



The Vice



Newsletter of the Tasmanian Fly Tyers' Club Inc.

Volume 16, Issue 24 Winter 2023

Inside: Winter Fly Tying Edition –and more ...

Cover Shot – Tim Urbanc demonstrates why he catches so many!
Photo by David Travalia

Office Bearers

President: Andrew Reed

Vice President: David Travalia

Secretary: Tony Abel

Treasure: Andrew Blackwood

Committee: Wayne Bellette, Dave Long, Paul Markey, Tim Urbanc

Vice Editor: Doug Miller

<http://tasmanianflytyersclub.org>

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President's Report

(AGM Presidential Report 2023)

Welcome to the AGM 2023.

My speech this year is a long list of saying thank you.

Steve Butler, Granny and Aspro for Bothwell Farm Dams.

Chris Medwin for Tyenna Euro Nymphing Workshop and Demonstration. I think Westie provided some Euro Nymphs as well.

Wayne and Martin Excel for Lake Pedder Trip.

Tim Lewis for the Lake Fergus trip, including sorting access to the private road. I managed 6 fish for the day all while in the Coolum as Tim guided me to all his favourite spots.

Steve Butler and Granny for Weasel Dam Camping Weekend.

Cubbie and Hoodie and the Food Providers for Tiger Hut Sessions. Encouraging day visitors is something new we did this year.

Wayne and Helpers for Salmon Ponds Casting Day and Wind Knots evenings.

Westie and Steve Butler for Beginners and Advanced Fly-Tying Days.

The Committee for work around Club business including insurance and other invisible things.

David Travalia and Tony Abel for the Lake Sorrel Shack Project. The costings are now in and thankfully close to expectations. A building plan is being developed and we will let you know as soon as we know.

Mentors and BBQ Chefs for the Fly-tying Days.

Thanks to Dave Long for his 4 years on the Committee. He has certainly found his place in the Club after moving here from Victoria.

Steve and Granny for Tuesday night zoom sessions with all the guest Tyers.

There was a very successful collaboration with the Tasmanian Fly Fishers Club for the Cane Day at Little Pine Lagoon. So, I would like to thank Peter Rasmussen, who belongs to both Clubs.

Finally, to Doug Miller for his Vice Editorship.

The Club has been involved in some external issues this year with Anglers Alliance Tasmania sorting through its funding issues and support required for the camera network. There is the ongoing work with the St. Patricks Plains wind

farm proposal, which is now at the public consultation stage.

This year is a record 10 new members and this demonstrates the Committee's, past and present, commitment to the future of the Club. Counting all forms of membership, the grand total is 118. As mentioned earlier, Smithy has been instrumental in the early demographic research as well as the Membership survey. This work showed an ageing group that required action in recruitment. We are very happy that the changes to the Constitution have been utilised to facilitate this. The need for renewal is further highlighted as Guy Nicholson (13 years) and Bill Turner (40 years) take up Associate Membership. Both spoke fondly of their time in the Club and the friendship and support they received. Bill was telling me he's so old he was nominated to the club by Margaret Knight in 1983!

The Club has lived up to aim of "The cultivation and encouragement of the art of fly-tying and fly-fishing". The sharing of knowledge and skills through both formal and informal interactions is a wonderful thing to be involved with.

It's easy job to be President when there are members like you supporting the Club the way you do.

Thank you.

Andrew 'The President' Reed

Editorial

As has been my way over past seasons the Winter Vice focus is mainly on fly tying and there were a number of great club events to promote this. Firstly we had the Tiger Hut weekend which has been a club institution for

the last twenty or more years. They are always well patronised and well worth turning up to, even if it only for the day. Well done to Lyndon Cubbins and Andrew Hood for their organisation.

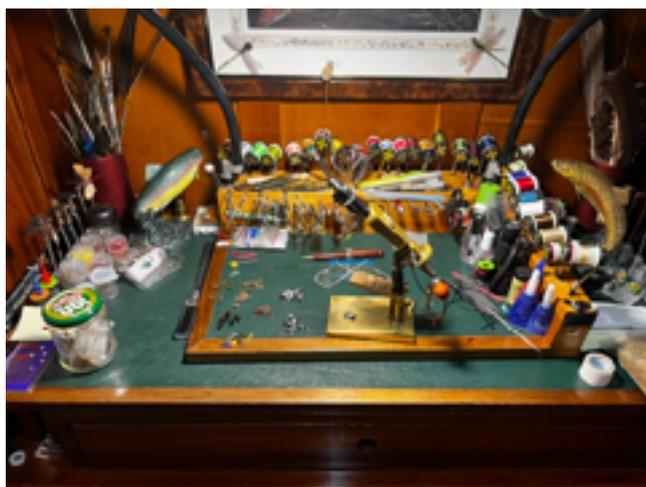
The RSL Tying day was also success and it seems to grow more each year. Well done to Stephen Butler and his team for yet a gain coming up with the goods.

