



# The Vice

## News letter of Tasmanian Fly Tyers' Club Inc.

Volume 8, Issue 1

Summer Edition, January 2010



### President's Report



### Presidents Report

On behalf of the committee I'd like to wish all members and their families a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year.

I like to do a little fishing before Christmas if I can. The smaller lakes are generally less crowded and the hatches are coming off nice and steady at this time of year. The idea of leaving all of the consumerism behind for a day is very appealing to me and I'm sure to some of you.

The fish in the lakes are looking up although Arthurs Lake seems to be a bit of a puzzle after the low levels last year. If you can find food on the surface then the fish will be there too. It's been good to hear that the water around the lily ponds is looking fantastic and I also hear that the Cowpaddock is recovering (and fishing well) too.

Looking forward into the new year, the February meeting will be held at the Lenah Valley RSL club. (details will be circulated closer to the meeting) The committee has been looking at alternative venues for the general meetings and would like members' feedback at the meeting. Hopefully, the weather will be kind and we will be able to have a casting evening in the park opposite.

Don't forget the wonderful Penstock Lagoon weekend in January (29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>)

Finally, I hope you all catch a ripper. Get stuck into em!

David Hemmings



Congratulations Macca and Delly our new life members

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## Suggest a Caption

John Spencer correctly guessed that the sleeping beauty in the last issue was John Spencer with the caption "Bastards". John wins the \$30 voucher from Spot On. -well done John.



"I think I will sleep with these fine fish"

Suggest a caption to win a thirty dollar Voucher



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.

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## Editorial

After pushing a year of vice out, I thought it was time to appoint myself editor. The most interesting aspect of the club is the members and I have enjoyed putting a few profiles together.

This issue of Vice is a special one to mark Delly and Macca's Life memberships, which have been well earned from every angle.

The new Classified section is there for your use to get what you want or to share an event with other members.

Finally, an apology, possibly in advance about misspelling your name. I am extremely flexible in the art of spelling names and even with a list of members, try as I might I can still spell the same person's name several ways in the same article. With a name like John Smith I might be excused. I envy the complexity of your "handle". My middle name, Tindall, given to me by mother in case of fame and possible hyphenation, alas, has not been called on.

Happy Christmas! May the fish take your fly in the new year

JTS  
Editor

## Coming Events

The next **General Meeting** will be held at the Black Buffalo on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January starting at 8.00pm.

**Next Vice** Published May 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Deadline for contributions 19<sup>th</sup> April  
Contact John Smith [nib1943@inet.net.au](mailto:nib1943@inet.net.au)

January 29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> **Penstock Weekend**  
Organiser Mark Aspinall

February 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> **Great Lake/Western Lakes field trip** Leader Danny Rimmer

March 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> **Dee Lagoon** organiser Dave Chote

## Membership Nomination

George Clarke of 57 York St, Sandy Bay has been nominated by Malcolm Crosse and seconded by David Hemmings.

## Club Activities

### Woods Lake

A hardy group turned out at the Peacock lodge for an enjoyable weekend organized by Brian West and Peter Trott.

John Spencer told me “I out fished Westy again” (that’s twice now), a testament to Westy’s boat handling and guiding. Trotty did his “little pig act” by arriving at Woods Lake at day break, catching his bag, then leaving before anyone else arrived. The Phantom organizer.

Those attending enjoyed good fishing.

### Arthurs Lake

A small group of high quality attended an enjoyable weekend arranged by Peter Murphy. Noel Wilson was the star of the weekend taking his bag in Woods Lake on the Friday and a few browns in Arthurs Lake on the Saturday. Fishing was difficult on Arthurs with speculation that fish have not adjusted to the new water levels.

A highlight of the trip was the oysters prepared by our leader Peter Murphy on Friday night. The BBQ at Cubbins/Stokes shack was outstanding when the Dr Hughes turned up with his pickled duck eggs, Cape Barren geese Sausages and real duck pies.

### Macquarie Trip

There was a good turn out for the Macquarie trip organised by Craig Granquist.



There were high expectations of fine fishing in wonderful waters boosted with the recent high rainfall and even floods in the midlands. We all had visions of clouds of red spinner with large hungry well

conditioned fish sipping spent spinner floating on pristine waters.



Unfortunately the water levels were disappointingly low and the hum of the irrigation pumps blocked out the buzz of the insects.

Nevertheless, in total 11 fish were taken on the weekend. Noel showed his experience in the area with several fish although he claimed it was just a fluke. He spoke of days gone by and the sight of a brown lying near the current which would float down to examine a well placed fly often with a take or sometime refuse and just “float” back gently.

