



The Vice



Newsletter of the Tasmanian Fly Tyers' Club Inc.

Volume 15 , Issue 10 Summer 2020

Inside: **Wally Wings, Back to Lake Sorrel, The Sorell Shack, Tying tips *and much more...***

Cover Shot – Stokesy in the windy Worlds

(Photo appropriated joyfully from a FLYLife email sent to us)

President's Report

Well, I have survived my first 6 months as President and have thoroughly enjoyed myself. There has been some great trout fishing both here and overseas for club members. Our members undertook several trips to New Zealand and there is a large contingent there at the moment for the Commonwealth Championships. This includes Anna Bellette, Chris Medwin, Jason Garrett and Malcolm Crosse as Competition Coordinator hot on the heels of the successful World Championships in Tasmania. Speaking of the 'Worlds', the Club had a fantastic presence at this event. Members were involved in guiding the international teams before and after the event, controlling, especially at Penstock Lagoon, and we had members at all 5 venues. Malcolm Crosse, Randal Moore, Doug Mosenthal, Glenn Eggleton and myself also represented us on the Organising Committee. The weather could have been a little more co-operative as wind, rain and snow were the orders for the week. The setup at Penstock was awesome with a temporary pontoon for the Coolum boats and The Hydro set up great shelters for both competitors and controllers. Aspro had the venue running like clockwork and the after-hours catering at the shacks of an evening was legendary. Our Club General meeting in February was well attended and the after-meeting session was an expert panel from the Championships facilitated by Wayne Bellette and covered all the venues and the general organization. Some of the take home messages were the competitors could cast a long way and had difficulty seeing fish in rough weather. They also did not fish 'the hang' at the end of their cast. The controllers from the rivers reported there was a large variation in skills and catch rates from their beats and Chris Hilton described one angler fishing a dry fly down stream with an 'L' shaped cast and having good success. All reports (weather excluded) were very positive. As President I was very proud of all who put in an exceptional effort to make this event such a success and show fly fishing in Tasmania in a very positive light. It is also pleasing to hear the Competitors thought The Championships were well run and organised. The Club ran its usual Christmas drinks instead of a December Meeting. Thirty-five members enjoyed some nibbles and drinks and catching up with friends both old and new. The Fowler Trophy is still on the go and some results have been posted. I would encourage those of you who are yet to get organised to make plans now as the end of the season is fast approaching. There are

two team prizes, one for the winners and one random draw for those participating.

Thanks to Tim Urbanc for his report from Penstock that the hatches are slowing and some success can be had with slow nymphing on a floating line.

Our next major event is the Casting Day at Salmon Pond on the 3rd of May. This will include the Club trophies and a BBQ lunch. Casting practice can be found at the Friends Oval, Queens Walk, Newtown at 6Pm till whenever every Wednesday. This is run by our friendly Casting Instructors Adrian Scott and helpers.

Tight lines.

Cheers

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

So... Summer is over and what a weird season it was! It started in a blast of ice, snow and gale force winds to greet the competitors in the World Championship and by all accounts they did very well and the competition was a success. The huge number of members who helped out did a mighty job and it will be interesting to see what they learned being put into practice over the next months and seasons.

The sun finally came out and seemed to attract annoyingly strong winds that paid little heed to the concept of 'lee shores' and made it difficult for those beautiful little duns to hatch in numbers that excited the fish! Penstock and Pine fish in particular decided to rise once, always about two casts away and then disappear without trace. Arthurs fish decided to ignore all surface feed totally and concentrate on nymphs – which wasn't too bad really.



Whilst all this was going on the level of courtesy and common sense on boat ramps and parking areas hit an all time low. Spots that could easily hold seven or eight cars were occupied by four spaced just far enough apart to make it impossible to fit between them, and don't get me started on people who rock up to the boat ramp without having prepared their boats or their rods and proceed to do so while everyone waits!

Anyway, enough grizzling, it was actually a lot of fun too! In this edition, which is slightly later than I hoped there are articles about a visit I did to Lake Sorrel and our other shack. The idea was to raise its profile and hopefully encourage members to explore this once great water. There is some sprucing up to be done at the Sorrel Shack and I'm sure we will hear more in the future.

