



The Vice



Newsletter of the Tasmanian Fly Tyers' Club Inc.

Volume13 , Issue 2 Autumn 2016

Inside: Christies Creek, New Zealand, *Burbury Revisited and much more...*

Cover shot – Sunset at Christies Creek

President's Report

Well the season is over with mixed results and it is time to drag out the fly tying gear and get ready for next year. Let us hope for continuing rain, repair of Bass Link and rising water levels. Those little Rainbows in Penstock won't be so small next season. Stay positive about next season...Build the expectation. Despite the damaging weather we had a great casting day enjoyed by about 35 people including a few children who received casting tuition from David and Tim. David, when awarding the Trophies, (won by David Hemmings Noel Wilson Eric Howard and Noel Wilson ...well done) said he thought the standard of casting in the club had improved. This could in part be due to the efforts of David Hemmings, Tim Munro and Bruce Barker our three qualified casting instructors. It would be good to do more casting training and practice, perhaps even run a training day for non members, even Juniors? We have a fourth qualified caster, Wayne Bellette, partner of Anna to strengthen the team.

I looked around the very well attended Monday meeting and thought things are going fairly well. There was a real buzz in the air. Young faces of new and prospective members communicating enthusiastically among themselves and with older members. There was keen interest in Brent Bowerman's fly tying and his excellent deer hair which he has offered to source for the club. John Spencer said to me, "We really are looking like a fly tyers club!" and I think he is right as things are happening. We have tying at Monday meetings, the regular demonstrations at the IFS open day, "Cubbies" Tiger Hut fly tying oversubscribed but now extended by our new vice president Andrew Hood for a group of old farts, some of whom stood aside for new members. We also have the Community Fly Tying Day organised by Steve Butler, a club magazine that would make any fly tying club proud, and material dying days provided by Delly and Macca.

The basic training program under Westy's careful management and with strong support of members is about to happen for up to 10 people in July. The club now has 10 sets of fly tying gear sourced by Brent Bowerman and Laurie Matcham which puts us in a strong position for further training programs. There is an unbelievable level of knowledge, skill, and experience in the club and a willingness to share. Really it's a great club and it's no wonder people with an interest in fly fishing and tying are anxious to join. We now have 3 on the waiting list and have let 4 new members in under the female under 30 rule. We will be putting a proposal to the AGM to allow an extra member on the committee. This will allow more

members to gain experience on the committee. New people mean new ideas and improvement.

We have also reduced our future carbon footprint and enhanced our assets by installing solar power at the Sorrel Shack. Thank you Malcolm Crosse and Macca.

Get onto the vice

John Smith
President

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Editorial

Only rainbow waters are left open as the Autumn Vice comes out and it is an opportunity to reflect on the season as a whole. With low water levels courtesy of drought and decisions by the Hydro access to many areas was limited. This put more pressure on the stable lakes like Penstock and The Pine and really they responded magnificently. One member told me he caught over 400 fish for the year and around 300 came from Penstock! As I write this I am pleased to note that Lake Burbury has risen over 6 metres in the last week!

On a cautionary note I heard from member Mark Quinane about attempts to remove his trailer from his car whilst visiting Burbury. Luckily he had one of those devices that locks things on really securely! A great investment and one that I should probably make as well.



Not so lucky was member and good friend Jim Jones who lost a great deal of his gear courtesy of a burglary from his place down at Opossum Bay. Insurance has covered the cost but you can never replace those special bits as Steve Butler would well attest in his wonderful piece on Redemption. After buying couple of flies for \$4 each from the Essential Fly Fisher in Launceston I realised just how much a simple box of flies might be worth so make sure you have photographs of all your stuff.

Also in this edition is an account of a trip to Lees Paddocks, which ended up at Christies Creek, a bit about the Penstock Weekend and the Casting Day at the Salmon Ponds.

It is also worth reading the thoughts from Lyndon Cubbins who describes the processes he went through in buying a new boat. It is wonderful to see the way he managed to get the perfect sized boat for his garage without compromising on space.

Remember that if you are considering purchasing any new gear and have done some homework on it then others might be able to benefit from your experience.

DM



Noel Wilson was lamenting the fact that the editor doesn't appear in many shots and that he appears in lots!



