



The Vice



Newsletter of the Tasmanian Fly Tyers' Club Inc.

Volume 16, Issue 23 Autumn 2023

Inside: Bothwell Camping, Casting Day, Pedder 2023 –and more ...

Cover Shot – Success for the Treasure at Pedder

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Treasure	Andrew Blackwood
Committee	Wayne Bellette
	Dave Long
	Paul Markey
	Tim Urbanc
Vice Editor	Doug Miller

<http://tasmanianflytyersclub.org>

President's Report 2022

The winter Vice is upon us and it's time to reconsider our outside activities. Over the last few months, the Club has been busy with numerous events.

A big thank you goes to Chris Medwin for his Tyenna day. It was officially called 'Euro Nymphing Workshop/Demonstration - Tyenna River' and included great coffee at the Possum Shed Café! Chris went through his rod and leader set up in detail and Westie provided some Euro flies. Chris then pulled on his waders and stepped into the water right next to the café and proceeded to land 4 trout from one pool while telling the gallery of members how it was done.

Martin Excell led a trip to Lake Pedder and fished in some spectacular scenery. I'm sure there will be a trip report and pictures later.

Steve B and Granny ran a very successful Weasel Dam Weekend in mid-April. This was a camping weekend and many members dropped by for 1 or 2 nights. I managed 11 fish over the 3 days and was very happy. There were several lively conversations around the campfire and we are grateful to Scott Bowden for allowing access to this fishery. The lake level was down since my last visit, but the fish didn't seem to mind.

Our Salmon Ponds Casting day was run with its superb mix of competition casting and great BBQ food. It was great to see Club Legend Noel Wilson take home the trophy. Mike Bourne was outdone by his young son who said he'd be back next year.

Tim Urbanc has been sharing some of his favourite patterns at the last two general meetings. So far he's tied a Yellow and Peacock Yeti, Claret Emerger, Gum and Jassid Beatles and a Claret Dun. He spoke at length about how and when he fishes these flies. It is great when club members share this information.

Upcoming events to watch for are the Tiger Hut Weekend. As usual there are two sessions with the first fully subscribed and only a few spots left on the second session. Cubby is all over the details and we have opened the weekend to day trippers so people can come along and see what it's all about for next year.

Westie and Steve Butler are running tying days at the RSL Club in mid-July. The Beginner's Day for new people will require an experienced fly-tier for each participant and all materials will be supplied. Steve's day will be for all and probably include a BBQ lunch.

The annual Lunch is planned for the 22nd of July and an invitation will be widely circulated shortly.

Our Treasurer will be on sabbatical leave in Europe, and he assures us all the Club will run as usual. We hope you have a great trip.

We have also welcomed some new members recently. They are Glen Becher, Alex Green and David Tarbath. Please introduce yourselves to them when you see them!

Come along and enjoy the Club's Winter Activities.

Tight Lines.

Andrew 'The President' Reed

Editorial

The Autumn Vice is a bumper edition! The formatting is a little different due to an unplanned switch from 'Word' to 'Pages' on my ageing laptop so please don't fret about slightly weird formatting as things did not transfer over quite as smoothly as hoped. Still... I didn't have to completely start again!

There is a report on the Pedder Trip which will hopefully become a regular club event and the Retracing Scholes event which may also become a regular adventure in years to come.

Tim Urbanc has provided instructions on how to make a pole anchor and how to use it in shallow waters without damaging the subsurface and there is another piece about how to weld loops into your fly line in a couple of easy steps.

The Casting Day at the Salmon Ponds was great fun and the Working Bee at Miena achieved some great outcomes.

The season has drawn to a close and it is time to focus on the new season by tying flies, doing all that gear maintenance that you have put off until now and look forward to cosy winter evenings until it all begins again.

DM



Steve at Spot On fishing tackle has kindly provided the Club with 4 vouchers to the value of **\$30** each for the coming season. Many thanks for this kind support, and continue to patronise Steve's shop. Vouchers can be picked up from the Editor at your leisure!

This time the vouchers go to... James Jones for his Retracing Scholes article and Tim Urbanc for his Pole Anchor story!

