that was rich in tradition. Keen to fish Sunday morning, Noel patiently explained to me the differences of fishing sinking and floating lines. Even before we got in the boat he made me lay my rod on the table beside his and explained the differences with set up and how to fish Penstock. I did not get any fish that weekend, but boy I learnt so much. The most recent events attended being The Salmon Ponds casting and BBQ day and the Fly Tying day at the RSL which both have been amazing events.

I have also attended fly tying evenings with Tony Dell and have been learning how to tie traditional and modern patterns and how and when to use them. I can now say everything I see could be potential fly tying materials - A customer's earrings, a coat or scarf. On many occasions I wished I could just snip a piece off. Tony is another poor soul who has to put up with my 150 thousand questions.



Other places I managed to fish during the season were the Tongariro in Early December, a rewarding experience where Wayne and I had regular evening caddis rises and I learnt you could raise fish with large

dry fly patterns even during the day. Wader safety and taking care on such a large river was so different to the much smaller streams I had been fishing.

Fishing the Bundarra River at Anglers Rest, Victoria during Easter produced some beautiful river fish in low level waters. Stealth and presentation was the key. And when fish couldn't be seen, fishing a small Adams down a bubbly run produced a livery brown. The Murrurundi also produced some great fish, one very large brown that will haunt me for the rest of my day - An expensive lesson where I was too eager to strike. A few trips out to the Western Lakes, and many more trips to Penstock, the Tyenna, Meander and the Mersey showed me how varied and beautiful our fishing locations are in Tasmania.

In January I attended the Bronte Fly Fishing School as a returnee where I practiced my casting, re-evaluated the importance of knots, leaders and lines, and all aspects of fly-fishing. Key lessons learnt this season have been to slow down and observe, be patient, keep in constant contact with the fly. Boat fishing was a new experience with wind lane feeders and Loch Style technique learnt and the differences between casting from the boat and the shore. Smaller rivers also posed a new challenge, my casting had to be more precise, tighter, watching the back cast, which became more of a challenge than the larger more open spaces of lakes.

The season has kept me quite busy, and it's time to tie some flies while waiting for the next fishing season to hurry up and arrive. I still have so much to learn and am lucky to be part of such a great club. I am thankful to each and every one of you for your help and support over the past season. If someone had asked me 5 years ago what I would be doing in 5- 10 years, there would have been no way in the world I would have mentioned anything about fly fishing. So, now my journey begins.



Anna Bellette

Champagne on Tooms

After a great week with Tim Munro fishing Penstock, Tim offered to guide me on Tooms Lake- I've never fished it before. It was the Saturday of the penultimate weekend of the season. We were on the water around 10.30am. Tim took the boat south and gave me a fantastic drift between Wilsons Bay and the beginning of Neck Inlet. I fished 3 flies- Westy's Dabbler on top, an Olive Shrek on the middle dropper and a Black Shrek, red tinsel body with a Hanaks Orange bead head on point- (see photo below).



Five casts later and I'm on! I would like to spin a great yarn about fighting this beauty for an hour, but Doug said I have to keep this brief. The truth is he was in the boat after some superb net skills by Tim in about 10 minutes. But he did chew the crap out of the fly despite not putting up much of a fight.



When we got our first look at him we both let forth a series of four letter exclamations. He was my biggest trout ever - 7 lbs and 64cm. I've been dining out on the experience ever since! Two more 5 pounders were in the boat by stumps.

Finally, I would like to say that since I joined the Club my fishing has improved dramatically thanks to the magnanimous advice I've received from some terrific fishermen. It's been a truly great experience and my thanks go out to all concerned. Big special thanks must also go to Tim for his guiding during the last season - Great company and advice.

Zuie Howard

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.

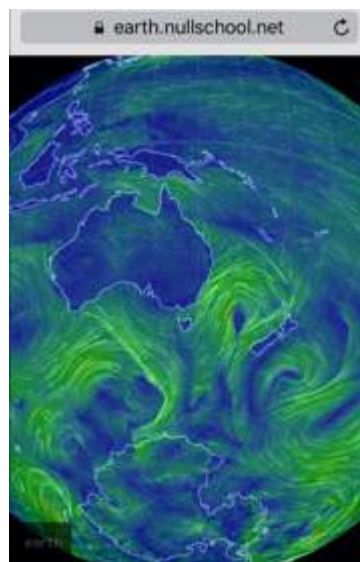
Two totally unrelated sites that really love are ones for Tasmanian Insects and an entrancing weather site called World Winds.



<https://sites.google.com/site/insectsoftasmania/home>

I am often amazed when I watch master tyers like the ones we have in our club as they add subtle touches to their flies that really make them seem to 'match the hatch' and I am always on the lookout for details about the creatures that I am trying to replicate. This site is really interesting and might well be of use to others. It shows really good colour pictures of lots of Tasmanian insects and might just provide inspiration for that special trigger point.

