



The Vice



Newsletter of the Tasmanian Fly Tyers' Club Inc.

Volume 17, Issue 9 Winter 2025

Inside: ... The Fly Tying Edition Artificial Intelligence and a bit more...

Cover Shot – My Rainbow Beach River fishing spot

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| | Tim Urbanc |
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<http://tasmanianflytyersclub.org>

President's Report

Presidential Speech delivered at the AGM 2025.

It's been another busy year for the Club.

Thanks to all the people who attended these Club events including partners, family and friends.

Some old like the Cane Day and Interlaken Fly Tying. Some new like the Bream Day and the Winter Fly Swap.

Generosity from members to the Club and to each other. Communication with AAT and Hydro Tasmania. Doug Miller's work on The Vice. Steve Butler's work on IT and Zoom. Wayne Bellette's work on guest speakers and casting on Wednesdays. Anna Bellette for social media coordinator. Norm Cribbin's work on the books and spread sheets. Paul Markey's work on the administration of running the Club. All those involved with the Lake Sorell Shack renovation. Tim Urbanc and Tony Abel/Mike Bourne as shack wardens. The Great Lake Tie In Committee for organisation and the support of the Club.

Clubman of the Year 2025.

As you know, this is one of the most difficult Presidential jobs. Especially when you consider the field of potential winners. There were many that contributed to the Club in so many ways.

This year the winner was asked to take over a critical role on the Committee at very short notice, and to our communal relief he said yes. The fact that Club business appeared to roll along as though nothing untoward had happened it testament to his exceptional skills.

I really don't know how to thank him for his patience, attention to detail and calm efficiency.

Congratulations to **Paul Markey**.

A well-deserved recipient of the Johnny Walker Clubman of the Year

We really appreciate your work for the Club!

Next year is our 70th anniversary and the Committee is working with several members to plan merchandising and events.

Thanks for the support you have shown me in the role of President.

Let's wrap this up and get on with it.

Tight Lines.

Andrew 'The President' Reed

Editorial

I am writing this Editorial from a coffee shop in Noosa. I'm wearing shorts and tee-shirt and am about go for a swim when I finish. I hope this is received in the spirit in which it is written!

This Winter Vice is again focused mainly on Fly tying. There are reports about both sessions from the Interlaken tying weekend. The best one is by Chris Hilton, the second one is by the editor who had car issues and a limited time tying. In previous Winter editions I have included the RSL Tying day but this didn't happen this year but I hope there is enough here to keep you wrapping feather and fur!

There is also a report on using AI to inform your fishing when in an unfamiliar environment. Use it with cautious optimism!

Congratulations to Nick Ingles and Tim Lewis on becoming very worthy Life Members - very pleased!

DM



Steve at Spot On fishing tackle has kindly provided the Club with four \$30 Vouchers for the best stories contributed to The Vice. Vouchers can be picked up from the Editor at your leisure!

This time the vouchers go to **Chris Hilton** for his wonderful report on the Interlaken Weekend

Send your stories to 55dmiller@gmail.com

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Some nice shots from session 2 of the Interlaken Tying Weekend.

The Vice Wind



Interlaken Fly Tying Weekend

A delightful weekend - a personal perspective



In the bleak midwinter ...[nah, winter is never really bleak in Tasmania], one of the special events of the TFTC is always the Tying weekend. Formerly at the sometimes chilly Tiger Hut, our new venue at the Interlaken Guest House at Lake Sorell was looking even better than last year with significant new areas of painting / plaster repair / new water heating systems and plans to make bigger bathrooms to cope with more folks. We were warmly welcomed again by Chris Acheson who is one of those marvellous people who can find things to chat about with anyone. I believe Dr John O'Halloran had an interesting chat to him about his family's long standing association with the Highlands and the Guest House in particular. Those of us solely focused on fish were regaled with stories of whoppers seen in local creeks recently.

Arriving with Paul McC around noon on Friday we quickly secured our rooms and spots in the fly tying room before a quick lunch then onto the job in hand. Cubby and Andrew Hood were already at

work keeping an eye on the kitchen and ensuring the casseroles / curries were readied for the evening.

