



The Vice



Newsletter of the Tasmanian Fly Tyers' Club Inc.

Volume12 , Issue Autumn 2015

Inside: *Burbury, Echo, Dee, Boats, John Fowler Trophy and much more...*

Cover shot – Casting Day 2015 Bruce and Albert in action

President's Report

As I write this the season is just about done and so am I. Time to think about some committee service to brighten your life and help to invigorate the club!

I think the season has been a bit tough although there have been some remarkable catches and enjoyable days.

Club activities have gone very well and I think that numbers have been up for most events. The trip to Henry Edgell's farm dams was a new highlight, which I hope we can repeat. As usual the Penstock weekend with the Northern club went well.

The field trips from Miena and Sorrel lodges were well supported, as was the Macquarie trip. Trips to the Dee, Lake Burbury, a stroll in the Western lakes and Lake Echo help members to experience new waters. Thank you Stokesy for overall coordination and to all the organisers.

Off-season activity is looking good with the casting day well supported and Tiger Hut Tying Weekend filling up fast. Planning for the combined club tie in is well under way. All in all I would say we are an active club and I am not sure what else we could fit in, a golf day perhaps?

We have not been so successful in attracting new young members. The committee has proposed a few changes to the constitution that might make us more welcoming to the young. We have waived the entry fee for the under 30s and we are proposing to make 10 spots available for young and female members despite the membership cap. However I don't think it is going to be easy to attract new members until we can get some training program's going on fly tying and fly fishing.

Over a dozen members have volunteered to assist Inland fisheries move fish from Arthur's lake to other waters. Four thousand are destined for Penstock. "Thank you Volunteers" and thanks to 'Crossey' for managing the operation our end. Good to see our club helping others.

Time now for some fly tying - perhaps a weekend at the lodge by the fire thinking about a bit of committee service! Take the vice with you. Doug has done a great job with a publication that would make any fly tying group proud.

Time for me to retire now - it's past midnight.

John S

President.

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Waterfall Lake Burbury

Editorial

The Autumn Vice is a bit of a bumper edition. I guess this is because there have been a lot of things happening in the club generally. It is good to look back over the last few months of fishing and reflect on why fly-fishing is such an amazing sport that takes you to some of the most wonderful places our island state can offer.

For my part I have been on the Echo weekend, a wonderful trip to Burbury, a short but successful sojourn to Huntsman Lake and spent a wonderful day at The Salmon Ponds for the Annual Casting Day. In a reversal of my previous form I actually scored some points in both sections of the competition – a massive change from previous days!

There is a report from Tony Abel on our trip to Lake Burbury and the shack he managed to find courtesy of Ashley Artis in the surreal little township of Gormanston. Burbury is a magical lake with some many areas to explore. I hope this trip becomes a regular feature of the season. If you are lucky enough to strike some wind lane action then you are ensured of a brilliant fly fishing experience!

I also spent a wonderful day fishing with the legendary Nick Ingles as part of the John Fowler Fishing in Friendship Trophy. It was a wonderful day and an experience that probably wouldn't have happened if it weren't for this great initiative.

I didn't get to the Penstock weekend as I was walking in to Lake Halkyard as reported in the Summer Vice. It sounds like it was a brilliant weekend as usual – particularly with the interaction with the northern club. This type of event helps expand our horizons and meet other like-minded people – brilliant!



The Dee Lagoon trip that Dave Choate continues to offer was again a great weekend. If there is anything

that Dave does not know about the Dee then it can't be very important! The fishing was mediocre on this weekend due to the ordinary weather. The company though was first rate and I encourage every member to support this weekend, as it is brilliant!

Finally, as the season draws to a close with only rainbow waters open alongside the all-year round waters, I should mention that I called in to the Craigborne Dam on my way back from a trip to Devonport. It was a still and sunny day and there were fish rising to midges. I didn't fish – preferring a cup of tea – but witness the two people fishing pull in 2 lovely rainbows in the half hour I was there. It might be an interesting prospect on some of our still autumn afternoons...

