



The Vice



Newsletter of the Tasmanian Fly Tyers' Club Inc.

Volume 15 , Issue 9 Spring 2019

Inside: Bothwell Dams, Great Lake Tie in, Waterbugs, Willows *and much more...*

Cover shot – Success for Cubby! Bothwell Dams weekend

President's Report

My First President's Report!

I would like to thank the club for electing me as its new President. I look at it as replacing one Andrew with another! Mr. Hood's time in the chair was both engaging and enjoyed.

Thanks to the new committee both experienced and new. We welcome back Tim Lewis, Andrew Blackwood, Tim Urbanc, Wayne Bellette and Anna Bellette is now our Vice President. New members are David Travalia and David Long. Thanks to Chris Medwin for his time and efforts on the committee over the last few years.

Spring has offered some great fly fishing to members around the state. Penstock Lagoon has featured heavily in reports and one unnamed committee member (Tim Urbanc) managed a stunning day's total of around 40 fish. Other hot spots include the Tyenna River and Arthurs Lake. With summer just around the corner there is a sense of anticipation about the start of the insect hatches.

Our activities over the spring have mainly been the Farms Dams Weekend at Bothwell. The club supported this event very well with 21 members and a few day visitors. Fishing was both challenging in the wind and rewarding in some beautiful trout caught. The biggest fish was pushing 8 pounds and the rainbows certainly had some serious fight in them. The BBQ dinners on both nights were wonderful and featured rare venison steaks courtesy of Nick Ingles and John Smith.

The club is thankful to Ian Stokes and Steve Butler for their organising and key skills. We thanked both Henry Edgell and Scott Bowden with a bottle of red wine each.

The World Championships are fast approaching, and many club members are helping. There are Sector Judge briefings on 24th November and Controller briefings on 1st December. We look forward to putting on a great competition.

Good luck with your summer fishing and I look forward to seeing you at Club functions and meetings. Cheers

Andrew Reed
(The Other Andrew)



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!

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

This time the voucher goes to Anna Bellette for her great story on how she got into competition fishing.

Send your stories to 55dmiller@gmail.com

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Editorial

I haven't been fishing much this season but what I have done has been remarkable for the sheer persistence and ubiquity of the wind! It seems to be everywhere, even behind hills and on lee shores. It has been incredibly strong and has the ability to hit you from bewilderingly unpredictable angles. The positives have been that the fish are finally starting to 'look up' and that Arthurs is back in the picture.

In this edition we have a report on the wonderful Bothwell Dams weekend. The photos were all taken on my old camera with no geo-tracking, dams are not named and the location kept deliberately obscure so as to protect the privacy of Henry, Felicity and Scott who have been incredibly generous in allowing us access to their beautiful properties.

There is a report on the Great Lake Tie in which was an exceptional event held slightly later than normal in order to coincide with the World Championships. It was a great event and my congratulations to the organising committee.

There is a piece on the Willow Warriors again as there is an opportunity here for us as a club to have a positive effect on the Tyenna River. David Travalia is coordinating this and will do a great job if we support him.

Also there is a bit about the Waterbug Book. John's display at the Tie In was simple but fascinating and the improvements to the app he has developed should be brilliant.

The work that Macca and Delly have done on the Mienna shack has been brilliant too. The clearing out the back, the new turning circle, the new position for the water pump and the cleanout of the shed - even the recliners are improvements for this fantastic club asset. The photos are just below - Brilliant work men!

So – roll on summer, roll on mayfly time and bugger off wind!



DM

Bothwell Dams Weekend

When the wind blows from the west the fishing is at its best...

When it roars and howls it's... challenging to say the least!



Once again the lucky ones who were able to attend the much anticipated Bothwell dams weekend had a memorable fishing experience. The wind howled and the rain came in cold sheets but the fish made up for any discomfort by being in absolutely brilliant condition.



The first and middle dams at Henry's place were the places that attracted the most attention with left-handers having a distinct advantage on some shores. The fish, all rainbows, averaged around 4-6lbs were in astonishingly good condition and were certainly not willing to give up without dancing and leaping and occasionally straightening hooks.