If you are still wondering about WWWD (What Would Westy Do) then the answer is he would organise brilliant beginners Fly Tying session and run it at the RSL a week before the clubs tying day and run it brilliantly! As always anything that Brian West is organised and run brilliantly and inspires youth and beginning tyers to take up the art. Well done Westy and all the numerous members who supported him in running this fantastic community day!

I was astonished to find out about a very simple way of dying feathers over a cup of tea with Laurie Matcham. His innovative ideas and willingness to share them always amaze me! Also I couldn't resist including a cheeky photo of Laurie's fly tying station - pure class!

Finally I would like to congratulate Brian West for being the deserving recipient of 'Clubman of the Year' and of course John Smith for becoming our newest Life Member. John was gracious enough to let me take over The Vice from him on, what he assured me was a purely temporary basis in 2013. Thanks John!

"Acting Editor"DM



Laurie's Bench - Where the magic happens!



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!

This time the vouchers go to... Brian West for his help with the Life Member!

Send your stories to 55dmiller@gmail.com

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Life Member John Smith

Clubman of the the Year Brian West



Wet Fly and overall Casting Champion Noel Wilson

Wet Fly Casting winner Wayne Bellette

New Life Member John Smith



At the recent AGM Life Membership was awarded to the popular and respected John Smith for his services to the club. The following details were supplied by the Clubman of the Year Brian West who has history with Smithy! (John is renowned for his special fly tying skills and has been well supported in filling his fly box by Westy in particular!)

Leadership roles within Club:

2015 President
2014 President
2013 Vice President
2012 Committee
2010/11 Vice President
2008/09 Committee

Newsletter (The Vice)

John took 'The Vice' newsletter and brought it into the digital world – editorials circulated via post and email from memory from 2008 through to 2012 Vice Editor, when he handed it handed over to a computer savvy *younger* member - Doug Miller (who was assured it was on an acting basis. Ed)

(As President 2014/15)

Oversaw the (continued/ongoing) discussion and facilitation of the opening up of Club membership numbers (and to reduce average age of club members) and ways of encouraging both younger members and women to be welcomed into club. This had been in discussion since David Hemmings was President around 2009 but with seemingly little resolution. Smithy also researched and presented data on club statistics and usage of resources (again, to enable 'informed' discussion on important club matters and strategic direction).

The Committee of the time investigated and enacted constitutional changes to facilitate change to membership numbers. Also, the size of Committee was increased to allow one more (now 4) members of Committee plus Office bearers as normal.

Smithy, (AGM report Aug 2015) brought up instigation of a 'training' program (if Club was serious about 'recruiting' for the future). Approached me (Westy) to act on this idea.

General approach to administration

In his administration roles within the Club, Smithy always looked for ways to make things happen rather than find reasons to not do something. He was always really well prepared and used his wonderful people skills to achieve a lot for the club.

Sporting Prowess

As Crib player, he holds less distinction.... There always seemed to be controversy attached to games – especially in relation to who actually was in front or who had a lap to go. To avoid such confusion and personal scrutiny, Smithy used his wood turning and general craft skills to make a super long crib board that meant you had to go up and back once. It still didn't stop cries of cheating and flukey play though!

Club Activities

For many years Smithy had a valuable contact (and friend) – Bob Cleary – owner of the *Snowy Range Hatchery* facility (on the Little Dennison River), Judbury.

Smithy facilitated many trips with friends, and organised many Club activities on these waters. He was especially focused on accessibility for families, children and the older (less physically able) members and associates providing them close and easy proximity to (guaranteed) fish holding waters.

Finally, he was renowned for creating a *poem/verse* as a conclusion to each Member's Profile story in 'The Vice' – a common and popular feature when he was editor.

So... heres one for him!

*When you watch John Smith tying flies
You can hardly believe your eyes!
But the trout he tries to out fox
Fall to flies from another one's box
If you hear any different its a lie!*

Tiger Hut 2023



Once again Cubby ran a seamless event. It is possible to think that planning an event is a simple task but that is an illusion that well organised people project. Weekends that run smoothly look effortless and that is their beauty! The evening meal was wonderful! Three different casseroles and a wonderful lasagne served with rice and wonderful wines. World problems were solved between. 10pm and midnight, which was an indication of the dedication that fly Tyers possess.



Flies that were previously carefully guarded secrets were tied, their recipes shared willingly along with tips on how , where and when to fish them.

