



The Vice

newsletter of Tasmanian Fly Tyers' Club Inc.

Volume 7, Issue 2

Autumn edition, April 2009

Next Meeting Monday 20th April 8 PM at the Black Buffalo-Noel Wilson reveals his favourite fly and how to fish it, Ian Stokes will tie his nymph Join the Discussion.

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Presidents Report Autumn Vice Edition

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the Vice. Last night I was bent over my vice tying some secret Killer Hopper patterns. This has been an extraordinary Hopper year on the rivers. My travels have also taken me to the new Huntsman Dam where there were also thousands of hoppers on the banks. The fish growth is well above average. The boating facilities are superb and with a spectacular view of the Western Tiers this would be worth a trip next season.

The club committee recently spent a worthwhile weekend at the Bob Peacock Lodge. This was an opportunity for review and future planning. We discussed many ideas as well. Some examples include, increasing younger membership, improving access at the lodge (which has become tricky with more than three boats), the Sorell shack, the club venue, general meetings, more fly tying, some exciting ideas for next years activities and many more interesting proposals. Now we have to put some of these into action. We will develop a list of priorities and discuss these proposals at future general meetings. Oh and we fished Arthurs Lake too. Pete Murphy is a fish magnet!

As the season draws to a close and cabin fever takes hold. I look forward to seeing more of you at the club general meetings.

Best Wishes

Huntsman Dave

Guess this Lake

The lake in the last issue was Lake Burbury and Bruce Barker, who won the prize again is in NZ, so email your guess to nib1943@iinet.net.au before he gets home to win a \$30 gift voucher from the kind lads at the Fishing Connection.



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 'Guess this lake' competition. I'm sure everyone will join with me in thanking the lads for this kind support, and continue to patronise Steve's shop.

Next issue

The next issue of vice will be out by the end of July with a deadline 19/07/09 for copy to John Smith nib1943@iinet.net.au if you have ideas, articles or comments send them to John.

Member profile – Cliff Ludford

When did you first start fishing? “I first started fly-fishing in the 1960s. I was working at Hydro in Moonah with Duncan Kerr’s father Duncan (senior) and Ambrose Hayley – who I think started “the Vice”. One of the brass ferrels on Duncan senior’s fly rod was damaged and I offered to turn him up a new one. After I had fixed his rod, Duncan took me to Austins Ferry where we fished from a jetty. I enjoyed it and decided to get into it. Duncan suggested that I go to fly-tying classes with Ray Longden above Bridges Brothers, which I did.”

When did you become a member of the Club? “Ray introduced me to the Club and I became a member in the 1960s.”

Where did you first start fly-fishing? “I did much of my early fishing at Little Pine Lagoon in the late 60s.”

Favourite fishing spot? “Rocky shores ... or wherever Noel Wilson takes me!”

Favourite flies? “At the moment my favourite wets are a Stokesy’s nymph with a tungsten bead or a Black and Peacock. My favourite dry is a Klinkhammer.”

Biggest fish? “4 pounds or so ... but I have had much bigger ones on and lost them!”

Most memorable fishing? “I was fishing with Noel in the little bay just towards the dam from the shacks in Penstock and I out fished him on the dry fly.”

What are your most memorable club events? “The working bees on the Dee Lagoon and Miena Club shacks and also all the great club barbecues at the start and end of each season.”



Cliff fished with Ray Longden and the late Joe Martek in the early days at places like Arthurs Lake, the Lagoon of Islands, and Lake Sorell in their hay day. They used to camp sometimes on the islands in Arthurs Lake using much smaller boats than the giants we float about in these days. As you would expect there are a few camp stories.

We are all different, thank goodness, and some of us are less organised than others. Ray Longden was extremely well organised with the skills to make camping a dignified experience, almost an art form. Cliff recalls a night round the fire while he was camping with Ray and Malcom Cross on Brazendale Island on Arthurs Lake. Ray had set up his folding table with cloth, cutlery, candles, nibbles, a glass of chilled white wine and fine food. With serviette spread out on his lap he sighed with pride and prepared to eat his 3 course meal. Well Cliff’s daughter’s dog found a wallaby in the bush which took off with dog in hot pursuit around the log, past the fire and strait under Rays camp table sending everything flying! No one said a thing?