The chance to return to the shearers' quarters and a roaring fire was welcomed by the windblown and weary and once the food and refreshments were under the belt the evening took on a very jovial atmosphere indeed!

Early risers headed up the road to the distant dam, which Scott very generously allows us to fish, and were rewarded with some lovely fish. Again the wind made things hard and the bright sunny conditions made things even more challenging. The Editor and Treasurer made hard work of it with the more literary managing to avoid fish altogether.



The Saturday evening meal is always a highlight and this proved to be no exception. The food and wine flowed freely as did the conversation and the camaraderie was fulsome. Our new President, Andrew Reed thanked Henry, Felicity and Scott for their generosity and we all drank their health.





Some of our younger members were highly impressed by the 'staying' abilities of a couple of the more senior members who definitely had their party hats on well into Sunday morning. The Editor saw the signs and departed at a reasonable hour, had a great nights sleep, and regretted nothing in the morning.

As people drifted off home had a final fling with some success. The wind continued to blow but the memories of this weekend will live on and hopefully be repeated again next year.



Many thanks to Henry, Felicity, Scott and Ian Stokes for his efforts coordinating this wonderful weekend.

DM

The Great Lake Tie in 2019

The Great Lake Tie-In was held on the 23rd of November instead of its usual time in mid October to coincide with the World Fly Fishing Championships.



Originally held at Bronte Park and known as the 'Bronte Tie-in' the event was re-launched in 2016 at the instigation of Graham Blight and is now held at the Miena, Great Lake Community Centre.



The committee (Graham Blight, Marion Blight, Steven Butler, Malcolm Crosse and Anna Bellette and Wayne Bellette) worked together to make this event happen each year.

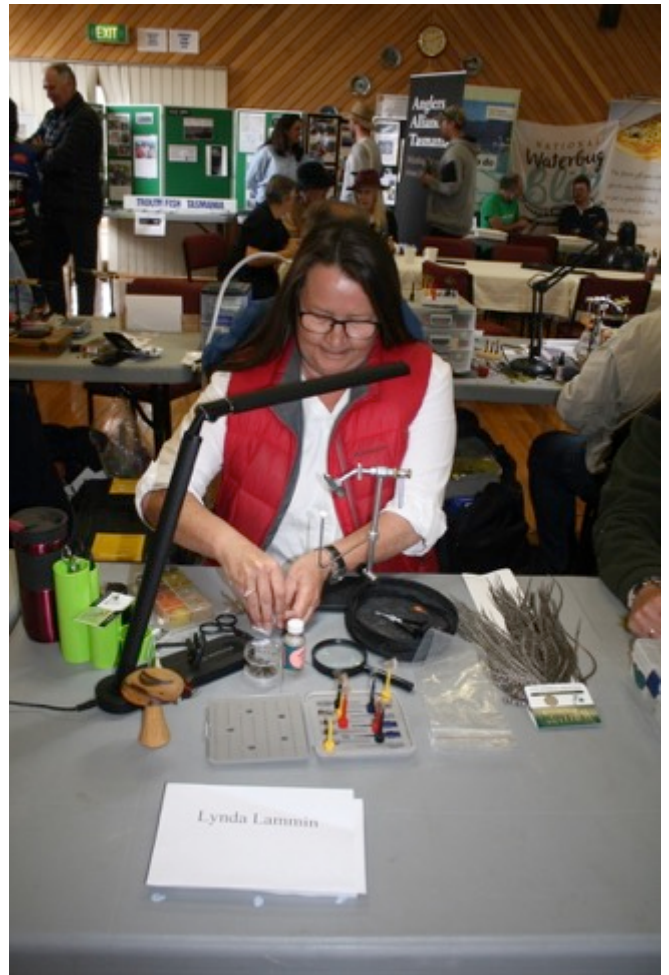


The Community Centre was set up with a bar decorated brilliantly and the kitchen serving excellent

food at very competitive prices. They even managed to rustle up breakfast for some hungry international fly fishing teams who had lost power at their residences!



