

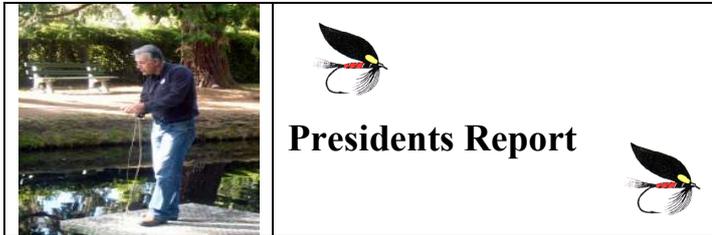


The Vice

News letter of Tasmanian Fly Tyers' Club Inc.

Volume 8, Issue 2

Autumn Edition, April 2010



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Wow, what a season. Good winter rains, coupled with an amazing summer, resulted in terrific Great Lake fishing. I'm still unsure why the 'sharks' on great lake were so numerous this year. It didn't appear to be the insects on the water but time after time the fish were up in the waves and in the foam lines. Those members who weren't able to experience this form of fishing simply must next summer. But be warned...those with a weak heart should stay at home.

Down on the river with a refreshed system and hoppers everywhere, the fish were fat as butter.

On the other side of the coin, hatches were unreliable and Arthurs Lake was very disappointing. I'm sure this lake will improve next season but whether the famous hatches return next summer or the one after that remains to be seen.

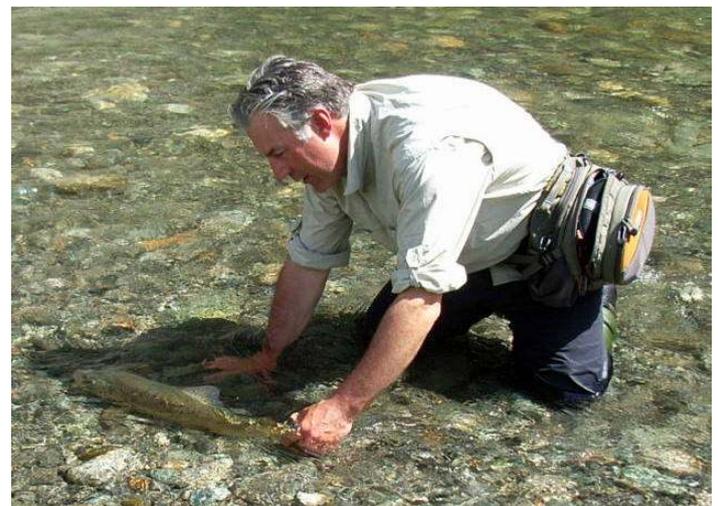
So now is the time to improve your fly tying. Now is the time to improve your casting and now is the time to renew club friendships.

To this end, the winter meetings will include fly tying as a regular feature. The forthcoming Tiger Hut weekend is always a ripper. A few members are meeting on a fortnightly basis to improve their casting. An email will be sent to members detailing when and where. All are welcome.

Finally, to those of us suffering cabin fever in deepest darkest winter, John Smith has somehow organised access to the Snowy Range fishery for a family day fishing. Details to follow in due course.

I look forward to seeing you at some of these events.

David Hemmings
Club President



A gentle release

Suggest a Caption

Bruce Barker provided the only and winning caption for last issue. So Bruce wins the \$30 voucher from Spot On - well done Bruce. See caption page 10



“I saw a dun Dave”-“just the one Doug?”

Suggest a caption to win a thirty dollar Voucher.



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.

Editorial

After closely looking at the age structure of the club, and to offset diminishing contributions I have decided to increase the print size from 11 to 12. In the editorial game this is known as a fisherman's 11.

This issue has two special profiles of two of our special members Brian West and David Tadd.

The Classified section is there for your use to get what you want or to share an event with other members; use is so heavy it is just about worn out! As my boat is still for sale, I will give it one last run.

New Zealand is a great place to visit, either North or South, and I am keen to go again and again. Between us all we have contacts and knowledge to enhance any NZ visit. Any one interested in a trip to NZ let me know, who knows, it could become a club activity. Bruce Barker reports on a trip with Malcome Cross in this issue.