One trip to the Lagoon of Islands Cliff for was landed with his daughter’s dog to mind again ; a big hungry one. The late Joe Martek had his supplies for the week including a large roast chicken, intended for at least four meals, secure in his esky. Large hungry dog of above average IQ had other ideas and nosed open the “esky” lid for a snack and made off with the chicken. When Cliff saw what had happened he did what any fare minded honourable gentleman would do; he replaced the lost chicken with a can of dog food. Hungry as a horse after a long days fishing, Joe came to the esky to get his prized meal, dog food! No chicken; and no sense of humour! (Cliff says he replaced the chicken, eventually)

Cliff’s a fine upstanding member
Caught more fish than he can remember
His fish grow with time as he sips the red wine
Minnows become real rod benders

Noel and Cliff they fish together
Many a fine fish they bring to the tether
The competition is hot and if they don’t catch a lot
They blame it on the weather

Member Profile Noel Wilson

Write up by John Smith

Noel was born in Tunbridge and grew up with his father who was a shearer, farm worker and rabbitier. He recalls helping his father peg out rabbit skins and operating his own trapping run to get skins to sell to the buyer when he did his rounds.

Noel lived near the Blackman River at Tunbridge and spent school holidays with grandparents who lived at Ross on the banks of the Macquarie River. Using worms and a bush pole he got to know about fishing at an early age, catching perch, tench, eels and a few trout.

With a proper rod and reel and the addition of grasshoppers Noel targeted trout with success in the Macquarie, Blackman, Tin Dish and the Coal River at Campania, where his wife Betty came from. Later on Ross Caravan Park became a favourite spot for Noel and Betty over many of years.

Noel started fly fishing in the 80s after completing a fly fishing and fly tying course with David O'Brien. With an understanding of trout and the hunter instinct Noel adapted to fly fishing and started to catch a few fish in Lake Sorell and Lake Crescent. It was in Lake Crescent where Noel caught his largest fish an eight pounder on his small size 10 Green Rabbit with jungle cock eyes.

First try with the dry; it's what you would expect from Noel on his childhood river, the Macquarie. He saw a fish rise, remembered what Dave O'Brien had said, tied on a red spinner, greased his trace, cast up stream of the rise and watched his fly disappeared with a delicate sip. "Gosh he took that" said Noel, raised his rod and landed the first of 5 for the day.

He worked with Cliff Ludford at the hydro in the human relations area and lives in the same street. It was Cliff who nominated Noel to the club and now they often fish together and are a pleasure to meet up with at the shack.

As well as being an excellent fly fisherman who catches more than his share Noel is a great club man who attends a lot of field trips and functions.

. He was the instigator and organiser of the Macquarie field trip for a number of years; it is only through Noels background and communication skills that the club gets such good access to the Macquarie. He

readily shares his knowledge, and helps club members both new and old to enjoy fishing.

Since the drought Noel has been fishing Arthurs, Penstock and the Pine with the occasional dabble in the Great Lake. He tries a range of methods both wet and dry, and is deadly with 3 small nymphs and stickies on a long leader.

A couple of tips "Golly he took that" is about the right time to leave before the strike and "you can't catch fish without a fly in the water"

Noel enjoys caravanning around Australia with Betty and also enjoys Swansea where they have a van. They enjoy saltwater fishing and eating trevalla flathead and whiting in addition to trout of course.



Four nice fish from the Macquarie

A Midlander borne and bred.
A Midlands lady he wed.
To Ross they would go, put on a great fishing show.
The fish preferred them in bed.

He saw the ripples-a rise!
A dry fly, would be wise
Upstream with the cast, fly gently floats past.
With a "sip" - first of 5 to surprise!



Noel master caster

Member Profile--Bruce Barker

Write up by John Smith

Bruce started fishing with his father, grand parents and uncle in Western Victoria where he was raised on a farm, shooting rabbits to supplement his pocket money Development of his keen eye sight and hunting instinct occurred at an early age. He remembers catching trout up to 5lbs on mud eyes at the age of 11 and using his mates father's split cane rod while young.

He moved to Tasmania 25 years ago and started trout fishing spinning and trolling on Lake Sorell. *"One week in November , having caught many fish trolling, I got a bit bored with it , and tried the fly rod in the boat catching 3 fish on my first attempt -I became addicted."*

Fished Sorell for a number of years using the deadly red and black and completed a fly tying course with David O'Brian before joining the fly tiers in 1996. With the help of various club activities he has become a competent, and I would say meticulous tier. He now uses a large powerful magnifier to get it just right.