Another interesting bit is the Card Tool which is a cheap and very effective way of adding materials to a dubbing loop in an organised and accurate manner. The cancellation of the Penstock Weekend has left a hole in this edition, which I have filled in as much as possible with a re-run of an earlier article on how to fish Sorrel.

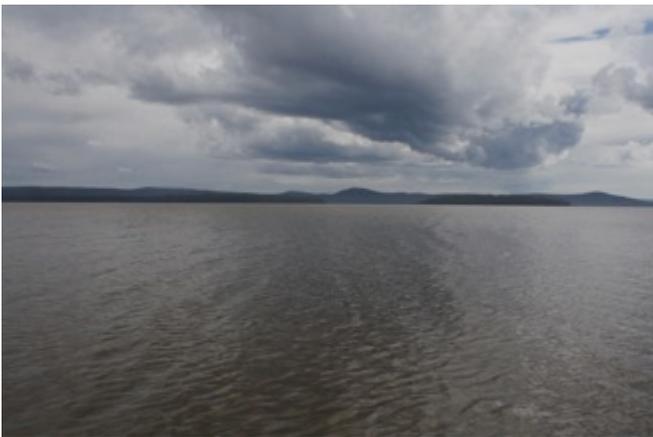
There are some great activities coming up in Autumn including bushwalks, casting day and the Tiger Hut weekends so get involved and enjoy the opportunities.

DM

Back to Lake Sorrel... Finally

I was a bit premature in announcing the re-opening of the much loved Lake Sorrel last year – but this year it actually happened and it is now officially open to fishing again. The results achieved by the Inland Fisheries are nothing short of remarkable! They have managed to virtually eliminate European Carp from both Lake Sorrel (less than 20 left) and Lake Crescent (re-opened in 2007) and have set the scene for the rebuilding of one of the best fisheries in Tasmania. The rebuilding will take a long time but it will definitely be worth it!

It was with some excitement that I traveled up to Sorrel with club member Tony Abel to spend a night at the Sorrel Shack that the club owns and explore this legendary water after such a long period of time. Tony has been a president of the club and was heavily involved along with many other members in building the Sorrell shack, which was completed in the early 1990s and was a favourite destination for members



until the closure of the lake.

The day we arrived was perfect. It was warm, overcast and there was only a slight breeze coming from the north. There were and large number of big black spinners hanging around the boat ramp which was very encouraging.

The water levels were low. The jetty was pretty much high and dry and the trailer bumped off the end of the ramp. The launch was successful however and we set off cautiously with the words of Macca and Delly ringing in our ears. Sorrel is full of rocks just below the surface all of which are hungry for outboard props. I don't think we got over idle speed in the whole afternoon!

The water colour was pretty disappointing to be honest. It was a light brown – a bit like milky coffee and you couldn't see your fly once it submerged more than about 3 inches. The chances of a trout seeing your fly seemed remote to say the least. Still, we were

hoping to find a hatch of spinners or even beetles and hopefully fish up on them.

Our first destination was the Dog's Head as the prevailing breeze looked like it might provide a nice lee shore. For me it was just great to be visiting legendary places that I didn't really know much about as my fishing skills and local knowledge when I last fished this water was even more scant than it is now! We found a hatch of black spinners and even saw a couple of rises but they were frustratingly out of



reach and disappeared as soon as the breeze changed.

The next destination was Duck Bay which was a favourite haunt for Tony, Lyndon Cubbins and Ian Stokes in particular among others and tales of the awesome fishing have been regularly revisited at every Tiger Hut Tying weekend I have attended!



Duck bay certainly looked very 'fishy' with good weed growth and some good reeds lining the edge. You could see that the reeds had been well and truly netted to keep the carp out and the low water level meant that the reeds were pretty much high and dry. We saw another couple of rises about three casts away and I had my dry flies hassled by a lot of galaxia (golden I assume). I would have liked to hook one just to check out the size but it wasn't to be.



We moved on to the point known as 'Reliable' which again was a destination that people would rush to in order to fish it first. It is just up from the famed marshes of Kermodes and again looked fantastic but apart from more galaxia movement there was little surface activity.



