



The Vice



Newsletter of the Tasmanian Fly Tyers' Club Inc.

Volume 15 , Issue 4 Winter 2018

Inside:

Tiger Hut, Lake Sorrel, RSL Fly Tying Day and much more...

Cover shot – Final day of season 2017/18 – Dee Lagoon

President's Report

Winter is upon us - a time for reflection on the season past and anticipation of the season to come, and, of course, for replenishing the fly box!

Since my last report, the main club activity has been the annual Tiger Hut tying sessions in May. Once again these were highly successful with participants sharing, learning and discussing many aspects of fly-tying and fishing, and, of course, enjoying great companionship, food and wine - Many thanks to Cubby for organising the event and to all who attended.

On the fairly close horizon is our annual dinner and, at the time of writing this report, it looks as though the dinner will, as usual, be well attended and a very enjoyable and convivial gathering.

In early August we will hold our AGM, which I expect will be well attended as usual. Again, I urge you to seriously consider nominating for committee positions. I think that all members have an obligation, at some stage, to participate more fully in club activities and functioning beyond simply being a member and attending a few activities. Committee involvement is one way to achieve this and is also a great way to get to know the workings of the club and other members. Please give it some thought!

Finally as the club year draws to a close and the new season approaches I would like to thank and congratulate all members who have participated in club activities, and in particular my fellow committee members whose support, efforts and enthusiasm have contributed hugely to what I believe has been a very successful year.

Andrew Hood - President



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Editorial

Winter is a great fly tying time and the club has had two major events that were very valuable times. The first event was the infamous Tiger Hut Weekend, which is one of the marquee events in the activity calendar. It is a great weekend that runs like a top due to the efforts of Lyndon Cubbins and the President who should both be congratulated for their work.

The second tying event was organised by Steve Butler and others and was held at the Lenah Valley RSL Club. It was a fantastic day and the venue was really good. The article about the day focuses on just some of the wonderful flies that were tied on the day. (Please note that I took the photos of all flies in this edition, well before the excellent presentation by Brad Harris at our July meeting!)

The final story in this edition is in response to persistent rumours that this coming season might see the re-opening of Lake Sorell albeit for a limited time. For this reason I decided to get in first before all the other magazines have their say! Many thanks to Noel Wilson, Tony Abel and particularly Tony Dell and Brian McCullagh who were all very helpful and generous with their time and knowledge in regards to the best ways to fish this amazing lake. If the stories from the past are anything to go by it should be a fantastic addition to our fly-fishing destinations.

I am off on a big trip in our van on the mainland for a few months and might be lucky enough to get in some salt-water fly fishing. We are heading up the centre, over to Broome, down the west coast of WA and back across the Nullarbor. The season in Tasmania will be well underway by the time we get back at the end of October so enjoy the opening of the new season!

DM



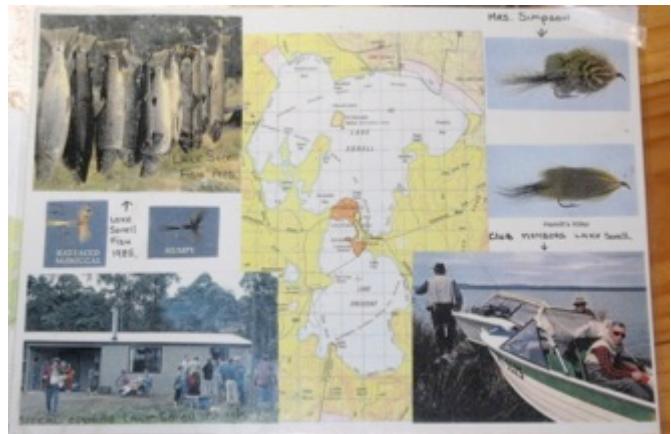
The boys at Spot On fishing tackle have kindly provided the Club with 4 vouchers to the value of **\$30** each for this year's **competition**. I'm sure everyone will join with me in thanking the lads for this kind support, and continue to patronise Steve's shop. Vouchers can be picked up from the Editor at your leisure!

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

Have a go

Simply send your entry to Doug Miller

55dmiller@gmail.com



Plenty River Rise - Salmon Ponds 2018

Tiger Hut 2018

Once again the Tiger Hut was the place to be in the depths of winter. The weather was cold but clear and the Hut was warm and inviting as usual. This was the session known as the ‘Retirees’ or “Old Farts” weekend and ran on from the normal Tiger Hut weekend on Friday through to Sunday. Lyndon Cubbins, who always does a brilliant job on this regular event, ran the first session. President Andrew hood was the coordinator of the next session. Young and old met for a barbecue lunch on the Sunday before those with work commitments shuffled off and those without shuffled in.