Send your stories to 55dmiller@gmail.com

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Lake Pedder Trip 2023



The trip to Lake Pedder looks like it might become a thing! It was organised by Martin Excel, this club event occurred on 24-26 March and was based at the Wilderness Lodge at Strathgordon. Where we were booked in for a meal on both the Friday and Saturday nights. Participants could choose to stay at the Lodge or organise their own camping (which I chose to do). The Friday night meal involved a run down on safety aspects, locations and tactics for fishing this massive water.



Martin knows this water very well and provided this information which will be useful for club members to try if they want to explore a bit over there.

Flies that have been working for me recently include:

- Damselfly nymphs light green; slow sink or hovering in the meniscus
- Cubit Mudeye (particularly if up for a bit of night fishing!) Olive/light green
- Damselfly adults (if still warm and sunny) blue, green have both worked well. There are dragonflies there, but not many and there are some red damsels but again not many.
- Bead headed brown nymph (for wind lane fishing as advised by Leon Cubit – put it a metre in front of the rising fish; let it sink, then strip back as fast as you can) and claret nymphs

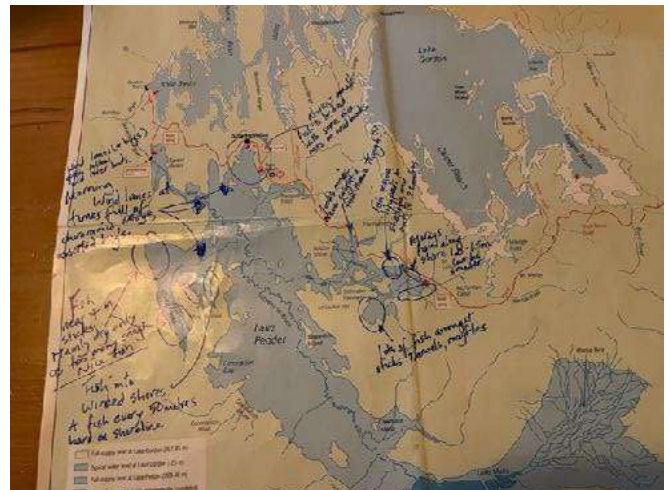
- I reckon the duck fly or any small wet would go super well in the wind lanes too. The challenge is classically how long to wait for the fish to move close enough to you, so you can cast a fly.
- Mayfly emergers (grey, peacock) fantastic for searching as well as casting to moving or rising fish
- Mayfly parachute (brown, grey) taken when searching more often than even the Royal Wulff or Coachman. Not many beetles on the lake, but plenty of chironomids, midges, in the wind lanes (like pea soup levels of midges etc.)

There is excellent fishing from shores (ie use boat to get to shore, hop out and stalk fish moving in shallows). It is harder to get access to good water without a boat, but there are shores for those keen to try.

The water is very tannin stained and that limits polaroiding, except for close to the edge fish (of which there are generally plenty if you go to the 'winded shore').

I haven't tried to fish wets much at Pedder, as there are too many sticks in most of the spots I fish, but they'll work for sure as we catch a lot of fish on lures.

Bring lots of spare leader and flies would be my advice!



If people want to start looking at maps, the best spots for wind-lanes at that end of the lake are over at Wilmot/Starfish, which is basically a large bay, on opposite side of the lake from the lodge.

Or people can tow their boats back to McPartlan canal, where good wind lanes and current lanes can form as well, and I can point them in the direction of awesome sticks and weed beds just around the corner once they launch the boat..

The weather can rapidly turn for the worse at Pedder, and a benefit of staying at the lodge is there are areas just in front of it, which are sheltered from most conditions. It also has a great bar and food is very good quality these days.



The best fishing results at Pedder come in wind and rain, which puts a strain on dry fly fishing and locals tend to revert to lures when the weather gets poor. Others persist with dry flies even when nothing is showing!



The weather for the trip ranged from rainy to sunny with some fantastic wind lanes that looked like they should be full of fish but there was not much on the surface. Midges looked like the main source of food.



Fish were caught right on the edge on the clear water on the Friday night at Mcpartlan's Pass on midges and red tags.