By the way, Lake Sorrel is HUGE! I had forgotten just how big it actually is and because of the slow speed we traveled at it took ages to get around to the places we visited. I managed to hit some reefs that seemed to appear out of nowhere but managed to avoid prop damage, which I think, was lucky. The deepest part of the lake I found on the sounder was 1.5 metres and it was mainly around the 1 metre mark. Another 50cm

of water would have made it much nicer! Still, the message is go slow!

The shallowness of the lake and the huge number of reefs hidden under the murky water would make it treacherous in a big wind and any angler would be well advised to exercise great caution heading out in such conditions. It would also be prudent to keep an eye on weather changes and take into account the long slow trip back to the boat ramp.

We didn't catch any fish and probably didn't really look like catching any but it was a great day and wonderful to explore this iconic water again. If you haven't fished Sorrel before I would highly recommend talking with some of the veterans of the lake for tips on where and where not to go. If you like wading and shore fishing then there are many places that look absolutely brilliant to explore. (We didn't venture out to Silver Plains so I can't comment on that area).



We fished Lake Crescent the next day which was sunny and quite windy and Crescent was, to say the least, awful. The water in the canal was black and smelly and the water in the main lake wasn't much better. it was very low and visibility seemed even worse than Sorrel. The wind was a Northerly and there was nowhere to get out of it so ... we packed up and fished Penstock, which was much nicer!

DM

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.

Wally Wings have been around for a long time but this use of them to make a reverse mayfly on a curved hook looks brilliant. The technique shown here gives



delicate wings that look really good and would lend themselves to tying very realistic looking orange, brown and black spinners for our waters.



Tying the Wally Wing Dun with Barry Ord Clarke

<https://youtu.be/8xu0tiyoWnl>

YouTube fly tyer Barrie Ord Clarke does a beautiful job in this clip tying an Upside Down Dun with a Wally Wing. I think that by changing the body colour you could make quite an interesting orange spinner like this one I photographed at Penstock a while ago. Running an orange permanent marker along the peacock quill would probably do the trick!

DM

The Sorrel Shack – a hidden gem

Our beloved Treasurer would love more members to use the Lake Sorrel shack and I can't bear the thought of disappointing him! So I thought it would be a good idea to publicise this hidden gem.



The Sorrel Shack is at Lake Sorrel at Interlaken. The easiest way to get there is to go to Bothwell and turn in onto the Dennistoun Road and head off until you reach Lake Crescent. From there you travel on a few kilometres until you reach the intersection with the road to Oatlands where you turn right and continue until you reach Dago Point Road (Take a bow Nomenclature Board you have really excelled yourselves here!). You will see a sign saying Club Shacks and the Patrons shack is on the left side (bank or the Paris end of Galaxia Avenue.



The shack sleeps 8 in bunks and is really quite nice. It has a central main room with kitchen and nice big table in the middle. The club recently put in solar panels, which has provided excellent lighting. There is a full gas stove, a small gas powered bar fridge in the kitchen and a big wood heater in the corner, which really throws out the heat so it's very cosy indeed!

There is a composting toilet just outside under the main verandah so there is no need to go out in the elements. This is well lit and works surprisingly well. The main power switch is located on the wall just as you go in to the toilet room.



The only other set up required is to turn on the tap on the tank and turn on the gas at the bottles at the back of the shack. When you leave you obviously turn all these off! Instructions about all this are located inside the shack.

The shack hasn't had much use recently of course and subsequently needs a bit of a spruce up. The walls and the doors all need painting, and there is a bit of plasterwork that needs replacing above the heater but otherwise it is in pretty good shape. It would probably be a good idea to have a working bee to bring this asset up to scratch. There will probably be a notice about this in the near future.



Lake Sorrel and Lake Crescent are probably not going to be great fisheries this year but the future is definitely exciting and when the levels rise and the water starts to clear the fishing will again be brilliant. This is the time to start preparing for that!

DM

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.

Most fly tyers are aware of the beautifully designed and highly priced Petitjean Magic Tool which utilizes a 'table' and a clip to fold and grip feather and fur to insert in a dubbing loop which can then be spun into a rope or brush of material that can then be wound onto the hook with wonderful results.

I find the table tool a little frustrating and clumsy to use so I was delighted to find an alternative when I was browsing on the Interwebs and came across an interesting device known as the *Book Tool*. It was demonstrated by a Spanish fly tyer and seemed like an interesting, efficient and adaptable way of applying dubbing in a dubbing loop.



