



The Vice



Newsletter of the Tasmanian Fly Tyers' Club Inc.

Volume 14 , Issue 2 Autumn 2017

Inside: Fowler Trophy, Lunka Lake Walk, Valentines Day, Casting Comp and much more...

Cover shot – Valentines Day on the River



Tasmanian Fly Tyers' Club Inc
Established in 1956, this club aims to encourage the arts of fly tying and fly fishing



<http://tasmanianflytyersclub.org>

President's Report

As I concluded my last report I wished for success in the final weeks of the season and this seems to have been largely granted. Penstock has been the mainstay for many throughout the season but with many other waters being productive at various times for different members. Now it is time to turn our attention to activities more suited to winter.

The only club function held since my last report was the casting day held at the Salmon Ponds early in May. Fortunately the weather turned out to be far better than forecast, and the forty-odd members, families and guests, enjoyed a very pleasant and convivial day. Wayne Bellette comprehensively cleaned up in both casting competitions, but it was gratifying to see the generally high level of casting skills by all competitors - if only the hoops had been just an inch larger....

Many thanks to all involved in organising the excellent food and casting activities.

Our next club activities are the two consecutive tying sessions at the Tiger Hut, Liaweenie later in May. Both sessions are almost full, so once again we are looking forward to what has become one of the club's most important and popular activities.

Later in June the Wine Appreciation weekend will be held at Penstock. This, also, has already been fully subscribed.

July activities include a tying day at the Lenah Valley RSL on the 1st, being organised by Steve Butler, and Brian West is running a fly tying class for beginners on the 16th.

Our Annual Dinner will be on 29th July. This is an important part of our calendar and I hope that as many members as possible will attend. Please put this in your diary immediately!

Tim Lewis has made a very valuable contribution in developing a dedicated Activity Registration function on the club website. This is very easy to use and provides up-to-the-minute information on activity attendances. This is now be the way for members to register for all club activities. If you haven't already used it, a good practice run would be to record your acceptance for the dinner!

Although winter is obviously only just around the corner there is still plenty of club activity going on with a bit of a respite from fishing.

Find somewhere warm with a glass or cup of something, and enjoy some tying!

Andrew Hood

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Editorial

Autumn was actually much nicer than Summer! The winds dropped, the sun came out and the insects started popping up all over the place. I had a couple of memorable trips on the dry fly, and there were many reports from other members that the fishing was generally superb. I even managed to be one of only four boats on Penstock on the final weekend of the brown trout season. Three out of the four boats were club members!

This issue sees me deciding to break from tradition and have two voucher winners as I received two excellent submissions from regular contributors Jim Jones and Anna Bellette. Jim's account of our trip to Christy's Creek is though provoking as well as entertaining and Anna's piece about her Valentines Day experience in New Zealand is brilliant. I couldn't resist using one of her excellent photographs of our beloved immediate past president reclining godlike on the banks of the Rangataiki.

The Fowler Trophy gave me the opportunity to fish with Malcolm Crosse and spend time with Mark and John O'Halloran. This was once again a great club event that seems to have been very well received by many members. If you have any stories or photos about your experiences of 'fishing in friendship' please let me know!

The Salmon Ponds Casting Day was once again a great success with some serious organisation and planning ensuring that everything went off smoothly. David Hemmings and his team did a great job setting up the course while John Spencer and Andrew hood coordinated and cooked brilliantly! Many thanks to all who contributed - It was a great day!

I have included a Wanted to Buy / Wanted to Sell section after getting a request from John Hughes who wants to buy a rod. This could be a useful way of ensuring that members can either re-equip themselves or divest themselves of gear. Just drop me an Email if you want to advertise.

The Winter Vice will focus mainly on Fly Tying with The Tiger Hut and the RSL Tying Day as the focus. If you have any special flies that worked for you this season that you are willing to share please consider taking a photo of it and jotting down some basic instructions.

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!

This time two awards and they go to... Anna Bellette for another brilliant article on her NZ Valentines Adventure and to Jim Jones for his great article on Christy's Creek!