<http://earth.nullschool.net/>



World Winds is a weather site that gives some fantastic real time visuals of the winds all around the world. You can zoom in anywhere on Earth and see just what the winds are doing. It provides a fascinating big picture of the weather that affects our fishing and us. It amazed me to see the roaring 40s in action. It certainly explains why we need

the skills to cast accurately in winds!

DM

Fly Tying Day - Lenah Valley RSL

Saturday 25 June 2016



Once again Steve Butler managed to pull together a great day at the Lenah Valley RSL on a sunny Saturday in the depths of a Tasmanian winter. More than 30 intrepid tyers showcased their talents throughout the day and ideas were shared freely between people from four different clubs around Tasmania – Clarence

Anglers, Devonport Fly Tyers, Hobart Fly Tyers and of course us along with a number of invited guests.



The Lenah Valley RSL did a great job too. The venue was very warm on such a cold day and the room was the perfect size for our gathering. The gourmet burgers were a highlight for lunchtime and the tea and coffee was welcomed. Some even availed themselves of the bar facilities!



One of the many highlights of the day was when Dave from the Hobart Fly Tyers demonstrated how to tie his signature fly – an extended body grasshopper. This fly had a foam body fashioned on a darning needle and then strapped onto a wide-gape size 14 hook. With

the addition of a crystal flash underwing, an olive turkey overwing, bullet-head style deer’s hair for the head and orange-segmented rubber legs the fly that emerged was very well received indeed.



People generally arrived early and stayed for the full day whilst others called in for lunch or whenever they could. The atmosphere was very relaxed and there was a generosity of spirit that seems to be the hallmark of this event.

Thanks to Steve Butler and his team for their efforts in putting the day together and thanks to the Lenah Valley RSL for their ongoing support. I am already looking forward to next year’s event.



DM

Tasmania's Large Grey Dun

Mick Hall www.kossiedun.com.au



Tasmanophlebia Lacustris (female) Pic Mick Hall

'The Duns are on', is a common call around late November early December in the Highlands of Tasmania. The well known waters such as Arthurs, Penstock, Little Pine and others can see the boats drifting with the wind. The more boats on the water, the stronger the indication that the duns are coming off.

A typical scenario on Little Pine can see distant figures in the semi darkness of pre dawn, walking slowly along its shoreline.

All are looking for the tell-tale signs of feeding trout cruising around in the shallows. Occasionally there is the drone of a solitary tinny heading to the opposite shore. As the sun comes up that drone increases and it is not long before a dozen or so boats are drifting well out from the shoreline.

Tails of trout that are in close, and often portions of their backs, break the surface film. The common term for this activity is 'tailing'. They are feeding on numerous forms of insect life, the most common being Scud, Water Beetle, Stonefly nymphs and of course those mayfly nymphs.



Magical Sunrise on Little Pine Lagoon Tasmania
Pic Mick Hall



Chasing the early morning tailing trout on Little Pine Lagoon Tasmania. Pic Mick Hall

Typical of many of the highland lakes, Little Pine is shallow; often exposing the tops of weed beds and in many areas the tips of reed clumps can be seen for some distance out into the lake. One of the more common of the mayflies in this region is *Tasmanophlebia Lacustris* and it can emerge anytime from late November through to April. The nymphs of *T. lacustris* belong to what is loosely termed as swimmers, which is rare for still waters as this group normally prefers moving water but as with a lot of bugs, they are there because they want to be there and we have little say in that.



Tasmanophlebia lacustris, (Male Dun) Family Oniscigastridae, formerly classified as Siphonuridae.
Pic Mick Hall

The large Grey Dun was named by the great Australian entomologist R J Tillyard who first collected this species at Lake Lilla, near Cradle Mountain way back in 1917.

Tillyard tells us that the nymph of this mayfly is carnivorous which, if correct, is unusual to say the least. Modern scientific thinking tends towards the nymph favouring detritus (decomposing vegetable matter and algae). But then again you never know, it could be just as happy eating anything that takes its fancy. Another intriguing factor was that Tillyard also stated that there seemed to be more females than males and that in fact it was difficult to find males. I must admit that over the two days that I and my close friend, Alan Hoyle, spent looking for and photographing this mayfly, we had a tough time finding the males. Maybe we were lucky as we found some male spinners straight off but the duns were staying true to Tillyard's original thoughts and it was

not until late in the afternoon that they started to appear. And that may be the key to Tillyard's difficulty in finding the males.

Mayfly nymphs that are loosely classified as swimmers are part of an American explanation used in angling entomology that divides nymphs into four categories, being those that cling, those that swim, those that crawl and those that dig.