The boys at Spot On fishing tackle have kindly provided the Club with 4 vouchers to the value of **\$30** each for this year's **competition**. I'm sure everyone will join with me in thanking the lads for this kind support, and continue to patronise Steve's shop. Vouchers can be picked up from the Editor at your leisure!

So...Write the best story and win a \$30 Spot On voucher!

Have a go

Simply send your entry to Doug Miller

55dmiller@gmail.com

This time the award goes to... Steve Butler and Lyndon Cubbins! Yes it's a tie – two really great articles that make the Autumn Issue well worth reading!



Penstock Spinner and Brown



Lees Paddocks/Christies Creek Adventure

The plan was to visit Lees Paddocks and fish the Mersey. The walk would be relatively short – around 8km – and would basically follow the river so there was a promise of piscatorial distraction along the way. As a bonus there were a couple of huts, which we could use as our ‘lounge room’ for the evenings, which were starting to close in somewhat earlier than mid summer.

I was fortunate enough to be invited on the trip with a well-established group that I had heard about for many years. The leader for this excursion was member David Travalia - the most experienced walker, Jim Jones - the one who convinced me all those years ago that fly fishing was pretty wonderful and that I should give it a go, and the phenomenal photographer Peter Whyte – who is currently taking all the photos for Malcolm Crosse’s new version of Australia’s Best Trout Flies. A venerable group indeed and I felt privileged to be invited.

The plan was to leave Hobart on Friday morning, stop for fine coffee, drive through Chudleigh, past Lake Rowallan and begin the walk at around lunchtime. This would bring us to our destination mid afternoon with plenty of time to set up camp and exploit the evening rise. The plan seemed perfect. We had checked various websites and although there had been fires near there it seemed that everything would probably be ok.

However, after a three and a half hour drive this is what we encountered.



Hasty discussions ensued and it was decided that the best option at this stage was to head to Lake Ada car park for an assault on Christies Creek.

We arrived an hour and a half later seriously in need of leg stretching.

The walk in was relatively uneventful although we did manage to pick up another member for our group who had been hiking all day on his own and had somehow managed to walk in a big circle and was basically back where he started. He claimed to be a gun bushwalker and we invited him to share a camp with us for the night. He talked a lot. For fans of the tv show Doc Martin he was very much like

the policeman Joe, both in looks and personality! Thankfully he had no interest in fishing and left us to wander in ever larger circles elsewhere on the Central Plateau.



David, Jim and Peter were wonderful to go away with. You may recall Jim writing an article about Gourmet Trangia Cooking (Vice ...) and each meal we had was a gastronomic delight. Garden fresh vegetables, finely cut prosciutto, gnocchi, smoked chicken and wonderful cheese appeared at each meal. Evening meals were of course completed with a few drams of Lark Whisky!



Our campsite was next to a beautiful lagoon just down from the main waters of Christies. Fish rose happily a cast and a half away. Most were small but some larger specimens rolled in the middle – well and truly out of casting range. This was to be the story for the entire trip!

On the Saturday we decided to go and check out Lunka Lake, which was a good hour and a half away. After lunching next to billabongs that appeared to be perfect places for swagmen to camp we finally came to Lunka. It was relatively full and totally glassy. We spent an enjoyable few hours fishing it with no luck.



I am not sure if it was because we were traveling with Peter Whyte and I was overly aware of the beauty of the area but we witness some of the most amazing sunsets and general light that I have ever witnessed. My photographs do not do it justice but Peter's of course were superb! I may be able to share these at a later date.



The walk out on the Sunday was uneventful but pleasant as the weather was being exceptionally kind to us. We reached the Ada car park at around noon very satisfied with the trip. People don't believe that you can have a wonderful fishing trip that doesn't include the catching of fish. All you need of course is a great destination, anticipation and top-notch company!

DM

On the return trip to the campsite I saw movement in a small waterhole and thought I might have something to cast to. The shape and movement turned out to be a rather annoyed snake that puffed itself up alarmingly when it realised we had seen it.



Returning on dusk we encountered a sizable hatch and rise happening on Christies with good fish taking spinners that seemed either to rise next to cliffs lined with impenetrable thickets or a standard distance of two and a half casts.