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 Quinane for his report on the mental machinations involved in buying a new boat.

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

Burbury March 2015 - The Black Bunnies of Gormanston and other Tales

The obvious focus of a fishing tale is fish, in some form or other. In this instance, the form is primarily fish viewed from a distance, fish refusing flies, fish swimming happily about blithely disregarding grown men in expensive boats waving equally expensive lightning conductors around in the rain and swearing a lot. The fish know what's good for them; one wonders about the latter...



In sum, the weather gods were on holiday for the last week of March, after the long-range forecasts had promised so much. The problem was a pair of cyclones, north-west WA and north Queensland, scrambling predicted stability. The sun shone on Sunday afternoon when we arrived. It shone again on Saturday afternoon, when we left. It was missing in action in between. In its place we had a lot of mizzle, cool air, not a lot of wind, little fly life – the photos tell the tale.



The wind lanes weren't strongly formed and

there wasn't much in those that were – very few midge. There were some fish much of the time, but in the absence of lanes to organise them, they were all over the place, generally moving pretty fast. Those we got were all rainbows in excellent condition, up to a kilo plus.



The shack where we stayed (pictured) has an extended log book, which indicates a lot of fish in recent years, most between 1 – 3 ½ lbs, nearly all 'bows. One entry I enjoyed was from a couple of years ago: 'no fish for 4 days – weather awful, didn't fish; 135 for the next 2'. Less enjoyable were entries from the few weeks before we were there – 40, 50, 60 fish sort of thing. So much for the weather!

How do black rabbits get into this? Well, some artful sleuthing via Chris Medwin and Ashley Artis (and many thanks to both) unearthed a shack at Gormanston owned by the Donoghue family from the northwest coast. The shack is very old-fashioned, a family shack – it has sort-of evolved, grown like Topsy over time, but really well set up, comfortable and warm and it was a privilege and pleasure to be able to access it. Gormanston is quite eerie, in many respects – lots of roads, few remaining houses, many derelict, but street lights, power, excellent IT coverage and articulated water. A car passes every 12 hours or so – sometimes. The shack has, not a wallaby lawn, but a rabbit lawn – neat as a bowling green. Whenever we got back to the shack, and whenever it was quiet, there were dozens of rabbits around the shack, mainly black, but also strange colours like apricot and cream, as well as a few wallabies. There must have been a lot of

escaped pet rabbits at some point. We settled for peaceful coexistence, but it was a serious challenge to fly-tyer instincts, not to mention rabbit casseroles....



In the event, 5 of us spent some time there. It was a great week, with various highlights. One had to be Doug (6ft 5) negotiating the 6ft or so kitchen area. I'm not allowed to talk about our esteemed President getting lost or running out of fuel on the lake – positively Young-ian efforts, and David will have to lift his game. And ask Blackwood (heroic pedantry) about 'Dromedary or Bactrian?' Despite the weather – which was not horrible, just cool and damp and not right for lane fishing – the environment is simply magnificent, wild, unforgiving if you are not careful and prepared. From the diary, it looks like early in the year is the peak period. I'll certainly be back, asap, and I'm pretty sure that goes for the others.



Given the weather, we were very glad to be in a nice warm shack, not camping. That said, there are reasonable basic facilities at Thoreau Hills ramp – some shelter, fireplaces, toilet – and boat launching is good, depending on the lake level (around -4.2m, in this case). In that area – south of the bridge – anyone not familiar should take great care. It would be easy to get lost out there, amongst the islands in fjord-land, and there aren't many others around.



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.

A Cautionary Tick for the Dee

This year's Dee Weekend was a quiet affair. On the weekend itself there was only Dave Choate and myself there. Despite this we had a really good time. To camp with Dave is to learn bush craft at a different level. If I were to be set free in the wilderness I would linger pathetically for a few days before succumbing. Dave would thrive and probably manage to multiply – such are his skills!

