



# The Vice



**Newsletter of the Tasmanian Fly Tyers' Club Inc.**

**Volume 14, Issue 3 Winter 2017**

**Inside: Bamboo Rods, Tim Urbanc's Penstock Tips, RSL Fly Tying Day and much more...**

*Cover shot – Fly Tyer, Life member and Legend Ron Ruthven in Action at the RSL Tying Day 2017*

## President's Report

A grey and wintery Sunday afternoon ... much more conducive to fly-tying than fishing!

And that's exactly what was going on when I poked my nose in to the beginners' fly tying class being run by Brian West and ably supported by several club stalwarts at the LVRSL. The beginners included the to-be-expected "middle aged" blokes, but it was great to meet two ladies who were really enjoying the class and are interested in fast-track female membership, and a thirteen year old super-enthusiast who had been given the class as a birthday present from his aunt. An excellent activity – many thanks to all involved.

As might be expected, our recent activities have all been non-fishing in nature. Both Tiger Hut fly-tying sessions organised by Lyndon Cubbins were very well intended with much tying, demonstrating, learning and replenishment of fly boxes being achieved, not to mention some great meals and conviviality.

A few weeks later, your humble president conducted a wine appreciation weekend at Malcolm Crosse's shack at Penstock. Again, a good time seemed to be had by all, and the only bottles that came home were empty. With their contributions at both Liaweenie and Penstock, I think that Ashley Artis and Steve Butler have now firmly established themselves as official club banquet chefs.

The remaining recent event was the members' fly-tying day at the Lenah Valley RSL on 1<sup>st</sup> July. Again, by all accounts, this was a very well attended and successful event. Thanks to Steve Butler.

In addition to these programmed activities, a lot of work has been going on to upgrade and improve the Mienna shack. This has included significant electrical and lighting upgrading, rebuilding of the honeymoon suite including purchase of a new double bed, and major internal repainting. Many thanks, particularly to Messrs. McCullagh, Dell, Cubbins, Smith, Stokes and others who have also been involved. Special appreciation must also go to Helen McCullagh who has undertaken a spring-clean of the kitchen, even to the extent of scraping years of accumulated gunk from the oven! This goes way beyond the call of duty.

The two major club events in the near future are the Annual Dinner on 29<sup>th</sup> July and the AGM on 21<sup>st</sup> August. I would strongly encourage nominations for club committee and office holder positions. This sort of involvement is a great way to get to know other

members and to become more closely involved in club activities.

Recently I had cause to reflect on the many positive features of our club. I am involved with another (non-fishing) organisation which is trying very hard to increase its numbers and member involvement. Their view was that most clubs these days are facing similar problems, so they were amazed to hear that we have such high levels of commitment and participation in our club. It is perhaps hard to identify the causes of this, other than by the obvious contribution of many of our members to the organisation of a wide range of club activities and events at a level that attract very high member participation. The camaraderie that these help to foster is also another obvious factor.

What ever it is – Keep it up, and tight lines to all for the coming season!

**Andrew Hood**

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## Editorial

I am putting together the final bits of the Winter Vice sobered by the knowledge that once again I managed to miss the Annual Dinner and, from the correspondence I have received it appears that it was a great success. I gather that the food was great, the room looked great with Laurie and Grace excelling yet again and the words of Brad Harris went down very



well! My chagrin at missing the event is tempered by the fact that I am writing this from Airlie Beach where the daytime temperature hovers around 26 degrees!

This edition has some nice bits in it. The story of Mark Rampant's exploits with his bamboo rod in the wilds of Western Australia is worthy of publication in one of the mainstream fishing publications. On that subject I was lucky enough to pick up a copy of an extremely difficult to get Freshwater Fishing with a brilliant article about Anna Bellette! I managed to get the last one in Yeppoon!

Tim Urbanc's tips on how to catch fish in Penstock throughout the year are well worth reading and will definitely guide my fly selection on this amazing little water. Hopefully other lakes will start to pick up some of the strain on Penstock (Maybe Tooms or Arthurs?) during the year.

Once again Lyndon Cubbins and Andrew Hood combined to put together another wonderful weekend up at the Tiger Hut. I went to the seniors' version and loved it! We are very well off with such great activities going on in this club!

The RSL Tying Day went off very well and Stephen Butler has again done a great job coordinating this

and writing it up as well. The support of the RSL in this and in providing a venue for our monthly meetings is much appreciated.

I will again miss the opening weekend of the season and also all of August as my road trip up the East Coast of Oz doesn't see me back in the home of real fishing until early September. So, to everyone who is itching to get back out into the wilds in an attempt to fool Mr Speckles with bit a fur and feather, best of luck and tight lines!