Details about the Fishery from the IFS website

Both Lakes Gordon and Pedder are approximately 2 hours drive from Hobart. Take the A10 to New Norfolk, B62 to Westerway and B61 to Strathgordon via National Park.

The Inland Fisheries Service (IFS) manages Lake Pedder and Lake Gordon as wild trout fisheries. Natural recruitment sustains populations. Lake Pedder is open to angling all year round. Lake Pedder is within the South West National Park. Park fees apply and National Park Passes are to be displayed on vehicles and boats. Park Passes are available from the visitor's centre at Mt. Field National Park and Service Tasmania shops.

Fishing can be rewarding throughout the year. Thick vegetation and steep banks can limit shore access therefore a boat can increase the scope for anglers. However, shore based fishing should not be ignored as the accessible shoreline can be productive particularly at all the boat launching sites. Lure fishing from the shore or a boat provides regular success with cobra style lures and spoons being the most popular. For the fly fisherman wet fly fishing with mud-eye patterns and fur flies can provide excellent sport at first and last light with fish rising to midges and spinners throughout the day.

The minimum size is 220mm and the bag limit is 20.

DM



Bothwell Dams Camping Trip



The opportunity to have one final camping trip before winter and a crack at the trout in the dams at Bothwell was too good to pass up! The weekend was scheduled for the 14th until the 16th of April and was open to all interested members. People could choose to camp or even just come up for the day – a very generous offer from Scott and his family who own the farm.



Chief organisers were Stephen Butler and Craig Granquist – with some extra advice from Aspro, which I am sure was appreciated. They not only liaised with Scott to organise dates, access and keys but set up gazebos, the PortaLoo, firewood and a wonderful cast iron cooking device which I am assured is a Granquist family heirloom! All this takes a lot of effort but it certainly made the weekend very memorable. It is a wonderful thing to sit around a campfire and regale people with reasons or excuses about why you did or didn't manage to catch fish!

The fish, mainly browns but with a few rainbows as well I think, were in good condition and were very willing, particularly in the evening and early morning. There were reports of numerous bumps and swirls to

moving flies – Glenn Szalman reported a 30-1 bump to hookup rate!



The Treasure also found that it was not possible to wade out to the island in the eastern arm of the lake without sliding inexorably into damp despair but still managed to catch numerous browns on small Yeti style flies.

It is hoped that this camping event will become a regular part of the club activities but as always relies upon the generosity of Scott and his family in allowing us onto this wonderful piece of Tasmania. Also, many thanks to Steve Butler, Craig Granquist and Mark Aspinall for their continued efforts in organising this great club event.

