



The Vice



Newsletter of the Tasmanian Fly Tyers' Club Inc.

Volume 15 , Issue 12 Winter 2020

Inside: Shack Development, Fly Tying Zoomers, Wine Appreciation *and much more...*

Brilliant Cover Shot –by Chris Hilton

Office Bearers

| | |
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| President | Andrew Reed |
| Vice President | David Travalia |
| Secretary | Tim Lewis |
| Treasurer | Andrew Blackwood |
| Committee | Wayne Bellette |
| | Dave Long |
| | Tony Abel |
| | Tim Urbanc |
| Vice Editor | Doug Miller |

President's Report AGM 2020

To say that 2020 has been an unusual year is an understatement!

The Fly Tyers Club has managed to adapt many of its processes to fit in with the new normal. We have changed many things, most notably our meetings and fly-tying sessions. With the help of platforms like Zoom we have continued to function. Unfortunately, many events have been cancelled including the Annual Dinner, Great Lake Tie In, IFS Open Weekend, And the Tiger Hut Fly Tying Sessions. As restrictions lifted, we were able to hold the infamous Wine Tasting Weekend and have postponed the Salmon Ponds Casting Day to later in the year. Today marks a special day where we get together in our usual meeting place and is cause for celebration and thanks to those who join us on Zoom.

Our future trips are still being affected, so it looks like the Bothwell Farm Dams will be held as two-day trips with no accommodation at Henry's place in mid-November. Thank you to all of you who have planned, supported and attended our events.

The virtual world of Zoom has provided a platform for Committee and General Meetings, as well as the now entrenched Thursday fly tying sessions. I cannot thank Steve Butler enough for his organization and help around this ongoing feature of club life. He has provided IT help to just about everybody and particularly those members and visitors who tie flies for us.

Work continues on both Club shacks and thanks go to the team of Delly, Macca and Tim Urbanc for their work. Lake Sorell is currently (no pun intended) having new deep cycle batteries installed along with an extra solar panel. Internal refurbishment including plaster repair and painting is a work in progress. Thanks to those who attended the various working bees, particularly Malcolm Crosse for his seemingly unending supply of DC connectors.

I am so pleased that the club's membership remains fully subscribed. This is a great reflection of the friendship and activities we offer to you all and I encourage you all to continue to keep participating. I would like to thank the Committee for their work over this interesting year, especially those who have been convinced to stay on. As you have heard Anna is stepping down and she deserves a round of applause for her 5 years of service, most recently as Vice President!

One of the great benefits of this role is I have 1 or 2 very important things to do at the Annual General Meeting. The first happens every year with the awarding of the Clubman of the Year. This year it was no surprise that Steve Butler took the honour. He has worked tirelessly in the IT support space for the club. He has helped people set up video equipment for the Thursday Zoom tying and managed to bring the virtual and real worlds together for the AGM. In true Clubman of the Year spirit he said he was very happy with the uptake of the new technology, especially by the more senior members. He also makes great coffee!



Not every year does the Club award Life Membership. This year the Committee voted unanimously to support Andrew Hood's nomination for this honour. He has had 30 years in the club, 11 years on the Committee and 3 years as President. He has run the very successful Wine Appreciation Weekends, fished the Fowler Trophy and is ever present at club activities. Nick Ingles spoke eloquently of their fishing adventures and misadventures over many years!



I have found the role of president to be both fulfilling and challenging and look forward to another year with less Corona Virus and more fly fishing

Andrew Reed



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!

Send your stories to 55dmiller@gmail.com

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Editorial

This issue is very 'internety'. This is obviously because most of the contact we have had over the last few virus filled months has been remote and online. It is very pleasing to see things starting to get back to some sort of normalcy but at the same time being very aware that we have been very lucky to be on our small island fortress that literally has a moat around it! We have been as safe as it possible to be but this might all come crashing down around us at any stage. So, while we are relatively safe we should get out and about as much as we can whilst always keeping ourselves nice.

It is great to hear that members have caught seriously good fish in Lake Leake and that Penstock has finally succumbed and allowed Tim to boat 21 of its inhabitants in a day. Things are starting to look up indeed!