David Hemmings with Doug Miller and Danny Rimmer with James McKay went drift fishing near Cressy where fishing proved difficult. On the down side Danny’s cane rod was broken and spotlights were removed from David’s car. Danny arrived late for dinner as he came back via the lake river where he caught 7 nice fish.

It was good to see Tony Dell who managed a fish or two, but John Spencer was unable to christen his new 3 weight Sage.

Dave Chote and Craig teamed up with good results. Craig took 3 nice browns on a CDC red tag.

After a fine meal Spencer demonstrated tying the CDC red Tag with guidance from Craig. Delly suggested that possum provided a satisfactory substitute for CDC and is more robust and much cheaper.

A great weekend - Thanks Craig and thanks to the midland farmers allowing fishing access.

## Member Profiles Tony Dell

Tony Dell caught his first fish in Lake Dulverton Oatlands when he was 7, a red fin, and there started a notable future in the world of fly fishing and fly tying. His first trout was caught at The Point of Chillon Lake Sorell, and he clearly remembers walking out into the water in his bare feet with father watching on. The fish was taken on a “Plucky”, a bit like a floppy and Tony still has the lure.

Fortunately for trout stocks, Tony in his early years and while he studied at university concentrated on sea fishing and enjoyed bream fishing. After graduation he moved to Wollongong for a year, then to Sydney for four years, before moving closer to trout waters working for the people in Canberra. He tried teaching himself to fly fish with a rod he made and a line that did not match just before moving to the National capital in 1972. He joined the Canberra Casting and Sports Fishing Club and was taught to cast and fly fish by John Turnbull, a noted author on the noble art. Fishing was mainly in the rivers and the first fish on a fly was taken in the Kydra River, east of Cooma.

How about this! Tony, who was by then a skilled rod maker decided he would make rods but vowed **not to tie flies!** Leave that to someone else. However, he quickly got sucked into the winter evening tying sessions and was taught to tie by Bob Jones who became a long-term fishing partner.

In 1975 while on a short secondment to Tasmania, through Bob Jones and Gavin Kelly, he reconnected with Macca and met John Jones and Brian Hooker, and they took him marsh fishing at Lake Sorell. This is when the Tasmanian trout addiction entered his veins. Thence a yearly pilgrimage was made to Tasmania in the first week in November to fish the marshes at Sorell.

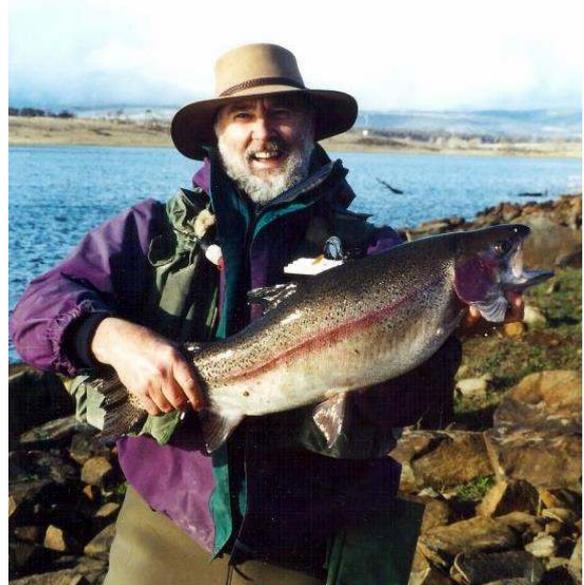
The attraction was too strong and Tony moved back to Hobart in 1980 where he and Kate operated delicatessen in Elizabeth Mall for three years before joining the state public service and, of course, the club.

Favourite fishery: Sorell before it was stuffed, (with mud) now fishes the Pine, Arthurs, Penstock, Western lakes and Woods Lake. Tony has the ex-Fly Tyers Club fibre glass dinghy (purchased from Joe Martak) on the shore of The Pine.

Favourite flies are the Green Beadyarn Yeti as a wet and the possum parachute emerger which he uses whenever there are duns around.

Memorable fishing experiences? “Eleven escaped Atlantic Salmon on the fly one day at ‘Lake Dover’, which I love to eat”; “catching beetle feeders under the trees on Arthurs Lake” and “I recall my first trip to the Little Pine with John Jones who warned me it was a difficult place to catch fish. It was a “rats arse day” in December, windy and cold but with a carpet of duns, and I managed to catch 5 on the dry which left me wondering what was so difficult—I was to learn humility many times later.”