DM

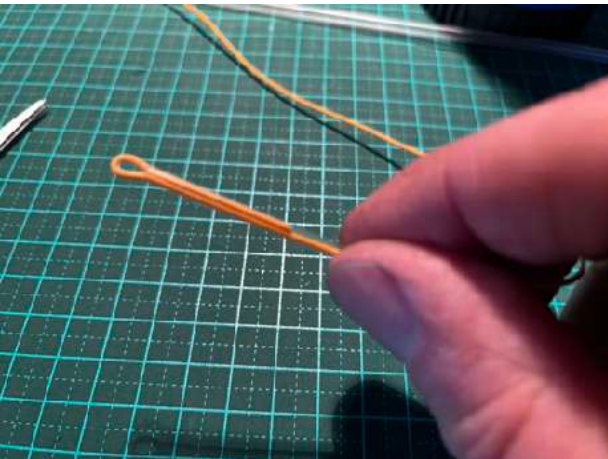


Welded Loops DIY

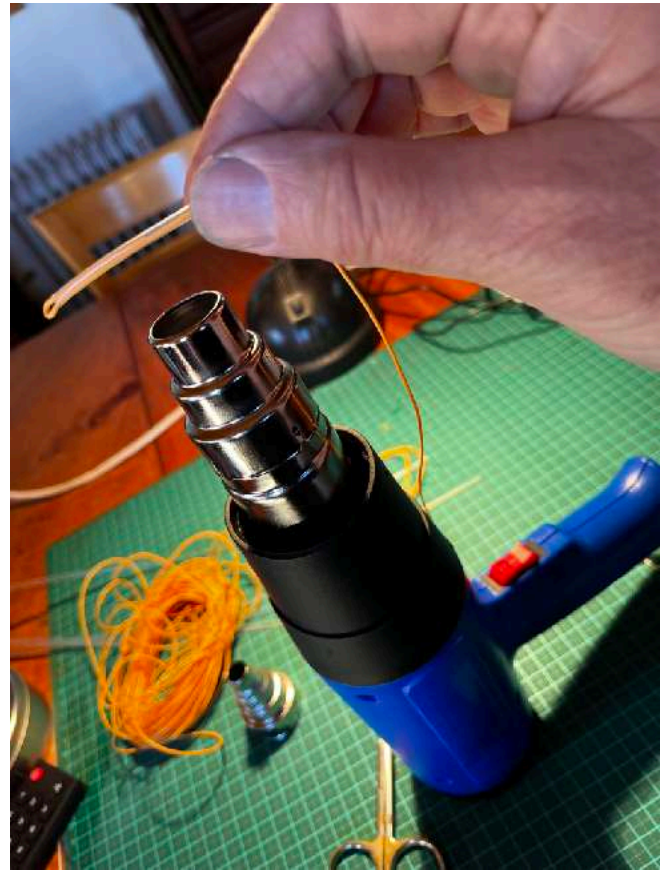
Fly Line Loop Connections have always been difficult for me if there isn't a pre-welded loop on the end of my fly line. I have tried numerous methods such as Nail Knots, loops bound with tying thread and super glue and even loops sewn in through the braided bits of the line. All of these work and are fine but I always panic when it comes to landing a fish on a long leader and having the line go through the top rings of the rod. If only there was an easy way to make my own welded loops... (cue spooky music etc)



It turns out there is an easy way! All you need is some fly line, scissors, clear heat shrink tubing and a heat gun or similar. (I tried a hair dryer and a lighter, which worked but was not as efficient). I bought the clear heat shrink tubing from Jaycar electrics for around \$2 a metre and the heat gun online for around \$25 – this one had some nozzles for directing the heat and also had the advantage of having adjustable temperatures, which stops burning the line.



The first step is to thread the fly line through about 3cm of tubing and make the loop the size you require. It is a good idea to have a little of the tubing over the loop too as it makes things easier when you remove the tubing.



The next step is to carefully warm the heat shrink so that it sits snugly around the loop holding it in place. Then keep up the heating process until the line starts to melt slightly and the join starts to fuse. You can roll the line on your bench top to encourage it to become rounder and smoother.



The 'welding' bit happens when the join between the two bits of fly line becomes invisible. It is important not to overcook the line as it becomes weakened. I recommend doing some practice runs on old fly lines to avoid disaster! The final step is to carefully remove the heat shrink with a pair of scissors leaving you with a beautifully smooth welded loop on the end of your fly line!

Miena Shack Working Bee

There was a working bee held at the Miena Shack on the same weekend as the IFS Open Day and five members turned up and did a power of work. The willing participants were Shack Wardens Abel and Urbanc, the Treasure Blackwood, First Aid Supremo and Chief Medical Officer Hilton and the Editor.



The welding technique opens up a lot of possibilities as you can also use it to join lines together. This means you could add sinking tips to floating lines or rescue older lines that still have some life in them.



You could even repair your ghost tip line after deciding to see what would happen if you put it through the outboard when it is going on the trip to Lake Pedder. (I know this is a very specific example but it could happen!)*

I found some YouTube clips explaining the process and the possibilities in more detail, which give you some more background on the technique. Also many thanks to Laurie Matcham who did some great work helping with the repairs to both my fly line and my rod guides.

Welding Loops onto Fly Lines

https://youtu.be/y_uQkzUMSjI

Welding and Repurposing Fly Lines

<https://youtu.be/VyiQ0wQfNv4>

*Ok it happened to me at Lake Pedder

DM



The main jobs on the Saturday was to unload a trailer of wood donated by Warden Urbanc, remove all encroaching wilderness from the areas around the shack, paint the internal timber frames and clean the dead stuff out of the gutters.