In this Vice there is news of the work being done on the Sorrell shack. With the recent rain and rising lake levels both Sorrell and Crescent may be worth a look. Both will be dirty I'm sure but you never know, if you latch onto one it will probably a serious one!

The Wine Appreciation Weekend at Liaweenie was brilliant and if there is a repeat, and you can make it then you definitely should just to experience one of the most professionally run and brilliant weekends possible. Andrew Hood - take a bow!

The zoom meetings each Thursday have been an unanticipated success arising from Covid19. Steve Butler and Tim Lewis have done a magnificent job organising and running these sessions. We regularly have 30-40 people joining in and not only from our club. There have been a number of people from the Ballarat Fly Fishers Club and the potential of a world wide audience in the future who have tuned in and will no doubt get to share their tying skills.

With all the 'zooming' going on I thought it was an opportune time to recognise that Macca has already published a formidable catalogue of flies on YouTube. These include many of the ones he is constantly asked to demonstrate at events like the Tiger Hut and RSL tying sessions. Macca is a natural on camera and should have his own channel!

Congratulations to Steve Butler for winning the Clubman of the Year trophy for the second year running – it is well deserved indeed. Also hearty congratulations to immediate past President Andrew Hood for achieving Life Membership of the club. It is well deserved.

At the time of writing I have been fishing twice and have yet to get a touch. The first trip was to Tooms Lake, which was surprisingly low and very dirty. We saw no sign of fish but IFS suggests there are plenty of them in there. The second trip was in to the Oatlands Water Supply Dams – a wonderful little fishery between Oatlands and Lake Sorrell. It was a



lovely 3km walk through the snow to the dams. There was ice around the edges and platypus pretending to be rising fish. It was brilliant!

DM

Sorell Shack Working Bee

For a long time now the Lake Sorell Shack has been under utilised but all that may change with the reopening of Sorell. With that in mind, an intrepid group ventured up for a day of planning and work at this wonderful little shack.



Tim Urbanc, the new 'Shack Warden' was the coordinator and was ably assisted by fellow members



Tony Abel, Malcolm Crosse, Wayne Bellette, Chris Hilton, Chris Berndt, David Travalia, Tony Dell and Doug Miller.

Gutters were cleaned, the composting toilet emptied, old solar batteries were removed, rust proofing applied, general cleaning carried out and most importantly plans were made for the next steps.



A follow up trip by Tim, Wayne, Andrew Reed and David to install new batteries and boost the solar capacity was completed under the watchful eye of the extraordinarily energetic and indefatigable Malcolm Crosse.





You remember that amazing bit of weather when snow fell to sea level? Well Malcolm and President Andrew decided it was the right time to connect the solar panels up. This involved a true 4WD experience in snow driving, sweeping about 30cm of snow off the roof and the panels, connecting things with frozen fingers before braving the roads back to the relative safety and warmth of Malcolm's shack!

A further trip (on the way to the Miena Shack for the season opener) to patch the ceiling in the main room was undertaken by Tim and Tony Abel. Final sanding and some repainting are next on the agenda I guess.



Many thanks to all involved in making sure this valuable club asset is maintained for the benefit of all our members.

DM



Thursday Zooming



A new section in The Vice features our Zoom fly tying evenings, which are currently being held each Thursday from 7.30. Members of the club have been retreating to 'Zoom Rooms' and settling in to take part in some brilliant fly tying sessions. Steve Butler (pictured) and Tim Lewis have done a brilliant job setting up our Club Zoom account, helping members set up for tying, organising and running these meetings and even editing and uploading some of the tying sessions to YouTube.