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.

Anyone fortunate enough to have been at the May meeting at the Lenah Valley RSL to watch in awe as Brent Bowerman demonstrated some of his most popular guide flies would have noticed the most basic yet wonderful tip when using deer hair.

Brent was tying a relatively simple deer hair F-Fly with a hares ear body. The deer hair was the wing. It was a delicate and very appealing fly that was very successful on rivers.

The technique used to make the deer hair wing sit on top of the hook shank and not spin around was deceptively simple and it took many by surprise. When you take a stacked deer hair wing, put the first wrap of thread around the hair and then tie it onto the hook. This stops the wing from flaring under the hook and keeps it in the perfect position for tying the fly.

Brent ties flies professionally and with any luck will continue to share his considerable knowledge and brilliant skills with us in the future!

DM

Redemption

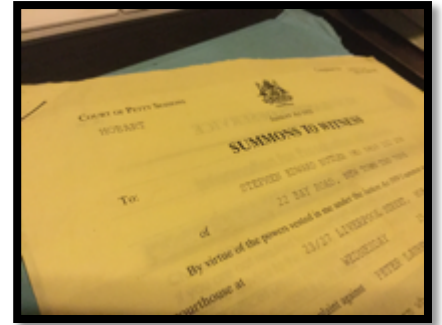
Redemption:

The action of regaining or gaining possession of something in exchange for payment, or clearing a debt:

As I walked from the Penstock shack down to the waters edge on that Sunday I was in a contemplative mood. It had been a great Penstock weekend, in my mind the best yet. The Saturday evening long table was a great success. The fishing had been fantastic, each session over the weekend got better. The last session I had fished from the boat with Andrew Reid, and, as per Tasmanian folklore, there is one degree of separation, we discussed old times, broken only by the louder excited pronunciation of the word YES. Actually there were lots of YES in that session; it seemed that everywhere we drifted in the boat the fish would come.

Not 24hrs later and I am walking alone along the bank scanning the water for that one fish more. Penstock bank fishing presents a challenge. The winds are fickle; the fish wary and back casts habitually catch bushes that engulf your fly like a carnivorous Venus flytrap. Yet I'm driven for the release that will only come from catching that perfect fish - it is my redemption fish.

My mind flashed back to exactly 1 year ago. The policewomen knocked on the door and gave me the Yellow form that had my name and that of



Laurence; I was due in court in 2 weeks. The police often hand deliver coloured forms, Laurence had received a bluey he was due in court at the same date to answer the charge of receiving stolen goods. My yellow form was a Summons as Witness.

In 2012 I had my shed broken into, the drug addicted criminals were after anything that could be exchanged for their next fix. Drug addicts don't live in the world that we know they have no plans for the future they don't often leave the confines of their neighbourhood and they don't go fly-fishing. If they did they would have left the boxes containing my life collection of Fly tying gear. They would have left the fly rods that led to great fishing expeditions with mates. They would not have taken the teeny weight fly rod I had hand crafted for my son when he was seven. He caught his first fish using that rod after his third cast. He made a great fuss telling Muzza and myself that this fly fishing was easy. Muzza just shook his head in a way that only an understanding and knowledge of decades of fly fishing can comprehend.

Laurence had not stolen my gear - he was the drug dealer that had procured my belongings in an exchange for his drugs. He cared even less for my belongings selling anything that was of value and dumping everything else in a storage shed, discovered by the police in a raid in 2014. One of the police recognised some of my gear. He was a fly fisher.

After my gear had been stolen I found it hard to get back into fly fishing and fly tying. My casting got the yips due to the new rods and lines I had purchased in haste that were unsuited, and every time I sat down

to tie I would be missing that one item that I once had.

It was time to get back to basics. I decided last year that I would spend a year fishing with one fly or variations of that fly. The Bibio is a basic fly yet it can be tied both in wet and dry variations, it has the fish catching colours of red and black. Fishing buddies and club members were somewhat bemused but got on board and tied Bibio variations for me to try.



The culmination of this methodology finds me walking along the bank of Penstock using a Japanese mountain fly fishing rod called a Tenkara rod. It has no reel; the line is attached to the end of

the rod. The rod is 13 ft long and there is around 20 feet of line including leader. The fly is a very basic Bibio, black and red body with a hackle tied forward. The Tenkara for obvious reasons is only recommended for small fish and that was what I was hoping to target.