Favourite waters are *"where the fish are"* enjoying particularly the Western Lakes. Arthurs, the Great Lake Little Pine and Penstock have yielded good catches. Favourite fishing time is from November to March.

Bruce now prefers to match the hatch and has started a collection of fish stomach contents to learn more about eating habits. Likes the English Hopper, but uses quite a few flies depending on what the fish are feeding on.

Bruce works at CSIRO providing support to significant research project relating to Fish. He does a lot for the club having served on the committee for 5 years as treasurer and as President.

Bruce's other passions include snow skiing, wild places (bush, mountains, deserted coastline, etc) and bush walking. *"I'm a conservationist, a greeny, and I believe it is long overdue that we stop pillaging the natural assets of this State. We continually destroy what makes this state such a special place."*

I had the pleasure of 4 days fishing with Bruce in researching this profile. One tip he showed me was the slow retrieve of the nymph then *"let it hang"* which he did for 25 seconds, then bugger me *"got one"* just like that.

Over the 4 days Bruce caught fish midging on the Great Lake wind lanes, polaroiding with the dry on sand banks, fishing on hard bright days, with the nymph and emerger before the dune hatch, on the dry during the dune hatch and chasing sharks on the great lake.

I think Bruce has the attributes of great fly fisher who catches more than his share.

- The hunter's instinct he can spot fish.
- Organised, meticulous, well prepared.
- Spends time on the water
- Studies nature and the life cycle of trout tucker.
- *"If method not working try something else"*
- Talks to other fishers and listens and learns.

Largest trout caught was a 12lb Brown taken on Arthurs Lake using a special as yet unnamed fly developed by Bruce.(see last Vice)



Bruce at the Vice

Bruce developed the fish gut fly
With this many big fish will die
A big brown he has moved, the fly has been proved
Why don't you give one a try?

While learning to fish with Bruce
My skill with a nymph not much use
Bruce just lets it hang, a fish took with a bang
Another fish; let it hang loose!

THE POSTMAN'S KNOCK

He was a loner from Launceston, claimed he only fished a particular dry fly and always went home with his bag (12), favoured the Penstock and Shannon Lagoons.

If short of his bag, he topped it off at the Lake River on his way home. He always wore a fur felt hat with a broad leather band embossed 'P.M.G.' in gold. He was nick-named "The Postman", his real name was Jack Holloway; and he was in fact a postman.

On the first Sunday morning in December a friend and I were heading home from the Club's Dud Bay cabin and called into the Penstock. A slight breeze from the southeast created calm on the eastern side. I crossed the dam and there was The Postman landing his seventh fish for the morning. In the process of casting to another riser, he left his fly in the top of a tall dead sapling. I offered to help him retrieve it by pushing the sapling over. He said I could have it if I could get it down; I guess he didn't think I could, but I did.

The conversation then went something like this – "That's a fine tippet" said I. "What have you got on?" he asked. "Four and a half pound Water Queen" I answered.

"Too heavy! My cast is two and a half Water Queen" he replied "cut it off, add it to your own cast and retie the fly."

In the meantime he had renewed his own cast, pointed to a riser for me to go after and left me to it. I caught the riser – about three and a quarter pound, got into another which took me into a weed patch and broke me – goodbye fly!

~

I dyed up some hackles which I thought was close to the sample and tried them out between the Xmas and New Year on the western side of the Penstock near the dam, and although fish rose they did not take, simply tending to drown the fly.

There was only one other angler on the water - it turned out to be "The Postman". The fishing was not so good according to him – he only had five and was thinking of heading home. He agreed with the fish, my fly wasn't right, but he gave me a close look at his tobacco tin full of the one fly, but no comment on how it was tied or the materials used.

~

I had some trouble finding a suitable body material until a friend gave me some silkworm cocoons, and on a trip to Japan in 1966 I obtained some pure silk sample packs which turned out O.K. I used Veniard's Hot Orange dye with a dab of Crimson to slightly

deepen the colour. I called the fly "The Postman's Knock". When a riser takes it on a flat calm water, it sounds like a smacking kiss, which reminded me of a teenage party amusement of that name.

The fly is a bi-visible.