Largest Fish? “I recall another lousy “rats arse day” while staying at Eliza’s Cottage on Macquarie at Winton, snowy, blowy weather too bad to even think about fishing the river. So we (Macca, an American guest, his nephew and I) tried the dam on Winton and I caught a 10.5 lb and an 12.5 lb rainbow the only ones over 10 lb so far. Macca also caught one 11.5 lb.”



*Ripper*

“Some of the best days I remember were working on the rebuild of the Miena Lodge. They were great days where we worked hard did some fishing and enjoyed a few drinks and the fellowship of fishing mates. I can still see “Cubby” out at the BBQ cooking in a snow storm for his mates, who watched from inside and would occasionally take a red wine out to him to keep him going.”  
Cubby and Stokesy nominated Delly for life membership at the AGM this year which was carried unanimously with acclamation and for good reason:

Delly joined the Club in 1980 and has done his bit for the club since then:

- 6 years on the committee
- 4 years as Treasurer
- 3 years as President.
- 3 years as Vice President
- Clubman of the year 4 times.
- A keen participant in club activities and community events like the Open days at Liawenee, the Bronte Tie-in and the Bothwell Spin-in.
- Assisted Macca, the driving force in the Miena Lodge redevelopment.
- In 1994 the Dells started doing the winter fly tying sessions which have continued for 16 years.
- Tony rewrote the club constitution.
- Developed and tied the Tasmanian fly box initially for the Vice which was published in Fly Life and is still available on their web site.

Tony has done heaps for the club. He has nominated quite a few members including me and is always ready to help his fishing mates. When I was nominated for the club, Tony told me I had to tie a fly to get in, but the constitution said nothing about quality. I started on my favourite brown nymph (wish I had known about Stoksey's nymph) and received quite valuable advice and instruction (my first) about the process before I completed the test.



***The best club man  
Tony with the Peacock trophy he won 4 times***



Delly was also instrumental in getting Macca more into fly tying after his horrific accident. He arranged fly tying bench of the right height and type along with a mate's motivation so that Brian could tie flies as part of his rehabilitation, which he did. They have known each other since the 50s and together they have achieved tremendous things for the club. I am quite sure that when the ladder fall interrupted Tony's fishing for a while Macca was there to help.

I have known Tony and Kate since the 70s and our kids went to school together, but he has not taken me fishing yet. I have not heard anyone (else) with a complaint or bad word about the man which says a lot. He is one of Australia's best recognised flytyers, a skilled caster regularly winning our annual casting day, who can catch fish on a wet lawn. A great bloke and I am looking forward to going fishing with him and pinching a few flies. Congratulations on your life membership Delly, you have earned it mate.

Our life member Tony Dell  
A mate who fishes so well  
Most have heard, of the fly tyer Superb  
Who loved to fish in Sorell.

Borne in Tassie was Dell  
Crossed the strait for a mainland spell  
Started fly fishing, trout was the mission  
So an annual trip to Sorell

Once in your blood so tell  
Tassie trout was the lure for Dell  
He came back and put us on track  
Did heaps for members as well

## Member Profile – Brian McCullagh

Macca joined the Club in 1982/83 nominated by Jossa Jones and seconded by Tony Dell.

He had just come back to Hobart having been based at Strathgordon operating the Gordon Power Station when Lake Pedder was fishing at its peak.

While at Strathgordon he had become an accomplished catcher of big trout on the fly, having graduated from “the iron mongery”, as he used to call the Fish Cake lures he used, to the BIG black Muddler which Delly used to tie him on # 6 forged 4X long shank hooks and send down from Canberra by the dozen during the middle to late 70's. During his time at Strath he caught more than 20 fish over 20 lb (the biggest 21.5 lbs) and innumerable fish over 18 lb, most of them on the fly. In the heyday of Lake Pedder, at the Strathgordon Angling Club, anything under 18 lb was not considered worth talking about. Macca noted wryly that he only won the biggest fish trophy once and that was for a fish about 7lbs when the size of fish in Pedder was on the way down

Macca's early trout fishing apprenticeship was on Lake Dulverton at Oatlands during its glory days in the early 1950's. He and his father would come in from Paratah, where old Macca was stationed as a train driver, and cut a hole in the weed before dark and then “spot the frog”. This netted them both some very big trout, including Macca's first trout at age 13.

While at Paratah, he first got to know Lake Sorell, which became one of his favourite haunts. His good mate at school was Ian Lewis, whose family at that time owned the accommodation house at Interlaken. He spent many weekends during the fishing season learning about the lake and having his first tentative go at fly fishing after “borrowing” gear from guests at the accommodation house when they were otherwise occupied with meals or imbibing the odd restorative tittle.