The fish suddenly sipped something not 20 foot away. A year ago I would have missed this, the Bibio has forced me to be better at fishing rather than casting and changing flies. I have fished much shorter, deliberately and have become adept at watching for the slightest movement. The Tenkara is perfect for this fish. I cast. The only thing hitting the water is the fly. The fish takes and immediately jumps tail walks and runs breaking the 2lb tippet. I have offered little resistance. Tenkara fishing requires you to be one with the fish, as you must immediately control that fish, you have no line to play with.

The second fish gulps down a natural not 10 feet from the commotion of the first. I am still replacing the fly. One cast later and the fly is engulfed, again I am too slow to react to the fish and it is released at a very short distance.

It was about this point that I noticed a boat now drifting towards me, I remembered them motoring past just as I had hooked the first. They had obviously decided to stop and set a drift close to the bank presumably as I was having some luck in the shallows.

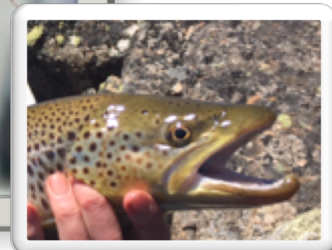
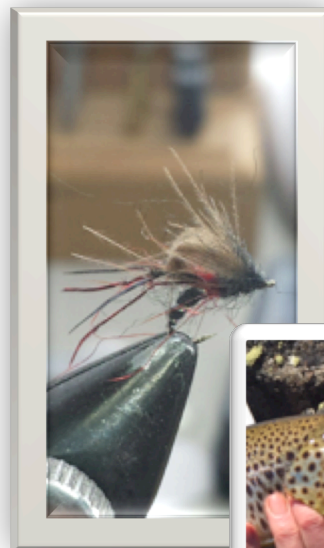
I set about replacing my leader with some 5lb tippet as that was all I was carrying. I had my head down

and so heard the gulp before I saw the fish. It was in feeding mode moving methodically backwards and forwards in the shallows. I watched and waited. The cast was some 4 feet to its right; the landing of the fly meant for the fish one thing FOOD.



Time slowed as the fish swam up to the fly and sipped it down with barely a ripple in the surface. It was at that point that I realised that this fish was large. The Tenkara is such a soft flexible rod that every movement is felt; you are attached to the fish as is the fish attached to you. What ensued next was a complex and elaborate dance up and down the bank with fisherman and fish at a duelling distance of 20 feet.

The boaters had stopped fishing and were looking at me somewhat confused, I can only assume at seeing a strange man with a strange "fly rod" attempting to land a fish. After a period I had decided I needed help to hopefully land and release the fish, on calling them I was greeted with the short retort. "You don't seem to need any help mate - every time we look up your into another f@ing fish" and at that point they turned and motored away. I thought to myself no redemption for them.



The Bibio year had produced redemption moments. Two seasons ago David Young, Peter Langton and myself did the club wilderness walk

- it was a long hard walk with a rope climb thrown in.

We caught

zero fish for our efforts. This year the three of us found ourselves together on the last day of this years wilderness walk as we stopped for lunch on the way out. Yet instead of eating we instinctively pulled out the rods and walked over to the lake not 100 metres from our intended lunch spot. The next 30 minutes gave us a memory that will last our fishing days. It was a cloudless bright hot day - yet duns started hatching on

the surface. Within minutes fish started rising all over the small lake oblivious to our presence. The sound of multiple fish gulping down duns was broken only by three old men yelping like school girls as one after the other we all landed a 5lb + fish. Redemption for the three.

Landing a fish Tenkara style requires one to perform an almost master class yoga move whereby you reach back extending your rod arm to fully extend the rod behind thereby drawing the fish towards you. At that moment of full extension you then reach forward with your long handle net and if you have performed the manoeuvre correctly the fish will glide the last 2 feet into your net. When you have a 13-foot rod with 20 feet of line a difference of 7 feet explains why the landing must be performed in this fashion. When you add a 4+ lb fish bending the Tenkara in half makes landing the fish with my short handled net a mathematical impossibility.

