



# The Vice



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

**Volume 15 , Issue 8 Winter 2019**

**Inside: Tiger Hut, RSL Fly Tying Day, Hoppers, Yarns, Dying and much more...**

*Cover shot – Flies tied and photographed brilliantly by Chris Hilton*

## President's Report

Once again we find ourselves in the winter, between-season fishing limbo period, but a time for staying warm inside, planning for the coming onslaught and, above all, tying flies.

For many members it is also a time to try to get away from the Tassie winter by heading north. I was lucky enough to have a long holiday, which, although not intended to be a fishing trip, allowed brief glimpses at the Test, the west coast of Ireland and north eastern United States. There is a lot of fly-fishing out there!

Unfortunately, my absence overseas meant that I had to miss the club's major winter event – the fly-tying sessions at the Tiger Hut. These are always very popular and valuable and this was again the case this year - Many thanks to Lyndon Cubbins for again taking on responsibility for this event.

As I write this report, the main club activities on the horizon are the Tying Day at the Lenah Valley RSL being organised by Steve Butler, the Club Dinner on 27th July and the Club AGM and informal dinner on 19<sup>th</sup> August. These are always enjoyable occasions and I hope will again be well attended this year.

This will be my last President's Report as I am standing down at the coming AGM, and I would again like to thank all members who have participated in club activities. In particular, my fellow committee members have been hugely supportive and tolerant, while Doug Miller continues to do an outstanding job in editing our newsletter. In a funny sort of way I will miss his gentle reminders that another report is again due.

**Andrew Hood**



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](mailto:55dmiller@gmail.com)

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## Editorial

This bumper winter edition of The Vice focuses mainly on fly tying. There are some great tips for creating your own dubbing, some simple tools that might expand your tying repertoire, some reports about the wonderful Tiger Hut weekend and the RSL Fly Tying Day.

It was again a privilege to attend the material dyeing session with Macca and Delly. As usual it was brilliant! I would also like to say thanks to Andrew Hood for his wonderful work as President of the club – enjoy your post presidency period!

My apologies go to Brian West who submitted a great article about tying the famous Duck Fly. He gave it to me ages ago and I thought I had published it but I didn't – sorry Westy but thanks for sharing your brilliant tie!

I am off traveling on the mainland for a couple of months in search of warm weather and non-mechanical related adventures so I will catch up again in mid October. Enjoy the opening of the season!!

**DM**

## Tiger Hut 2019



With 13 in the first session and 10 at the second this year's Tiger Hut Weekend was another roaring success. It was however a little stressful for Lyndon Cubbins with the threat of road closures due to snow and ice hovering over his head on the Friday. A few phone calls to people in the know and the all clear was given. The idea, as is now the norm, was to split the event into two to cater for those who are working and have limits on their available time – the first session and those who have time aplenty – the old buggers session! I of course attended the latter.

The format is simple – bring along your fly tying gear, set up on one of the tables in the main area and start tying. When you are in need of inspiration go and talk to one of the other tyers and you will become inspired by the assembled wisdom. Fine food and wine, coffee and conversation are the order of the weekend. (The minutes of the Sunday night meeting between myself, Tony Abel and Zuie Howard, don't reflect the energy, inventiveness or the time involved in solving all the world's problems so they won't be published in this report.)



Josh Flowers

The second session overlaps on the Sunday so that both groups can share tips and stories over some brilliant venison sausages. This year there was also a

chance to listen to the sage advice from young gun Josh Flowers who is gearing up for the World Championships in November this year. So secret and brilliant were Josh's flies and advice that I, and all members present, am sworn to secrecy lest the spies from the untrustworthy 'others' from the rest of the world wrest away our home ground advantage!