As is traditional at these weekends the tying is always at the forefront with many different flies being tied throughout the two days. Sharing of advice, techniques and patterns new and old is the generally the main idea.



The other main feature of the trip is the consumption of fine wine and fine food. Casseroles on the first night and then some wonderful roasts on the second courtesy of Ashley Artis' magnificent stainless steel spit roast.



The bonus of coming on the second part of the trip is that Andrew Hood might bring along some of his wine and suggest that you might enjoy a glass – which you definitely will!



Noel Wilson was good enough to share some of the flies he used to use in Lake Sorell and these are pictured above. They are all galaxia imitations apart from the nymph pictured. This relates well to the final story in this edition. Thanks Noel!



As usual, the food was magnificent and the company was great. I know there isn't much food in this photo but you may well see why the conversations and laughter went on into the early hours! People still managed to get up in the morning and continue to tie up their special creations.



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.

It is always good to see Club members on YouTube demonstrating their skills. This time the feature tyer is Life Member and general legend Brian McCullagh. There are not many in the club with a larger skill set or more experience than Macca!

Enjoy these two classic flies.

Dunkeld



<https://youtu.be/STTFuJqcG5c>

Mallard and Claret



<https://youtu.be/-kcO2uCXqlw>

These flies are from a YouTube channel called **dunamisjc** who is well worth following and often features Tasmanian tyers such as Jan Spencer, Neil Grose and even some flies by our very own Brian West - his Shrek and Magoo patterns are ably demonstrated by Peter Watson.

Shrek – <https://youtu.be/s-TNlu6CfZw>

Magoo - <https://youtu.be/o60HPtViTo0>

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Lenah Valley RSL Tying Day

There were around 30 people throughout the day that came in to tie flies, talk and generally enjoy themselves at the RSL Fly tying day this year and I thought the best way to report on it would be to simply record some of the flies that people were tying that might help inspire other members to get behind the vice before the season opens. So with a simple format of who the tyer was, the recipe some photos I'll get into it!

David Young

Stick Caddis

Hook: Kamasan B170 #12

Thread: Black 8/0

Body: Brown Fly line

Hackle: Brown – one turn only

Breathers: Yellow seals fur or lumo glow bug yarn



Adrian Scott

Possum Emerger

Hook: Barbless Dry fly #12

Thread: Black 70D

Tail: Possum

Body: Wallaby

Rib: Cassette tape
stretched (Stevie-Ray Vaughan!)

Wing: Possum looped

Thorax: Black Peacock Ice Dub



Wayne Bellette

Jig-head Nymph River Fly -

Hook: Maxcatch Jig #14

Bead: Hanak slotted
3.5mm Metallic copper

Thread: Black Uni 8/0

Body: Pheasant Tail

Rib: Copper wire

Collar: Brown CDC

Hot Spot: Orange thread



Paul Markey

Hares Ear Nymph

Hook: Kamasan B170 #14

Thread: Uni 8/0 in Tan

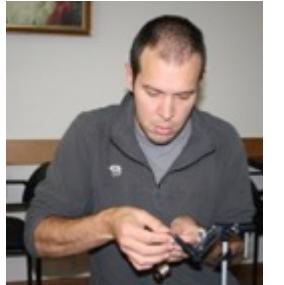
Bead: Tungsten copper-
optional

Tail: Pheasant tail

Body: Hares ear

Rib: Uni Mylar #16 in gold

Thorax: Pheasant tail with UV resin on top

**Anna Bellette**

Perdigon Nymph (River fly)

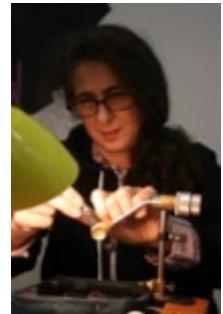
Hook: Jig hook #16

Thread: Black Uni 8/0

Bead: Hanak Tungsten 2.5mm
in pink

Tail: Brown or black hackle or
no tail at all!

Body: Black thread with UV over

**Tim Urbanc**

Mop Fly

(For Ireland
Commonwealth Champs –
Good luck Tim)

Hook: Hanak 230 Barbless
#12

Thread: Black UTC 70D

Body: Hares ear ice dub in
olive



Mop: Fluoro Green cleaning mop!