Have a go
Simply send your entry to Doug Miller
55dmiller@gmail.com



Christy's & Lunka Trip March 2017



The dream and the reality of a highland lakes fishing trip in Autumn sometimes doesn't match up – calm conditions with light cloud cover, casting to and hooking a rising fish, undone by a small Dun, or Emerger fished in the surface film - versus cold, windy weather with no trout activity.



The squad of four set off from the Lake Ada car park, one Friday morning in mid-March, heading for a camp-site on Christie's Creek with the plan being to

fish Lunka Lake and beyond, until Sunday morning. The photographs record the fabulous, unseasonal weather on Friday and Sunday – clear skies, sunny and generally windless, with 27 degrees recorded at Miena on the return leg: now that's hot for Great Lake.



Chris picked up a lunker just below Lunka on a dry at dusk the first evening and he and David caught and released two nice trout in 2 casts on a very windy day two, while Doug and I toiled and flogged all day, every day, to no avail. I did manage to hook-up my hat before it sank, after three long casts with my favourite wet fly for such occasions, the Matcham Rosella.



As so often happens, clear skies, hot daytime temperatures and no wind make dry fly fishing quite demanding – coupled with the fact that both Christies and Lunka were not exactly brimming with water; in fact, exposed banks and muddy shores showed that levels had receded quite recently. The other unusual factor was that there were very few Swallows feeding off the top, a sure sign that insect life was minimal; or we were on the water at the wrong time, or both?

Having had all my gear stolen the year before, it had taken me almost 12 months to replace hiking pack,

tent, sleeping bag, sleeping mat, travel rod, reel and spool, line, backing, leaders, flies, gaiters, waders and my pride. Now here was an opportunity to go lightweight-everything, to make highland fishing more comfortable and enjoyable, so I took the re-stocking of my gear seriously and discovered a delightful place in Melbourne called Backpacking Light. The hiking pack I settled on is made by Aarn from New Zealand: a very light bag that employs 'balance pockets', which clip to the front of the pack to evenly spread the load and on the hips, and reduces shoulder weight; they also clip together as a day pack.



Fishing in the remote Western Lakes, casting a trout fly, watching the Southern Lights or listening to silence are cherished in a world of increasing pixels, megabytes, uploading and downloading between logging on and off. The experience engendered by remoteness and isolation in the context of contemporary wilderness answers human instincts for re-orientation, and contemplation of self in relation to the landscape.



Optimised for climbing, skiing, and hiking with trekking poles, the Aarn 'Guiding Light' allows you to stow or remove tools and gear without taking the pack off. The side quivers allow good stowage and access to a travel rod, with water and food supplies accessible from the front balance pockets. The down side to the design of this pack is that it takes some time to set it up and requires constant adjustment every time you put the pack on – and then of course there is the sledging. We were not two minutes into the trip when it started – the balance pockets look like two gigantic 'man-boobs' and I had to wear them, for three days – I thought playing cricket was bad. The upside - this was the most comfortable and enjoyable experience I have had walking into the Western Lakes carrying a full pack, with lightweight, well designed gear and despite the tongue-in-cheek sledging, a great weekend was had by all.



Increasingly, as tourism pressure mounts, a balance must be struck between the wild places of Tasmania being caught between commerce and conservation. To make a buck out of wilderness, as the be all and end all, in the end will destroy it – or turn it all into a type of 'Chardonnay' wilderness experience. Curiously in recent times in Tasmania, the cultural tourism development that has had the most profound effect on our commerce and tourism industry, MONA, has been built in an urban area, with no diminution of our wild places.

Jim Jones

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.

People who have tied flies with me are aware that I have a propensity for frequenting dollar shops such as Shiploads, The Reject Shop and the late lamented Chickenfeed in my quest for cheap and innovative fly-tying materials. My finds are sometimes poor and sometimes quite impressive!

Each of these shops has a myriad of containers that are great for storing the bizarre collection of bits and pieces that we fly tyers accumulate. They have whole sections of 'craft gear' that must be useful for something at sometime! Check out the feathers and the foam in particular!