He really started seriously fly fishing under the tutelage of Kevin Wessing, and in company with Jossa Jones and Brian Hooker, during the time of his electrical apprenticeship. He took some time to catch his first fish on the fly, going a full season without success. The fly fishing gods finally smiled on him early in his second season, catching his first fish at Bronte Lagoon, a couple of good Rainbows on the point near Monument Bay.



Macca with a Macquarie fish.

His favourite fishing water was Lake Sorell in the years before its demise and, now Little Pine Lagoon. Like many who fished Sorell consistently in the 1970s and 80s he can wax lyrical about the joys of marsh fishing and frequenting the celebrated “rocky shores” for snail and galaxia feeders.



Macca with Mates at Lake Sorell

His favourite dry fly is the Trothodg and favourite wet (and fly of last resort) the Leech, both of which figured under his entry in ‘Australia's Best Tout Flies’.

One of his regrets is that he didn't get into river fishing earlier and one of his current enthusiasms is fishing the northern rivers such as the Macquarie, the North Esk and the South Esk.

His most memorable fish, plural, were large Browns and Rainbows from New Zealand's North and South Island rivers.

He never looked back after those first fish on the fly at Bronte and has never shied away from putting in the hard yards to experiment with new techniques to become one of the most proficient, successful and multi-skilled fly fishermen in Tasmania. His time as a guide at London Lakes and, later, on his own behalf is testimony to that skill and to his skill as a teacher. His skills have also seen him fish competitively for Australia and manage Australian Fly Fishing teams at competitions in Europe and New Zealand.

He is very happy to share his knowledge and experience with any one who asks. His technical and teaching skills extend to his fly tying.

Macca was made a life member of the Club at the AGM in 2008 for his outstanding service to the Club. He served on the committee in various positions for 14 years. He served as Vice President 1994/5, Treasurer



Brian represented the Club on numerous occasions at meetings of the TFFA. In addition he has frequently represented the Club at fly-tying events such as the Bronte Tie-In, Poultry Show, the Bothwell Spin-in and

for 5 years from 1995/6 to 1999/2000 and on the Committee (for 8 years). In addition he has won the Bob Peacock Clubman Trophy 4 times for his contribution to the Club.

He was the Club's Shack Warden for at least 10 years and had a key role in the building and maintenance of the Dago Point shack and in the re-building and maintenance of the Miena shack as well as being active in Club field weekends and social functions.

He organised the catering for the early winter fly tying weekends at the Tiger Hut and Nanna Mac's apple pies reached cult status! In addition, for many years, he and Helen hosted the Club's Christmas BBQ at their home in Acton, an event that was keenly anticipated by a large number of members and their partners.

the Outdoors Expo and has been generally active in promoting fly tying skills both within the Club and the general community.

Brian hosted fly tying nights for the Club weekly in winter for more than ten years, on a different night from Delly's, so that Delly could sometimes attend Macca's sessions.

Within the wider fly fishing community, he has also been active in the Tasmanian Trout Guides Association and in both the national and State chapters of Fly Fish Australia, and as noted above, has represented both Tasmania and Australia in national and international fly fishing competitions both as a competitor and Team Manager.

September 2009



Macca - a renowned fishing name,  
Fly tying and fishing's his game,  
A champion on streams, leads Aussie teams  
He's really got claims to fame.

Members; he's taught us a lot!  
Great skills and experience he's got  
Macca shows how to fly tie, and he tells us all why,  
And how to fish it, that's what

Building lodges near good fishing lakes  
Macca's put in what ever it takes  
It's not just wishing, it's experimental fishing  
So he can catch fish with his mates.

## Delly's Top Wet and Dry How to fish How to Tie

*Tony's top flies come from his famous fly box. The Tasmanian fly box was developed by Tony Dell for the Vice and it was published in Fly Life and is available on their web site. The Green Bead yarn Yeti and May Fly Dun/Emergers are good for trout and worthy of reprint.*



### Favourite Wet Fly: Green Bead yarn Yeti

This fly has served a long apprenticeship at Lake Sorell where it is very successful fished to Galaxia feeders and froggers. It came into being in the mid-1970's as a modification of the Max Christensen Yeti using a fluoro orange tag instead of orange cock hackle tail, black mink tail wing instead of seals fur and a green bead yarn body instead of black marabou silk. The bead yarn gives the fly some weight and it is usually fished on a floating line around the rocky shores where galaxia congregate and counted down before figure-of-eight retrieving. It is also a good flexible generalist wet at other lakes such as Arthur's either fished as above or using a sink-tip line.