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... Mark Rampant for his magnificent description of his trip up the WA coast fishing for enormous piscatorial targets.*

*Well done Mark!*

Have a go  
Simply send your entry to Doug Miller  
[55dmiller@gmail.com](mailto:55dmiller@gmail.com)

**For People looking for a once in a lifetime opportunity check out Bryn Carmen's Lake Samuel property which is now on the market!**

**FOR SALE**

Lot 14 "LAKE SAMUEL" Tasmania 7,095m<sup>2</sup> with 100m lake frontage



**BONUS**— established lodge, 3 bedroom, large lounge/dining, double garage (boat/trailer), fully furnished.

**Price from \$310,000**  
All Enquiries to Reg Ransom  
Ph. 0418 917 661

Lake Samuel is a Private Fishery with only 14 Lots, restricted to Fly Fishing only, 2 rods per lot! Only 2 hours drive from Hobart or Launceston, on the London Lakes property in the heart of Tasmania.





## A Bamboo Tool

Back in October 2013 I did a piece on making a bamboo rod form; a tool to make bamboo rods. The project was a measured success as I have produced a few bamboo rods of varying weights and lengths to suit the trout fishing in Tasmania. I was working on the next bamboo project, which was a bamboo spey rod, when things took a sudden curve into the unknown. Around mid-March this year, after a discussion with my wife, it was decided to head over to WA for my daughters 25th birthday. I knew that a few guys from Perth were heading up to Exmouth for ten days fishing around the beginning of May; this clinched the deal for me!

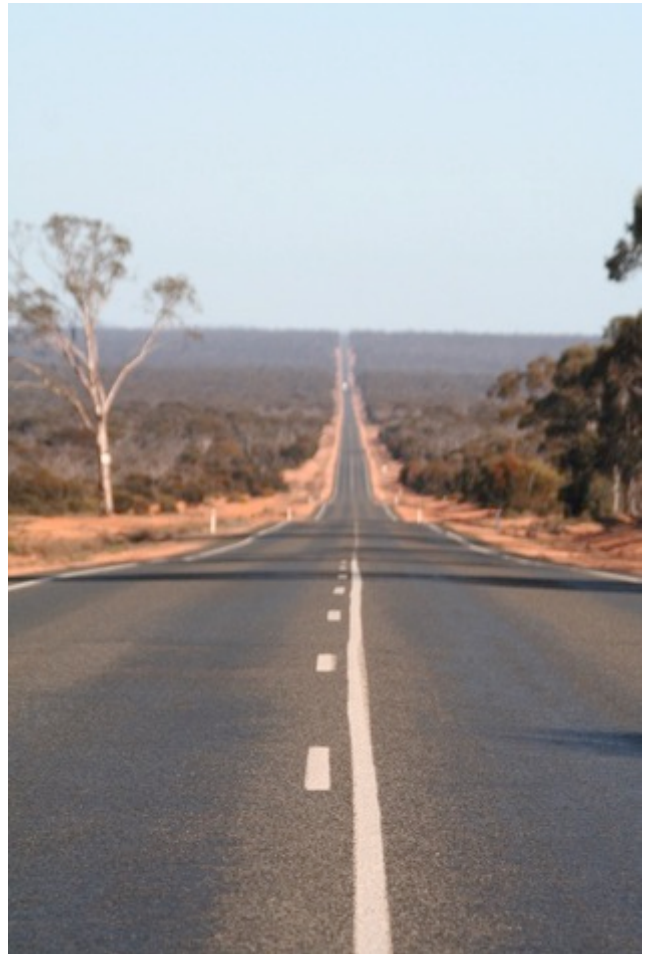


My brain started to hum with the possibility of building a heavy salt-water rod from bamboo; the spey rod pieces were put to one side and a tool was being conceived. I have never seen a bamboo rod heavier than a 10 weight and I had planned to have something heavier than this. I looked into the tapers of some ten weights and brought together an idea of a taper for an 11 weight, which was definitely a prototype for fishing for something bigger than trout! Being an 11wt this wasn't too much of a stretch from some existing rods; I beefed up the numbers a bit as well as planning on scarfed ferrules, so this was not anything close to the rods I had previously made - The butt end of the finished rod was close to 12mm round and solid bamboo, this could have been used as a priest for trout!



Once I had decided on a taper I found the appropriate size bamboo and went to work putting shavings on

the floor. Ten days later I took a rod down to the park with a couple of different lines to see how this beast would flex, with some surprise a 11 DT line was easily casting around 20-22 meters, this was acceptable. A couple more days later and I had a finished fly rod to do battle with.



