



The Vice



Newsletter of the Tasmanian Fly Tyers' Club Inc.

Volume 12 , Spring 2015

Inside: *Plonking, New Boats, Twin Lakes Monsters and much more...*

Cover shot – David Travalia at Bronte Lagoon

President's Report

Sadly we have lost a three of our members Michael Johns, Steve Martin, and Prue O'Halloran. Our thoughts and condolences are with their family and friends and we are blessed with memories of happy experiences with them over the years, which will live on with in the club.

The season could be early this year and I can report a significant dun hatch on Penstock with fish taking off the top. Steve Martin hooked a cracker rainbow in the same place when I fished with him for the last time earlier this year. Duns in the first week of November ... you beauty ... it looks like a great season!

Thanks to the Volunteers who split and stacked 8 tonnes of wood in four hours. Malcolm Crosse provided the wood splitter, with help from Delly, Macca, Doug, Noel, David Young, Shelby and Bruce. The shack is in fine fettle thanks to our shack warden Macca who has provided a new batch of mugs, and two full gas bottles. There is a gas bottle permanently attached to the BBQ making it more convenient to use and a spare one in the shed. Please make sure you turn the gas off at the bottle after use and let us know if a bottle is empty.

There are heaps of shack vacancies so please make a booking or two and get up there to make the most of the early Dun hatches.

Activities are going well with a full house at the Woods weekend and I believe the Macquarie weekend is fully subscribed. I am keen to see new members involved in club activities as one of the best ways to get to know people at the club.

I am keen to see new members become involved in club activities, as it is one of the best ways to get to know people in the club. You don't have to have a boat or a designated partner as the coordinator will tee things up. A night or two at the shack is another great way to get to know other members. Nominators of members also have a responsibility help members to become involved in club activities and the use of club assets.

Great to see new members in the club particularly ladies and young ones under the new constitutional rules. We now have 9 life members, 8 associate members, and 81 members of whom 2 have come in under the female under 35 rule. This means we have one vacancy and allow another 8 under the changed rule. Welcome to all our new members and I hope you get as much enjoyment as I have from the Club.

That's all for now going fishing.

Tight Lines

John Smith

Inside this Issue	Page
President's Report	2
Editorial	3
Plonking for Beginners	4
AdVice Tips and Tricks	5
New Boats	6
Fly Tying on the WWW	7
Killer Bug	7
Twin Lakes Adventure	8
The Shack Working Bee	9
Activity Calendar 2015/16	10
Club Contact Details	11

Editorial

The Spring Vice has a couple of really interesting bits. The idea of visiting Twin Lakes is really interesting with the promise of some amazing dry fly fishing. Unlike Toby Lipscombe it took me two whole yeas to catch my first fish on a fly, and it was about 6 inches long. Still it was a rainbow and it was on a dry fly and it was at Brumby's Creek...



It is good to see people getting new boats. Andrew's is a ripper. It is stable and spacious and really looks good on the water. I know that Lyndon Cubbins also has a new boat but I will leave that for the Summer Vice.

Plonking has fascinated me for a while now. It was fantastic learning how to do it with Delly and I have managed a few fish in both fresh and salt water since! It could be worth looking into.

The season has started of in a very busy way for me. I have been 'up top' more than ever before now that I have retired. Unfortunately this hasn't really seen me catch many fish – aside from a couple of nice ones from Woods. The major event though was breaking a trailer spring just outside Hamilton and having the RACT to load the boat onto a truck and take it home for me. \$800 later I have a trailer with 4 leaf springs that might cope with the dirt roads a little better!

I also ventured up to Brumby's Creek at Cressy for the annual Trout Expo. There was a chance to catch the \$10 000 tagged trout and I was generally interested to see the set up. It was certainly popular with people shoulder to shoulder down the length of the creek. I had my fly rod and realised very quickly that the wind was hard to cast into, the food was mainly Dagwood Dogs and the chances of hooking a passer-by was extremely high! So ... we left!



There are a lot of events coming up too. I am about to go on the Macquarie weekend with Craig Granquist and then will go straight on to Lake Burbury for a week with Tony Abel and others. It should be great! Not long after that there will be an opportunity to once again have a fish at Henry's Place – a trip that will no doubt create a lot of interest. Check out the Activities List at the end of this newsletter.