There were a number of trade tables set up around the room, all of which had interesting stock and excellent advice. It was great to see the sponsors of this magazine there - the team from Spot On!



The centre of the room was taken up with the real stars of the event – the tyers. Our club was very well represented with Tony Dell tying (and doing a demonstration of dying materials without his partner in crime Brian McCullagh who injured himself in the line of duty – more on that later). It was great to see

members Neil Pinkard, Shane Broadby and Linda Lammin showing off their considerable skills.



Stephen Butler did great job as MC and Anna Bellette, Wayne Bellette, Mark Aspinall all worked tirelessly to make the day a success.

Entry was by gold coin donation and the silent auction on the day goes towards funding the event each year.



You can keep up to date with the Tie-in and even get involved in planning the next one by contacting Anna or by going on the facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/346432735791644/>



Although it only officially goes for a day the IFS held a well-attended talk on the Friday night on the topic 'Talk Trout Tasmania'.

It was great to see some of the best tyers around the state all in one location. There were even interstate tyers - Mick Hall was keen to return with Dale Flenly representing the Ballarat Club. They have been coming each year since the re-launch.



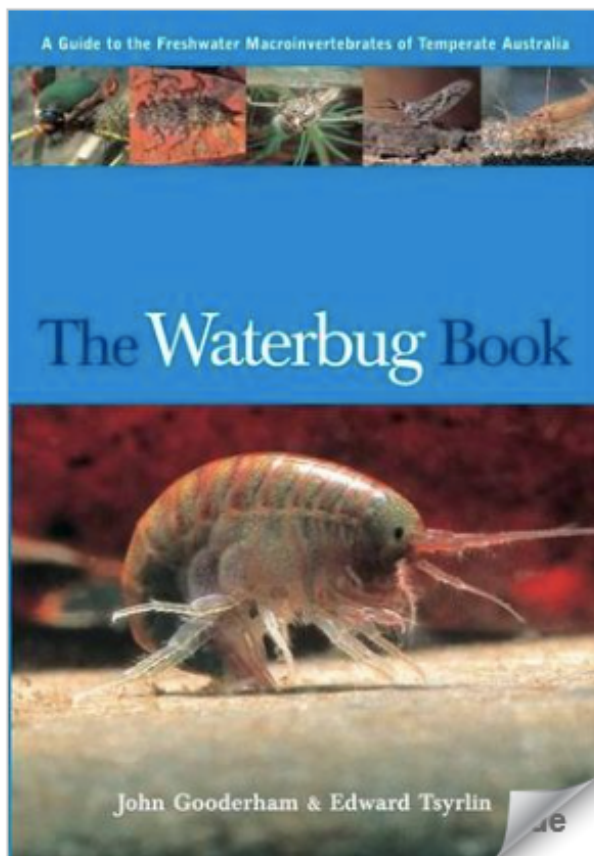
DM

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 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.



At the Miena Tie in I met up with the wonderful John Gooderham, who spoke at one of our club meetings a few years ago about his brilliant book *The Waterbug Book*. It is a magnificent resource for Tasmanian anglers.



The award winning book is...*Full of practical tips about where to find various animals, and what their presence can tell about their environment... The Waterbug Book provides a comprehensive and accurate identification guide for both professionals and non-professionals. It contains an easy-to-use key to all the macroinvertebrate groups and, for the first time, high quality colour photographs of live specimens. It provides a wealth of basic information on the biology of macroinvertebrates, and describes the SIGNAL method for assessing river health. The Waterbug Book is full of practical tips about where to find various animals, and what their presence can tell about their environment.*

Winner of the 2003 Eureka Science Book Prize and the 2003 Whitley Medal.

<https://www.publish.csiro.au/book/3148/>

Even more useful for us is the app that John has produced. This has been around for a while now but John wanted us to know that there is a new feature due for release very soon which features maps of the areas we fish and what waterbugs you can expect to find there



<https://thewaterbugapp.com>



This is a brilliant resource and should be invaluable for us as fishers and fly tyers!