A special thanks to John Spencer for his regular contributions which keep fly tying in the Vice, and for standing in as Secretary while Pete Murphy was in NZ.

I have some wonderful stuff from Laurie Machin for the next issue and will do a report on another NZ trip.

Did you hear that Lake Sorell is being closed to fishing because of the carp spawning which occurred this season? IFS will be making every effort to eradicate the pest.

The season is drawing to an end so you will all have more time to give me some information for a profile or an article.

JTS
Editor

Coming Events

Next Vice August 1 Deadline for contributions
19th July Contact John Smith - nib1943@inet.net.au

Tiger Hut weekend - May 28th to 30th

Snowy Range Family Day - Sunday July 18th
organiser John Smith.

Annual Dinner July 24th.

Club Activities

Great Lake/Western Lakes field trip

This trip led by Danny Rimmer went well. Lucy kept the boys in some order. Trotty was the successful angler with several fish



There were some issues with new GPS navigational devices but eventually everyone arrived at the same camp site.



“It’s that way”



“No, it is over there!”



“We Made it”



Some of the crew who set out



to fish some great places and



returned satisfied and thirsty.

Salmon Ponds Casting Day

This was a great day with great food, a great casting competition and great company. Attendance was a bit down on last year.



Winners with the Judge

The two chefs, (Smith and Spencer) both rank outsiders, much to the surprise of many, led the competition going into lunch with a withering burst of sustained accurate casting.



Master Machin shows how

On presentation it was neck and neck too and the judge for the Margaret Knight trophy young Heather, received a lot of attention, advice and the most delicate cuts of meat.



How's that for presentation?

After the break our president Sir David Hemmings put in an amazing performance with an almost a perfect score to just pip the two Johns at the post.

The Margaret Knight trophy, well Mr Spencer whose casting style left a bit to be desired, proved unbeatable. Not only did he wave to the judge between false cast and delivery, he implemented a plan he had been hatching for weeks. Champagne and chocolate flavoured strawberries presented to the Judge on bended knees - quite sickening really!

It was a good day which brought back fond memories of Marg Knight. It was great to see grand daughter, Emily come all the way from Melbourne just for the day. I reckon Marg was there too, at least in spirit and I am not sure she agreed with the Judge's decision to give Spencer the cup.



Margaret Knight last year.

The casting day is great for kids and as a club, I believe we could do more in this area even if we just try to involve more kids in the event. Lucy certainly showed us how with the guidance she provided to our future members.



How's that for a tight loop



Yet another potential member.

Malcom Crosse also deserves Honourable Mention for grandson care



Wow, can you show me how to do that?



The Judge

Dee Lagoon Day

The Dee Lagoon Day led by Dave Chote was enjoyed by Simon Gates, the only starter who gained the benefit of Dave's knowledge of this water. People would pay many dollars for a guided trip and it is a bit puzzling why so few attended. The fish were shy but conditions were good for polaroiding and there was some exciting fishing, but not much fish catching. Simon caught a ripper rainbow in the wind lanes and was delighted with the weekend.

Member Profile Dave Tadd

David started fishing at the age of 3 chasing fish in the lake at the local park to stock the fishpond in his backyard with sticklebacks. His tackle comprised of a stick out of the nearest hedge, cotton for line and a matchstick for a float and a tin of worms.

At the age of 11 he joined a course Fishing Club. The club had fishing rights to several stretches of river and hired a coach to take members fishing every Sunday.

He was 17 when he took up fly fishing. He built his first rod, a 10 foot cane from a kit (it weighs 12ozs).and spent a week's wages buying his first fly line. He still has that rod. He was a season ticket holder for 8 years to fish Chew Valley Lake and Blagdon Reservoir in Somerset UK. It was 20 miles to work but only 400 yards to the nearest fishing hole and he fished 5 evenings a week, plus Sat and Sun. mornings. During summer, with 2 hours of daylight saving, he would fish until 11pm.

Showing courage, in 1971, Dave became a 10 pound Pom. With wife and 3 young children he arrived in Sydney and his first home was the Villawood Immigration Centre. He lasted for 10 months in Sydney, before coming to Tasmania; a great decision for him and for us.