By Mid-April we were in Perth and a couple of days after my daughter had her birthday and I'm setting out on a 15 hour ride north with a bag full of fishing gear looking forward to sun, sea, and fish.





The forecast for the next two weeks was light winds and good tides; it couldn't get better. On the first day on the water I was with two other guys in a boat and we were watching baitfish getting a thrashing right against the shoreline. We were soon hooking into smaller GT's and Queen fish, because of the smaller fish I was using an 8-weight graphite rod designed for fresh water. We were chasing the baitfish the GT's started at around 450mm and soon the bigger guys were coming in on the action and I hooked up on a GT that was around 600-650mm which wasn't anything to be alarmed about until the butt of the 8wt graphite rod exploded! It appeared that the GT was suddenly excited when the guys in grey showed up looking for a free feed! The 8wt was going to be my 'go to' rod until the big guys were the targets, so for the rest of the trip it was going to be 10wt and the bamboo.



The next day we came across a school of long tail tuna and the first cast with the bamboo resulted in a hookup! I had adrenaline coursing through my brain when I looked down and saw the excess line was wrapped around the electric motor; trying to hold the tuna from taking off while kicking the line loose I came to a sudden crash when the line went slack as I found that a shark had taken the tuna and bitten the line neatly above the fly.

The following couple of days we were chasing small



Queen fish as well as Golden Trevally with a few other species getting attached to us as well. During a trip into the Gulf the weather was not what the weatherman said it was going to be; and there was a lot of chop as a result of a slip I ended up with a lot of pain in my neck and left shoulder. I took it easy and was only casting when the chances of catching were high.

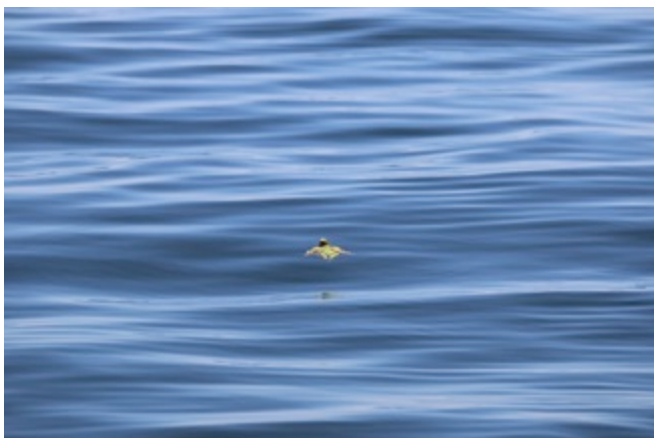
On one of the days out past the reef we were looking for large Golden Trevally that were hanging around the weed mats. Some of the other guys in the group had picked up some that were around 750mm with the largest landed being 960mm; there were a lot that were not able to be subdued and a lot of flies lost.



While sitting stationary looking for some action a small whale shark of about 3.5m cruised up to the boat and continued to circle us for about 20 minutes while we got some photos. At times, the whale shark was within arms distance from the boat. This was definitely the highlight of the day. During the time out on the water there were plenty of creatures that were entertaining. Lots of turtles a few sea snakes and manta rays; a couple would at times breach completely out of the water, this was impressive considering their 3-4m wingspan.



The most unusual sight was on the last day. We were targeting large Queen fish when a budgie flew around the boat for a couple of minutes; we were about 3km from shore. Unfortunately for the budgie it collapsed in the water and drowned; I half expected it to be engulfed by a shark!



The spot we had picked for the last day was looking promising as we had seen some manta rays breaching, and when we got to the area the sounder



showed some structure as well as large amount of baitfish and larger fish. The first cast was with the bamboo and straight away I had two queen fish follow the fly up to the boat. The other guy in the boat put a 8/0 foam popper on and cast out 25m. Stripping in brought up a 3m bronze whaler, which chased down the popper from 20 metres right up to when he lifted the fly out of the water. This made me jump back as it looked like it wanted to follow it into the boat!



It looked like we might have some issues with these grey guys, so a decision was made that when someone hooked up we would let it free spool and



then give chase with the boat until we were far enough from the area and bring in the fish then. A couple of minutes later I hooked up with a good size Queen fish it took off and, with all the ensuing playing around, it ended up breaking the tippet due to a bad knot. I re-tied and again got a hook-up. This time the knots hoed and, after the second jump the fly came loose. At this point I was feeling like my mojo was slipping away, this was the last day and the bamboo had been bent but was still not successful in landing anything. Again I cast, again a hookup, this time everything came together and after a few minutes of chasing and struggle the Queen fish was tailed and brought in. It measured 953mm!