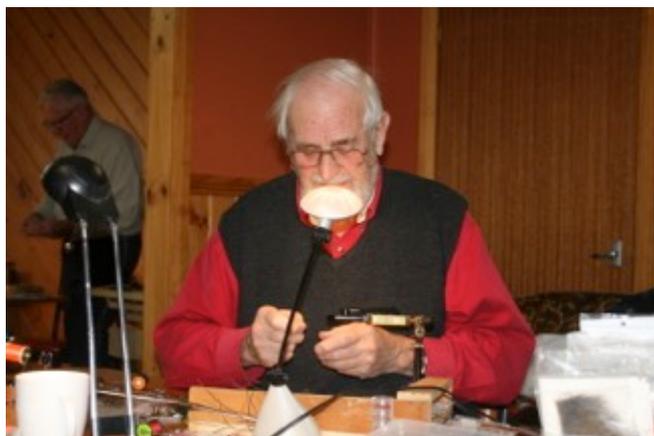
The second night of each session is the highlight of the gastronomic events with a magnificent roast meal cooked on Ashley Artis' gas rotisserie. Cubby managed this feat for the second session and it was magnificent!



The flies are of course an extremely important element of the event. This Orange Spinner created by Tim Urbanc uses a cylinder of orange foam tied along the hook shank and makes a great post for the parachute hackle. It floats very well, can be easily seen and catches fish – particularly when fished by Tim!



The flies tied were a fascinating mixture of standards and exotics. The famous Duck Fly was one that was demonstrated yet again and seems to be one of the most successful all purpose flies. (Check out Westy's instructions in the next article)



Always time for a chat!

Great events don't just happen. They take thought, time and effort as well as attention to detail. Lyndon Cubbins who has taken on this responsibility happily for many years now coordinated this brilliant weekend. Cubby does this with no fuss or bother and always acknowledges the support of others, but without him it would be a lot trickier! Thanks Cubby for all your efforts!

DM

## Tying the Mighty Duck

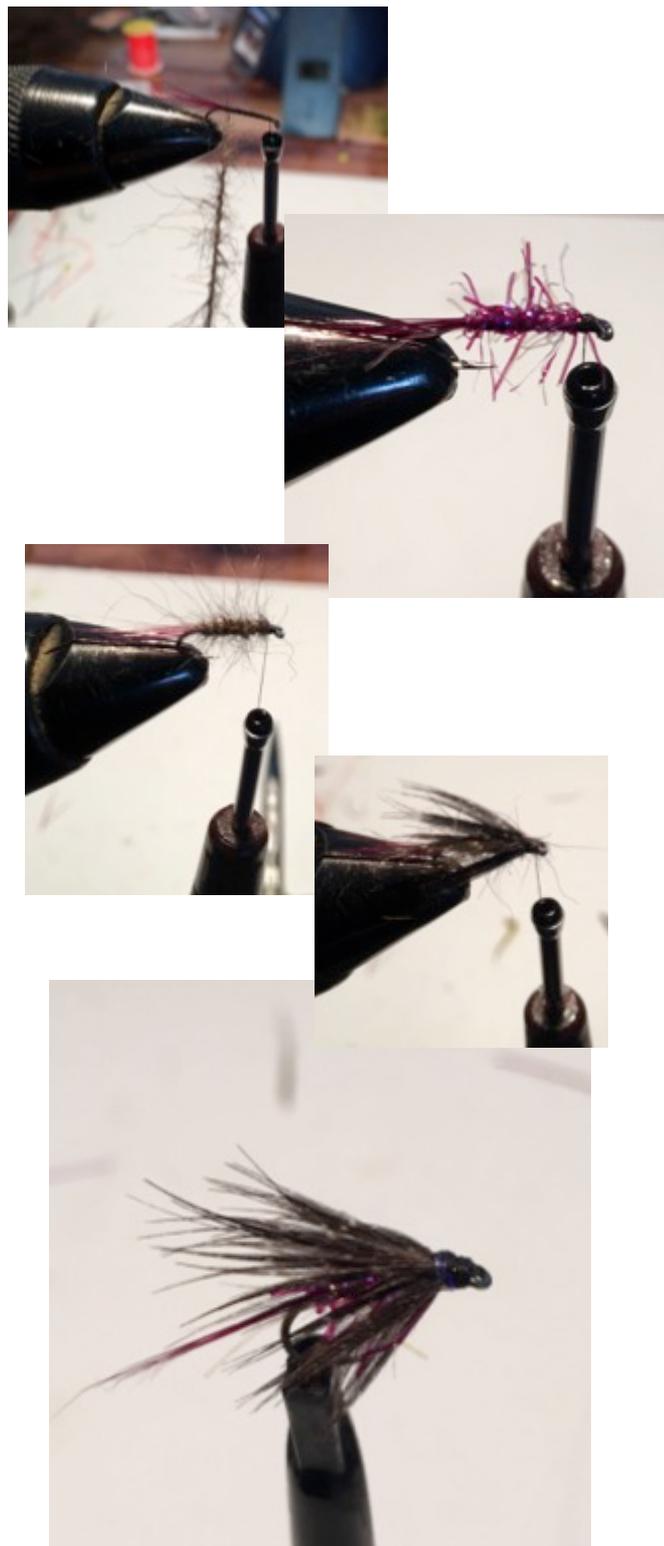
Origins: Through Brian McCullagh who observed Trevor Byrne create it.