This said, the trip brought about a different experience for us both – Tick bite!



I had heard about ticks but had never seen one. Dave had seemingly been raised in the bush without ever having been bitten so it took us all by surprise when the tick appeared. It was embedded in Dave's chest and the question was what to do about it!

After consultation with one of Dave's mates who Googled some advice we managed to pull the little creature out with tweezers and disinfect the bite.

I have since looked up advice online and have included some interesting links below. I am reluctant to say which is the best as I have never done a medical degree so if there is any information that is not up to date the medico members in the club might like to add there ideas here!

Here are some sites with basic first aid ideas – I hope we did the right thing. Please note this is just a guide and not medical advice. It might be useful though just in case one of these painful little critters gets a hold of you!

<http://www.webmd.com/first-aid/ticks-treatment>

<http://www.mydr.com.au/first-aid-self-care/tick-removal>

John Fowler Trophy – Fishing in Friendship

I don't think you could find an event that better sums up all that is good about our club more succinctly than the John Fowler Fishing in Friendship Trophy. It provides all members with the opportunity to fish with someone that they would not normally get the chance to spend a day with. The idea is to spend a day fishing with the person with whom you are drawn (out of a hat) and to then fish on a water of your choosing. The number of fish caught would then be submitted to the secretary who would compile the results. The winning team would be the one that has the most successful trip.

I noticed that this 'competition' was potentially open to some rorting with a certain president choosing to fish in an environment that would best be described as a 'fish farm' and thus placing him and his partner at the top of the table. It will be interesting to see if there are any protests!

For my part I was lucky enough to draw Nick Ingles as a partner. I have had a few great discussions with Nick over the years but had never had the opportunity to fish with him so I was really looking forward to it.

I was particularly impressed when Nick rang and suggested that we go fishing in New Zealand! I had never been there and thus incredibly generous offer was extremely tempting. Unfortunately I was unable to accept as my daughter was starting at Melbourne Uni at the time and I was heavily committed to helping her get settled in. I was disappointed and envious as Nick told me it was the best trip he had had in years with over 100 fish caught in the week he was there!



We decided to fish the Great Lake as Nick knew it well and I had only a few trips out on it. I was to meet Nick at his amazing home in Fitzroy Place and we would drive up to Tods Corner where he kept his boat. Phillip Fisher joined us for the trip up and I was lucky enough to sample some of his home brew and drink it with him in his wonderful shack at Tods. The knowledge

that these two possess about anything north of Bothwell is astounding. The stories were completely enthralling!

We put the boat in at the excellent Tods Corner boat ramp – the first time I had been there – and ventured out on a beautiful sunny and still morning. The clarity of the water and the distinctive wind lanes were particularly promising.



It was interesting for me to see how Nick used his drogue and the electric motor so skillfully to keep us in the lanes and follow them past the various rocky outcrops around McClanahan's and other islands out in the southern part of the lake. We fished these

lanes for hours but only spotted one fish! It was frustrating as the conditions seemed perfect but Mr Speckles just didn't show up! Finally we sought out the weed beds in Tods corner and I managed a nice brown on a Shrek in only a few feet of water.



Although that was the only fish we caught the day was a success. It was a delight to fish with someone as knowledgeable, passionate and fascinating as Nick. I hope he enjoyed my company as much as I enjoyed his. We will not win the Fowler Trophy this time but we are winners anyway!

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.

Island Menu (<http://www.islandmenu.com.au>) is a site that is run by Samuel Shelley, a professional photographer and graphic designer who has a passion for fresh and salt-water fishing, and Catherine Miller who is also interested in photography and cooking. The recipe for **Whiskey Brown Trout Gravlax** looks excellent and I have shamelessly copied it from their site – check out the link for other recipes and some brilliant shots in general!