The Club website has a link to all the sessions
<https://www.tasmanianflytyersclub.org/site/zoom.php>

I have included the specific links from our expert tyers here as well – I will add new ones as they become available:

Norm Cribben

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSS636L_gekEHR8YlaTz8VHA_PwGzWCWP

Tony Dell

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSS636L_gekFkxPrTQueTN-VDtcmLlnGO

Doug Miller

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSS636L_gekFuzuvio1g0LR4x_8uhBujs

Craig Granquist

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSS636L_gekGdWIEb5xDx15xq-nNgKXvY

Brent's Bowerman - Fuzzle Bugger, Leech Bait

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSS636L_gekENbQUJbed7dk565QHm89U-

Laurie Matcham 1

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSS636L_gekErGcJxmuaCBTisMfHQLcRr

Laurie Matcham 2

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSS636L_gekH_02Nm_rslzV1OhT_wBcehe

Laurie Matcham's Series of Dry Flies 3

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSS636L_gekG2BuNGEviMkyf1TPiBoo7j

Laurie Matcham 4

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSS636L_gekF--zHfC30xd0k6gZzPyo-

(Laurie was good enough to allow Steve to re film and edit his Stonefly pattern with a detailed hi- res video, s

<https://youtu.be/KL61P8eDuCl>

Tim Urbanc

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSS636L_gekGGCjJtPVlvo7Zi3a5nEs6m

David O'Brien

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSS636L_gekFxFg4oRjDmGpeequ3rYJ

Murray Proctor DK and Bibio , Craig Granquist Bibio and Ant

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSS636L_gekE6MJsJqKkO6ihAXo5yz9hU

Craig Granquist

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSS636L_gekHCqJBUSJGfYdUSdL_0t-2vz

Steve Dally

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSS636L_gekEoiJqLx1jdl-OC5uVfykKv

Brent Bowerman

<https://youtu.be/bFhpYnoPwwo>

Tony Dell

<https://youtu.be/iySVfjXH7pk>

Paul Markey

<https://youtu.be/QFleSAz2vb0>



LM Emerger by Laurie Matcham

It is very simple to join in on these meetings – simply click on the links that are circulated weekly, make yourself comfortable, grab a refreshing glass and tune in!

DM

Macca's YouTube Flies

Whilst the Zoom sessions are at the front of a lot of people's minds at the moment I thought it would be a good time to remind members of the existing online fly tying efforts of Life Member and guru of all things fly fishing Brian 'Macca' McCullagh.

Macca is a brilliant fly fisher, tyer and above all a great communicator. This series of flies, which have all available on YouTube for a few years now are an excellent resource for tying some of the best flies for Tassie conditions that you will ever find. They were tied at the invitation of the Devonport Fly Fishing Club.

Please enjoy them and appreciate Macca's skills!



<https://youtu.be/jTymCZ9Sk1U>



<https://youtu.be/FQOtKLw-aPo>



<https://youtu.be/uyLhIZJJml>



<https://youtu.be/uxhLb1qEbq8>



<https://youtu.be/BbGejOmGjnl>



<https://youtu.be/yVQHYhQ-tE4>



<https://youtu.be/vpqwf3Ulp4Q>



<https://youtu.be/-1pm1i7L6Js>



<https://youtu.be/-kcO2uCXqlw>



https://youtu.be/VJqV_8LYB-Y



<https://youtu.be/STTFuJqcG5c>



<https://youtu.be/k6Bo-LVZ-xY>

All these flies are on YouTube and are on a site called dunamisjc. There are some great flies and great fly tyers on this site that are worth checking out too (Neil Grose and Jan Spencer etc.)

DM



<https://youtu.be/YiQiOvgJdZQ>

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.

Make crowded heads a thing of the past with this simple tool.

I'm sure I'm not alone in this. You tie the fly really well, remember to put in the rib, wind the hackle just right and then... you crowd the head of the fly making it nearly impossible to thread onto your leader!

The solution is relatively simple and was shown to me by Laurie Matcham (so it works). All you need is an old pair of scissors and a small round file.



Step one:

Take your old pair of scissors and file a round groove in each blade so that there is a hole when both blades are closed together.



Step two:

That's it really! You can then use the scissors to push back the thread to just behind the eye of the hook where it should be! The hole in the blade varies in size depending on how wide you open the scissors and can accommodate most hooks and you can use much more pressure on the thread than by using your thumbnail.

A bonus is that the old scissors can be used to cut wire and other tougher materials without risking your good scissors*.