Usage: Mayfly emerger pattern in team of two or three –  
(I use it in the middle with Claret Dabblers on top dropper).

Materials:

Hook	Kamasan B170/14 or Gamakatsu S10/14 is what I have drifted to
Thread	Black uni-thread 8/0 or Rust Brown uni-thread 8/0
Tail	Brown or Claret Cock (optional: golden pheasant tippets)
Body	Rabbit – centre part of pelt with dark guard hairs, or Hares Ear dubbing, resulting in dark grey/brown body. NOTE: don't overdo the amount of wing, try (mostly) to get it sitting back thinly rather than flared and fully cloaked (although the flared effect then acts as more a dabbler style fly.). Allow some of the body dubbing & guard hairs to show through.
Wing	Black Mountain Duck feathers. Tie/cloak in individual small clumps – top, sides and underneath
Extras	Experiment with alternate dubbings – Claret dubbing, UV straggle, hot spot – fluoro floss at head or UV Wrap. Tie some with tungsten bead heads as well.

## Tying Steps Pictorial:



Brian West



## The Great Lake Tie in 2019

The Great Lake Tie-In will be held 23rd November 2019. We usually hold it in mid October but changed the date to coincide with the World Fly Fishing Championships. We definitely hope to get some international anglers coming through.



Friday 22nd  
Inland Fisheries  
"Talk Trout  
Tasmania"  
Great Lake  
Community Centre  
7pm - 9pm

Saturday 23rd  
Fly Tying Demos  
Great Lake  
Community Centre  
Miena  
10am - 4pm

Kids welcome

Food will be available  
at the venue

Entry by gold coin  
donation

For more details head  
to our fb page or  
email us at  
glt.info@glt.org.au

23<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER  
2019  
GREAT LAKE TIE-  
IN



Originally held at Bronte Park and known as the 'Bronte Tie-in' the event was re-launched in 2016 at the instigation of Graham Blight and is now held at the Miena, Great Lake Community Centre.

The committee consists of Graham Blight, Marion Blight who looks after the silent auction, Steven Butler, Malcolm Crosse and myself. We all work together to make this event happen each year.

The community centre is an amazing facility and I remember sitting with Graham after the very first re-launch, we both looked at each other and said "this may go terribly wrong if no one turns up or we get heaps of interest", thankfully the car park was overflowing by midday and the interest continues to grow each year.

The Bronte Tie-In in the past was held over two days. Tyers during that time included Noel Jetson, Laurie

Matcham, Tony Dell, Brian McCullagh just to name a few. Tony Dell and Brian still continue to participate at the GLTi with Brian happily sharing his knowledge of dyeing of materials for fly tying.

A feature of the event is the inclusion of the trade tables, which Graham suggested and works well. We have EJ Todd with Ken Orr and Graham Todd, Anchor wetsuits with Neoprene waders, (Tracey can custom make your waders and even make them in pink if needed!) The guys from Spot-on Fishing Connection in Hobart will have tying materials for sale and craft stalls include etched glasses, custom wood burnt chopping boards, Ros Moy with Trout cushions and blankets, Seleste Scott with craft cards and Stan Griffin painting on the day and art on display.