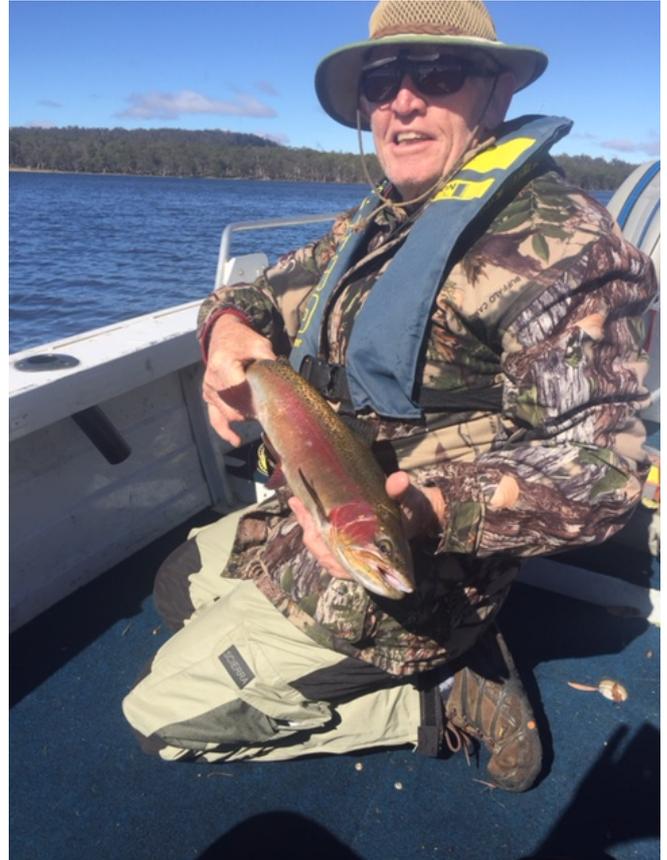
Recently however I found that Shiploads had a pile of UV glue dispensers for around \$6. For that you get a pen with a nib that dispenses UV glue on one end and a UV torch to harden it on the other. The glue is sensational for hardening shellbacks on nymphs and building bodies on all sorts of flies. It is also very compact and takes up little room in your fly tying kit. I had bought one of these online a year ago and it is still going strong so it is remarkably economical too!



So with the cost of the Bug Bond and the Torch commanding prices of \$50 and up I reckon a couple of these could be a great idea! Check it out before they all run out!

Fowler, Fishing and Friendship

The John Fowler Trophy was again run this year and by all accounts was a great success. Briefly the idea is that members put their name in a draw and get paired up with another angler to commit to spending a day fishing with them. The numbers of fish caught were to be entered on the Club Website and the pair that caught the most fish would be presented with the Fowler Trophy. Kudos must go to the committee that came up with the concept of fishing in friendship and well done to Andrew Reed who coordinated the competition.



I was lucky enough to be paired with Life Member and general fly-fishing legend Malcolm Crosse. The venue would of course have to be his beloved Penstock Lagoon and this suited me, as it was by far the most productive lake I had fished all season. It also meant that I got to stay in Malcolm's wonderful shack. To make matters even more agreeable we would combine with another Fowler group – John O'Halloran and Mark 'Aspro' Aspinall. It promised to be a great weekend and it was!



When I arrived at the shack Malcolm and John were already there and were engrossed in making, of all things, a birthday cake for Aspro – complete with icing, candles and a big 55! What a perfect way to kick off a fishing in friendship weekend! Terrifying winds were ripping down the lagoon so much of the first afternoon was spent in front of the fire planning ways of fooling Mr Speckles. Aspro had been out for a walk and reported that jassids were around. In fact they were all over the cars parked out the back. This news was welcomed with great anticipation.



All that was needed was for the wind to ease to a minor howl for us to consider venturing out. Luckily it did ease enough and Malcolm and I headed out in his famous green Purdon. We headed over to the sheltered car-park shore. I managed to hook a fish



only to lose it through poorly tied knots. (I don't think Malcolm approved of this.) I did manage a nice rainbow after that which meant that I probably could eat without guilt that evening. We also had a couple of

promising swirls to jassids before everything became too wild and cold. Meanwhile Aspro and John drifted around chatting but undisturbed by fish.

The evening meal was wonderful and we talked and laughed well into the night all under the watchful eye of John's dog who made sure that none of us got out of control!

I awoke the next morning. Malcolm had been up for ages and was busily working on organising the Fly Fishing World Championships, which will be held in Tasmania. As if he didn't have enough on his plate he has also agreed to plan the Masters Games Fly Fishing event scheduled for October this year. His energy is amazing!