Malcom Crosse, of somewhat similar heritage took Dave to Penstock to sample the local fishing. Dave saw a great rise and cast his buzzers (which most of us seldom use); a take! Yes! A large fighting fish on for 15 minutes; but on closer inspection not fish like, and indeed a platypus was landed. Crossy warned "don't touch" watch out for the spurs and Dave managed to release without injury.

He joined the club in 1975, after a stint as president of Clarence Anglers, nominated by Malcolm Crosse and he has made a big impact by serving on the committee, by sharing his knowledge and by encouraging new members to join.



Dave took on his teaching role with Adult Education from Rob Sloane's father Tony in 1976. That's 34 years ago, and the courses have included fly fishing and fly tying. Indeed many of our members have completed a course with Dave and some have joined the club as a result. Over 1,500 people have taken one of Dave's courses over the 30 or so years - good for the angler not so good for fish stocks. That's a huge input into helping people to enjoy fly tying and fly fishing.

His favourite lake, Lake Sorell and his largest fish there was a mere 7 pounds taken on a big black Marabou fly. In those days 100 yards of backing was required but not these days. He fished a bit with Malcolm Crosse and Dennis Abbot but these days when not teaching he prefers fishing alone in his own boat but is always ready to share his knowledge.

Arthurs Lake became his favourite lake when Sorrel went down and still is despite the difficulty this year. The pump house is a good area and many fish have been taken in the surrounding Bays.

While camping on Arthurs Lake and leaving the fish bag near a tree Dave recalls hearing devils during the night and when looking next morning: nothing! Just two brass rings left. A trip to Julian Lakes with a film crew for a sight fishing documentary was memorable. When the crew left for the day to film they left Dave behind to look after an invited journalist. The wind dropped and he fished blind the edge of the ripple. Dave recalls taking a five lb trout on a black dun and then another 8 fish. The Film crew returned late afternoon, exhausted without any of the experts catching a fish. His fly box of black duns was soon empty.

Favourite wet fly? David thinks there are not many fish that can resist a galaxias when put in front of its nose. His favourite fly then is a Marabou black or green. How much marabou? "Twice as much as you first thought". It is a very well thought out pattern that David has developed; indicative of his being at one with nature and his keen observation skills. The fly on a short shank hook is weighted in a way that it maintains a hook up attitude so it can be dragged through weed. A bead head with eyes to give the target, is followed by a turn of red, the gills, and then a flash of silver, the underbelly (on top when you tie i.e. hook up) It really is the startled galaxias.



The startled galaxias

Favourite Dry Fly? "Well I only use those after I have taken my bag" and "even in a dun hatch I prefer a weighted nymph", "The bigger fish are below the surface", and "Trout are mainly bottom feeders"

He never fishes down wind of the boat, always fishes across wind often using an 18 ft + leader to give wets a chance to sink and cover more ground "Fish swim up wind, a crosswind cast gives you more chance of a take, the fish see the flank of the fly and the fly passes across the fish's field of vision".

A fresh water aquarium at home allows for research to understand what the fish feed on and how to improve fishing. Amazing stuff, large caddis, small box caddis all from stuff collected from the lakes. I am hoping Dave will share some of this with us and a bit in vice too.



Dave believes we should keep the size fish we catch for various reasons including low fish survival rate and too many fish in some waters. He believes catch and release a fish 3 times you then have an uncatchable fish (they do have memories). As a supporter of fish welfare he

dispatches fish quickly with a priest and for research reasons spoons the gut content. He uses an 8 weight rod and plays out the fish quickly. He does not approve of 5wt torture sticks.



Dave's combination priest spoon

*With a wealth of experience and many memories
Dave will keep you interested for hours if you can*

pin him down at the shack. He is a highly skilled fly fisher with incredible knowledge based on experience and research. He has made an outstanding contribution to the club. J.T.S ED

What can we say about Tadd?
Started fishing when only a lad,
Many he's taught, many fish have they caught
For a 10 pound pom: **not bad!**

Dave likes a large wet fly
Catches a bag before trying a dry
Cast across wind let it drown, not down wind like a clown,
Fish it deep where the big ones lie.