Competition Fishing - My Journey

The XVI Australian Master Games, Fly Fishing Championships were held in Tasmania in October 2017. Competition fly fishing was something I had heard about from some of the local fishing guys in Hobart, which I had thought was something far out of reach for me. The thought of not being good enough and the unknown just kept it at bay. Malcolm Crosse visited me at work one day with Glenn Eggleton and basically said, "You are in the ladies team with Jane Foster and Karen Brooks". That was pretty much the way I got into comp fishing. At that point not many ladies were competing, and it was going to be a first for the master's games to have a fly fishing event with a ladies fly fishing team, and a first for me. We were called the Reel Girls.



It was scary and there was no backing out now. I was in the ladies team and had to go ahead whether I was ready or not. The allocated venues were Talbots Lagoon (from a motorised boat), Mersey River and Natone Fly Fishery. Looking at the waters we were

fishing made everything better; fishing Talbots from a boat was all worth it. I was going just so I could do that.



John Hepburn, a member of the Devonport Fly Fishing Club, was kind enough to put me up for the week while I was travelling back and forth to the allocated comp waters, I tied a few flies with John before the comp as well as getting my rods and reels ready. I cringe to think now of the leader I had on which was probably the line from the last time I fished. I had no proper concept of intermediate and sinking lines. I think I fished with my normal floating line and a borrowed sinking line. Fishing with fluorocarbon was not even something I thought about. With very little experience with fly fishing from a boat and the different types of fishing methods, I felt I was in way over my head. I now know not to focus so much on the fly but the fishing method, the ecology of the lake, inlets, soaks etc. Anyone can give you a fly but how you fish it is key.

John and I did a road trip prior to the Games, we headed to Gunn's Plains for a practice and a look at the waters. Around this time is when I started to think about Czech Nymphing and now know what an effective river method this is. When you think about it, the fish are feeding under the surface most of the time, you just have to figure out what depth to fish, weight of the tungsten bead to put on for the water conditions. On this day I am pretty sure I hooked more sticks and rocks than I cared to remember, although I have been told if you are hooking up on the bottom occasionally you are doing it right.

The days began leaving Devonport around 5am each day to head to the briefing each morning at Burnie, then off to our allocated waters to compete. We got to fish Talbots first, from a motorised boat, I was excited, but not so happy when I got in the boat and forgot my scorecard. Steaming time was around five

minutes to get to your desired location on the water. Fishing from a boat in comps you stay seated at all times (other than when netting a fish).

There were two sessions, each three hours long. In each session, an hour and half is allocated to each angler to control the boat and where they fish. You are only allowed to fish your half of the boat, imagine a line between you and your opponent which you cannot cross. The other angler watches you measure your fish and you both agree on the correct length. The minimum score size was 20cm and 100 points were awarded for all fish measured over minimum size. An additional 20 points per cm is added for all scoring fish. Brown trout, Rainbows, Atlantic Salmon and Native Grayling were the species that all counted in this competition.



I remember getting my gear ready at the Mersey River, no strategic plan in mind until well after my first session. I fished it like I would have gone for a casual fish. We had at least 300 meters each for our beat and a controller keeping time and scoring any fish I caught during my session. I was horrified when Peter Brooks pointed out to me how I should have fished, I needed to break my beat up and fish every part of it in the three hours I had. I went into my next session with a different view, and fished my next session way

better with four fish on the board and managed to get a placing.

The angler in the next beat was pulling fish out after fish and running back and forth through his beat. Despite this he still managed to pull fish out of his section. I was amazed at this as I always thought you had to be stealthy in your approach. Not this day, the angler was strategic, he hit the water he knew held fish, and headed back before his time was up to re fish that section knowing he would pull fish out once again. Some of these guys have been competing for years and know how to fish every inch of the water, they know what to avoid so they don't waste time and that is why they succeed. To me, watching these guys has been a lesson in itself. Some have 3 to 4 rods set up ready to go, even walking their beat before the session so they know exactly where to use the rods and when. Sometimes placing them at certain points along their stretch of water.



