



# The Vice



**Newsletter of the Tasmanian Fly Tyers' Club Inc.**

**Volume 14 , Issue 4 Summer 2018**

**Inside: Fergus Weekend, Lees Paddocks, Woods Dry Fly, Unwelcome Guests *and much more...***

*Cover shot – Chris Roberts fishes a bubble line at Lees Paddocks*

## President's Report

Well, we're now well over half way through the current season, and, by all reports, it has been pretty successful for most anglers.

Since my last report the Club has held several successful activities and events including the Bothwell farm dams weekend, Christmas drinks, the January Miena and Lake Fergus weekends, the Miena general meeting and the recent Penstock weekend. All were very successful and our thanks are due to organisers and attendees alike.

Also, Fowler Trophy teams have been fishing throughout the season, with several reports of enjoyable and productive days being spent by members who may not normally have fished together. For those yet to participate there is still plenty of time, but don't delay making plans for a day or two together.

Coming up in the reasonably near future are the Western Lakes trip (6-9 March), the Salmon Ponds casting day (6 May), the IFS Liaweenie Open Weekend and the two Tiger Hut tying sessions (25-27 and 27-29 May). Members are encouraged to attend these where possible and to register on the club website.

Following his expression of interest, Chris Roberts was recently invited to fill a vacant position on the committee and is already proving to be a valuable member. It is a great reflection of the general health of the club when members actually offer themselves as committee members.

Finally, and again, I want to record my ongoing thanks to all of the other Committee members, who have enthusiastically contributed in many ways and have certainly made my role as president much easier than I expected.

Tight lines for the rest of the season,

Andrew Hood

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## Editorial

Summer has been brilliant! The fish have been looking up and eager to bite, the sun has been shining and life has generally been good!

In this issue we look at the trip in to Lees Paddocks, which was sensational, it is an easy walk in of about 8-9km and the Mersey River is crystal clear. Well worth the trip.

The club has held a number of events such as the Lake Fergus weekend and the Penstock weekend as well as the Miena Meeting, all of which were very successful and relatively well attended. I hope a few more people take the opportunity to visit Fergus as this has the potential to be a great event in the future!

I had the privilege of meeting Paul Arden over a few days at Lake Burbury and at the Penstock weekend. He is a very interesting individual who has made a living out of following his passion for fly-fishing and traveling the world at the same time. He had a myriad of stories from living on an aluminium dinghy on a lake in Malaysia to deciding to cycle from Brisbane to Perth and fish as much as possible on the way. Throw in being in the top three distance casters in the world (5wt line on a 10wt rod!) and you have a fascinating individual – and boy could he cast!

Closer to home, life member and general fishing legend Lyndon Cubbins discovered what perils lie in store when you anchor on the edge of a lake and wander off to fish the shores. You never know what strange beast you may bring home with you.

Chris Roberts also contributed two useful tips and tricks about figure 8 retrieves and a nifty and simple method for knotting pheasant tail legs easily. I can only hope that Autumn brings some more joy in what has been a truly remarkable season!

DM



I arrived on the Friday night with lowering skies and the threat of a possible thunderstorm. Tim and Henry Edgell were already there and pointed me in the right direction and, although there was a slight breeze blowing into our faces, assured me there were fish to be caught. (They hadn't managed any at that stage though.)

I chose to put on an emerger with a claret dabbler on the top dropper and fished this without success for about half an hour before switching the emerger to a floating Stokesy's nymph. This had an immediate effect with a nice brown of about 2.5lbs coming to hand.

The arrival of Pete Murphy and Andrew Blackwood coincided with some very spectacular thunder and lightning in the hills around the lake. Now I know that to judge how far the storm is away you simply count the seconds from the flash to the thunderclap and divide by 5 to tell you how many miles away the strike was. So if the flash was 30 seconds before the thunderclap, then  $30 \div 5 = 6$  miles away. Initially the count was around 25 seconds so I convinced myself, possibly foolishly, that I was relatively safe and the worst part of the storm seemed to be passing well off to the side of us. The rain was torrential at times but being well rugged up in my waders and coat I was dry and warm.

The fish seemed to be about to start rising more regularly when the count rapidly decreased from 20 seconds to 10. At this point I figured that standing knee deep in water waving around a long lightning rod was not a sensible thing to be doing and the others all agreed. We spent a very pleasant time sitting in Pete's camper enjoying some food and a well-earned beer until the storm passed.



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. Vouchers can be picked up from the Editor at your leisure!