**Tony Abel**

Red Bearded Shrekky
Thing

Hook: Maxcatch barbless
#12

Thread: Black Ultra
Thread 70D

Tail: Black marabou

Rib: Red wire 7g

Body: Fine black hackle – palmered

Bead: Tungsten in red 2.7mm

Vary bead colour and hackle length



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.

Toothbrush dubbing brusher

Using a dubbing brusher is a common part of tying a fly and the most common tool is an icy pole stick with a bit of Velcro super-glued onto it. This is an alternative tool.

All you need is a toothbrush – preferably a new one, a pair of scissors, some Velcro and some superglue.



Step one: Trim the bristles on the toothbrush quite short so that they are stiffer. These will not cut fragile ribs etc.



Step two: Cut a small piece of Velcro and superglue it onto the back of the toothbrush. This makes it just like the traditional tool.



It is a good idea to clamp the Velcro down with a bulldog clip or even your hackle pliers until the glue dries properly.



Step three: Tie lots of nymphs, English wets, Dabblers etc. and happily rough up the underbodies with your new tool!

Jack Parsons

Possum Parachute Emerger –

Hook: Kamasan B401 #14

Thread: Uni Black 8/0

Tail: Brown cock

Body: Possum

Post: SLF in white

Hackle: Brown tied parachute style

Thorax: Possum



Steve Butler

Clouser Minnow

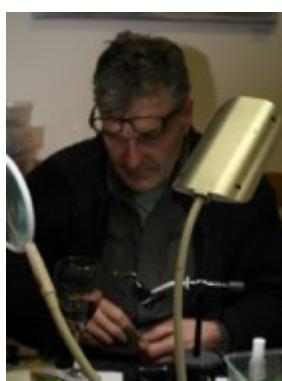
Hook: Mustad O'Shaunessy 1/0 Stainless

Thread: White flat-waxed UTC 70D

Eyes: Dumbbell tied on top $\frac{1}{2}$ way between eye and point of the hook

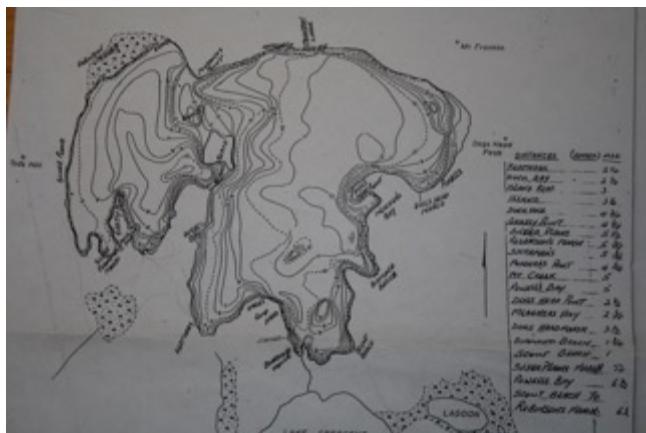
Tail: White Buck tail

Body: Sparkle flashabou, White and Chartreuse buck tail



DM

Lake Sorell Revisited –Perhaps...



At the time of writing 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.

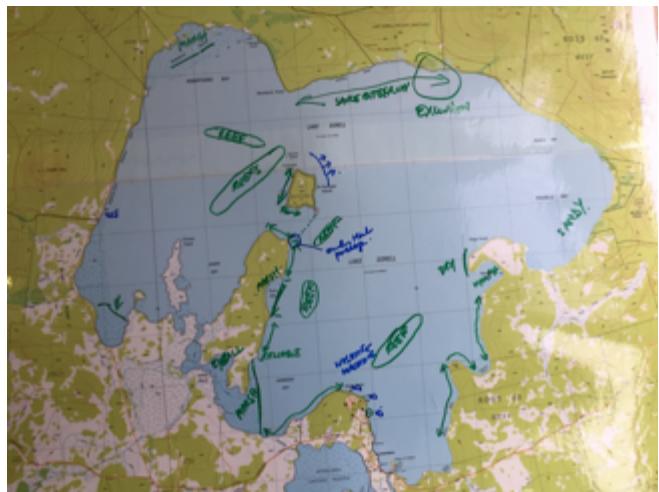
Where to fish

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 shore.

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 ½ 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

BSB: 807 007

Account No: 12130456

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>