We went out for another half day and Malcolm landed a nice fish using one of his favourite damsel nymphs. It features in the book he wrote in his spare time!

The full results for the Fowler Trophy are not in yet but from the comments and scores that are available on the club website it is obvious that a lot of fun was had and that the concept of fishing in friendship has well and truly fulfilled yet again. Congratulations to all who entered and thanks a gain to the Committee for all its hard work!

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 new trial 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.

On the way back from Christy's Creek new club member Chris Roberts showed us how to tie a furred leader. Basically he took some 8lb line, doubled it over, hung his keys in the middle and started to twist. In no time at all he had fashioned a 16lb shock leader that he could attach directly to the fly line and then add various lengths of mono in different weights to make up a perfect leader. It was such a simple demonstration that I decided to promptly forget most of the critical details. I tried to recreate his method at home and managed to waste an impressive amount of line. As usual YouTube came to the rescue. I managed to tie a serviceable furred leader and was able to use it with some success in some demanding dry fly situations. It turned over very well and helped maintain the all-important tight loops. Give it a try!



https://youtu.be/pbcVaEe3RIs?list=LL_G-SfweJZlwmfdFQBWEiAg

My Valentines Day - Rotorua 2017

Browsing in Hamills Fishing and Hunting on the main street of Rotorua with Wayne and John Smith, I spotted a brochure on a guided fly-fishing experience; from a raft for wild brown and rainbow trout...I casually mentioned it to the guys and suggested, what a great experience this would be. An opportunity to drift down the middle reaches of the Rangataiki River, which is only accessible by raft. It didn't take long to convince each other this was a great idea, by the time we got back into the car and about 5 minutes down the main street we had a booking set. At that point, our luck fishing the river mouths on the Rotorua lakes wasn't going as planned so why not have a little side adventure...



I reminded the guys that the day booked was Valentine's day, now I didn't want Wayne to forget, plus I was going to be fishing so all was ok. Arriving at our destination, we all looked a little worried when confronted by the size of the boat, three of us, plus the guide drifting down grade 3 rapids, fishing in what looked like a very small vessel. No time to back out now. After running through the safety procedures, Peter Hill our guide assured us that we would all be fine.



First a little update on the Rangataiki River and the Whirinaki Rivers - both flow clear and wander through the heart of the Ranitiaiki catchment. They are not easily accessed without a knowledgeable guide and raft, and we were going to drift 16 kilometers down



these rivers.

The Weather forecast looked promising, scattered showers and 22C with wind at 16kmh westerly. Catching my first fish within minutes of launching eased my fear of going over the first lot of rapids. Sighted, sipping away just below the willows in a nice bubbly run. A big Clarkes Cicada pattern was on the menu for my first catch of the day.

During the day Peter rigged the guys up with a nymphing set up, while I opted to do the majority of my fishing with the cicada pattern which was to become very successful for the days fishing. Drifting down this magnificent stretch of river was an absolutely amazing experience; we had a fun filled day with lots of laughs and banter. The first part of the day Peter pulled into suitable sections along the river and each of us got out and fished a stretch of water.



After lunch we drifted down the river taking it in turns casting from the moving raft until we each got a hook up. We were casting to tight spots very quickly, behind willow branches, targeting every spot you could reach. Wayne managed to hook up to a larger fish but busted off and John cast to a log closer to the bank where we all witnessed a nice brown jump clean

out of the water for the cicada. I managed to catch a feeding fish on the edges of the shore but had to get out of the boat to land it.

We landed over 29 fish between us and lost as many. Peter our guide was exceptional. At the end of the day he made a comment on what a fun day he had guiding us as we provided much laughter and banter. I would certainly love to do this again as it was a very memorable experience that I did not want to end. Peter Hill has 30 years of fishing and experience in the wilderness. A very down to earth guy whom I would highly recommend if you would like a unique customised fishing experience.

Who knows, next year we may chopper into a remote area.... True to Peter's words, "A fishing trip like no other", it was a very memorable Valentine's Day.