### **So...Write the best story and win a \$30 Spot On voucher!**

*This time there are two awards (no award was given last edition as there were no member submissions) So the first award goes to... Lyndon Cubbins for extraordinary bravery in the face of danger –well done Cubby!*

*The second award goes to Chris Roberts for his great suggestions for improving your figure 8 retrieves and the Leg knotting tool that will revolutionise my tying!*

**Have a go**

**Simply send your entry to Doug Miller  
[55dmiller@gmail.com](mailto:55dmiller@gmail.com)**

### **Lake Fergus Weekend**

The chance to visit Lake Fergus without having to walk the length of the river from Little Pine onwards is one that shouldn't be missed. So, thanks to the organisational efforts of our beloved secretary Tim Lewis, I had the opportunity to drive up to the lake with my campervan attached for the planned club weekend. Tim was able to negotiate with landowner Randall Trethewie to get the key to the boom gate just past the dam wall at Little Pine and it was a simple matter to drive the 10km dirt road to the lakes edge.



Saturday arrived along with Anna and Wayne Bellette who immediately set off for the opposite shore as the wind was blowing in quite strongly. The end of the lake that had the section of river leading to Little Pine was very shallow and very wadeable. Some good fish were polaroided but I don't think many were caught there. Andrew, Pete, Tim and Henry all headed to the lee shore whilst I amused myself pottering around in the mouth of the river.



The wind continued to build so I decided to head off at lunchtime, as I needed to be back in Hobart that night. I left the others to what I understand was a very enjoyable afternoon of fishing in a truly wonderful part of the world that not that many get to fish. If you get a chance to do so then I would recommend this trip next time it is available. Many thanks to Tim for organising it with Randall Trethewie – it was terrific. For details of Lake Fergus here is the link to the IFS brochure



<https://www.ifs.tas.gov.au/about-us/publications/lake-fergus-angler-access-fact-sheet>

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## 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.*



Chris Roberts, of front cover fame, has suggested two really interesting tips for improving your fly fishing experience. The first is a tricky but potentially useful figure 8 retrieve that might make line management more manageable in the Western Lakes in particular. The potential to cast a line without getting tangles in the undergrowth could make

stalking that trophy trout more achievable.

The link below from YouTube suggests that this might allow your line to flow quickly and easily from your hand rather than being dropped into the heath at your feet.

<http://www.peterhayesflyfishing.com/page19722331.aspx>



The

second bit of advice is one that pleases me in particular as I really struggle to tie knots in pheasant tail for hopper legs. Sure I can do it but each one takes ages. This simple solution that uses a safety pin held in the vice is brilliant and works really well. It is certainly a skill worth developing. It is also has the bonus of being extremely cheap. This pleases me greatly!

<https://vimeo.com/253821611>

## Lee's Paddocks



It was our third attempt to go to Lee's Paddocks. The first time it was on fire, the second time the road in was swept away by raging flood waters so the third time we had to be lucky! We chose the first weekend of Summer which coincided with the State Fishing Championships. It also coincided with some amazing weather events that brought gale force winds, snow storms to the highlands and gale force winds to everywhere in Tasmania... except for Lee's Paddocks!



We decided to break up the long trip up to the start of the track by spending the Thursday night in the club shack and had a great night watching Tim Urbanc, Jason Junior, Doug Mosenthal and Chris Medwin preparing the amazing amount of stuff required to battle in the Championships.

We set off from Miena at around 8.00am and drove through Deloraine to the top of the Mersey Forest Road. It was raining when we set off from the car park in the upper reaches of the Mersey Valley and it did drizzle quite persistently for much of the 9km walk in. It was however quite warm and still which made walking quite pleasant. The rain however made the leeches very active and they feasted royally on us all. David Travalia and Chris Roberts' decision to wear shorts was courageous to say the least!

The track in was relatively flat and very lush with beech forests and ferns predominant. The only

confronting things were the bridge across the Mersey which looked much more confronting than it proved to be and the log bridge right near the second hut which was a fallen tree with a couple of ropes strung up alongside it. We all survived with incident!



Our destination was Lewis Lee's Hut - a fantastic affair. Privately owned but available for respectful public use, it was a glimpse into a bygone era. We chose to sleep in our tents near the hut and use it as our communal lounge room and kitchen. The hut even had a woodstove and running water that fed a kitchen sink on the verandah. We lit a fire and happily toasted the leeches that we managed to remove from our legs, arms heads and other places too delicate to mention.



(The shorts were a bad idea!)



Saturday dawned warm, still and overcast and we set off to explore the river and the spectacular surrounds.

Jim Jones was the first one I saw catch a good sized fish – a rather impressive 2.5lb one which was duly released unharmed. What followed was a great day of dry fly fishing. The fish were small but feisty and very hungry. In all I think over 30 were caught.