The last sessions were at Natone Fishery, we had certain beats marked along the shore, I had more success here catching fish. Just letting the fly sink and counting down and bam, you were on. There are some very big fish in this water, every fish I caught scored. I was happy. Craig Colman wasn't too far from me and he caught the largest fish that day, it was a very big rainbow. We were close enough to see how others fished, not the flies but how they fished which was important to me.



When I look back now, this was the perfect way to get into comp fishing. I have fished in State Championships; most of the locations are in the Northern part of the State, Mersey, Meander, Four Springs, Joseph Chromy Winery, and the Tyenna which is closer to home for me. Some of the Lakes fished were Pine, Bronte, Woods Lake, Highland Waters and Penstock. You get to fish with some excellent anglers who are at the top level. I have fished two Nationals, one in Victoria, at Falls Creek and the other in NSW at Tumut. There have been days I thought this was not for me but when I look back at what I have learnt in such a short space of time, this outweighs the negatives. The people you get to fish with is a bonus, and you get to learn so much from them especially when fishing in a boat. I would say It has definitely been worth it.

March this year a few girls and I went on a trip to NZ at Taupo to fish the waters that will be in the Commonwealth Fly Fishing Championships in 2020. I am so glad I did because I have been chosen, as a reserve, in the first ever Australian Ladies Fly Fishing Team. It is an honour that I will be representing Australia and I am glad that ladies have been recognised in this sport. Who knows down the track we may even have a ladies only competition.

I would say to anyone wanting to have a go at competition fishing, you will definitely learn and grow from the experience and who knows where it could lead to. You do need to be a member of Fly Fish Australia to compete and they even have a section for Young Guns, it is designed to help develop skills in the next generation of competition fly fishers.

<http://flyfishaustralia.com.au/cms/>

Anna Bellette

Advice 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.

This video however, attracted my attention. It looks simple and effective and probably is, especially with my fading eyesight!

Thread on the fly and make a loop



Insert the pliers through the loop and twist x3



Grab the tag end with the pliers



Pull through

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TZEU46clTb8&pp=desktop>

The Willow Warriors #2



<https://www.ifs.tas.gov.au/news/2019/mar/13/tyenna-river-willow-warriors-working-bee>

In the last edition of The Vice I included a short article on 'The Willow Warriors' a group of volunteers dedicated to clearing invasive willows from the banks of the Tyenna River. New member Glenn Szalman is the coordinator of the group, which meets, regularly and not only rids the riverbanks of willow trees but replants with native species.

At the November meeting, Glenn bought along a stick of willow he had collected from the Newtown Rivulet just across the road from the RSL. The portion of the willow that was on the bank looked normal but the piece that was in the water had developed an alarming number of roots. It was a tree in the making!

Every twig of willow has the potential to regrow and strangle an entire river system. Enter new committee member David Travalia.

David is passionate about fishing rivers and has seen first hand the impact that willows can have on a river system – especially small ones. 'Just by picking up broken bits of willow and throwing it up on the bank can stop that twig becoming a tree. It is in the club's interest that we make a positive impact on the areas we love to fish and that as a gesture to habitat management we should as a club take on this project.'

To help facilitate this initiative David has available a limited number of 'roll on' bottles of herbicide that members can keep in their vests and dab on branches that they cut with secateurs (not provided but useful).

The willow warriors are aiming to clear all the willows from Westerway to the Raspberry farm by 2022. They are employing a steady as it goes approach in replacing the willows with natives such as Backwoods

and Peppermints, which will encourage birds and native wildlife. Generally removal of weeds and invasive species will mean that this wonderful little river can thrive and continue to provide wonderful fishing opportunities for many years to come.

If you want more information on what you can do please contact David or Glenn. They would love to talk to you!

DM



Tyenna River

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

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>