Member Profile Brian West

Brian West started fishing for bream with his father in Qld. He was 7 when he caught his first fish and not much older when he learnt the art of collecting beach worms. Beach worming is a bit like trout fishing, first you must spot the worm as it raises its head to seek out the source of that stinking food. Then you offer the worm a fresh morsel, wait for the take, then squeeze firmly but gently with fingers just as the worm arches its back, strike! Then smoothly withdraw the prize, a juicy worm which can be up to a meter long.

Westy started trout fishing in Tasmania in the early 80's, spinning at first then moving (as many do) across to the more noble art of fly fishing. He and another music teacher mate did an Adult Ed fly fishing course with David Tadd, then another with David O'Brien on fly tying, and then two of Macca's courses on fly tying before joining the club. Watching Noel Wilson catch trout out of the Macquarie River (seemingly so easy) was also a great motivator to develop skills.

It took a while, but the first fish caught on the dry fly was at Meadow Bank. Brian recalls a string of duns floating round the south western corner with the odd sipping fish sipping. So Westy made his

first successful cast, sip, and a nice brown on the dry.

He likes to fish "where the fish are" but in recent times he has fished the central highland lakes, Woods, Arthurs, Penstock and Little Pine. With dodgy knees and ankles thanks to a Rugby background, he rarely walks too far and prefers the comforts of his 13ft 'tinny'. With Arthurs off a bit this year, Westy has turned to the Great Lake and has had success chasing the sharks with help and guidance from a couple of fanatics. A target now is to get to know the great lake and learn how to fish it in various weather conditions and throughout the year.

Far from being a 'purist' Westy will happily fish with either dry or wet. Preferring the challenge of fishing into a 'rocky' shore or into a log-riddled corner, his favourite fly - "Stokesy's mohair nymph and variants would have to rate highly, along with Macca's version of the "Shrek". He is a good fly tyer who willingly shares his techniques and indeed his flies.

Westy is a great club man and he readily shares his knowledge about where to fish and how to

catch them with club members. He arranges the “Redbanks club trip each year and participates in many club activities. Westy is always ready to do his bit at fly tying demonstrations and willingly shares his skills and knowledge with other members.

Westy is a really good fly fisher with good eyes and good knowledge about the water he fishes. If you get the chance to go fishing with him grab it. He is a good boat handler and will put you on fish if there are any about. He catches more than his share of fish. The first trip I had with Westy was

on Arthurs in very windy conditions and he suggested the fly to use and where to cast it in several locations. I caught 6 or 7, indeed more than Westy did, but only because he managed the boat, and gave me first cast at the hot spots. I think he would make a great guide. Quite a few members have a goal of catching more than Westy and when they do, they let you know. It took a lot of work to squeeze this story from a modest West.

JTS Ed

You've got to love fishing with West,
Fish he gives little rest
Fish he will find, for you to wind
Many say Westy's the best.

Westy grabbed my rod one day
His patience alas went away
Fish he could see, fish not visible to me
Fish he wanted to play.



Across the Ditch - Land of Unpronounceable Rivers

Bruce Barker Reports

The chance to fish with Malcolm Crosse in New Zealand following the 2009 Oceania Fishing Competition - in which Malcolm was involved – was too good an opportunity to pass. I flew to Auckland and drove to central North Island to meet him. Malcolm had recently become a member of the Auckland Freshwater Angling Club (AFAC) giving us access to their club lodge at Turangi, “The Trout Capital of The World”, well that is what the sign said! This had us only a 5 minute drive to the famous Tongariro River and within easy reach of many other fishing waters.

From our comfortable base we travelled daily to nearby rivers and lakes. Our daily travel took us through spectacular scenery with the volcanic cones of the mountains in Tongariro National Park, ancient beech forests and lush green hilly countryside. An easy drive east had us at Tamaurunui where the fast flowing Whanganui – with it's headwaters in the national park – flow through surrounding farmland. As with many parts of NZ there are lots of tempting waterways nearby.

I was excited at the prospect of fishing waters where some recent competitors had extracted

numerous feisty browns and rainbows. Over the next few days we fished a variety of waters and trialled the techniques NZer's have developed to fish fast freestone rivers and deeper slow pools. As with most trout fishing there were challenges. Armed with newly acquired studded wading boots and a wading staff we gingerly made our way into the fast running waters to negotiate boulder covered and slippery rapids, glides and pools. Malcolm had already been wet three times prior to my arrival.