We have re-launched the tie-in to go just for one day each year, last year IFS trialed a forum on the Friday night, which was well attended. At least six staff attended, each speaking in the areas they deal with, carp management program, stocking etc. This year IFS will return on the Friday night, topic will be "Talk trout Tasmania". Definitely well worth popping in and hearing what is happening around Tassie and have a chat to the guys. This will be held at the Community centre from 7 till 9. They will also have a stand at the tie-in.

You will see some of the best tyers around the state all in one location, and even interstate tyers. Mick Hall is keen to return with Dale Flenly representing the Ballarat. Club. They have been coming each year since the re-launch. So far we have filled 15 spaces at the tying table (limited to 22), with at least four ladies attending including Casey Pfeiffer. Tino, Craig Rist, Shane Broadby, Glenn Szalman and more.

The committee at the community center will cater for the event, they are well known for their amazing cooking skills, Guinness pies, scones jam and cream, BBQ lunch and more.

Entry is by gold coin donation and we hold a silent auction on the day, which goes towards funding the event each year.

Anything and everything to do with fly fishing will be on offer on the day and you can keep up to date with the Tie-in on our facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/346432735791644/>

**Anna Bellette**

## 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.



This article on barometric pressure and the best times to fish is from *Angler Wise Ultra Light Fishing Blog* and thought it might be interesting to share. I have now bought and app for my phone that has all this information for \$7 – much easier than buying yet another device. The app for my iPhone was just called ‘Fishing Barometer’. Simple really!  
Source: App Store (iPhone)

DM

## AnglerWise

I have known for a while that the barometric pressure affects fishing, but I always forget how. Every time I want to use the barometric pressure to figure out how fishing will be, I had to spend a while researching the subject. NOT ANY MORE! I put together a cheat sheet that I will start referring to. Here it is:

**High Pressure (30.50 +)** = Clear Skies = Fishing Medium to Slow = Fish slowly in deeper water or near cover.

**Medium Pressure (29.70 – 30.40)** = Fair Weather = Normal Fishing = Test lures, baits, and techniques to see what works.

**Low Pressure (29.60 -)** = Cloudy/Rainy Weather = Fishing Slows = Fish slowly in deeper water or near cover.

**Rising Pressure** = Improving Weather = Fish Slightly Active = Fish slowly in deeper water or near cover.

**Stable Pressure** = Fair Weather = Normal Fishing = Best time to test lures, baits, and techniques to see what works.

**Falling Pressure** = Degrading Weather = Best Fishing = The fish will attack anything you throw at them. (well, pretty much)

So, what is the best barometric pressure for fishing? Answer: When it's between about 29.90 and 30.90 and the pressure is rapidly falling. This is when you will find the fish most active and feeding.



You could check the barometric pressure online, but I prefer to have my own hand-held barometer, so I can keep an eye on the pressure in real-time. That way I can see exactly when the pressure starts moving in a favourable direction, and still make it to the lake in time for some awesome fishing.

Source: <http://www.anglerwise.com/2010/02/09/how-does-barometric-pressure-affect-fishing/>

## Dyeing Day with Macca and Delly!



Macca and Delly are probably, no definitely, the most talented, experienced and knowledgeable experts at dyeing feather and fur in the state. When you get a chance to attend one of their sessions you should jump at it!

This session was held at Macca's house where he had the garage set up with tables, burners and chemicals that were probably imported directly from Diagonalley. To make the session even more enjoyable, they had got together to a week earlier to have some beautifully dyed and dried possum fur ready for everyone to help themselves.

The basic procedures for process are as follows:

*Winscour* SSA is the concentrated surfactant (scouring agent) used in the textile industry and is used to clean all your materials prior to the dyeing process. Put a dessert spoon full into around 2 litres of water in a stainless steel or enamel bowl, mix well and then add anything you wish to dye for around an hour. Then rinse it well in clean water and dry off as much as possible.

Add about a teaspoon of Winscour to the dye bath in around 2 litres of cold water and mix well.

Next, prepare the dye bath with the desired colour. Around half a teaspoon of the dye is then dissolved in boiling water. (This is a general measure but Delly has started documenting the proportions so that a consistent outcome can be achieved.)

Add a dessertspoon of Glacial Acetic acid (the fixative) and the materials you want to dye and heat the bath to just under the simmering point.