Internal work involved cleaning everything that looked vaguely unkempt or unsanitary. Warden Urbanc also did his chances of becoming Clubman of the Year no harm by installing the big TV donated by the Bellette family.



It was good to get all the external work finished in the relative warmth of Saturday, as the weather on Sunday was ... different!

DM

Advice Tips and Tricks

I thought I would share this idea with members... Rather than using an anchor or a drogue to fish a particularly shallow areas, (and probably doing untold damage to the under water environment), I have made this device which enables you to hold your boat and allow the angler to cast to fish that are feeding in the shallows without drifting over or through them and spooking those fish.

It is called a Pole Anchor and to purchase an electronic one would cost in the vicinity of \$ 1200 - \$1500 or more.



The pole anchor I have made cost about \$50 - \$60

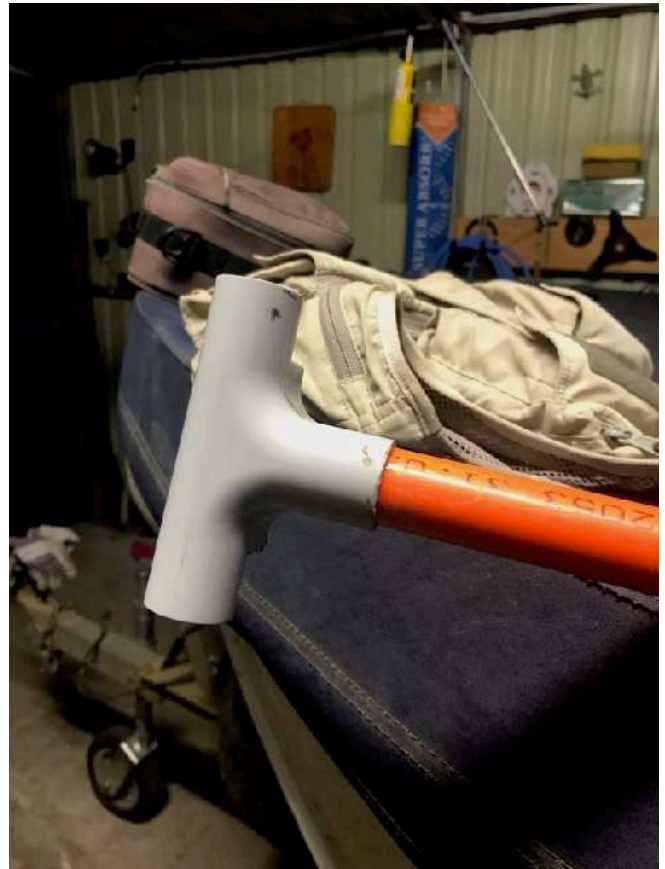
Materials required:

25mm electrical conduit about 2 - 2.4 m long
19 mm Tasmanian oak dowel length as above. (The 19mm dowel fits snugly into the 25 mm conduit).
Water proof adhesive (I used liquid nails)
T joiner for the conduit as the handle
Aluminium tip (I had these machined at Dynamic Welding) The tip is 100mm long, and has a 19 mm hole machined at one end and is pointed at other end.

Method:

Place glue into conduit and spread some over the dowel
Insert dowel into conduit leaving at least 60 mm

protruding at one end, and leave to dry.



Determine the length you wish to have your pole and cut off at top (not at the end where you left 60mm of dowel).



Glue on your handle

Glue on the tip and when dry, drill a hole through side of tip and put a screw in to aid in securing tip to pole. I have two of these in my boat, but have as yet not had to deploy both together. One alone will hold the boat in position nicely for you, provided the wind is not too strong.

The pole is also useful to push your boat out into deeper water prior to starting your outboard.

Tim Urbanc

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Casting Day 2023 Salmon Ponds



Once again there was a great turnout for the annual Casting Day at the Salmon Ponds at Plenty. The weather gods were kind to us and although it was quite cold at times we had little wind and some lovely sunshine throughout the day.