Of the four we only have two here in Australia, being swimmers and crawlers.

The clingers are fast water species. Some of the famous patterns are the Hendrix, whilst a common digging nymph is represented by the Green Drakes and in England/Europe *E.danica*, neither of which are in this country. The crawling variety tends to live in slower moving waters. A well known species of crawlers is the Lambda Dun or *A.australis* that throws our famous Red Spinner.

Swimmers normally have hairy filaments along their tails to assist in swimming. In fact these swimming nymphs can move quite rapidly when they want to, hence a possible cause for a charge and swirl from old speckles often seen along the edges of Little Pine.



Female Dun *T. lacustris* Pic Mick Hall



Male Spinner *T.lacustris* Pic Mick Hall



Female Spinner *T lacustris* Pic Mick Hall



Male lacustris Dun trying desperately to emerge from its nymphal form. Pic Mick Hall

The nymphs of the Large Grey Dun tend to prefer to crawl out to hatch rather than pop up through the surface film. However in saying that, if they want to come through the surface film they at times do so. Mostly they will climb up the stems of reeds to emerge from the nymphal shuck and drift away with the breeze, often giving the illusion they have just used the surface film to emerge. The key point here is that leading up to emergence they are very active moving around and in many instances become extremely vulnerable.

The area where we collected and photographed the Large Grey Duns and their spinners was around the old access point on the main wall of Little Pine. They were in fair numbers, clinging onto the reeds near the waterline. From early morning we found a few female duns and some spinners but as the day got older, more nymphs started to move in from off the weed beds further out. It was not until mid afternoon that we spotted our first male dun. I don't remember seeing any duns actually drifting in on the surface. The nymphs were simply doing as suggested, crawling up the reeds and emerging just above the water line. Ideally, in situations such as this, one would fish facing into the breeze and along the shore line or around weed beds etc.



The Main Wall at Little Pine Lagoon Tasmania Pic Mick Hall

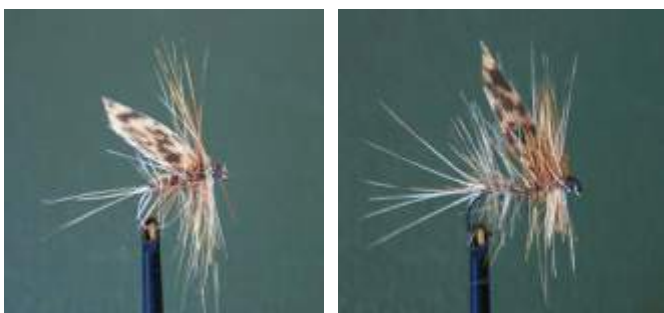
Over the years I have heard this species being referred to by a number of generic names; Highland Dun (Noel Jetson) and Peck's Dun (Charles Peck).

The generic name given to the spinner of this species, "The Highland Spinner", was named by David Scholes. Some of the early patterns used to represent this species according to David were the March Brown, Brown Quill or even a Hardy's Favourite

In the booklet on Tasmanian flies, entitled Tasmanian Trout fly Patterns by Max Stokes 1978 published by The Tasmanian Fly tyers Club Hobart. The author states that and I quote:

A surprising fact I have discovered during my research is that there appear to be only three patterns commercially available to represent the "Highland Dun", usually incorrectly referred to as the "March Brown" an English mayfly. Two of these, "Peck's Dun" and the "Highland Dun" are available in the Launceston area only and the other, the 'Pine Dun' on the North West Coast. Many amateur tyers have their own patterns while a great number of non-tyers seem to favour one or several of the following English patterns, "Hardies Favourite, Furnace Brown, the March Brown' or the Victorian fly "Lyne's Fancy. Unquote.

Whilst in Tasmania I was fortunately enough to meet Charles Peck the originator of the legionary "Pecks Dun" Naturally we talked about his dun that had set standards for others to follow for nearly fifty years. He actually designed two versions one darker than the other. Although both used Oak Turkey secondary wing fibres for the wings on this pattern they simply varied in the colour that is used. Charles kindly tied a sample of both for me to keep as a reference.



*A) Peck's Dun Light Tied by Charles Peck Pic Mick Hall
B) Peck's Dun Dark tied by Charles Peck. Pic Mick Hall*

The Patterns are as follows:

Peck's Dun Tied by Charles Peck first designed early 1960's

Hook: Mustad R50

Size 12 -10

Tail: Three Dark Chocolate Cock hackle fibres

Ribbing & Body: Brown tying thread

Body Hackle: Small brown cock hackle for the darker version and grizzle for the lighter

Wings: Rolled Oak Turkey tied long and trimmed to suit

Hackles: Dark Chocolate and Grizzle blended and trimmed under to sit low in the surface film

Charles was telling me that he preferred to use the lighter version on bright sunlit days and he feels that trimming the hackle underneath helps the fly sit lower in the surface film. Some tyers also believe that trimming a hackle also helps with floatation.