Finding places for eighteen fly tyers and, for some, their voluminous [in case any fly tyers partner's are reading this, completely essential] supplies of assorted feathers, furs, beads, hooks, glues, threads, lights and vices of varying degrees of complexity, can be a slight challenge. However in the miniature old ballroom with a bit of cha cha cha we all managed to fit in without too many missteps. As the afternoon wore on, and faced with extraordinary frustration that fly tyers can sometimes experience [always due to poor materials, never skill challenges], a bit of sledging was perhaps inevitable. There is a broad range of abilities here, mine being at sub novice level though most members are in the advanced category with a few at professorial level. There was also a bit of non musical [disappearing] chairs in my corner of the room which caused confusion to some. Luckily as the afternoon wore on, more senior members arrived thankfully restoring an appropriate level of gravitas to the proceedings.

Much discussion on patterns, fishing technique, hooks, capes, beads, eyes and future adventures. Fortunate to be sitting opposite Wayne and Anna B, I had a masterclass in tying shrimp patterns for their upcoming trip to various spots in the Pacific. The skilled application of just the right amount of material in exactly the right way ended up producing some wonderful impressionistic patterns. Getting this balance right sometimes looks simple but is, of course, anything but.



Over on the other side of the room Dennis was hard at work preparing for his trip of a life time to fish the famous River Test. Perhaps having heard of his skill though forgetting that fingers don't always work as well when over twenty one, the English guide had suggested

mostly size 16 to 18 dry flies. He, of course, rose easily to the challenge with some beautiful Iron Blue and other Duns.



Times passes quickly at these events and it was soon supper. Time for the Lamb and Chicken casseroles and curry. Tony Dell was unapologetic about his Broccolini, 'One thing I am passionate



about is plenty of veggies' he told me. No arguing with that! My curry was still hard frozen rather too close to serving time but fortunately I just got it over the line to join the rice, casseroles and veggies. Some lovely wines accompanied supper plus a variety of liquid concoctions, then ice cream and apple tart. Lots of spirited conversation including the future prospects of Lake Sorell with advice and stories from the lake's illustrious past. Some interesting ideas were shared about how water flow changes might benefit the lake, it's future spawning prospects as well as tourism potential whilst acknowledging the huge challenges in achieving change.

And so ... to bed.

After a slightly chilly night [reminder to self, bring a heater next year], easing into the day was made much more enjoyable for those lucky enough to



have a hand made coffee by our own expert Barista, David Travalia.

Back into it, some interesting patterns were appearing, Norm producing an interesting Great Lake Beetle pattern involving a body of clipped dry fly hackle with an interesting nod to Tim Urbanc's Jassid pattern as featured in Australia's Best Trout Flies Revisited. Dennis was still hard at it with his English dries and Ashley Artis was having a first attempt at copying one of Glenn Beecher's straightforward but effective looking deer hair Tabanas style dry flies.

Dennis's beautiful Iron Blue and other dun patterns

The 'Beecher' Tabanas [variant] deer hair pattern



Meanwhile in the Euro Nymphing corner, DT was churning out more of his innovative blue coloured patterns



Dave Lipscombe who has vied with DT for the top position at a secret location for the dark arts was also busy tying future killers



Despite having supper preparation to think about, Delly had produced a beautifully proportioned simple dun pattern. Watch out Mr Trout !
[apologies for the poor photo]

We were pleased to be joined around midday by Nick Ingles and new member, Sandy Gale. Sandy told me he has really enjoyed fishing with club members since joining, particularly Paul McC. Nick tied some straightforward effective looking nymphs which undoubtedly will soon be surprising a few rainbows at Bothwell. I was able to show Sandy my favourite simple Dun pattern,



the Possum Dynamite Harry and he was soon onto it.

Chatter resumed about Lake Sorell. It was decided that a group would go and look at Mountain Creek plus at work previously done by the IFS within the creek to assist spawning and the lake. But it was lunchtime so the trip was postponed whilst we filled up with warming soup, garlic bread and party pies.

The road around the eastern side of the lake was in reasonable condition though there are a couple of turn offs that the unwary might get lost on. Paul McC showed us his useful map app that works via satellite [ie not requiring a Telstra or Optus connection] and we navigated via that. Seeing the creek as a newbie was a slight shock. It was dry apart from a few pools. You could see the pipeline that transports water from Arthurs Lake down to the Midlands for agricultural purposes. Walking down to the lake one came across deepened areas that did contain some residual



water. Presumably previous IFS work. On getting down to the last bit of the creek before the lake, some spotted the odd 4-5 lb well camouflaged

fish which quickly melted away. The lake itself looked calm and beautiful in the winter sun. It didn't take long before we saw fish, either jumping right out or swirling. Some far out, some close. Most looked large to enormous. Back at the lodge it was time for tea, some rather tempting cake, a relaxing sit down by the fire and some good conversation



Resuming fly tying back at the lodge prior to the much looked forward to dinner cooked by the senior members of the club, Delly / Macca / Cubby / Andrew H, it wasn't long before there was a disappointing resumption of the disgraceful trickster behaviour seen previously. In his absence, Ashley A's elegant fly vice was adorned by a rather flashy lurex ball, a soon to be retired member's chair was inexplicably replaced by one

suitable for only a toddler, and even our much esteemed President had developed a mullet!