The tie is:-

Old scale hooks: Mustard: 8, 10, 12, and 14
Thread: Yellow, Black or Brown
Cock Hackles: Black and Rhode Island Red or Dark Bantam
Body: Orange silk
Tail: Two or three Rhode Island Red fibres (curled up)



Postman's Knock

You may switch the hackles - for a darker fly I place the Rhode Island Red hackle towards the eye of the hook. NB This fly was the pattern for Joe Martak's "Onion Bag" the silk body being substituted by orange coloured onion bag plastic.

"Tight Lines" - Ron Ruthven

Coming Events to Put in Diary

26th April Fishing Picnic Day--Brian West

23rd /24th May Liawenee Open Day

30th /31st May Fly Tying Weekend Tiger Hut---Lyndon Cubbins

21st June Family Day Snowy Range—John Smith

Activity Reports

(1) Field weekend Penstock

January 24/25/26 Leader Mark Aspinall

A small group of members had a great time on this trip. We all lived in comfort thanks to the “cabins” provided by Mark Aspinall, Malcom Crosse, and Ian Madden. Apart from the companionship this weekend provides a chance to find out the truth about penstock from the real locals who live there. Most members caught fish, and there were some magnificent specimens, both fish and members!



Malcolm Crosse, Ian Madden, Noel Wilson and David Young at Penstock

It was Cliff Ludford’s birthday so we all had to celebrate a bit and sing happy birthday. Ian Madden gave a splendid speech about Cliff.

The next morning was still and the early morning patrol productive with a spinner hatch. During the day there was some success on the dry even though it was bright. David Young was taken out to the backing by a tail hooked fish and proceeded to deliberately foul hook another

This is a great weekend. Come along next year. Thanks again to the generous Penstock Shack owners.

Lake Burbury trip (well almost)

There were only three starters for this weekend, myself, Doug Miller, and John Smith. The forecast weather was not suitable for midge and wind-lane fishing so we decided to go to the Mienna shack instead.

Doug went up Friday afternoon and fished Arthurs from about 1.30pm taking seven fish. I also fished there from about 4.30 and managed three.

Saturday was very windy with rain squalls. We again fished Arthurs from the dam end, but only caught three between us. One of these was an excellent fish of 4½ pounds taken by Doug.

Entertainment was provided by a party in a very small tinny who arrived with five sponge rubber mattresses and a lot of gear to camp on one of the small islands. We saw them again later leaving the boat ramp with four people and more gear on board heading into waves up to a metre with not much more than 100mm of freeboard. The following day they were out trolling with all five on board!

We were joined at the shack later on Saturday by three friends, Andrew Blackwood (who is on the membership waiting list), Shane, and Mark.

Sunday was a beautiful day with light winds. We again fished Arthurs for a few hours with little success before moving to Great Lake. Later that afternoon John Smith and Noel Wilson arrived. We all went to various locations for evening fishing, but the only successful ones were Doug, Shane and Mark.



Doug Miller with well earned prize

When we returned to the shack David Young and Peter Langton had arrived followed shortly afterwards by Bruce Barker. That made 10 and an enjoyable evening. Noel wanted to go home but we wouldn’t let him because he had had a drink, so he slept on the couch. Bruce slept on the floor. David and Peter kicked John out of the front room and sent him to sleep in his van where he turned the cricket on at sufficient volume to keep Noel awake. Anyone going outside for calls of nature could also get an update on the score. On one such call I encountered a semi naked Plankton at the

door (mercifully the moon was not sufficiently strong to reveal much detail) muttering about the Gay Mardi Gras and the possibility of being arrested.



Full House at Myena

Most of us were intending to be up early for some midge fishing on Great Lake, but, to the relief of some, the wind ruined those plans. Instead we went our separate ways leaving Bruce and John to enjoy the next few days of good weather. It was pleasing to see the shack being so well used.

Pete Murphy

The Pig Roast at the Salmon Ponds

Thirty odd members and family enjoyed a pleasant day at the Salmon Ponds with Peter Murphy and Simon Gates doing a superb job of organisation and cooking.



Heather picked up a nice rainbow.

Margaret Knight Gussed the correct weight of the Rainbow, 9 Kg and won first prize a bottle of wine she had donated. Heather was second with Tony Dell Third. Despite protest from Heather, Margaret insisted of giving the wine to Tony.



Tony with Kate Dell preparing for second round

Despite a great opening round from Andrew Hood Tony dell won the casting competition AGAIN! Simon Gates and John Spenser tied for second with Andrew Hood third. There was no second prize.