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!

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

This time the award goes to... Our beloved Treasurer - Andrew Blackwood for his article on buying a new boat, Lets hope it will increase his catch rate!



Twin Lakes Trophy

Plonking for Beginners



An invitation to join Macca, Bryn and Tony Dell to Fish Four Springs was too good an opportunity to pass up. Little did I know that I was about to become a died-in-the-wool Plonker!

The morning started off normally. We were staying at the caravan park in Hadspen and had had a really nice night. The accommodation was quite good, well equipped, clean and with excellent heating – an important feature early in the season. The thick coating of frost on the boats in the morning was testament to the cold that just seems to hang in the more inland parts of the North.



We set off in convoy to Four Springs and were pleasantly surprised by the quality of the water. It was sheltered from most winds, had some wonderful vegetation around the edges and was altogether very pleasant. Check out the webcam that Malcolm Crosse put in there. It gives a really good picture of what the place is like.

Four Springs is a very popular early season destination and the car park was almost full. There were probably close to 20 boats out when we got there! Quite a lot for a Tuesday!

I was lucky enough to fish with Bryn and it was great to learn from someone who has not only fished all over the world but has represented Australia in a number of tournaments.

The main thing I learned was that stripping a wet fly was greatly enhanced by putting the rod under your arm and doing a hand over hand strip. This allows you to vary the retrieve exceptionally well whilst always maintaining contact with the fly. Variations ranged from very fast to dead slow with everything in between. We cast and retrieved brilliantly and deserved to catch fish just because of the sheer beauty of our searching. The fish however were unimpressed and we ended up blanking. Macca and Tony had better luck with one nice fish, which Tony said he got by 'Plonking'. Everyone else nodded and went on with their conversation. Being cool, I decided not to ask...



After a night of stories and red wine we again fronted up at Four Springs. This time I got to fish with Tony Dell and I knew that this would be a great day. You couldn't help but learn new things when you fish with Delly!



I came right out and said it. 'I want to become a Plonker!' Tony couldn't have been happier. He pulled out a package from his vest and took my leader. Using the special needle he slid a small piece of plastic tube

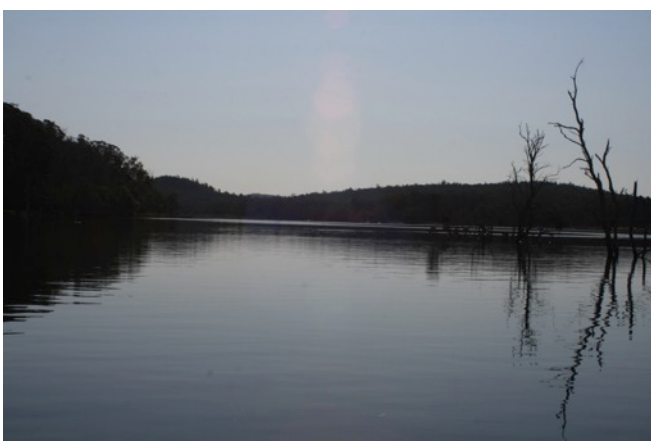
onto my looped leader, secured a piece of fluoro wool in the loop and pulled it tight at the appropriate depth for the lake. He then gave me a weighted green nymph to hang beneath the indicator. 'If a fish so much as farts on your fly the indicator will move. Just strike when you see it go down!'

On such a still day with no surface action this was a gentle and enthralling way to fish. I had my fill of endless stripping the day before and this was quite intriguing. All you really had to do was stay in contact with the fly and watch. Every touch on the nymph transferred directly to the indicator. It is apparently common practice in New Zealand rivers. The system used allows you to easily adjust the depth of the fly with a great degree of accuracy and plonk the fly out quite easily without the indicator slipping all over the place.

According to Macca the plonk even works really well when you strip it very slowly when you are on a drift and that it would probably work brilliantly in the early stages of a hatch.

Give it a try!

DM



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.

If you want experiment with 'Plonking' this is the gear you will need. I bought mine on eBay but have found it in the Fishing Connection and other places around the traps for just over \$20.