As is usual with any expedition organised by David Travalia, the food was of exceptional standard. It was a shared endeavour of culinary excellence washed down by single malt whisky and cognac! Not to shabby!



The rain started late on Saturday night and the temperature did drop a little but it was still all quite manageable for our walk out on the Sunday. Mercifully the leeches seemed to have had enough of ageing bushwalker blood and left us pretty much



alone and apart from a slight miscalculation on which track to take that lengthened the trip by a kilometre or so the voyage back to the cars was relatively simple.

It wasn't until we reached to relative civilisation of Chudleigh that we saw the snow laden peaks of the central highlands and picked up the tale of woe from the weather on the radio that we realised that we had probably had the best weekend camping of anyone else in Tasmania! Third tie lucky so we definitely deserved it!

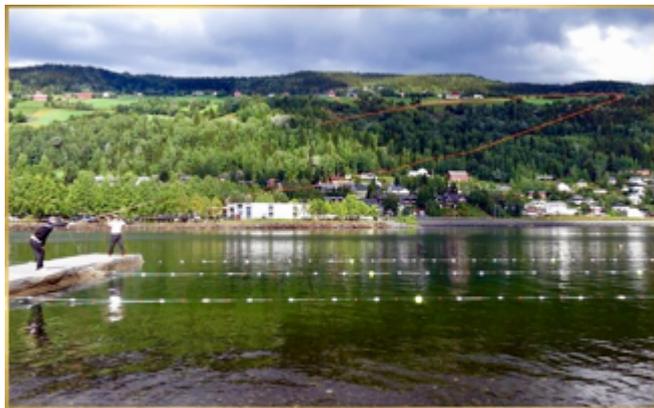


Many thanks to David Travalia for being the coordinator of this trip and thanks to club members Chris Berndt, Chris Roberts, Jim Jones and treasured guest walker Jim Gandy for a great weekend!

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## Fly Tying on the WWW

*The World Wide Web is a treasure trove of information and tips for the fly tyer. YouTube in particular reveals a staggering number of responses to the most basic search. In this section of The Vice the focus will be on some interesting tyers and techniques. If you have any favourites that you think should be shared with our members please send them in.*



Every now and then you get to meet someone who lives the dream and Paul Arden certainly fits the bill. Paul has been in Tasmania for the last few months and has fished with many members of the club over that time as well as getting married on Great Lake!



Paul is a highly qualified casting instructor, a distance casting champion, fly fishing guide and founder of Sexy Loops – his amazing web based business. Sexy Loops (<http://www.sexyloops.com>) is a site which has just about everything you could wish for to help you become a better fly fisher. There is absolutely top notch advice on how to improve your casting, how to catch more fish, a place to buy really great fly rods and generally live a life of adventure!



Paul currently lives on a tin dinghy on the edge of Royal Belum, a lake in the jungles of Malaysia where he has developed a guiding business that focuses on catching giant Snakehead (a form of lung fish) and Gourami. This is not easy fishing, you have a 1-2 second pick up and lay down casting window that requires extreme accuracy.

I met Paul on our ill-fated trip to Burbury a few weeks ago that was organised by club legend Tony Abel. It all started well with camp fire conversations and plans on the Friday night and some early morning wind lane fishing but fell apart spectacularly as 4 inches of rain, thunder and lightning and gale force winds hit our camp. Wisely we decided to move back to Miena and the club shack.

Paul shared his most successful tie for dry fly fishing in Tasmania – the Shipman’s Buzzer. This fly can be tied in a variety of colours (black, claret, olive, orange etc.) and in a variety of sizes.



Shipman’s Buzzer

Hook – size 12-16 dry fly

Wing – white poly yarn

Rib – Pearl Mylar

Body – Seals fur blend to suit

Tie in the wing so that it extends over the eye and the tail by 2-3 mm

Tie in the Mylar rib

Dub on the seals fur body

Wind through the rib 4-5 turns depending on hook size

Brush up the seals fur to make it scruffy.

Tie it on and catch fish!



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## Unwelcome Guests

Returning home from a fishing trip to the lakes with Ian Stokes prior to Christmas I gave the dinghy a quick wash and proceeded to put it in the garage as usual. As an after thought I decided to dry the drogue which I keep in the locker forward of the front seat so I climbed into the dinghy and lifted the lid to the locker and picked up the handle of the landing net which is always on top of everything in the locker.