John Spenser’s call of the event was a model for aspiring race callers. A good day was had by all.

Lodge Warden Peter Trott

If you have any queries about the Lodges, including maintenance or repairs Please contact Peter Trott.

ph 03) 6244 7009
 Mobile 0430 195 158
 Email : trotty@aapt.net.au

Recipe From Our Irish Boson Paul

CHICKEN AND HAM PIE

Ingredients

3 (or 2 .5) sheets puff pastry,
350 grams cooked chicken
180 grams cooked ham, diced
1 Leek or Onion, finely chopped
6 medium Mushrooms
30 grams Butter

For Sauce:

50 grams Butter
50 grams Plain Flour
150 ml Chicken Stock
150 ml Milk
1 teaspoon English Mustard
Salt & Black Pepper to taste

Instructions

Prepare sauce first:

Melt butter, add flour to form paste. Gradually add milk & stock stirring constantly. Season with salt, pepper & mustard. Cook gently for 4 or 5 minutes.

Fry leek in 1 oz butter until soft, add mushrooms, then chicken in bite-sized pieces along with the ham. Allow to go cold. Using a 25cm (10") pie plate, grease and line with pastry. Add filling, cover with pastry, decorate, brush with egg (or milk) and slit. Bake in a hot oven approx. 200 degrees C - 25 to 30 minutes.

Bring the finished delicious pie on the next fishing trip or club function to share with your mates!

Report from the AAT meeting March 15th Latrobe. Peter Murphy

IFS

The 24 hr licence is to become a 48 hr licence at no additional cost.

“Take a mate fishing”- proposal that a full licence holder will be able to take a friend fishing for two consecutive days at no cost. This will be done by

providing a voucher with your licence which can be redeemed for a 48 hr licence.

Lake Fergus

Richard Dax (AAT) and Neil Morrow (IFS) met with Randall Trethewie regarding access. Mr Trethewie went to good deal of trouble to explain his reasons for purchase of the land which revolved mainly around its preservation. He has carried out significant remedial works with years of land degradation from 4WD's being returned to a natural state. A track has been cleared on the southern side of the river so that walking or push bike access is easier. Signage showing access and interpretation has been installed in various positions. Rocks have been placed along the south side of the river to dissuade 4WD entry from across the river as this was occurring by cutting through fence lines. Hard stand material has been brought in to form a track from his road to the lake together with a pad on which to turn vehicles. The shack area has been cleared and repairs made. A toilet has been constructed and a visitor's book installed. All of this has been paid for, and is maintained, by him. He has also constructed facilities for his own use located through a locked gate. He is adamant that none of the facilities or areas are for paid tourism purposes.

Neil Morrow has prepared draft access information and a map as has been done for other lakes. Negotiations over this are continuing. The IFS is also presently negotiating alternative access.

Arthurs Lakes

AAT attended a meeting with the Hydro in February. The following is information obtained from the meeting. The present level is about 947.5 metres above sea level. Separation of the two lakes is likely below 946.5, the pumps could take it down to 943. Hydro aim to restore it to 949 or more and maintain it there.

It is usual to pump 90,000 megalitres p.a. from the lake. 30,000 of this is ear-marked for the Midlands irrigation scheme. Inflow estimates have

been revised down to 90,000 megalitres p.a. – the average for the last 3 years has been 50,000. it is considered that in the future Hydro would pump for 4 months of the year and irrigation for 12. Once allocations and levels have been agreed on Hydro would not be able to pump more than their allocation once the irrigation share has been taken. AAT believes allocations should be based on inflow.

Central Highlands Camping

The Recreational Lakes committee is about to publish a map of areas which can be used for motor homes, tents, free camping.

Lake Augusta road

Parks and Hydro have been approached re this but there seems to be confusion over whose responsibility it is. Richard Dax will bring it up at the next Recreational Lakes Committee meeting.
Bakers Tier logging.

There is doubt that much can be done because the operators are probably within their rights. Richard Dax will bring it up at the next Tourism Forestry Protocols Committee meeting.

Pete Murphy



Who could this be with an 8 pound Brown from Lake Crescent in 1990

That's it until Winter Vice July 2009

There is nothing like winter vice so get it out and tie me some flies for the next issue. Even better send me an article, a fishing tip in fact anything to make vice better. A new editor perhaps?