NEW ZEALAND STRIKE INDICATOR TOOL

AU \$19.75 +AU \$5.00 Postage

I love the simplicity and elegance of the design and quite enjoy using it in lots of different situations. I did manage to drop the needle in icy cold water when wading in Bronte with David Travalia and found that it was magnetic and managed to avoid a wet arm and picked it up using the magnet that clips my landing net to my vest!

The tool is really simple to use as this YouTube clip shows. If you know the depth of water you are in it is as simple as getting the right amount of leader and one or two flies to hang. All you have to do then is wait.

New Zealand Strike indicator Tool YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WEOyGJ-foM>

New Boats

*Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day.
Teach a man to fish and pretty soon he will need a
new boat.*


"STESSCO SF430 CATCHER" \$10,290.00

****SPRING SALE!****

Hurry Offer Ends October 31st!

FEATURES:

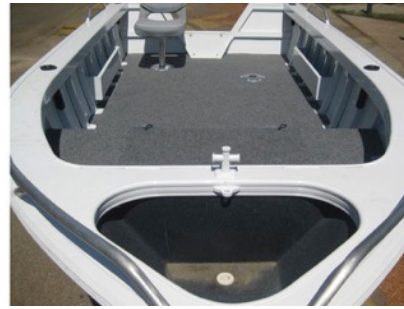
- OVERALL LENGTH 4.44 METERS
- 3MM BOTTOM
- 3MM SIDES
- 3020MM BEAM
- 925MM DEPTH
- RATED TO 4 PEOPLE
- MAX TRANSON WEIGHT 125KGS
- HULL WEIGHT 254KGS
- RATED TO 50HP
- ANCHOR WELL
- REVERSE CHINE SOFTSIDE HULL
- BOTTOM RIBS WELDED TO HULL
- 4 X SEAT POSITIONS
- REAR STEP & RAIL
- 2 X SIDE POCKETS
- TRANSDUCER BRACKET
- CARPETED FLOOR



I decided to purchase a boat after travelling overseas last year and just happened to notice a boat showroom on my way through Longford. I was impressed with the Stessco range on display, which I had not seen in Tasmania previously, but was not as impressed with the price of just over \$18000. A bit of research on the Internet revealed that Stessco is a boat manufactured on the Gold Coast and can be purchased for considerably less in Queensland. The Stessco Catcher 430 is comparable to the Quintrex Renegade 420, which I also researched.

The region around Wodonga seemed to have lots of hits for the Renegade (and it required a lot less towing back to Melbourne) so I obtained a price from a dealer in Wodonga. I called in on my way North to Brisbane and was suitably impressed with the Renegade but decided to look on the Gold Coast first. I ended up at Marine Tune in Burleigh Heads where a fully stocked showroom displayed examples of the full range of Stessco boats. Better still, they had a sale on the boat I was looking after. Half an hour later, a deal was arranged and I would pick the boat up a week later. I can't say Marine Tune were anything wonderful but the boat was ready to go on time and cost \$13000. That was with a 4 stroke Yamaha 30 with electric tilt and a fish finder thrown in. There were cheaper deals but the outboards are always pull start without tilt.

You need to read carefully. There were many other dealers I could try (Caboolture is a hot spot as well as Gumtree) but the price was right and time limited.



Included in the package was registration in Queensland but you can't register without a Queensland address and you can't tow the boat to Tasmania without registering the trailer! Luckily my sister lives in Brisbane so it was registered in her name but I made sure I had evidence on the receipt that I was the actual owner. This was important as evidence of ownership and a statutory declaration was required back in Tasmania. I also had to have the trailer inspected prior to registration in Tasmania, costing \$120 for nothing. I was then able to send the Queensland papers back to my sister who received a pro rata refund after cancelling the registration. All of this was relatively painless but I was unable to recoup the Queensland boat registration. Theoretically, you have 3 months to do all this but how they know when you bought the boat across Bass Strait I don't know.