As I was lifting the net out of the locker I was concentrating on the drogue and out of the corner of my eye I noticed something in the net that did not look quite right. Needless to say I let go of the net handle rather quickly and watched as a very live snake proceeded to slither out of the net at which point I exited the dinghy rather quickly and watched the snake conceal itself under the back seat.

I decided that Reptile Rescue sounded like a good idea so I made a quick phone call and they told me not to worry as the snake will probably come back out from under the seat of its own accord but they would come and help extract the snake shortly. Not wanting the snake to get out of the dinghy and possibly wind up in the house I pulled the dinghy outside and waited

for Reptile Rescue. They arrived a few minutes later and after unscrewing the floor found a very live tiger snake which they extracted without incident.

Once the snake was secured in a solid bag we had a discussion as to how the snake could have wound up in the dinghy in the first place. It was agreed that the most likely option was that during the fishing trip we decided to fish off the shore at Woods to try and get



out of the wind and to stop the dinghy blowing away I tied the bow rope to a branch of a fallen tree and whilst we were fishing the snake managed to crawl along the rope and into the dinghy.

As we fished from the shore several days in a row and then did not come home until the following day it is possible that the snake was in the boat for several days but we will never know and all is well that ends well and needless to say we will be even more careful than usual from now on.

**Lyndon Cubbins**

## Penstock Weekend 2018



This years Penstock weekend was one of the best I have been to and, whilst the weather was a bit challenging in the windy and cold department, the warmth of the hospitality and the caliber of the food and company made it a memorable weekend.



I was fortunate enough to have the company of gun fisherman Peter Trott who made a comeback to the world of fly-fishing after an absence of a couple of years and it was great to see the flies he chose (Zulu, Alexandra and Wooly Bugger) to tackle the fish in Penstock on the Friday we got there. He managed four nice fish while I didn't trouble the scorers. We retired to the welcome warmth of Malcolm's shack and the informal BBQ night before heading back to our allocated shack and talking fishing and politics well into the night!



Saturday saw us up surprisingly early and fishing the lagoon relentlessly throughout the day. I picked up a couple early and then proceeded to practice long distance catch and release for the rest of the day. It takes particular skill to consistently pull the fly from an eager trout's mouth but I have it down pat! The fish were rising to duns but because of the wind this were thinly dispersed throughout the surface and the fish were only coming up once and then disappearing – very challenging fishing conditions.



We were under strict instructions not to be late to the Long Table meal so we came in at around 5.30 and went back to Malcolm's place for the meal - and, what a meal it was! Steve Butler, Mark Aspinall and David Travalia excelled themselves with a meal fit for royalty! We ate confit of salmon, salmon gravlax, Roast Pork, Chicken and a range of vegetables and vegetarian dishes and desserts that made your mouth water. Thanks and great respect must be paid to these talented chefs who managed to feed 21 people with style and panache!



Steve Butler wanted to record his thanks to Huon Aquaculture who donated two sides of salmon as well as beans, thumb drives and chopsticks to the participants



One of the highlights of the evening was a talk from two American guests, Mac and Marshall from Trout Unlimited (<https://www.tu.org>) who spoke passionately about their mission which was to preserve water quality through science based action. They bid for a prize generously offered by Malcolm to spend a week fishing in Tasmania and by all accounts had a wonderful time. They presented Malcolm with a cap and a beautiful Ross Reel as a token of their gratitude. Malcolm, in turn, has donated the reel to the Club as a major raffle prize – a very generous gesture on all sides!

Sunday morning saw us packing up for the trip home and I couldn't help but notice the number of jassids that were covering my car. They didn't seem to have invaded the lake in any great numbers yet but I am sure they will not be far away. Aspro commented that they were three weeks earlier than normal. This could bode well for the next month or so in what has been an amazing fishing season on Penstock.



Rather than fish in the cold again on Penstock, I suggested to Trotty that we might have a look in on Woods on the way home. The weather was overcast and the winds on Penstock were largely missing at Woods. We started off by going up to the shore directly opposite the boat ramp and fished in the weeds for a while with a few hits but not much action. Acting on a hunch we trekked off to the next bay around from the hut point and suddenly found ourselves in a brilliant dun hatch. Fish were everywhere and it was champagne fly fishing at its best. Tony Abel and Paul 'Sexy Loops' Arden were there too and they had a ball too. I think we accounted for 45 fish landed and many more missed in a few hours!



It was an amazing end to a brilliant weekend. Thanks must go to the organisers and to Malcolm Crosse in particular who, despite have health issues at the time was a wonderful and generous host. Thanks Malcolm – you are a legend!

DM



## 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](mailto: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 1936, this club aims to encourage the arts of fly tying and fly fishing*



<http://tasmanianflytyersclub.org>