### Pattern

<b>Hook:</b>	#6 or 8 strong wet fly
<b>Thread:</b>	Black 6/0 or 8/0
<b>Tail:</b>	Fluoro orange or red floss
<b>Rib:</b>	Gold wire
<b>Body:</b>	Green bead yarn
<b>Wing:</b>	Thin strip of black mink tail

### Method

- Tie in fluoro tag above hook barb then tie in ribbing wire and green bead yarn at same point.
- Wind bead yarn tightly forward and tie off slightly behind eye, leaving enough space to tie in mink tail wing.
- Pull a few hairs from the end of the mink tail strip leaving about 2mm of bare hide and cut to a point. Tie in mink tail on bare hide behind hook eye.
- Wind forward rib in about five turns, using a dubbing needle to ensure you don't tie down fur fibres and make a half hitch with the wire behind the eye and break off.
- Whip finish head and varnish.

Tony Dell  
12 April 2003

### May Fly Dun/Emergers



*Tony Dell's Favourite Parachute Emerger*



*Tony sharing his knowledge.*

May Fly artificials, which sit low in the water to mimic Duns and/or Emergers, have had a long history in Tasmanian flyfishing practice. David Scholes, in his classic *Fly Fisher in Tasmania* (1961), refers to the Cocky Spinner (devised by the late Major W B Powlett), a conventional hackled fly with the underside of its hackle pushed aside by use of a figure-of-eight tying procedure. I was a bit more brutal and like, I suspect, a number of other tyers just took the scissors to the underside of the hackle.

This solution to tricking the emerging Dun feeders was, and probably still is, an effective method.

I also recall long-time Little Pine specialists, Bill and Daph Twining, using a dark brown floating nymph back in the 70's. This was just a shaggily tied conventional nymph greased up with floatant. For them it proved deadly and this method is still used today but needs extremely good eyesight or close-quarters fishing for it to be effective.

Another effective solution to tricking Dun and Emerger feeders is the use of soft hackle (poor cock or, preferably, hen) which collapses under the fly on the surface of the water. The late Barry Lodge's well-known and widely used Lodge Emerger uses this principle in combination with a feather slip "backwing". Other permutations of this basic principle have been developed using different materials, such as possum tail, for the backwing.

The solution I wish to highlight, however, is the parachute Dun. The thing I like most about the "parachute" solution is the fact that the fly not only sits so low in the water but also that it always lands correctly.

I first came upon the technique of tying "parachute" hackles in my first fly tying book, John Veniard's *Fly Dressers Guide* (1952) in the early 1970's and at that stage it was, with my level of skill, unattainable from my vice.

I subsequently admired the beautiful cut-wing parachute Dun pattern in Poul Jorgensen's *Dressing Flies for Fresh and Salt Water* (1973) and I laboriously tied a couple, (one of which ended up as one of the flies photographed on the cover of *Australia's Best Trout Flies*) but they never became a regular part of my armoury because they tended to twist my leaders horribly during casting no matter how carefully I tied them.

The first practical parachute fly for Tasmanian conditions which grabbed my attention was the "OBE" or O'Brien Emerger tied by David O'Brien with a loop wing made out of possum tail. It was an elegant little fly which fished very well (i.e. it didn't cause the dreaded pigtails in the leader) but the loop wing was a bit fiddly to tie.

After the OBE I started using a deer hair post which was very effective but brittle after I had caught a few fish so I went back to using possum tail, not the loop wing but a straight post. I know a few tyers also use a bunch of cul de canard (CDC) as a post.

To save the bulk inherent in tying in the post on top of the hook and bending it vertical I began to tie in the post cross-ways under the hook with a figure-of-eight tie in, then bring both sides up vertically and wind a thread base around the post on top of the hook for the parachute. This method also makes the post virtually indestructible in the fishing situation and it produces a post which is very easy to see.

The other breakthrough I made in ensuring a neat and durable parachute hackle was tying off the hackle round the post rather than round the hook. The basis of this came from reading about the tying of the Klinkhamer Special in a magazine article by its creator, Hans van Klinken. This method allows you to tie a neat thorax before you tie in the hackle or without having to tie down the hackle over it or disturb the lie of the hackle by having to lift it up at the front to tie it in.

I also gained an important tip on making sure parachute hackles wound cleanly and neatly from that monumental book *The Fly Tier's Benchside Reference* by Ted Leeson and Jim Schollmeyer (1998). This involved making sure when tying in the hackle prior to winding that you leave a little bare shaft so that you can make your first turn of the bare hackle stalk at an angle of 45 degrees up the post and then wind it horizontally down the post towards the hook shank the requisite number of turns (I use about 5) prior to tying it off. This ensures you do not wind over previously wound barbules and makes a much neater fly.