Ingredients

- 1x 2-3lb Trout filleted and pin boned (you can use salmon or ocean trout)
- 40ml Rye Whiskey (I used Belgrave)
- 4 tbs Sea Salt Flakes
- 6 tbs Brown Sugar
- 1 tsp Cracked Black Pepper

Method

1. Lay the fillets skin down in a tray lined with cling wrap
2. Sprinkle with pepper then a mix of the sugar and salt with slightly more of the thicker parts of the fish
3. Then evenly pour the whiskey over each fillet.
4. Place one fillet on top of the other (flesh to flesh) and wrap the lot in cling film.
5. Lay the package in a tray and place a board with weights on top. You could use tins of soup or alike, then place in the fridge for approximately 12hrs.
6. Wash off the salt cure. Then place back in the fridge uncovered to dry out a little – they flesh will get a bit of a sheen and will be quite tacky to touch.
7. Slice thinly and serve.

Serving

I would suggest serving with little bit of mayonnaise with a splash of whiskey in it, on thin sourdough toasts with black pepper.

I also like this for breakfast with scrambled eggs

Tips

Make sure it is a trout with nice orange flesh – don't bother if the trout is a bit pale.

Adjust the salt and sugar quantities based on the size fish.

If you have a smoker you could hot or cold smoke the fish after the salting.

If any member has a recipe for trout that they would like to share – send it in and I will share it with everyone!

Penstock Weekend 2015

Another great Penstock Weekend with 17 of the best turning up to join a group of Northern Fly Fishers for a Saturday night BBQ. ... Well done Mark Aspinall - you have done it again!

A few turned up on Thursday. I took Murray Procter out for an evening fish. He had not fished for over 12 months due to a shoulder injury. All was quiet with not much happening. Just as we were approaching the boat ramp I saw a rise, stopped, advised Murray who showed remarkable speed in covering 4 fish with his Pooho (?) fly landed a 540mm brown.



Friday was bright and looked tough. I had the awesome responsibility of guiding Noel "the cormorant" Wilson and started off badly by landing a 500 mm Brown on a Stokes Nymph. Not to be out done Noel hooked and landed 3 crackers 2 Rainbows and a brown 500mm+ although one might be disputed as it did not fit into the guides net - well that's history - Five for the day - Not bad for Penstock. Good to see Dave Choate back on the job with his float tube from which he managed to trick a few fish which involved a lot of work.



The Saturday BBQ went well and we all made some new friends from our northern brothers.

Sunday belonged to Steve Butler who showed enterprise catching 4 or 5 with Mark using a purple Shrek. It was fished aggressively banging it on the water near cruising and rising fish. Damsel fly imitation perhaps... or just pure ...



I took Steve Martin out for the morning and he managed to hook a cracker rainbow, which he played skillfully under the guide's instruction, but unfortunately it slipped off just as the guide was reaching for the net!

Tony Abel and Laurie Matcham did their Fowler as did Noel Wilson and David O'Brien all with some success.

Other fish were caught; it was not easy but we all had a great time.

John Smith

Casting Day 2015

The Salmon Ponds at Plenty would have to be one of the best places to hold a fly casting competition – particularly if you are wanting to raise the profile of fly fishing and generally create a feeling of curiosity amongst the general public. So it was with that idea in mind twenty or so club members assembled on a beautiful Sunday morning in May.



The Webers were fired up courtesy of the hard working committee and chunks of meat were expertly cooked whilst the competitors limbered up.



The challenge was to cast your fly into a series of hoops set at varying distances on the main pool. Flies were 'hookless' so as to avoid an embarrassing hookup although there were

some pretty amazing boils at various stages of the competition.



The first part was for the Margaret Knight Dry Fly Trophy. Competitors were called up to the casting platform and had to cast 3 times at each hoop. They had to false cast at least once between each attempt. Points were awarded by the judges, (thanks Nalina and Sarah), who were firm but fair throughout the tournament.



The competition was tight with some extremely good casting on display much to the delight of the onlookers.



At the conclusion of the dry Fly Competition lunch was served. The Club provided meat, vegetables and wine and there was also a great range of salad provided by members.