In a note from Charles he wrote that David Scholes suggested to him on the subject that the colour variations that it may be the difference between the males and females as they seem to hatch out at different times. Either way it was a great observation of Charles.

In his letter Charles explains a little about the origins and the success of his now famous pattern and the story is:

I started with smaller palmer styled wingless patterns tied with two hackles, a dark chocolate and a black, tied simultaneously, dull sides together. Then a dark brown and a barred rock (grizzle grey). These seemed to work better but the wing was absent. After several tried I came up with a piece of turkey secondary wing feather folded and tied in like a wing on a wet March Brown and clipped to a shape like that of the natural. I had to make the fly more buoyant and achieved this with a very small hackle at the rear on the bare silk base (no body) and shaping the wing to the natural appearance and reducing the amount of front hackle. I called it my Highland Dun, even though it worked equally well on the rivers in smaller sizes when the mayflies were hatching.

By the early 1970s it was a very successful pattern but restricted to a handful of my friends in the Fly Fisher's Club of Tasmania. I was not a commercial tyer.

It gained more popularity when I gave a few to Reg Clayton when he was fishing with me on the Macquarie at Stewarton. Reg's own traditional flies were not working whilst I had almost bagged out by lunchtime. He soon started taking fish and finished well passing on some of the flies to David Scholes who wrote an article referring to the pattern in the Australian Angler, March 1974 and calling the fly "Peck's Dun".

Noel Jetson also was asked to tie some copies by Don Gilmour to whom I had given several following a similar experience on Little Pine when I had a limit while Don was struggling to get a take. I happened to call into Noel's shop at Cressy a few days later where Noel had a tray full for sale on his counter of "Highland Duns" – his copy of one of my prototype flies ex Don Gilmour with a fine copper rib instead of the brown tying silk I used and slightly heavier hackles; the only differences. Unquote.

The Highland Dun from the vice of Noel Jetson is also extremely popular and is available in a number of tackle stores around Australia. It should be noted that Noel openly states that his pattern is just a variant of the Pecks Dun as is mentioned in Max Stokes Tasmanian Trout fly Patterns.



Highland as adapted by Noel Jetson and tied by Mick Hall Pic Mick Hall

The pattern is as follows

The Highland Dun

Hook size: 12- 10 Mustad R50

Tail: A small bunch of Red brown cock hackles fibres

Ribbing: Bronze Wire

Body: Brown tying thread.

Body Hackle: Small Red Brown Cock Hackle.

Wings: Speckled Hen quill tied to slightly slope back over body.

Hackle: Red Brown and Grizzle blended.

This pattern although darker than Charles Peck's is also a favourite when the Penstock Brown is coming off (*Atalophlebia superb*) up in the highland lakes

I often say to my friends that one should get to know a little about the habits of the insects that attract the attention of old speckles. The more you can understand those every day habits, the better understanding you will have in fishing your flies and most importantly, you will get an enhanced view on how you should tie your flies.



Pre-Emerger *T. lacustris* as designed and tied by Mick Hall Pic Mick Hall

The Pattern is as follows:

Hook: Partridge K14ST Oliver Edwards

Nymph/emergent

Size: 14

Thread: Chocolate Brown 8/0

Tail: Dark Brown cock hackle fibres

Body: Chocolate Brown Wool or Spirit River Fine and Dry Chocolate brown dubbing

Ribbing: Five turns of stripped peacock herl

Thorax: Black Foam



Reversed Emerging Large Grey Dun as designed and tied by Mick Hall Pic Mick Hall

The Pattern is as follows:

Hook: Partridge K14ST Nymph/emergent

Size: 14

Tail: Dark Brown cock hackle fibres

Shuck Residue: Spirit River Mottled Nymph Blend

Body: Stripped peacock herl

Thorax: Spirit River Mottled Nymph Blend

Post: Enrico Puglisi Lt March Brown

Hackle: Whiting Farms Dark Dun tied parachute fashion and tied off on the post.



*Highland Spinner as tied and developed by Mick Hall
Pic Mick Hall*



The pattern for the Mick's Highland Spinner is as follows.

Hook: Mustad R50

Size: 12 -10

Thread 10/0 Brown

Tail: A small bunch of Light Pardo Coq de Leon Hackle fibres.

Body: Stripped peacock herl

Wing case: Dyed dark brown Goose Biot

Wings: Cream Enrico Puglisi Trigger point winging material tied on figure of eight. And stain the for edge with a brown marking pen.

Mick Hall

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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For payments to the club

BSB: 807 007

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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>