Previously, David Hemmings ran this day but, as he was unable to attend, Wayne Bellette and his team stood tall and ran the whole day very professionally. This included setting up the targets, organising the trophies and the certificates and running the actual competition. It was a big job and it went extremely well indeed!

The first event was the Margaret Knight Dry Fly where contestants had 3 shots at each of the five targets with at least one false cast in between shots. Five points were awarded for the first shot, three for the second and two for the final try. The distances between the targets varied and there was the added constraint of an overhanging branch that needed to be taken into account. All participants managed to cope admirably!



The second part of the competition was the Hedley Griggs Wet Fly. The aim here was to cast the fly at targets lined up directly in front of you with no false casting after the very first attempt. This looks relatively simple but is a really difficult event for some people. (Particularly Editors!) Again, contestants had three attempts at each target and the same scoring system was in place.



While all this was going on there was another team organising the lunch. David Travalia coordinated this

group, which included John Spencer, Andrew Blackwood and the Editor. Together we managed to produce quite a feast with Roast Porchetta, Baked Salmon, Lentil Patties and array of wonderful salads, fresh bread and delicious mushrooms. The addition of some lovely wine and sunshine added to the atmosphere.



At the conclusion of the competitions and the dinner the results of the competition were announced. Certificates were handed out to place getters and trophies awarded to the winners of the Wet Fly and the Dry Fly events. There was also an award for the overall champion when scores were aggregated.



Wayne Bellette won the Margaret Knight Dry Fly, the winner of the Wet Fly and overall winner of the shield was club legend Noel Wilson.

Another notable placing was third place in the Wet fly going to Lucas Bourne who out cast his proud father comprehensively!



All had a great day, and many thanks go to the organisers!

DM



Retracing Scholes



Fly Fisher in Tasmania

David Scholes in his seminal text *Fly Fisher in Tasmania*¹, writes extensively about trout food and suitable fly patterns for both dry fly and wet fly fishing in Tasmania's lakes and rivers. He remarks that '*good dry-fly fishing is practically confined to northern Tasmania, with the cream of it all found on the extensive waters of the South Esk, including the Macquarie, Brumby's Creek and the Break O Day*'. Scholes describes them as 'the 'flat rivers' ² characterised by slow flowing, weedy and reed-lined, broken irregularly by long, deep pools or broad-waters. He describes the North Esk, St Patricks and parts of the Liffey and Meander as 'broken rivers' being faster flowing. Notwithstanding Scholes bias to fish waters closer to his home (of the time), the southern Tasmanian rivers including the upper Derwent and Huon systems, the Russell, Tyenna and Shannon Rivers should not be overlooked and are all spectacular in their own right, offering unmatched highland stream fly fishing opportunities.

Tasmania's Drainage Plan

About one third of the landmass of Tasmania drains into one river³, the Tamar, where the North Esk and South Esk river systems meet at Launceston. The South Esk has its headwaters in the larger lakes of Central Highlands, including Great Lake, Arthurs, Woods and their associated hydro-electric systems and includes the Meander, Liffey, Brumby's Creek and

Lake Rivers. The Macquarie River rises south-east of Oatlands and winds its way through rich, flat, farm land to join the Lake River below Cressy and the Macquarie River then forms the South Esk at Longford. Similarly, the North Esk is fed by the St Patricks, St Pauls and Break 'O' Day systems rising as far east as St Marys. Both systems have impressive gorges, spectacular in flood, with the South Esk gorge at Trevallyn and the North Esk gorge at Corra Lyn - finally forming the flat, tidal Tamar Estuary at Home Reach.

Fishing Bamboo

Having recently dusted off my first editions of Scholes' *Fly Fisher in Tasmania* and *Way of an Angler*⁴, it struck me that the Scholes, Stokes, Jetsons and Christensens of the day would have all been fishing with bamboo fly rods, catching all those bags of trout documented in the books published in the heyday of the 1950's and 60's. Scholes mentions his preferred fly rods as being the *CC de France* for dry fly fishing and the *Hardy JJH Triumph* for wet fly fishing. Having re-read the books to gather up some further information on the fly fishing locations, I then considered the idea to methodically 'retrace' some of the locations mentioned in the Scholes' books - as a way of rediscovering a more diverse range of fly waters for the coming seasons - and the plan for 'Retracing Scholes' was hatched - a project which revisits some of the classic fly fishing locations, combined with employing the traditional flies from the mid-20th Century and a bamboo fly rod to suit.