So finally to the fly pattern, the Black Possum Parachute Emerger which is tied with a black dyed possum fur body and a post from the base of the possum tail which is not usually as starkly black as further up the tail and is a bit finer.

Hook: 1x long shank #12 or #14 (Kamasan B830 or similar)

Tails: bunch of dark Coq de Leon fibres  
 Body: dyed black possum dubbing  
 Post: small bunch of fur from base of possum tail, underfur excluded  
 Hackle: dark blue dun

Method:

- Tie in post material crossways under the hook shank about 1/3 back from the eye using figure-of-eight tie, bring both sides vertical and make a wound thread base above the hook shank;
- Strip fibres from base of hackle feather (I use a saddle hackle), tie in behind the post so hackle points to the front and lies behind the post as you look at it. If you wind your hackle anti-clockwise have the hackle in front of the post);
- Wind thread back to point above the barb and form a small knob of thread to assist in splaying the tails;
- Tie in small bunch of Coq de Leon fibres immediately in front of the knob of thread ;

- Dub fine body and thicker thorax of black possum fur ending the dubbing under the post. (Alternatively you can use a “chenille” of peacock herl for the thorax.);
- Wind hackle as described in the commentary above, let surplus hackle hang down on the side of the hook facing you (if you have hackle pliers attached) or hold it down while you whip finish round the post. This is most easily done using my “paper clip”-style whip-finishing tool.
- Use a bodkin to put a drop of head cement on the tie-off point round the post under the hackle. (After I finish tying my dries and before I put them in my fly box I give them a spray with silicon fabric protector and let them dry)

Tony Dell  
 January 2003

## Macca’s Top Wet and Dry How To Fish and To How Tie.

*Macca’s selections are included in*

<i>Macca’s Favourite Wet The Devil Leech</i>	
<p>HOOK: Kamasan B200 or B830, #6-10            THREAD: Uni-Thread 6/0            TAIL: Tasmanian Devil Hair (synthetic) or lambs wool            FLASH: Crystal Hair (Lureflash 'peacock') or Krystal Flash            BODY: Mohlon or Leech Yam WING: Same as tail</p>	

My first contact with the Devil Leech pattern was while guiding at London Lakes, Tasmanian, in the Christmas week of 1995.

Besides the tantalising action of the Tasmanian Devil Hair, the Devil Leech has the advantage of being tangle proof if correctly tied. The tail fouling problems experienced with similar patterns are non existent. The key lies in tying in the tail so that each clump is slightly shorter than the one above it, thus protecting it from tangling or cocking. A final trim with the scissors is often required to get the taper just right.

The Devil Leech pattern is a difficult fly to cast due to the wind resistance of the hair. Before commencing to

fish, place it in water and squeeze firmly to remove the air that is captured in the synthetic body material. Due to the buoyancy of the Devil Hair, the fly will float on the surface and a couple of quick jerks may be needed to submerge it. It is best retrieved in an erratic motion. Fish take it very aggressively and it is often snatched from the surface even before you've had a chance to begin the retrieve. Keep false casts to a minimum when fishing this pattern.

The tying procedure involves building the tail in sections, each slightly longer than the previous one. After adding the third clump of hair to form the tail, tie in two strands of Crystal Hair on each side. Then tie in the final clump of hair to complete the tail. To build the body tie the Mohlon yarn in from the eye of the hook back to the formed tail. Tie in a length of hair to

form a U shaped crest. Fold back the hair over the tail and add two turns of Mohlon to progress the body. Add the next length of hair in the same way and continue the process to the eye of the hook. Then tie in two more strands of Crystal Hair on each side. Tie off and roughen the body with Velcro to make it as shaggy

as possible. Trim tail if necessary to ensure each fibre is slightly shorter than the one above it

## Macca's Favourite Dry *The Trothodg*

HOOK: Kamasan B400, #12-16

THREAD: Uni-Thread 8/0, dark brown

BODY: Peacock herl

LEGS: Golden pheasant tippets

THORAX: Peacock herl (poor quality)

HACKLE: Hoffman coachman brown, and black



I have been told that the Trothodg fly was originally developed by Tasmanian angler Dick Trotter in the early '80s. Designed as a general beetle pattern, it also took fish that were feeding on duns and spinners. It was fished with great success by the originator and his fishing companion Kevin Hodgman from 1981 to 1985. Dick's diary showed that he had caught approximately 1000 fish on this pattern. The name came from the first four letters in each of their surnames-Trotter and Hodgman-hence 'Trothodg', I started tying and fishing this fly in the early '90s and thoroughly recommend it for all fly boxes whether fished as a beetle to rising fish or just used as a searching pattern.