The Flies

David Travalia
F-fly

Hook: Tiemco 206BL
#14
Thread: Royal purple
Body: thread body
Wing: Dark olive CDC



Zuie Howard
Purple Westy Buzzer
Variant

Hook: B405 #10
Thread: Black 8/0
Tail: Black marabou and
purple crystal flash
Body: black and purple
tinsel stuff from Westy
Rib: Purple wire
Hackle: Black hen palmered
Bead: purple tungsten 3mm



Norm Cribben

Jelly Humungous
Hook: B170 #12
Bead: 3mm gold
tungsten
Thread: black UT C
Tail: black marabou with
micro glint olive
Body: T 10 jelly fritz
Hackle: Grizzly hen



Tim Urbanc
 Shredded Shrek
 Hook: Hanak 230 #14
 Thread: brown or olive
 Tail: Olive marabou tied short and sparse
 Body: Green Mylar
 Hackle: small olive grizzle
 Bead: copper 2-2.4mm
 (Fish as a nymph, not a Shrek)



Tony Abel
 Paradun
 Hook: Maxcatch #14
 barbless
 Thread: brown 6/0
 Tail: Brown cock
 Body: Claret or brown possum
 Post: possum tied upright
 Hackle: Parachute grizzle coachman



Andrew Reed
 Gum Beetle
 (Urbancish)
 Hook: #16 dry fly
 Thread: black uni
 Body: yellow cock trimmed short
 Hackle: black cock



Andrew Hood
 Chartreuse Bend back
 Deceiver (salt)
 Hook: Umpqua x Series #1
 Thread: uni 6/0 dark brown
 Wing: Bucktail and Grizzle



Mark Aspinall
 Hupu
 Hook: Kamasan B405 #12
 Thread: uni black 6
 Tail: Chocolate hackle
 Body: Chestnut Antron
 Wing: Texas White tail dark brown
 Hackle: parachute grizzle dyed dark brown



Craig Granquist
 Midas
 Hook: Hanak H230BL #14
 Thread: Semperfli claret
 Body: Claret seals fur
 Rib: Opal mirage
 Legs: knotted pheasant tail
 Thorax: Hareline ice dub in gold
 Searching fly



Denis Abbott
 Brent's hopper
 Hook: Kamasan B175 #12
 Thread: brown
 Body: lemon foam
 Over Wing: deer hair tied bullet head
 Legs: fire orange rubber with black pen markings



Lyndon Cubbins
 Claret Wyatt
 variant
 Hook: 110 #12
 Thread: wine
 Tail: claret fibres
 Body: claret wallaby
 Rib: Copper Madeira
 Wing: Dark possum



John O'Halloran
 Wingless Cicada
 Hook: #6
 Thread: Mylar
 Tail: deer hair small
 Body: spun and clipped deer hair in a few colours
 Trimmed to the size of your thumb



Glenn Becher
Shrek
Hook: B170 #10
Thread: black
Rib: red wire
Tail: Marabou
olive
Body: black
thread
Hackle:black hen
Bead: red copper
Flashabou holographic in the tail



As usual there was great food, conversation and a lot of tying done. Great weekend and one of the best Club experiences on the calendar!



Once again thanks Cubby, Hoody and well done to all the organisers and contributors.

DM



Dave Tadd - A Salute!

This is a quick piece about Dave Tadd to celebrate his fifty year membership of the Club. I did my first fly tying course with Dave at the Adult Education building in South Hobart in the early 1990s and the basics he taught me have served me well as a foundation that I have built upon right up until the present day. (I also shared a bottle of single malt with Dave on my first ever trip to the Miena Shack, but the less said about that the better!) Also remember seeing Dave next to an enormous rainbow trout at one of the Bothwell Dams weekends a few years ago and his grin was equally as large as the trout itself! Chris Roth also told me of many pleasant times he has spent with him watching the nymphs hatch in the aquariums in Dave's garage.

I received an Email from Dave's son Matthew recently so I thought it appropriate to print it here!

DM

He writes:

I recently stumbled upon a copy of the Fly Tyers Vice Newsletter from Winter 2021 where it noted that my father (David Tadd) had been a member of the Fly Tyers Club for 48 years. I'm not sure if you are already aware, but that would mean this year is dad's **50th year** as a member.

I know that dad has stepped back to be an associate member of the club (now at age 85), but he is still as passionate about fly fishing/tying as ever. Due to ongoing health issues, dad has missed the last two/three fishing seasons, but constantly talks about getting back to the central highlands to teach his grandson how to fish (properly I might add!).

Dad has been in hospital for the past 3 months, having suffered a broken femur from a fall. I'm sure he would appreciate a shout out in your next newsletter for his 50 year milestone. I've popped a couple of photos below.

BTW....he doesn't know that I have sent this email, and is also probably unaware of the 50 year milestone.

This is from Dec 2021, dad's last visit to the Central Highlands. No fishing, but a day spent with his grandson (Harrison) touring his favourite fishing spots, along with numerous fishing tales of course.