I was elated!

**Mark Rampant**

## 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.*

As far as tips and tricks go I don't think you can go past Ashley Artis' advice on how to tie his generic midge pattern which he demonstrated at the Tiger Hut this year.

### **Ashley's Generic Midge Pattern**

Hook: Kamasan B100 or Hanak H500BL

Thread: Black

Body: UV2 Fine and dry black by Spirit River

Rib: Mirror flash

Hackle: Black hen

Head: Fire orange thread

Notes:

Hangs just sub surface – fishes well to midge feeders.





## Images of the Penstock Wine Weekend

I heard it was good but I didn't get to go so... Pictures are worth at least 500 words... at a stretch!



Thanks to Mark Quinane for the pics!



## 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 regular section of *The Vice* the focus will be on some interesting flies, tyers and techniques. If you have any favourites that you think should be shared with our members please send them in.

DM

I found this simple woolly bugger pattern by Jim Misiura on Pinterest and thought it might be an ideal early season Arthurs Lake fly. He says 'The Red Ass on this woolly bugger gives it a triggering colour. Along with Krystal flash and a bead head to get it to the bottom.'



I would enjoy tossing it in towards the rocky shores of Arthurs Lake, particularly around the islands in the middle of the lake, and particularly to the trout that lurk behind the kerosene bushes. I imagine I would tie it in a range of sizes from 8 through to 14 both weighted and unweighted, depending on the line. It would doubtless work well in a team of 3 too! I hope it works for you!

### YouTube Link

[https://i.ytimg.com/vi/isfsFsC5pAQ/hqdefault.jpg?sqp=-oaymwEXCPYBEIoBSFryq4qpAwkIARUAAIhCGAE=&rs=AO4CLBW H293EAIvN3\\_-Sog1kFmYqKge2g](https://i.ytimg.com/vi/isfsFsC5pAQ/hqdefault.jpg?sqp=-oaymwEXCPYBEIoBSFryq4qpAwkIARUAAIhCGAE=&rs=AO4CLBW H293EAIvN3_-Sog1kFmYqKge2g)

## Fly Tying Day Lenah Valley RSL July 1

You are on a continuous learning curve when fly-tying and you can never know every fly.



Even though it was a very cold morning start at the Lenah Valley RSL it was great to see so many fly-tyers coming together in one room representing fly-tying clubs from Devonport, Clarence, Kingborough, Hobart



and our own Tasmanian Fly-Tyers club.

I had decided that I would pack only the materials required to tie one type of fly for the fly-tying day but for some reason I found myself up early packing all



manner of boxes of gear into the car. You can never have enough Fly Tying gear and that is another benefit of the day you get to snoop around others' boxes to check out what you're missing...

During the day some 30 odd tyers put bobbins in hand and rotated thread around the hook grasping fur, feather, and all assortment of beads tinsel and synthetics to produce the fly to fool the trout in the next season.

From Laurie Matcham's artistry to the simple caddis they were tied and discussed with passion. I found



myself wandering between tables to just sit watch and listen.

Macca came up to me at one stage and said, "I've done very little tying today but it's been great just talking about fly tying". Yes Macca conversations on patterns, materials and thoughts on the upcoming season let us get away from the trials of the outside world and isn't it great !!!

Ben the chef served up a great roast for lunch and both he and his staff took time out to watch as the latest creations came off the vices.



To see young Ben so impressed that he has signed up to our fly tying class to learn, and to see Ron Ruthven coaxed to the chair to show us his secret Penstock pattern, it was a good day.

You are always learning when fly-tying and you never know when you will find that next best fly.

Thanks to all that participated, and helped out during the day. See you next year.

**Stephen Butler**



## Tiger Hut 2017 – ‘Old Timers Session’

The Tiger Hut weekend has become so popular that it has been extended to accommodate a second group of tyers. The concept was the brainchild of President Hood and was intended to free up spots on the weekend for the members who have work commitments and have a second session from Sunday through national Tuesday for those in glorious retirement. Both sessions were fully subscribed and by all accounts were a great success. I thought I'd check out the second group this year as I am very



happily retired.

As usual the Tiger Hut was warm as toast when I arrived, just in time for lunch of venison sausages and fried onions served by John Spencer who seems to magically appear whenever a barbecue is turned on. Fine food forms a major part of this trip and this was a good start!