DM

*The concept of 'The Good Scissors' is one that exists in many households. As a child you were told constantly not to use the good scissors under promise of serious retribution. Scary as this might have been it paled into insignificance when you considered that if there were good scissors, there must also be... 'The Bad Scissors' – you know the ones that urged you to pick them up and run around with them. The terror that this concept engenders in the young and the elderly is not to be scoffed at!

(Apologies to legendary comedian Tony Martin for badly paraphrasing one of my favourite of his observations – it filled this little space though!)

Wine Appreciation Weekend 2020



I knew this weekend was going to be good and I was right.

This is a remarkable club. You get to mix with people who are genuine leaders in their fields. It is humbling and inspiring to watch fly tyers of the calibre of Brent Bowerman and Laurie Matcham plying their skills.

That's how it was to hear newly appointed Life Member Andrew Hood speaking so eloquently and knowledgably of the qualities and characteristics of a special Pinot Noir!

The event took place at the Tiger Hut at Liaweenie and Covid-safe restrictions limited us to a total of 14 suitably distanced people. The temperature outside hovered around the zero mark but the fires and the company inside made life very pleasant indeed. Andrew had organised an incredibly well thought out program to educate the tasters. He structured it in such a way that it took an enthusiastic novice like me through a range of experiences that demonstrated the effects of sugars, tannins, age and oxidization on wines from all over Australia.



In all there were over 250 bottles of wine ranging in price from around \$10 to in excess of \$150!

We were taught what makes a good wine tasting glass, how to taste and spit (very important if you wanted to make it past morning tea) and encouraged us to build a vocabulary to describe the nuances of the different and wonderful tastes we experienced.

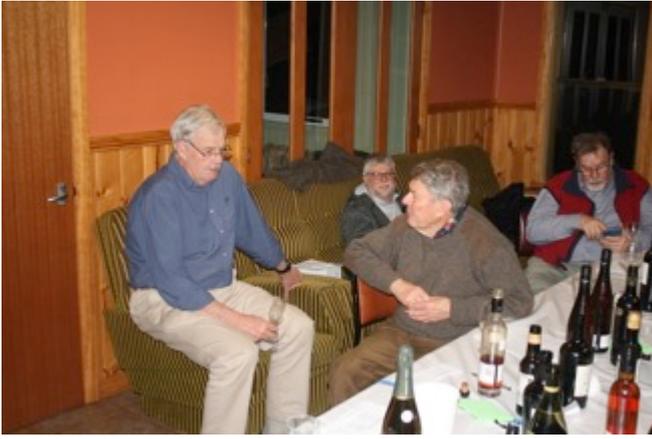


Andrew is recognised Australia wide as one of our best and most knowledgeable wine makers with a very strong background in chemistry. His depth of knowledge was stunning and very evident in the way he could answer every question that was thrown at him.

Of course fine wine demands that the food be spectacular too and the gourmet duo of Steve Butler and David Travalia ensured that there was not only a very high level of gastronomical offerings and great coffee but that everyone could contribute to shared meals of stunning quality.



The tasting sessions lasted from 10am on the Saturday until 5pm with a short break for lunch and a quick walk for some. The Sunday session went from 10am until noon when the delicious final lunch, provided by Wayne and Anna, and clean up took place and people prepared to return home after a brilliant weekend.



and reveal more of their qualities as you sip and rejoice in them.

- The ability to taste, describe and appreciate the complexities of wine is a joy that takes a lifetime to develop and is a journey well worth pursuing.

As for me, I am now confident that can tell a Chardonnay from a Shiraz by colour alone... and that I still have a lot to learn!

Many thanks to Andrew for a brilliant weekend and if you can get to attend another of these sessions – do yourself a favour...

DM

So what were some of the things that we learned?
We learned (amongst a myriad of things) that:

- Andrew has a serious dislike of corks – he thinks that screw caps are infinitely superior.
- Merlot apparently tastes like compost but can be difficult to pick from a range of similar wines no matter how confident you are that you will know which one it is.
- Sometimes price alone isn't a guarantee of a great wine, a \$10 bottle can be very good indeed and great wines develop complexities



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>