The slippery, rugged underwater terrain and fast water wasn't the only challenge at hand for a couple of Tassie anglers who had become a bit too used to fishing stillwaters. Launching heavily weighted nymphs and getting down to the required depth was something alien enough to both of us let alone struggling to remain standing as well.



Sheep, a drover and dogs

On advice given to Malcolm we ventured north of Tamaurunui and along a winding river. We were to head upstream to a farm for access. Our passage along a minor gravel road was blocked by ~1500 sheep, a drover and a team of eager working dogs. We idled along following the sheep, the drover and the dogs and were entertained by all, particularly the team of dogs each responding to the commands of the drover. Eventually we got to the sheep yards and were met by the land owner to seek permission to fish the river on his land. 'Good as gold' were his parting words accompanied by a grin. The river didn't prove to be such a hotspot on the day but several fish were sighted and a few small ones landed. Access to the water was mostly difficult with steep, high and overgrown banks.

En route to Turangi we had a few evening sessions in small hydro dam called Kuratau. Several small but very energetic rainbows were landed. Apparently the competition guys caught decent sized fish there.

Another still-water of note – again a small hydro lake – was Lake Otamangakau. With lush weed beds and tales of large fish, a boat would have us in with a good chance of catching large fish. Again we landed several small rainbows from the shore on a still and bright day. A local angler landed a torpedo shaped rainbow of 4-5 lbs but this was nothing for this water. In fact Malcolm had landed a couple of beauties during the competition with one being the biggest caught at ~67 cm and 7 or so pound. He was also close to landing his biggest ever rainbow estimated at 12 lb but lost it near the boat.

Another day saw us travelling to Rotaroa to see a professional taxidermist, a keen hunter and angler whom Malcolm knew. He pointed us to his home stream where we fished lovely water but confined by fly-grabbing willows, blackberries, trees and vines. We did see several spooky 4-5 lb fish in a stretch of water that reputedly holds fish of 10-15 lb at the right time of year. A nice rainbow was landed from one very juicy looking run.



A nice rainbow from a juicy looking pool on the Ngongotaha Stream near Rotorua

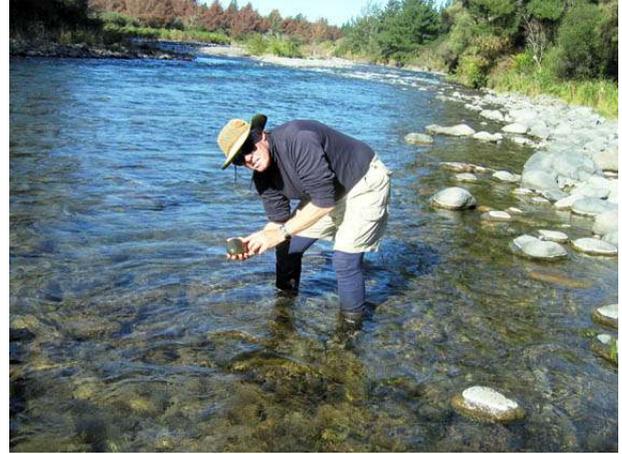
Back at Turangi we explored local beats on the Tongario and visited ex-club member Geoff Watson and his wife Barbara. Coincidentally Nick Ingles was visiting but we didn't get to talk to him as was napping in the spare room; recovering from a bout of night fishing I suspect! We did fish for a short time on the Tongariro but relocated to the Whanganui to do battle with the slippery

boulders, fast water and elusive fish. Save the Tongariro for another trip when fish are running up the river!

A mate of Malcolm's insisted that we visit and stay with him at the Bay of Plenty in the north east so we relocated - leaving the AFAC cabin - and drove a circuitous route, always looking for a river somewhere, to arrive at Katikati late afternoon. We were greeted by Ian Gibbs and his mate Brian and next morning headed to a nearby stream where a nice rainbow was taken with a parachute adams. After lunch we drove to the spring-fed Waiou where many small rainbows were eager to take our flies fished either 'down and across' or by 'upstream nymphing' under a dry. That evening our host rang around for the latest hot fishing tips and arranged for us to meet a couple of locals up the road (about 1.5 hours driving) at a river on the east coast.