<https://youtu.be/clwZBJRxiuE>

The Book Tool is basically 3 pieces of thin Perspex joined by a very nice looking hinge system which allows the tier to arrange the material in the way they want, hold it easily and then transfer it to a dubbing loop and happily wind it onto the hook. Prices seem to vary but it seems to be only available on a few sites for prices ranging from €30 to €220! This is beyond my price range so I thought I could adapt the idea by utilizing some old plastic cards and sticky tape to make a 'Card Tool'.

Take 3 plastic cards and tape them together portrait style with a 1mm gap between. Tape on both sides and ensure that the cards hinge easily.



Place the material so that it straddles the left hinge.



Fold the right card over so that it traps the material securely.



Fold back the left card leaving the material free to insert in your dubbing loop. It can be trimmed appropriately if necessary.



This 'Card Tool' works for Deer hair, marabou, CDC, crystal flash, possum, rabbit, and virtually any dubbing you can think of. The advantage over the Magic Tool is that you can arrange the material as thickly or as sparsely as you wish and even easily make multi coloured dubbing brushed. (I'm sure it would make brilliant Bibio bodies).



Give it a try!

DM

Lake Sorrel Reprinted

I have reprinted this from last year because it is relevant now!



At the time of writing (2019) there seems to be a very good chance that Lake Sorell will reopen in the coming season albeit for a limited time. Both Lake Sorell and Lake Crescent were closed to fishing by the IFS in 1995 following the discovery of carp. Lake Crescent was declared carp-free and reopened in 2004 however Sorell remained closed due to a number of successful spawnings. Currently the IFS believe they are on track to rid Sorell of carp completely and if they can it is an amazing achievement!

Lake Sorell is home to a native fish known as a Golden Galaxia and this was a favourite food for the trout. They inhabit the rocky shores, outcrops and reefs that dot the lake – often hiding in the crevices and sheltered area

A recent photo from the IFS suggests that these galaxia are still one of the major food sources for the trout in Sorell.

I fished Lake Sorell a number of times at the very beginning of my fly fishing adventure but did so in a manner that could best be described as 'very poor' so I thought it was an opportune time to talk to some of

our more experienced members to get the low down on the lake, the flies, the good spots and more importantly the ever-present risks of boating on this lake. After asking around I was pointed in the direction of Brian McCullagh and Tony Dell who were generous enough to give me some time to talk about the lake they loved so much. Following is my attempt to summarise their wide-ranging descriptions and anecdotes...

Macca (pictured on the right in the amazing hat) first fished it in 1958 and Delly (middle) in 1955. They recalled that 'gentlemen' in the Lodge fished in plus-fours ties and tweed hats. Macca and his mate would 'borrow' rods with silk lines and try them out while the gentlemen were in the Lodge having their luncheon. They would often come out to find their leaders in a much worse state than they remembered! Although the young Macca was keen to learn how to cast the gentlemen would not help at all. It was an exclusive sport and exclusion was the name of the game!





'Jossa' Jones cleaning the catch

There was always a bit of tension between the fly fishers and the trollers on the lake – and it was common practice to move in on areas that were fishing well. Macca was sometimes known to take out a number of white sauce bottles with rocks tied to a string and drop them randomly to mark fictitious reefs. This would keep the trollers out of the areas he wanted to fish!



Tony Dell with a brace of Sorell trout

Most members only used their boats to get out to a favoured spot to get out and wade. When they did fish from the boat they would take it in turns rowing along the rocky shorelines. One rowed and the other fished and then swapped over. This is where the 'rocky shores' legend began and although others thought they were being cagey it was where the fish actually were! The fish didn't usually go near the more muddy areas.

Where to fish

There are lots of rocky shores and reefs and these are marked on the map in green. The map will be left up in the Sorell shack so if you go there check it out and feel free to annotate it more!

Some of the best areas include:

- St Georges Island and the reefs just off it,
- Blowfly and Maggot,

- Duck Bay down to Reliable and the Hatchery

These were all very productive areas. The key was to moor the boat and get out and walk carefully



Delly and Macca never really went out in the middle of the lake because they didn't have sinking lines. They would usually leave the shack at 9.00am and get back at about 10.00pm. A big day by any measure!