Fortunately, before things got much worse, the serial offenders were called to dinner. Sobriety was restored as we formed an orderly queue for a superb dinner comprising rolled pork and lamb joints served with fresh veggies, roasted potatoes, pumpkin garnished by plenty of gravy. There was enough for seconds for those with bigger appetites [note to self, leave room for dessert next time !]. Much boisterous and enjoyable conversation. For those who had wisely left room, the first course was followed by Macca's wonderful apple pie and ice cream and washed down by some lovely wines and spirits. Remarkably our President was still able to say a few words of thanks for all the effort and hard work that had laid the foundations for a wonderful evening.



Those of us up early enough started Sunday morning with another marvellous Travalia hand made coffee before our final session of fly tying. Amongst the highlights were Ashley A's

marvellous CDC Dun [a favourite of the trout at Highland Waters] and Paul McG tied a beautiful split wing dun.

Too soon, it was time to start packing up to make room for the next shift who were to complete the TFTC tying weekend at Interlaken. Our friends were soon arriving but one last treat remained prior to our departure. Lunch ! Expertly BBQ'd by perhaps the last river fisher to still use dry flies ...

In an external world that sometimes seems to only contain profound division and disagreement, this weekend had been a beautiful example of folk working calmly together, after a huge amount of preparation and thought, to produce a happy outcome. Thank you again to the organisers. As to the trout, we are now ready and coming for you !

Apologies to those whose excellent flies I missed taking photos of...

Chris Hilton

Flies from the Second Group!

The second session of the Interlaken Weekend started with an overlap between the first group and the second as stories were swapped over a barbecue lunch. I managed to miss this due to being interstate on the Sunday through poor calendar management. I also almost missed the entire trip due to car issues with both my ute turning on many red warning lights and Laurie's backup doing weird brake things but we got there in the end!

As usual it was a terrific session and I learned a lot. Here are some of the flies that were tied...



Fly: Anna Fly
 Tyer: Ian Stokes
 Hook: B175 #12
 Bead: Red tungsten 3mm
 Thread: Black
 Rib: Red UTC wire
 Tail: Black marabou red crystal flash
 Body: Holographic red Mylar
 Hackle: Black hen



Fly:

Sticky

Tyer: Pete Murphy
 Hook: B830 #12
 Thread: Black
 Tail: Organza - silver white
 Body: Peacock herl
 Bead: Yellow brass or tungsten
 Hackle: Black hen (sparse)

Fly: Highland Pride



Tyer: Laurie Matcham
 Hook: Mustad 350 #14
 Thread: white
 Tail: White cock
 Body: Spectra in yellow
 Rib: Blue metallic
 Hackle: White Hoffman No 1



Fly: No Hackle Delatidium Spinner
 Tyer: Andrew Hood
 Hook: Tiemco 102Y #19
 Thread: Claret
 Tail: Paint brush fibres from Bunnings!
 Body: Silk claret



Fly: Elk hair Caddis
 Tyer: Tony Abel
 Hook: Dry fly #12
 Thread: Brown
 Body: Possum olive



Wing: Stacked CDC

Fly: Snowshoe Caenid
 Tyer: Ashley Artis
 Hook: B45 #14
 Thread: Black
 Tail: Light grey Coq de Leon
 Body: Black thread
 Post: Snowshoe rabbit
 Hackle: Dark grey CDC tied parachute



Hackle: Palmered brown/ginger
 Wing: Pale Elk hair

Fly: Disco Derg
 Tyer: Doug Miller
 Hook: H 450BL #16
 Thread: Sheer Burgundy
 Tail: Purple Goose biot
 Body: Burgundy Thread
 Rib: Silver wire
 Thorax: Peacock sparkle dubbing
 Bead: Tungsten 2.8mm hot pink

DM

Ultimate AI Advice

Steve Butler mentioned to me that AI is here to stay and I should start to become familiar with it or spend my later years in regretful cyber misery or words to that effect. So I downloaded ChatGPT and started experimenting with it...