I drove back down the Newell Highway, which is busy but nowhere near as challenging as Sydney. You can also stop off at the Westerns Plains Zoo in Dubbo. Was it worthwhile? In my case it was as I was going to Brisbane with my vehicle in any case. No doubt it cost a little more in petrol but no more than \$50 and then about \$400 on the TT-Line - All up, about \$3500 cheaper than in Longford. The boat was a bit of a pest with parking on my trip South but barely noticeable on the open road. The new boat has worked beautifully but it hasn't improved my catch rate!!



Andrew Blackwood

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.

David Travalia put me onto this site. It produced by DPIPWWE and shows lake levels and river flows across the state. It is a great link to let you know how the waters in your intended area are performing. The website is below and I have included their summary notes. Check it out!

<http://dpiuwe.tas.gov.au/water/water-data>

Water Data

The Water Information System of Tasmania allows you to search for data relating to water flow, water quality, groundwater and natural freshwater values. You can also search for water entitlement and dam permit information.

River flow plots display the flow recorded in Megalitres per day (ML/day) at sites which are currently open and telemetered.

- **Lake Levels**
- Plots showing the levels for Lakes Sorell and Crescent.
- **River Flow Plots (Sites A-L)**
- River flow plots for sites A-L. Data is updated once a day.
- **River Flow Plots (Sites M-Z)**
- River flow plots for sites M-Z. Data is updated once a day.
- **Water Information System of Tasmania**
- You can select, display and download information on stream flow, groundwater, water quality and fresh water related documents.

Killer Bug – Killer Price!



Oliver Edwards is one of the most well known Fly Tyers in the world. His series of videos on Fly Tying on Fly Fishing are so informative that the club saw fit to acquire the full set. Chris Berndt got interested in trying to tie the 'Sawyers Killer Bug', which was invented by legendary Ghillie Frank Sawyer. It looked to be quite simple and was interesting in that it used wire rather than tying thread. The wire needed to be of the older darker style red copper and Chris managed to find just the right stuff. Finding the right yarn to tie the Killer Bug proved to be a little more difficult. It was called Chadwick's 477 and was made in England – a company which has now closed down making this particular wool a highly sought after target for fly tyers.



I managed to source some on eBay. It was a little more expensive than we wished – coming in at a little over \$215 AUD!!! A quick phone call to Ross Pullen at the Essential Flyfisher in Launceston saw us both get a card of similar stuff for \$4.95. we both agreed that this was certainly good enough for us!

I imagine that some day the little bit of special mohair I have that I use to tie Stokesy's Nymph might be worth hanging onto! For instructions on how to tie the Killer Bug see below.

Davie McPhail version

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jt61pj90nU8>

<http://www.downvids.net/oliver-edwards-ties-frank-sawyer-039-s-pheasant-tail-nymph-ptn-639028.html>

Twin Lakes Adventure



<http://www.twinlakes.com.au>

There comes a time when a father decides it is the opportune time to distract his son from the technology of his choice and tempt him into the world of fly fishing. It is important to do this well. Youth is impatient and impressing them is often quite difficult. With this in mind, Dave Lipscombe prepared well. He needed someone to teach his son Gus how to cast effectively, efficiently and quickly. Enter Laurie Matcham – a pretty good choice.



Next was to find a place where Gus could stand a good chance of actually landing a fish. Not an easy decision. An opportunity to fish a place called Twin Lakes emerged.

Twin Lakes is a private fishery just a few kilometres out of Nugent and was being looked after by a friend of Dave's whilst the owner was away. This was a perfect choice.

So armed with fly rods Dave, Laurie and young Gus traveled down one evening after work and they began to teach the art of fly-casting. You know the drill,

Down, up, stop ... forward – all on a count of 1 2 3. It is a real challenge to get a fly in the water and the likelihood of actually catching a fish whilst doing this should have been remote. However...

On his second cast Gus suddenly yelled that he actually had a fish on! He had caught his first ever fish on fly on his second cast and it was a 14lb brown! The Student, teacher and parent were very impressed!



They began to be less so when the next cast resulted in a 12lb rainbow. Two trophies in 2 casts, all on a Brown beetle!

The adults decided that the student had learned enough and went off to see what they could do.