The amount of time in the dye bath can vary as some materials take the dye differently but it becomes apparent when the dye is 'spent'.

The dyed material is then removed from the bath using tongs (its hot!) and dried as much as possible using towels or even a hair dryer.



## 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.*

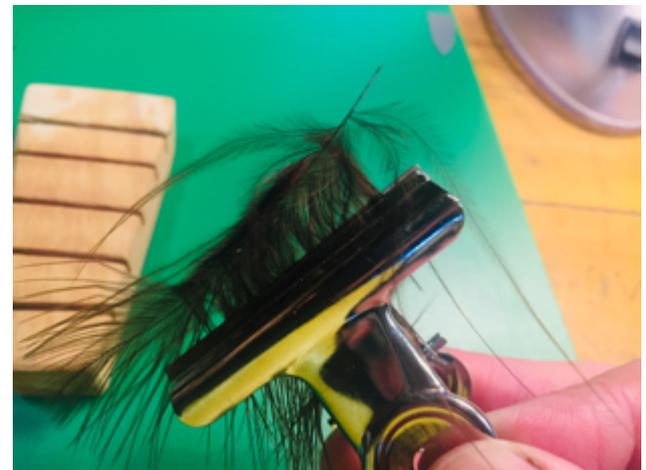
Marc Petitjean is a French Fly Tyer who specializes in CDC flies and selling superbly designed and eye-wateringly highly priced tools for the avid tyer. One of his best-known products is the Magic Tool, which can be used to help make CDC feathers into usable hackles. The set comprises of some 'tables' that help fold the CDC and some clear plastic clips that can hold the barbs securely. You then catch these feathers in a split thread and then spin it into a useful hackle. The set costs around \$90.



There is however a much cheaper alternative that uses some scrap pine and a bulldog clip! Take some pine and cut it into a trapezoidal shape. Put a series of cuts along the length of it. Smooth the edges with sandpaper much more expertly than I have done!

The CDC feather (or marabou or similar) can be placed in the slice and then the bulldog clip can be used to hold it in its folded position. Simply clip off the spine of the feather and put the cut ends of the feather in a split thread or a dubbing loop. This can then be spun into a brilliant hackle useful for many flies!

DM



## A Yarn about Wool

I like nothing more than finding materials for fly tying, which are either free or very cheap. Looking in 'Dollar Stores' in particular for a bargain is something that I really enjoy so imagine my delight when I found that the tiny pack of Antron dubbing that cost serious money that I was looking at could be made at a fraction of the cost and with the opportunity for creating endless varieties to undo Mr Speckles!

According to the Smithsonian Institute, Antron, Dacron and Orlon followed on from the invention of Nylon in the late 1930s and were created by Du Pont. They are synthetic yarns that were used in carpets and many of those wonderful clothes that the hip baby boomer wore proudly in their youth.

Many of the products sold in tiny bags in fishing shops are merely synthetic yarn mixed with fur. So the question is, how can it be sourced and transformed easily into dubbing and this is where the fun starts!



The next stage is where the coffee grinder comes in. Put your yarn in the grind and give it a whizz. You will be amazed at the results!



The first step is to get yourself two dog grooming brush – the rectangular ones with the fine wire teeth, an old blade coffee grinder or a blender and some wool or yarn. For the purpose of this article 'yarn' basically is synthetic 'wool' rather than natural wool from a sheep. Alpaca, Mohair and the like will also work with this technique.

Cut off about a metre of your preferred yarn and cut it into 1cm lengths and pick up the cuttings using the dog brush. Use the other dog brush to scrape and scour the cuttings. This action undoes the spinning process and the yarn starts to resemble dubbing.



If you want to add sparkle to your dubbing there is a product called Angelina Fibre, available on eBay, that comes in a huge range of colours and can be used to enhance the dubbing you have created.

Now it's just a matter of experimenting with different types of yarns, wool, ribbons, ropes and even shoelaces to see how they can be deconstructed into dubbing materials.



Stores like Shiploads, Spotlight and The Reject Shop are great places to source various colours of wool and yarn all of which can be blended to make the unique colours and textures and effects that you desire. A metre of yarn gives you an amazing amount of dubbing so imagine how much would be in a ball of the stuff!