When fishing Great Lake last September on a cold and frosty morning, temperature zero, I noticed fish moving on the surface and just beneath but I was unable to detect what they were feeding on. My choice was a size 16 Trothodg. In flat calm water and bright sunshine-normally very trying conditions-the eight fish I covered all accepted this pattern, quite slowly and deliberately. It turned out that the trout were feeding on black water beetles. A fresh northerly wind abruptly

finished what had been a lovely morning's fishing. Tying this fly is also a bit tricky. First wrap the shank with thread, forming a small butt about half the size of a match head, and coat with varnish-this prevents the peacock herl from slipping around the bend of the hook. Next wrap two strands of herl along one third of the hook to form a tight body. Four golden pheasant tippets are then tied in front of the herl body, placed under the hook and secured with two or three turns of thread. Four more tippets are then tied on top of the hook. This gives two pairs of legs lying back towards the bend but horizontal to the hook shank. Four or five turns of black hackle are then wound in front. At this point half the hook shank should be covered. A small peacock herl thorax is then added-I spin the herl with a dubbing tool which gives a more robust result. Next tie in one black and one brown cock hackle. Wind five turns of brown hackle then wind three turns of black hackle, one at the back of the brown hackle, one through the brown hackle and one at the front. Clip off excess hackle and finish off with a small varnished head

## DELLS RECIPE FOR OVEN-BAKED SALMON WITH CAPER AND DILL SAUCE

(Weekend Australian Magazine, December 10-11, 2005)

### Ingredients

4 lemons  
2 x 800g fillets of salmon, bones removed (I used Ocean Trout)  
Sea salt and freshly cracked pepper  
2/3 cup capers  
3 cloves garlic, peeled  
8 anchovy fillets  
1 large handful of fresh flat-leaved parsley  
1 large bunch of fresh dill  
¾ cup extra virgin olive oil

### METHOD

1. Finely grate the rind from the lemons; Set aside.
  2. Juice lemons and place juice into a large dish.
  3. Score the salmon skin with a sharp knife and place the two halves into the lemon juice.
  4. Marinate for 15 minutes.
  5. On a chopping board, squash the capers with the flat of a knife.
  6. Place garlic, anchovies, parsley and dill on the same board and chop all ingredients finely, mixing as you go.
  7. Place into a bowl and mix with lemon zest and enough of the extra virgin olive oil to make a paste (about 1/2 cup).
  8. Remove salmon from juice; pat dry on kitchen paper and season with a little salt and pepper.
  9. Lay salmon fillets side by side and spread caper mixture over the flesh sides.
  10. Lay one fillet on top of the other with the skin side facing out and the caper mixture sandwiched between them.
  11. Secure the fillets tightly together with string.
  12. Place in a large, shallow baking dish; drizzle with oil and season well.
  13. Bake in a preheated 200C oven for about 20-25 minutes.
  14. Using a sharp knife, slice into eight pieces.
  15. Serve with a salad of rocket with lemon juice and olive oil.
- Serves 8.**

## Nana Macca's Apple Pie



*Many members have enjoyed one of Nana Macca's pies at various club functions but especially the tiger hut pie in superb!*

*The magic recipe is a traditional family secret passed down through several generations. It includes apples prepared in a special way and pastry and is cooked in an oven.*

*I hope this helps but you should be warned that try as you might, you won't make one as tasty as Nanna Macca's*

For the taste of Nanna Macca's Pie,  
Members will try and try,  
We know what goes in,  
The taste we can't win,  
It needs Nanna's love that's why.

## Treasure with a Treasure

## The Stren Coil. – A method of improved take detection.

David Hemmings



### *The Stren Coil*

Detecting takes on sub-surface midge feeders or slow moving water has never been easy. For that matter neither has upstream nymphing in fast water. The experts will tell you that as much as 80% of these takes are simply missed by most fisherman. Consequently, all sorts of detectors have been developed to improve take detection. Strike indicators ranging from bits of old wool to fluorescent bungs, different coloured mono, putty, indicator flies have all been used over the years.

Now while I don't want to enter into a debate on the morality of some of these techniques here's a method developed and fine tuned by the French river



competition team to improve take detection. However you feel about competitive flyfishing there is no doubt these guys are at the cutting edge of flyfishing. No doubt a form of this technique has been tried and tested before but here's a modern version.