The meal and the company was fantastic as usual – a perfect way to spend a Sunday! It was particularly pleasing to see the enjoyment experienced by Albert Edgell, Henry’s grandson, as he learned to cast a fly under the watchful eye of the President and other excellent tutors. This is important for the club’s future!



The wet fly competition involved casting at the targets again but this time there was no false casting allowed after the very first cast. This proved to be more tricky than it looked. The presence of a slight breeze knocked some very promising cast just off target enough to be frustrating. Again the standard was particularly good from all competitors. Bruce Barker, who organised the completion performed particularly well in this part – probably spurred on by some barracking and advice from one of the judges! He of course rose to the occasion magnificently!



The final results saw Noel Wilson take out the Margaret Knight Dry Fly competition and Bruce Barker succeed in the

Wet Fly event. Noel was the outstanding caster of the day with the highest aggregate. His legendary status continues to grow! Congratulations go to both winners and to all the competitors on the day.

Further thanks must go to the hard working committee members and their partners who were instrumental in making this an excellent Club event!



The results were as follows:

Brave Competitors	Scores Dry fly	Wet fly
Andrew Reid	6	3
Andrew Blackwood	3	0
Doug Miller	2	5
Lyndon Cubbins	11	4
Noel Wilson	15	12
David Young	0	6
John Spencer	9	10
Tony Abel	2	5
Craig Granquist	3	3
Steve Martin	2	
Bruce Barker	9	15
President Smith	5	3
Henry Edgell	1	6
Albert Edgell		3



DM

Plastic Fantastic – choosing a new boat

The thought processes you go through when choosing a new boat are often tortuous and frustrating. There are so many permutations to consider. In the end there are always compromises and constraints no matter what your budget. Hopefully, after you have waded through a quagmire of possibilities you will come up with a choice that pleases you and enhances your fishing experience completely.

This is the journey on which one of our newer members, Mark Quinnane recently embarked. It was Marks first boat and he searched high and low until he found exactly what he wanted – this is his story...

‘First, I considered what types of hull materials were available. This came down to aluminium, fibreglass or plastic. I discussed these options with boat owners who were far more experienced than me. Prior to these discussions, I had thought fibreglass may have had the edge over aluminium and plastic was on my radar but nobody had had much experience with it. Those preliminary discussions were helpful in that they seemed to eliminate fibreglass from the hull contest.

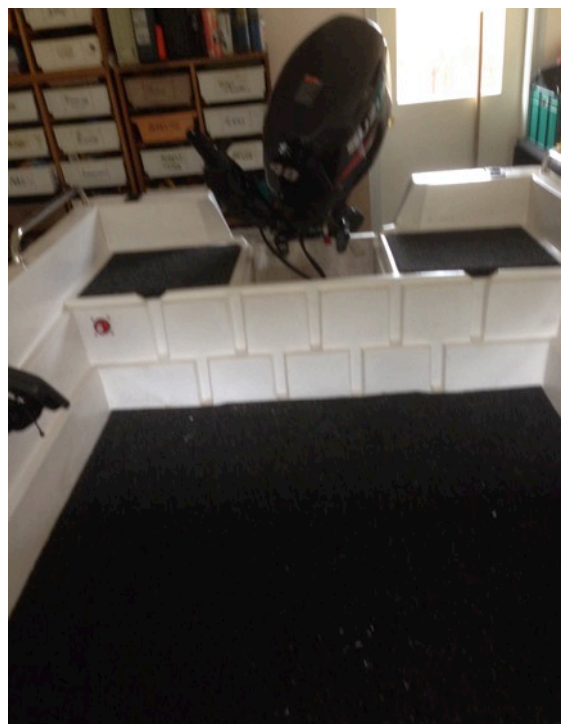


Next came boat dimensions and layout. Layout was probably the easiest issue to deal with as I was predisposed to a tiller steer, rather than side or centre console, as I wanted to maximise uncluttered internal space. I looked at a number of manufacturers' websites and went to boat shows in Sydney and Melbourne to look specifically at 'tinnies'. Not that I

made special trips to those shows, it's just that I happened to be in each place when they were on. To be candid, I found those shows a little confusing and not really all that helpful. What boats were on offer were optioned up or 'show specials' – which may not have been specials at all – and it proved no easy task to compare apples with apples. Interestingly, plastic boats were not shown at either of the Sydney or Melbourne shows.