Dave caught a 'nice load of fish', There was a selection of browns rainbows and a brookie. In fact he got the quadrella with browns rainbows and salmon all well over 10lb and the brookie came in at just a touch over 3lb

The biggest fish caught was a monstrous 30lb salmon and 14lb brown and rainbow common Dave and Laurie both were highly impressed at both the quality and the size of the fish and decided to go as often as they could while the opportunity was

there. In all they caught and released 150 fish in 5 trips averaging 100 over 10lb. Of these only one was on a wet – all the others were on dries. They even managed one 'dawn raid' and 30 metres from cabin got six tailers all over 10lbs

The details of Twin Lakes sound amazing and may appeal to members of the club. This description from the website describes the deal.

Twin lakes Tasmania offers exclusive fly fishing in Tasmania for the serious fly fisher.

Twin Lakes is without doubt the best privately owned trout waters in Australia.

Twin Lakes has developed two lakes which has enabled superb growth rates for trophy rainbow & brown trout.

During your stay just you and your family or friends can exclusively enjoy 3000 beautiful acres of Tasmanian countryside.

Monty's 3 bedroom cabin looks directly over Monty's lake. Designed for your comfort, you can sit & relax in front the woodburner, watch the fish rise, enjoy a barbeque on the deck with a wine or spoil yourselves in the hot tub. Featuring a fully equipped kitchen for self catering or take advantage of a fully catered holiday experience.

Your hosts Rose & Ian Cook arrived from England and fell in love with this unique piece of Tasmania which they have turned into the ultimate escape. Whether you come for a week or a weekend you will agree Twin Lakes is your ultimate fly fishing getaway!

To stay there it normally costs \$450 (plus accommodation) per day 9-5pm. There are apparently great dun hatches – frogs come up the fly screen to eat the duns! Some fish (salmon) have reached 40lbs! There are 2 lakes – about ¼ the size of Penstock with lots of different environments from dead trees to button grass and deeper shores.



The fishing is not like shooting fish in a barrel – it can be quite challenging. Fish come right in close and

whack the button grass with their tails – then come back and mop up the chironomids. To maintain that special feeling and to maintain stocks there is a maximum of 4 people at any one time.

Special deals for club members are currently under negotiation via Dave so talk to him if you are interested. I certainly am!

DM

Working Bee – Stacking and splitting

Anyone who has been to the Miena shack recently will have seen the enormous pile of wood that should see us comfortably through the next few years. The task was to split it and stack it. Our beloved President put out the call and Brian 'Macca' McCullagh and Tony Dell did the coordinating.



The first task was to borrow Malcolm Crosse's log splitter and convince him to come and drive it – something he did with all his usual energy and enthusiasm. The next step was to get some people to help.



On the day we had 8 willing souls. There was Macca and Tony Dell, Noel Wilson, Malcolm Crosse, David Young, Bruce Barker, Shelby Jarelle and myself. The weather was warm and still and, once we had our

systems worked out the 8 tonne pile steadily began to dwindle. Malcolm drove the splitter and Bruce did a splendid job handling and splitting every log. The rest of carried, stacked, loaded and piled the wood into the shed and then in rows along the boundary shed. Noel excelled himself with chocolate cake and coffees for the morning break and then managed to oversee an excellent barbecue lunch. The work was completed in just over 3 hours and everyone was impressed with the team effort!



Anyone going to the Miena shack is asked to take the wood off the outside stack near the boundary fence before we get stuck into the stuff in the shed. It is through combined efforts like this that our club continues its fine traditions.

DM



Club Activities			
November	6-8	Macquarie River Trip	Craig Granquist
	16	Monthly Meeting	
	20-22	Farm dams near Bothwell. Accommodation available in shearer's quarters at Dennistoun	Ian Stokes , Henry Edgell
December	14	Christmas Drinks -Lenah Valley RSL	
January	15-17	Shack weekend (Sharking, Western Lakes, Arthurs, Woods, Shack BBQ)	Ian Stokes
	18	Monthly Meeting Miena	Committee
	20	Deadline for Vice articles	
February	1st week	Western Lakes walking trip. Dates weather dependent	Andrew Blackwood
		Summer Vice Published	Doug Miller
	15	Monthly Meeting	
	19-21	Penstock Weekend	Mark Aspinall
March	19-20	Lake Echo Weekend	Patrick Oxbrough
	21	Monthly Meeting	

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>