It was very simple to use, even easier than but very similar to a google search - except that you could keep clarifying and rephrasing your questions to get better information.



The Beach at Cape Gloucester

I was planning a winter escape in our slide-on camper. Basically a trip to FNQ with Sue so we could avoid the worst of winter in Tassie. A good plan really and ChatGPT provided some interesting suggestions for places to camp along the way.

Of course I was taking fishing gear just in case there was an opportunity or two to annoy northern fish so I put in the following prompts and was surprised with the detailed responses. I have also added some pictures of the flies I tied to help.

I entered the following prompt:

Show me the best fly fishing dams in northern NSW and southern QLD

ChatGPT said:

Here's a curated list of **top fly fishing dams in northern NSW and southern QLD**, known for consistent fishing, access, and stocked or wild sportfish—especially Australian bass, yellowbelly (golden perch), Murray cod, and saratoga.

Top Fly Fishing Dams – Northern NSW

1. Copeton Dam (near Inverell)

- **Species:** Murray cod, golden perch, occasional silver perch.
- **Fly Tips:** Surface flies at dawn/dusk for cod; sink-tips with Clousers or streamers for golden perch.
- **Access:** Good boat/kayak launching; bank side access too.
- **Camping:** Copeton Waters State Park – great facilities.

2. Pindari Dam (near Ashford)

- **Species:** Murray cod, golden perch.
- **Fly Tips:** Deep water – intermediate or sinking lines help; try large streamer patterns.
- **Access:** Quiet, fewer anglers than Copeton.
- **Camping:** Basic bush camping options.

3. Toonumbar Dam (west of Kyogle)

- **Species:** Australian bass.
- **Fly Tips:** Surface flies early and late (e.g., Dahlbergs, poppers); small streamers near structure.
- **Access:** Best with kayak or small boat.
- **Camping:** Basic campsites nearby.

4. Clarrie Hall Dam (near Murwillumbah)

- **Species:** Australian bass.
- **Fly Tips:** Ideal for canoe/kayak fly fishing; bass take surface flies near weed edges.
- **Notes:** Electric motors only – peaceful, fly-friendly environment.

Top Fly Fishing Dams – Southern QLD

1. Hinze Dam (Gold Coast hinterland)

- **Species:** Australian bass, saratoga.
- **Fly Tips:** Fly fish with poppers near lily pads; subsurface for deeper bass in heat.
- **Access:** Electric-only boats; kayak friendly.
- **Bonus:** Crystal-clear water great for sight fishing.

2. Lake Moogerah (Scenic Rim)

- **Species:** Australian bass, golden perch.
- **Fly Tips:** Target structure; fish edges early, then deeper with sinking lines.
- **Camping:** Good campgrounds on-site.
- **Notes:** Sometimes busy with water skiers.

3. Lake Maroon (near Boonah)

- **Species:** Bass and golden perch.
- **Fly Tips:** Fish weed edges, deep drop-offs. Effective early and late.
- **Bonus:** Popular with fly anglers for topwater bass action.

4. Leslie Dam (near Warwick)

- **Species:** Golden perch, Murray cod.
- **Fly Tips:** Streamers and woolly buggers near rock walls and submerged trees.
- **Access:** Boat ramp and some shoreline access.



Honourable Mentions

- **Glenlyon Dam (NSW/QLD border)** – stocked cod and yellowbelly, great from a kayak.

- **Somerset Dam (QLD)** – huge bass, but trolling is more common than fly.
- **Borumba Dam (QLD)** – bass and saratoga, great for fly from kayak or float tube.



Best Times for Fly Fishing

- **Bass:** Sept–April (warmer months, topwater action)
- **Cod:** Dec–Aug (closed season Sept–Nov)
- **Yellowbelly:** Year-round, best late spring to early autumn
- **Saratoga:** Warmer months, sight-fishing in the shallows

I said:

What flies should I use?

ChatGPT said:

Perfect — here's a **fly box cheat sheet** for the main species you'll encounter in northern NSW and southern QLD dams:



Australian Bass (Clarrie Hall, Toonumbar, Hinze, Maroon, Moogerah)

- **Surface flies (dawn/dusk, warm months):**
 - Dahlberg Divers (black, olive, or purple)
 - Foam Prawn poppers and Gurglers



- **Subsurface:**
 - Woolly Buggers (black, olive, purple, size 4–6)
 - Clouser Minnows (black/blue, chartreuse/white)
 - Zonkers & small Deceivers
- **Tip:** Fish edges of weed beds, timber, and points. Go topwater in low light, then switch to sink-tip lines with streamers during the day.