To be extra flash you could treat yourself to a \$2 craft box and drill holes in the back to have a very useful container for your dubbing.



Happy tying!

DM

## The Willow Warriors



The Tyenna River is a favourite destination for many club members and it is great to see that we have been active in helping to improve this magic little river. Apparently it was a well-organised, hard work and good fun. Talk to Anna Bellette or Glen Salzman and help out if you can – I have shamelessly stolen this account from their website!

<https://www.ifs.tas.gov.au/news/2019/jun/17/native-trees-planted-tyenna-river-derwent-catchment-project>

*With fantastic weather and a great crew the Willow Warriors planted 700 native rushes, shrubs and trees along a stretch of the Tyenna River replacing recently removed willows. The willows, removed by the landholders at the Westerway Raspberry Farm, had been restricting access to the river and impacting on fish habitat. As they grow, our native plantings will help to shade the river, stabilise the banks (as the willow roots break down) and improve river health.*

*There were both new faces and seasoned Willow Warriors at the working bee and the many hands made light work of a big job. Participants had a chance to give back to one of Tasmania's premier trout-fishing rivers and the landholders that provide access to it.*

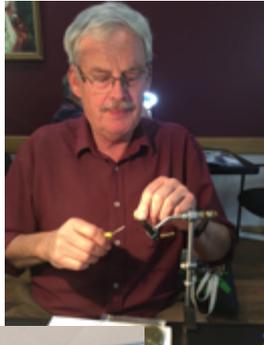
*If you are interested in joining the next Willow Warriors event or hearing more about our 10-year plan to eradicate willows from the Tyenna River get in touch with Magali from the Derwent Catchment Project ([megali@derwentcatchment.or](mailto:megali@derwentcatchment.or)) or 0424 277 226) or Neil from the Inland Fisheries Service (0438 279 421 or [Neil.Morrow@ifs.tas.gov.au](mailto:Neil.Morrow@ifs.tas.gov.au))*

## RSL Fly Tying Day 2019

Well done to Steve Butler for once again organising the Fly tying day at the Lenah Valley RSL. It is a great opportunity for us to learn off each other and for other clubs to be involved. Here are just some of the many flies from some of the hugely talented tyers that were there.

### Andrew Hood – Presidential Bead Head Stick Caddis

Hook: Tiemco 3769 #12  
Thread: Black  
Body: Olive or other dark dubbing in a dubbing loop  
Bead: Chartreuse glass



### Andrew Reed – Generic Spider

Hook: B200 #10  
Thread: 8-0 Black  
Body: Green Madeira thread  
Hackle: Whiting hen in black or brown



### David Travalia – Deer Hair Sedge



Hook: Hanak 130BL #16  
Thread: UTC Black 140d  
Body: Claret seal  
Underwing: CDC  
Wing: Deer hair  
Collar: UV Peacock dubbing



### John Spencer – Claret Woolly Bugger

Hook: B170 or B175 #8  
Thread: Black 8/0  
Tail: Claret marabou  
Body: Squirrel tail dubbing brush  
Hackle: Claret hen  
Bead: Metallic red



**Chris Hilton – Green Nymph**



Hook: Dohiku 301 #14  
Thread: UTC Fire Orange #14  
Body: Seals fur – light olive  
Rib: Copper wire  
Head: Fire Orange thread



**Laurie Matcham – Highland Pride**



Hook: Mustad 80250  
Thread: Yellow 8/0  
Body: Hends Spectra Dubbing113  
Rib: Madeira thread 303 Gold Pearl  
Thorax: SLF Finesse Blend Black  
Wing: White Goose Wing  
Wing  
Hackle: Hoffman white



**Tim Urbanc – Squirrel Yeti**



Hook: Hanak 230 barbless  
Thread: Brown or black UTC 70d  
Body: Claret possum with slight glint  
Rib: Red wire  
Wing: Squirrel micro Zonker  
Throat: Orange Spectra dubbing

A great day was had by all who attended.

**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>

DM

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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 1956, this club aims to encourage the arts of fly tying and fly fishing*



<http://tasmanianflytyersclub.org>