Twenty minutes later and I'm still working over the maths problem that was in front of me. I was now able to control the fish such that I could get it to come towards me but as soon as I reached forward with the net I lost control and off the fish would go.

I have a sticker on my coffee machine "we don't remember days - we remember moments".



Finally that moment came as with one last attempt, and with the fish coming towards me I reached up, grabbed the line, pulled it down to my rod hand and in one sweep pulled back

with the rod hand to accelerate the fish towards me. I instinctively reached forward and the fish glided into the net.

Redemption.

Stephen Butler

Penstock Weekend 2016

There were 25 boats out on Penstock when I arrived on Saturday afternoon and another 10 or so people wading the edges. It was a great afternoon. Fish rose and were caught and lost. The winds blew and subsided giving the water that nice little 'top' that makes it fun and helps you cover ground. Best of all was the prospect of the 'long table' dinner at Malcolm Crosse's wonderful waterfront shack. This is a much-

treasured tradition of the Penstock Weekend and for good reason!

There were at least 20 lucky people arranged around the table and they were treated to a sumptuous meal that included lamb, beef pork and venison!



The conversation was wide ranging and seemed to become more illuminating to me as the night wore on. Theories, advice and stories of conquest all grew in size and subject as the night flowed on. I have a vague recollection of planning to have nightclub bouncers installed at the boat ramp holding up anglers with comments like, 'Yeah, normally we could let you in but ... not in that boat mate!'



If you haven't had the privilege of experiencing this weekend then I would suggest making a time in your schedule next year as it is worth every bit of the effort!

Many thanks to Malcolm, Aspro, Steve and co that did a wonderful job yet again with all the organisation and some wonderful catering.

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 have shamelessly downloaded this as I think it might prove to be a bit of fun for those looking for a bit of a challenge. The original website is as follows:

<https://thewayofthefly.wordpress.com/2011/10/24/how-to-do-realistic-legs/>

How to do (simple) realistic legs

By Ulf Hagström

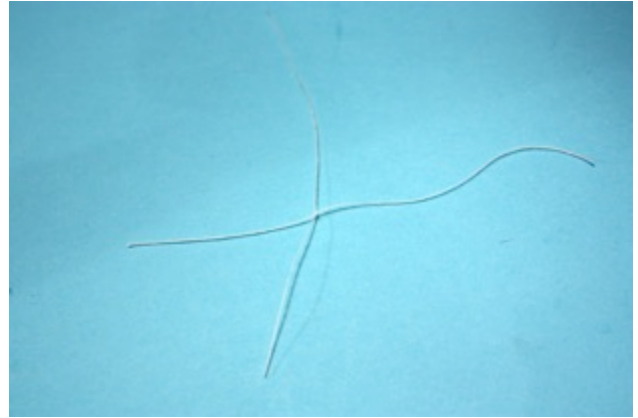


Okay, so this is not going to be your ordinary step-by-step fly tying tutorial, instead it's a certain technique I use sometimes.

No matter if you like to focus on semi-realistic fishing flies or full blown super realistic display flies I think there is one tying section that is a real pain in the ass because it takes the most time; doing the legs. Then again these are often the details you want to focus on because it is what sets the fly apart from an ordinary fly.

I started doing a variant of thread legs about 4-5 years ago, first for my super realistics and then adopted a simplified variant for my fishing flies. It all starts with two pieces of thread, thickness depends on the fly you want to create. For the sake of visibility I've used quite thick sewing thread here, the same type I would use if I were to tie for example a golden stonefly.

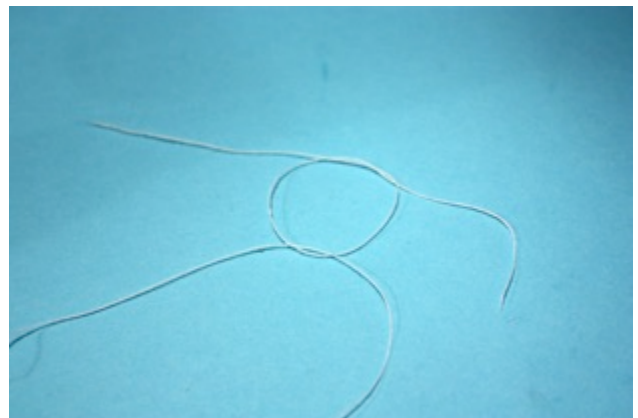
Start with just doing an open over hand knot on one of the pieces, but don't tighten the knot.