Originally designed for use in fast flowing water I have used this technique on sub-surface midge feeders, tailing trout, fast moving rivers and slow moving backwaters. Coupled with a long leader there's no doubt in my mind that takes are picked up earlier with this. I don't mean the obvious ones where the leader

straightens like a exocet missile or where the indicator stops dead .Its the subtle, barely noticeable takes that I would normally not even see or at best pick up too late.

The Stren shown here is made from the Italian product Asso. The coil indicator is tied into the leader at an appropriate distance from the fly. This may vary from two to ten feet depending on conditions. Four feet is a good place to start. Any coloured mono of 6 to 8lb would do but Stren does produce a nice tight coil.

**Here's the basic technique.** You will need: stren. (yellow /orange ) Cotton bud. Two pins. A saucepan of boiling water. A freezer. Cut off a foot of Stren. Tie a small loop (perfection loop) in either end and pin one of these loops to the cotton bud. Then wrap in tight turns to the other end and pin to hold in place. The coil now needs to be set. Drop into the saucepan of water and bring to the boil. Allow to stand for at least 5 minutes. Then put into the freezer for a few hours or even overnight. This process will result in a nice tight coil that will last for a few trips.

It is important to grease the coil with floatant before use and you will have a sensitive strike indicator second to none. Just watch for the coil to straighten or even dive away and you will be into it!

I have found this technique very useful in midge fishing situations and also in fishing a single sub-surface fly in calm water such as a stick caddis in among the rocks. Other situations where this may be appropriate include tailing trout or even deep nymphing. I'm convinced it would work well on those New Zealand rivers too.

I'm sure that there are other applications so give it a whirl and let me know what you think.

## The Gold Bomber fly

From Our Man Up North Francis Bright

The gold bomber is a standout shallow diving minnow that is meant to be the never fail barramundi lure. Gold bombers do work as do a lot of other shallow divers so I s'pose it is all about confidence.

Some enterprising fly fisher probably hopelessly out fished by a lure chucker created the gold bomber fly.

There are a heap of variations and I am still tinkering with materials, rattles, eyes, nose cones but the ones I am tying are catching fish when I have the energy.

The main aim is to imitate a gold bomber lure and make sure it is light enough to be thrown on a fly rod. The features I think important are flash, contrast and making a sonic footprint either by incorporating a rattle or having a bulky head.

Build a solid base of thread on a 3/0-4/0 standard shank hook.

Tie in the first clump of gold flashabout (about as thick as a matchstick) as a tail so that it is about 4-5 cm past the bend.



Bring the thread forward  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the way toward the hook eye and do the same thing but leave a long tag of about an 2 cm of flashabout and fold this back toward the tail covering with some thread



Repeat above step until 0.5 cm behind hook eye.

Tie in black flashabout long enough to reach the tail end of the fly.

Tie in a large to huge gold mylar tube facing forward and then tie off the thread and varnish.

Slide the gold mylar back over the hook eye and secure in place with a coating of silicone sealant (I currently use Selley's All Clear but have just got a pot of soft head fly sealant) This gives the head some bulk. When the silicone is dry, epoxy a pair of stick on eyes onto mylar head.



Fish on a floating line with a long leader, let the fly sink and then retrieve with some short pauses.

Usually the first sign of a take is the line ripping through your hand and a bar of chrome jumping skyward.

Wanted

Public Notice

Vice

Warning: This might upset Some members

**Editions 1,2,3 of fly life for Heather Noga to make Mother's set complete**  
**Contact Heather on**  
(03) 6225 2198

Care should be taken when using the deck chair at the shack.

**For payments to the club**

**Articles, stories, feed back, letters to the editor, profiles, anything of interest to members for Vice** Contact John Smith [nib1943@iinet.net.au](mailto:nib1943@iinet.net.au).

BSB: 807 007  
Account No: 12130456  
Name: Tasmanian Fly Tyers Club Inc  
Then email the details to Tim Munro  
[tim@theatreroyal.com.au](mailto:tim@theatreroyal.com.au)

Members' best flies (6 of each) for testing of catching power and eligibility for publication in Vice. Send to J.T.Smith 48 Rosny Esplanade Rosny

**Swimmer trapped by beach balls**

A MAN got a nasty surprise when he tried to get out of his deckchair and found his testicles had become stuck between two slats of wood. Mario Visnjic had been swimming naked off Valalta beach in Croatia and his testicles had shrunk in the cool sea. When he sat down they slipped through the slats and then, as he lay in the sun, expanded back to normal size. He was freed after he called beach maintenance services on his mobile phone and they sent a member of staff to cut the deckchair in half.

Lost

Sage Rod Tips Contact John Smith [nib1943@iinet.net.au](mailto:nib1943@iinet.net.au)

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Please contact with any suggestions