Matthew Tadd



A day I remember well as a youngster - when dad returned home from a trip to Pedder

Wing: Dun hackle

Tying Day Lenah Valley RSL

Fly Tyers descended on the RSL for the annual tying day. It was a fantastic event as usual and was well attended by members of our club and a number of others. As usual I will highlight the different flies that people tied and the recipes they used.



Tyer: Norm Cribben
Fly: Grouse Brown
Hook: TMC #11 or #13
Thread: brown
Tail: Rhodesia Island Red
Body: Stripped peacock herl
Rib: Fine copper wire
Wing: fine claret cock with 3 Grouse feathers tied through

(From Major Powlett who fished with Dick Wigram.)



Tyer: Nick Ingles
Fly: The Buggie
Hook: #10 wet fly
Thread: pink
Tail: Possum guard hair
Body: purple wool
Rib: Gold
Wing: Black cock Palmer style



Tyer: David Travalia
Fly: Possum Dynamite Harry
Hook: Hanak H300 BL #14
Thread: Black
Tail: Coq de Leon
Body: Brent's Claret sparkle mix
Rib: none
Post and body: possum tail
Hackle: Barred cock tied parachute style



Tyer: Robert Phillips
Fly: Cocky Spinner (per Max Stokes book)
Hook: TMC #11 or #13
Thread: Pearsalls hot orange
Tail: Rhodesia Island Red
Body: Orange Goose quill
Rib: Fine copper wire





Tyer:

Jack Parsons
 Fly: Foam split back Beetle
 Hook: Partridge curved hook
 Thread: Black
 Tag: Red thread with UV sealant
 Shell back: Black foam
 Underwing: CDC
 Body: peacock herl
 Hackle: Black hen



Well done to Stephen Butler and his team for once



again pulling of a superb event.

DM



There were tyers from different clubs as well as our own plus some of the beginners that Brian West taught the week before. A BBQ and a trade treble set off the day as yet another successful club event that was very well patronised. (I counted 50 people at one stage!)

Advice Tips and Tricks



A nice hot cup of tea with Laurie Matcham and I learned how to dye feathers very simply and how to tie a wonderful little dun!



What you need -
Feathers - we chose a grizzle hackle.
Tea bag, strong as possible, a glass jar, hot water and white vinegar to set it.
Wash feathers in dishwashing detergent



Put feathers in container with a tea Bag and add hot water
Leave overnight (or a few hours at least) then add a splash of vinegar to set the colour
Rinse the feathers under cold water



The tea gives the feather a light ginger colour which is perfect for parachute wings on duns as the fish seemed to be taking the lighter coloured ones first



The Tea Stain Dun
Hook: Dry fly hook #14 to #18
Thread: Uni 6/0 yellow
Tail: Furnace brown
Body: Grey merino wool from Laurie's jumper 🙄
Thorax: same as body
Post: Possum body fur
Hackle: Tea stained grizzle or barred rock tied parachute style

DM

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Beginner Fly Tying Day

The beginner fly tying day at the wonderful Lenah Valley RSL was a perfect way for people to begin what could be a lifetime obsession, and what better than to be taught by club legends Brian West and Tony Dell!



The day was set up beautifully with the ten beginner Tyers being coupled with a club mentor to answer questions and help wherever required. Tables were set up with vice, tools and hooks and all the gear needed to tie some basic fish catching flies.



Tony Dell was the master fly Tyer for the day and gathered everyone around to demonstrate each of the flies. It was very detailed with everything from how to tie on the thread and test it's strength to pinch and loop methods of tying materials in right to the all important whip finish at the end.

The first fly was a nymph which if the basis of so many things. Brown til, possum body and a crow over wing. FTC members helped each person with timely advice, tips and tricks.

The second fly was a stick caddies followed by a Magoo. Techniques from the first two flies informed the third. It was a hive of activity.



Meanwhile Noel Wilson and the President were cooking lunch on the barbecue outside. There were three types of sausage, onions and two types of bread. It was enthusiastically received.

The afternoon session saw two different dry flies tied and a lucky dip prize selection of various fly tying books donated to the club by the late and beloved Cliff Ludford and presented by his great mate Noel Wilson. Finally each participant received a grab bag of materials to take home and practice newly learned techniques. It was a great day seamlessly run by Brian and his team. It was fantastic to see so many club members turning out to support this great initiative.

DM



Clubman of the Year Brian West

Miena Open Day 2023

The club was invited to tie some demonstration flies at this annual event. The allocated day for our club was the morning session on Sunday 21st of May.



Two members were able to attend as representatives of the club. Tom Woolley & Peter Rasmussen.

Despite the very cold weather attendance levels were surprisingly high. Tom & I got to work with a variety of wet & dry flies coming off the vice. Of particular note was the keen interest shown by many young anglers in attendance. Many flies were given away to this enthusiastic group & as the photo shows attention to our efforts was quite significant.

An expression of appreciation from the organisers of the day was also appreciated.

Peter Rasmussen

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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