Murray Cod (Copeton, Pindari, Glenlyon, Leslie)

- **Big surface flies:**
 - Foam/Murrah surface mice, cicadas, and wake flies (black, natural brown/green)
- **Subsurface:**
 - Big Deceivers (6–8”), purple/black, fire tiger, or white
 - Game Changers (synthetic articulated streamers)
 - Rabbit strip divers
- **Tip:** Cod love huge profiles. Fish tight to structure. Low light or night = surface, daytime = deep sinkers.

Golden Perch / Yellowbelly (Copeton, Leslie, Glenlyon, Moogerah, Maroon)

- **Best flies:**

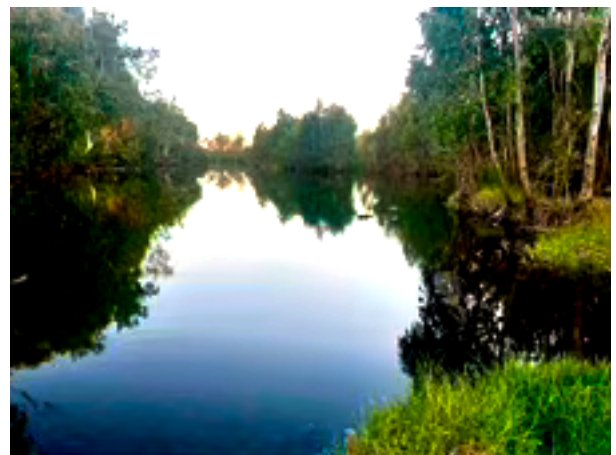
- Woolly Buggers (black, olive, purple, size 2–4)
- Clouser Minnows (yellow/olive, black/purple)
- Bunny Leeches

- **Tip:** Slow retrieves near rock walls, drop-offs, or standing timber. They often hit on the pause.

Saratoga (Hinze, Borumba)

- **Surface flies:**
 - Small poppers and gurglers (black, red/white)
 - Cicada imitations (foam body, rubber legs)
- **Subsurface:**
 - Damsel nymphs, small baitfish patterns (size 4–8)
- **Tip:** Cast tight to lilies and timber. They’ll often sip a fly gently rather than smash it.

As you can imagine I was very impressed and set off excitedly to see if it would be a terrific fishing adventure for me. The trip was wonderful but - was I successful?



Of course not.

DM

Club Loan Equipment

There are 3 rods and one reel currently available to be borrowed by club members for their fishing needs

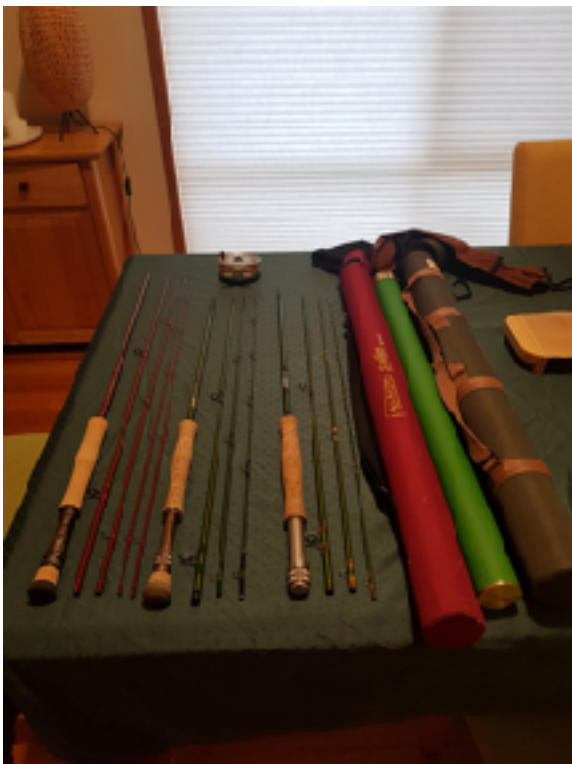
Rods

- Stalker 10/7/4+1 10' 0" #7 weight
(spare tip)
- Sage TCX 990-4 9' 0" #9 weight
(fighting butt)
- Sage TCX 990-4B 9' 0" #9 weight
(fighting butt)

All rods come with rod tubes (but 1 sage rod has a non sage rod tube)

Reel

- Fly Axle – Shina Loaded with a 7 weight orange line



To book and arrange a pick a rod or the reel please contact John Spencer on 04 27538446