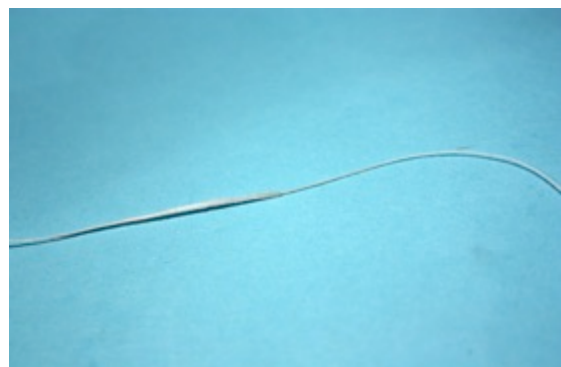
Now slip the other thread through the open knot.



Now tighten the knot and you should have a cross like structure like this.

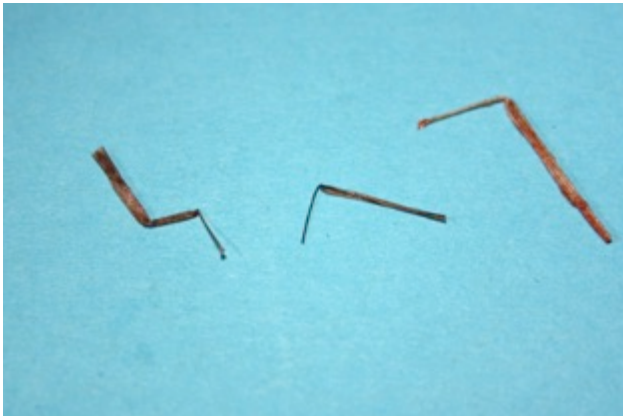


Hold on to the top thread end and stroke the other ends downwards to make them clump together. You see where this is going don't you?





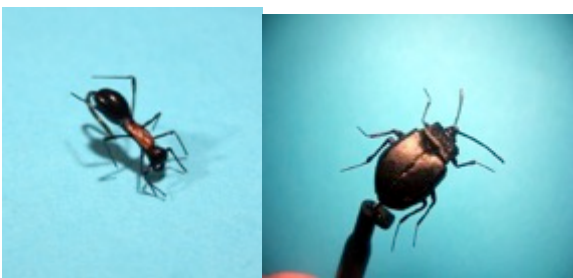
Now, add varnish or super glue to the thread and repeatedly stroke the three ends together to make them stick together permanently. Super glue is actually (in my experience) the best for this because it gets the stiffest but still makes it possible to bend it to the shape you want. Voila! Two clear segments of a "leg"; femur and tibia!



Cut it to shape, colour it and make a compressed "foot" at the end of the single strand and there it is, the simplest of realistic legs.

Once you start experiment with it you will find many more uses, the right leg is the one we just did. The middle is a section of brown 6/0 thread together with black 8/0. But the far left is the most interesting because it involves three pieces of thread creating an even more realistic look to the leg, but still it takes just a few seconds to do it!

Finally here are some examples of flies that uses this technique for the legs.



Time for a New Dinghy!

*Buy a man a fish and he'll eat for a day.
Teach a man to fish and pretty soon he'll need a new boat!*

Anon



After nearly 40 years of hard work it was time to replace my faithful 12-foot tinnie. The old tinnie configuration of 3 seats no floor and a hull shape that does not lend itself to a comfortable ride was well past its use by date despite having been to the welder more times than I care to remember.



Having some interesting episodes at the lakes and in Woods Lake in particular when crossing the lake into a strong south westerly a bigger hull was definitely a priority. There was a major requirement that the new boat was to fit in the garage at home. The garage has a width of 5.5 metres and was a major constraint until I was advised that the trailer drawbar could be hinged to reduce the total length of the boat and trailer by about 700mm. This enabled consideration of dinghies up to 14 feet (4.2 meters).