Some of the initial flat river destinations include the Lake River at Little Forest, the Break 'O' Day on Cullenswood, the Big Den on the Lake River upper

¹ Scholes D *Fly Fisher in Tasmania*, Halstead Press, 1961

² Scholes D *Fly Fisher in Tasmania*, Halstead Press, 1961, pp 62-63

³ Refer Drainage Map of Tasmania

⁴ Scholes D *Way of an Angler*, Halstead Press, 1963

reaches and the Macquarie River at Richmond Hill, Panshanger and Stewarton. Dry fly patterns recalled include the Red Spinner, Black Spinner, Orange Quill, Greenwell's Glory, Royal Coachman, Red Tag, Hardy's Favourite and Iron Blue Dun - the dry fly patterns that perhaps some of which have been forgotten or are no longer 'in vogue, at the moment ... the idea being to retrace the footsteps of the early fly fishers of Tasmania, armed with a modest bamboo fly rod and a box of flies⁵.



Break O Day: Tim Munro on to a rising trout, with John Spencer, David Travalia, and Zuie Howard watching on. The trout was taking Black Spinners on the wing and would not take a floating fly.

Cullenswood & Lake River

We headed to the Break O Day and Lake Rivers, very late in the Season, having tried to get to each river for early season trips at the peak of the dry fly period, however the dates coincided with major flooding, so I called it all off.



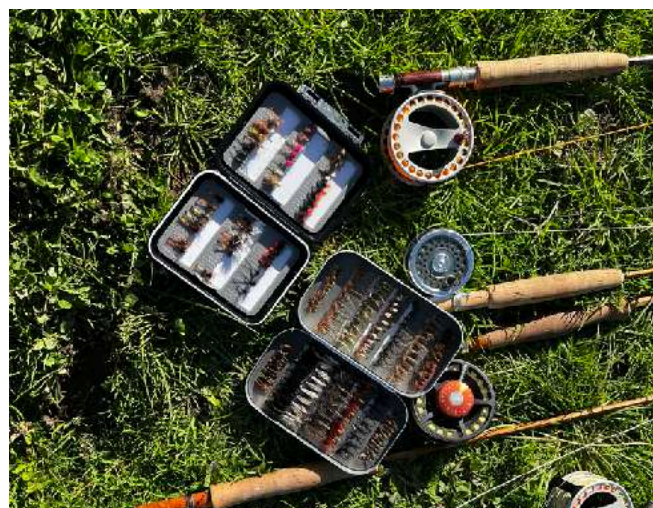
Cullenswood is a large rural property just east of St Marys and prior access was negotiated with the

landowner. Traversing the riverbank was hard-going near the settlement, with willows choking the stream, however further downstream it opened out, (where the photo was taken) where trout were found.

The Lake River was cleaner, with more flow – we headed downstream from the bridge on Macquarie Road in the morning and did the upstream beat in the afternoon. Both rivers are characterised as 'flat rivers, winding through pasture, with both stretches of the Lake River from the bridge having restricted public access.



The Lake River in this section has become quite overgrown with Hawthorn, Blackberries and 8' grasses and reeds, making access to some good water varying from hard to impossible.



Both days we had fabulous, quite still weather, however the sky a bit too clear and not a lot of surface activity – a few, well-earned trout were caught on some very picturesque country, on traditional flies tied by Brian West, John Spencer and Doug Miller.

⁵ Dry fly patterns generously tied by Brian West, John Spencer & Doug Miller

'Retracing Scholes', fishing with bamboo rigged with old-fashioned flies may be somewhat romantic, perhaps with a touch of nostalgia, however the half dozen who attended all cherished the opportunity to have a Sunday in the country, finding new fly water or revisiting old, starting with a good roadside coffee on the way, fishing from 10 till 5 and ending with a country town pub meal upon the return leg, to reflect on the day.

Next Season beckons...

James Jones



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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