The Flies

The Flies they used were pretty simple. It was before you could fish 3 flies and there were no tungsten beads. To get the fly to sink they put lead in the body – always with a red thread head on it but mostly the flies were unweighted because it was better if they sunk slowly.

The green Bead yarn soaked up the water and was quite heavy. This has a great glint about it and this made it effective when fish were feeding on snails. See Delly for more information here.



The two most successful flies were the Bloody Mary and the Green Rabbit Yeti. Instructions on how to tie and fish these flies are in the first edition of Australia's Best Trout Flies in Macca's part. It is well worth reading!

The Bloody Mary (top left) was particularly good for the marshes. The trick was to fish it as a single fly only and let it sit in a hole in the weed and wait for the fish to move. You could see the disturbance as they moved through the penny weed. You would try to lead them by a metre and a half. The Bloody Mary would sink slowly and when your line moved you'd strike and hang on! This was all on simple floating lines as there were no sinking lines. A 6 1/2 lb 9 foot leader was the basic set up.

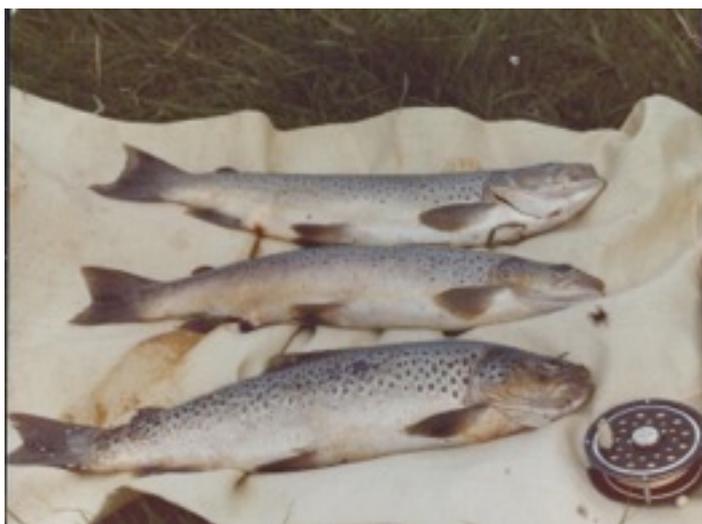
The Green Rabbit Yeti, which is also in the book, was another go-to fly. This was again often fished unweighted and was left to wash around in the waves. It was fished on the point with a simple brown nymph on the top dropper.

The Monstrosity, which was basically lots of different coloured olive marabou, was another good fly – the modern version of this fly is the Pulsar.

At the time that this was written there was no information about exactly when or even if the lake would re-open – just a consistent trickle of rumours from people who seemed to be in the know. So I asked when and where Macca and Delly would go now if Sorell were to open. These are some of their hints...

- Tadpole season was usually the last week of November; you would go into Robinson's Marsh where you could walk out from the shore about 3-400 metres. The fishing is excellent!
- Diamond Beach to Dogs Head – the eastern shore was good fishing but was vulnerable to Westerly winds

- They would still be fishing the reefs and rocky shores (they thought that the IFS would probably not open up the marshes.)
- The fly that started to work in the last bits of the opening was the leech
- February and March – Black Point and Murdoch’s saw prolific stone fly hatches with big red and black flies around 4-5cm long. The trout would gorge on them and so would the snakes - and there were snakes everywhere!
- Dogs Head was always good for dry fly – then out around maggot and blowfly
- Nymphs in Meaghers Bay were very effective after November



Keeping Safe

On a safety note it is important for newcomers to realise the dangers of boating on Lake Sorell. The lake is large and very shallow with some brutal rocks just waiting to smash up motors and boats. The 5-knot speed limit is very important and may even be a bit fast at times. The lake is particularly difficult in big northerlies and nor-westerly winds and people would often pull their boats up on the shore and walk back to the shack until it blew over!

In particular there is a bit known as ‘the washing machine’ (Marked in blue) where there is a lot of

confused water and backwash from the reefs. There have been some drownings here as the waves stand up very high and very close together so be aware of this! The key is to exercise caution at all times.



The Club Shack at Lake Sorell is a fantastic little place and will no doubt receive much more patronage during the reopening times. I will include some photos and some introductory tips for staying there in the next issue.

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

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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>