Following the drive we met two knobbly kneed gentlemen – shorts, work boots and bush hats were the wear of the day – who took each of us in different directions to explore their local water. Their knowledge of the river and the fishing was intimate and they proceeded to guide us through runs and pools. I was with Reg and Malcolm spent the day with Derek. Reg and I spent the majority of the day searching for fish to cast to. Reg had a keen eye for fish spotting and a very stealthy approach. He was particular about all aspects of presentation as we fished with an indicator dry – a parachute adams in my case – and a #16 lightly weighted nymph. Reg was disappointed with the lack of fish to be seen in the usual haunts. Often the case when you want to showcase to a newcomer. For whatever reason, the fish mostly

stayed in the deeper pools and under the willows but we were rewarded with a rainbow or two and had chances with others. However it was a very enjoyable day and a place I'd certainly visit again. I think I'll be giving Reg and Derek a call when next on the North Island.



Malcolm checks under river stones for aquatic life



Feisty rainbow puts a decent bend in Bruce's 5 wt on the Waimana River, North Island.



Making Extended Bodies by Furling - John Spencer

A method of making simple extended fly bodies.
Some of the types or material that can be used are:

- Antron & polypropylene yarn
- Wire (stiffens the furled body)
- Monofilament
- Feathers, e.g. peacock, ostrich herls
- Crystal Flash / Hair

Pictures below used antron of visible colours to demonstrate the method

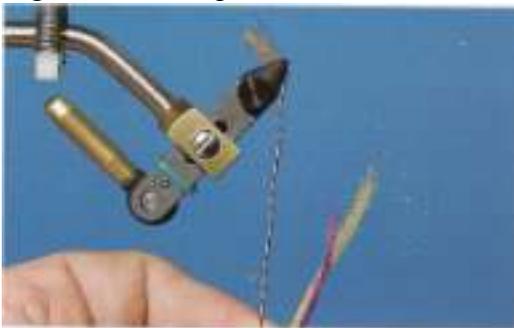
- Lock all materials into the vice



- Use fingers to tighten the furl to get the required taper and close the open end
- The finished body



- Start twisting. The number of twists will depend on the size & taper of the furling and the segmentation required



Some different types of furled bodies and flies



- Let go of the middle & allow the material to twist



Wanted

Editions 1,2,3 of Fly Life for Heather Nogar to make Mother's set complete Contact Heather on (03) 6225 2198

Articles, stories, feed back, letters to the editor, profiles, anything of interest to members for Vice Contact John Smith nib1943@iinet.net.au.

Public Notices

Payments to the club

BSB: 807 007
Account No: 12130456
Name: Tasmanian Fly Tyers Club Inc
Then email the details to Tim Munro tim@theatreroyal.com.au

Trout Fishing Guide – Taupo region NZ. If you need a guide in this area I can recommend Peter Wilton www.wiltonflyfish.co.nz (Pete Murphy)

Boat Sales – if you are buying or selling a boat please consider ausboatsales.com.au This business has been created by Sam Brodribb who has also donated many hours of his time to our website.

Vice

Warning: This might upset Some members

A young woman with purple hair , sporting a variety of tattoos was scheduled for an immediate operation. When she was completely disrobed on the operating table, the staff noticed that her pubic hair had been dyed green, and above it there was a tattoo that read, 'Keep off the grass.' Once the surgery was completed, the surgeon wrote a short note on the patient's dressing, which said 'Sorry, had to mow the lawn.'

To Let (not for sale)



Located near Interlaken, this magnificent shack is available for \$5 per member per night. Bookings and key available from Bridges Brothers.

For Sale

Fly fishing Boat

Stessel Edge Tracker 3.75m dingy with 18 HP TOHATSU Motor Excellent Trailer. Electric Outboard with dual cycle battery charged by motor \$4,500.

John Smith nib1943@iinet.net.au. Ph 62445649



Community Notice

Your committee

President Dave Hemmings
PH (03) 6224 4006

Vice President Peter Trott
(shack man) (03) 6244 7009

Secretary Peter Murphy
Ph (03) 6243 0288

Treasurer Tim Munro

Committee Members
Malcolm Cross
John Spencer
John Smith

Please contact with any suggestions