The boat's attributes were the next item up for consideration. Again, boat owners were very helpful here. I can remember Nick Ingles venturing a view that high sides were helpful in protecting fly lines in



windy conditions; Doug Miller and Pete Murphy provided valuable insights in our Wednesday fly tying nights. But it soon became apparent that all the positive attributes that were considered highly advisable were not all present in the one brand of boat. I then found myself in the territory of compromise. What attributes were higher priorities than others and what boats could be eliminated from the purchase decision?



Odd as it may sound, the fact that the perfect boat didn't exist took a bit of the tension out of the choice decision.

So having eliminated fibreglass from the equation, it came down to a choice between plastic and aluminium. So, it was on to the Polycraft website (<http://www.polycraft.com.au>) for the manufacturer's puffery. What I found there interested me greatly in terms of hull attributes – stability, quietness and flotation. But those representations needed to be checked with Polycraft owners or other guys whose opinions I respected. David Hemmings proved a very useful sounding board here and I placed great weight on his view of the plastic hull. I also sought the counsel of Peter Hayes as a long-standing guide. Peter was firmly of the view that if the choice was one between aluminium and plastic, plastic was to be preferred.

So, if it was to be plastic, what size and what motor to put on it? Something around 4.0 – 4.5 metres seemed ok and I didn't really consider a 2 stroke motor at all.



At the end of the day, I went for a Polycraft 4.1 Challenger open boat, tiller steer with a 40 HP 4 stroke Suzuki outboard.



So, am I happy with my purchase? Absolutely!! The boat handles extremely well in all conditions so far encountered. It has amazing stability with two guys being able to fish standing up from the same side of the boat with barely any noticeable tipping. Doug Miller can attest to that, as he was able to get in and out of it easily and safely by sitting on the side of the boat. It has ample under cover storage with plenty of flat areas for getting around. The motor is well suited to the boat albeit 10 HP less than the manufacturer's rating.



Mark Quinane

A Weekend at Lake Echo

Andrew Blackwood, Lyndon Cubbins, Ian Stokes, Peter Langton and myself were invited by Patrick Oxbrough to sample some of the wonders that Lake Echo had to offer. Although it was relatively late in the season we all decided it was a good idea and set up camp near the boat ramp at the southern end of the lake.



The lake levels were very low – around 9 metres below full supply and the boat ramp was well and truly high and dry – an opportunity for MAST perhaps? Undeterred by this issue we launched boats and set off for a days fishing. Some walked the edges whilst others stayed afloat.



Conditions were still and sunny and the clarity of the water was astounding! Fishing around the 'rocky shores' was the go – much to Stokesy's delight!



Andrew and I fished amongst the trees and managed one nice fish. We saw quite a few and imagined just how good it would be if there was a hatch on.

Only a few fish were caught but a great time was had. Patrick has a vast knowledge of Lake Echo and the places to try. He has offered to share his knowledge with Vice readers at a later stage (I will hassle him mercilessly on your behalf!)



The evening meal and wide ranging conversation around the campfire of course was an absolute highlight.



On the Sunday morning Andrew and I left for Lake Burbury but decided to try our luck on some stunning wind lanes on nearby Dee Lagoon. We caught no trout but Andrew assumed the mantle of 'The Redfin King' from me by hauling in these tiny nuisances hand over fist!

This trip has great potential to become a regular feature of the Club Activity Calendar. Between them, Patrick and Dave Choate would probably have more knowledge about the Dee/Echo than anyone else in Tasmania.

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>