A few other priorities were I had to be able to handle the boat on my own and the it had to be big enough to be safe in Woods, Arthurs and Great Lake for shark fishing and be suitable for salt water fishing as well. Having had a long association with aluminium boats I



was not that keen on fibreglass or the new plastic hulls (which is probably a bit of bias on my part.)



A fair amount of time was spent on the net just trying to get a feel for what was on the market and I expect that the local boat distributors had probably had enough of me making a nuisance of myself.

I purchased a new 4.2 metre (14 foot) Quintrex Blade hull and it has turned out to be the softest riding tinnie I have ever been in. It is powered by a 30hp 4-stroke outboard, which gives incredible fuel economy.

I soon learnt that the purchase of the basic hull motor and trailer was just the beginning of the project to setup a new lake boat. The most obvious thing was what was missing was a spare wheel for the trailer and a means of mounting the spare on the trailer. I

am not one for relying on the hydraulics on the outboard whilst travelling so a means of supporting the outboard leg was also required. The drogue from the old tinnie was far too small so a new larger one was required and I am now on the 3rd iteration of the home made drogue and I think that I have it about right.

An interesting observation was just how easy it is to trim the motor so that the dinghy can negotiate shallow water such as the northern end of Little Pine with no disturbance of the lake bottom which was not possible with my old conventional 12-foot tinnie. The old electric outboard really is not up to the job so a new larger electric is required and given the layout of the tinnie it probably will be a forward mounted electric.



Following a day on St Clair with our editor for the Fowler trophy I can see considerable advantage in having a remote control for the electric for both the skipper and the crew member up front so add one more toy to the list.

So after about half a season the new tinnie is still work in progress but overall I am happy with purchase.

Lyndon Cubbins

Salmon Ponds Casting Day 2016

I arrived at the Salmon Ponds early (9.00am) because I wanted to see what sort of preparations go into organising a day like this. I thought I might be the first one there but John Spencer, Andrew Hood and our beloved President John Smith had been there and had set up the barbecues already! They had the food organised and had unloaded an array of tables and chairs already. After discussions about the best way to light the Webers they finally had time for a quick cuppa before the real cooking began.

John Spencer must be in his most happy state when he is decked out in a striped apron and taking on the role of master chef!



The meat went on at about 10.00am ready for a 12.30 lunch. Things were looking good on the food and organisation front but the weather was atrocious and there was much speculation about how many would brave the elements.

Next turn up was David Hemmings and Tim Munro with an assortment of hoops and strings ready to set up the casting course. The wind was vicious and it was decided that it would be better to hold the competition on the grass rather than on the long

pond. The best spot was agreed upon and the course set up.



When the competition got underway there were around 35 people in attendance - including a number of very excited kids wielding rods of various sizes. David and Tim ran the competition and then made time to help the kids improve their casting skills – something that was greatly appreciated by both the kids and their parents/grandparents!



The competition was fierce but friendly and very challenging given the weather conditions. It was suggested by David that the standard of casting was actually quite good and that there had been a noticeable improvement over the last few years.



The competition ended and all eyes turned towards John Spencer and Andrew Hood and their Webers.



Lunch was a very satisfying affair for all concerned. The meat was cooked to perfection, the vegetables were brilliant and salads and deserts were shared generously.



David announced the results and the Margaret Knight Dry Fly Competition was won by Eric 'Zuie' Howard



and David Hemmings, who tied for first place. Noel Wilson won the Hedley Griggs Wet Fly competition.

At the end of an excellent Club outing the people who had been there before I got there stayed on after I had to leave to pack up and clean up. It was a really successful club event but these things don't just happen. They are planned meticulously and take a lot of effort from those who take the time to organise them. Thank you so much for a wonderful day!

The results of the competition are below.

Competitors	Margaret Knight Dry Fly	Hedley Griggs Wet Fly
Tim M	22	23
Doug	18	25
Andrew H	15	16
Anna	20	14
Zuie	30	10
Steve B	17	3
John S	6	5
Andrew R	14	26
David H	30	30
Noel W	12	33
Tony	18	22
Charles	9	32
Malcolm	8	10
Tim U	10	19
Chris	15	12
Cubby	26	10

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>

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For payments to the club

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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>