The rooms were set up with tying tables and people were totally engrossed in tying flies of all description. The general feel of the weekend is of sharing, learning, laughing and anticipating how well your new creations will work.



The flies of choice seem to revolve around multiple Shrek like creations in a wide range of sizes and colour combinations. The difference between a Shrek and a wooly bugger was discussed but not firm or fast agreement was reached. The other flies to have made an impact were Ashley's generic midge pattern and a range of damsel nymphs that could have been included in the Shrek/Bugger discussion.

The evening meal consisted of a wonderful range of casseroles and red wines supplied by the new arrivals. The conversation was wide ranging but always seemed to return to tales of Lake Sorell in its heyday.



One of the surprising things about the tying on the Monday were how keen people were to get stuck into tying. Brian McCullagh seemed to have tied a dozen immaculate flies before breakfast! The whole place was in full swing by 8.00am and continued until lunchtime, which included some wonderful pumpkin soup and frighteningly hot party pies.

After another few hours of tying a group of intrepid souls set off for a bit of a stroll over to the Liaweenie canal. The previous weekend was the Trout Expo and the settling ponds contained a good head of trout.

One member was forward thinking enough to have brought along a few slices of bread and we amused ourselves greatly by feeding these fish and watching them rise to the offerings. Roll on next season!



Whilst we were out Ashley Artis was busily preparing his wonderful stainless steel gas powered spit barbecue and loading with pork and lamb for the much-anticipated evening meal. Potatoes done in Macca's special style were prepared and the special apricot pies were put in the oven. As always the evening meal was a triumph.



The final morning was not quite as productive but was nonetheless convivial as planning for the coming season and discussion of possible and upcoming club



events ensued.

This wonderful trip was coordinated brilliantly by Lyndon Cubbins and Andrew Hood and continues to be one of the marquee events on the club calendar. If you haven't managed to get to one try and make it next year – you won't regret it!

### Macca's BM Special

This recipe is one I wouldn't recommend.

1. Leave BMW remote in pocket
2. Ensure car is parked just outside
3. Unwittingly touch the button
4. Windows and sunroof open automatically
5. Apply 35mm of rain overnight

The result is not a pretty sight!

(Photo not included to protect feelings)

### Penstock Tips from Tim Urbanc

What Tim Urbanc doesn't know about fishing Penstock Lagoon is not worth knowing. His tough days on the water yield at least ten fish and good days can see huge numbers hooked and safely returned! I cornered him at the Tiger Hut during the club fly tying weekend and got some tips on teams of three flies that he uses during the year at Penstock.

#### Early season August, September and into October (depending on temperature)

The fish are down deep and the margins are too cold for any aquatic life to be moving.

The fish are hungry though so the bigger flies are better

Sinking lines to get the flies down

The Sweep line works really well but put the weighted fly on the bob not the point. This makes the flies swim at varying depths and with exaggerated movement.



Top: Shrek red bead  
 Middle: Black and peacock wooly bugger  
 Point: Magoo



Any combination of these are good. Most takes are on the top and the point. another alternative is to include a Humungous in gold and black but in Penstock the fish seem to prefer green. If no success try the black brown or red flies to illicit a take.

Shreks with long tails in green and a little bit of red flash in the head works well.

#### **October/November**

Things start warming up so use smaller flies. They also start moving higher in the water column.



Top: Stick caddis  
 Middle: Black or brown nymph  
 Point: Wooly bugger, Shrek etc. – I tie these still reasonably large but slimmer.  
 I would be starting to experiment with intermediate, ghost tips or even floating lines as the fish are starting to work higher in the water column.

#### **December, January and February**

Fish are starting to rise to emergers and dries. If they are showing it is best to fish a team of nymphs and small wooly worms.

Top: small nymph like Becks Crystal nymph  
 Middle: lightly weighted nymph  
 Point: Tungsten beaded nymph or wooly bugger

This is usually fished on a floating line and fished slowly with short strips.



February tends to be one of the toughest months, as fish seem to be feeding on really small things so you need to downsize to size 14 and 16 nymphs.

If fish are rising of course look to match the hatch in terms of size. Don't go bigger than what is on the water though!

#### **March, April and May**

The flies should still be smallish but start to increase in size.



Top: Stick Caddis 12  
 Middle: nymph or 'shredded Shrek'  
 Point: Shrek, Humungous or Wooly Bugger in varying sizes.

A Shredded Shrek is a size 12 or 14 Shrek with a short clipped tail.

Please note that these photos were taken very badly by me on my phone so please don't blame Tim for them. Actually – don't blame me either!

**DM**

## 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>

DM

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## 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](mailto: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>