<http://www.peterhillfishing.co.nz/>

Anna Bellette



Casting Day Salmon Ponds 2017

A beautiful autumn day at the Salmon Ponds on the first weekend after the brown trout season ends and the opportunity to cast flies on a pool containing some of the biggest fish you would ever see. What could possibly go wrong? As it turned out – nothing!



The Salmon Ponds at Plenty is the ideal place to hold a casting competition. The scenery is breathtaking, the facilities more than adequate and it is always good to perform in front of the tourists who go to this hidden gem in the Valley of Love!



There were two trophies up for grabs. The Margaret Knight Dry Fly and the Hedley Griggs Wet Fly. There was also an overall champion award too. As usual the organisers had done a great job not only setting up the casting rings, which would act as the targets but in setting up and preparing a BBQ lunch with three types of meat, roast vegetable and gravy for the hungry casters and supporters.

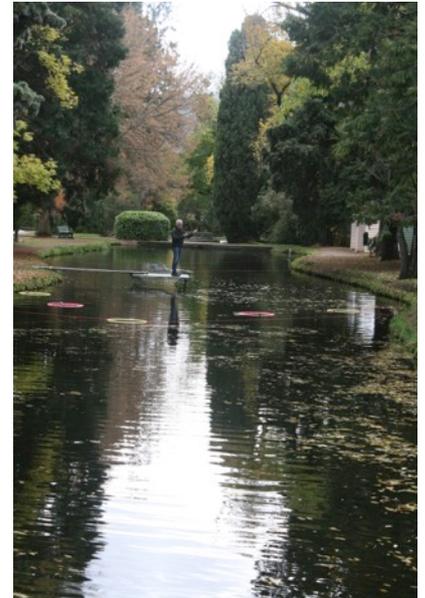


The turnout was exceptional with the largest number of



competitors that we have seen for a while. The weather looked a little foreboding but was generally kind to us and the competitions, beginning with the dry fly got off to a quick start. The aim was to land three casts in each of the floating hoops with as many false casts as required. The competition was fierce but jovial with lots of support and encouragement for anyone who entered.

The wet fly competition followed with the hoops lined up in front of the caster at intervals of four feet. (Metrication has not reached casting yet!). False casting was allowed for the very first hoop but from then on it had to be picked up and put down for each of the next targets. This was much more difficult than it looked!



The lunch break occurred midway through this event when word came from head chef John Spencer that all was cooked and the feast began. It must be said that people who competed after eating and quaffing quantities of red wine may have been at some sort of disadvantage to those who had performed earlier but it may also have calmed any nerves down too.

The final results were as follows:

Margaret Knight Dry Fly Competition

- 1st - Wayne Bellette 36 points
- 2nd - Adrian Scott 27 points
- 3rd - Chris Medwin 25 points

The Hedley Griggs Wet Fly

- 1st - Wayne Bellette 30 points
- 2nd - John Spencer 26 points
- 3rd - Tim Munro 23 points

Champion of champions

- 1st - Wayne Bellette 66 points
- 2nd - Chris Medwin 42 points
- 3rd - Tim Munro 38 points



Organiser and qualified casting instructor David Hemmings commented on the huge improvement he had noticed in the casting skills of members over the last few years.



Wanted to Buy/ Wanted to Sell

This is a section that could be useful addition to The Vice as many members might have gear that they want to buy or sell. Just drop me an Email at 55dmiller@gmail.com if you have anything you want to buy or sell

DM

Wanted to Buy

Loomis GXL 9 foot, 6 weight fly rod
2 piece or 4 piece

John Hughes

0363318758

Email: jpjehughes@bigpond.com

Masters Fly Fishing Competition

XVI Australian Masters Games Fly Fishing Championships.

The Australian Masters Games (AMG) has been running since 1989 with the aim of encouraging and engaging the master sports demographic in ongoing activity.

With the worldwide recognition of fly-fishing as a sport and with the endorsement of the event by Fly Fish Australia Inc. www.flyfishaustralia.com.au who are the recognised body for administering sport fly fishing in Australia the AMG administration have encouraged the inclusion of fly fishing in the 2017 AMG. The AMG are to be held from Saturday 21st October – Saturday 28th October with the actual fly fishing event being held between the Tuesday 24th October and the Friday 27th October.

The fly fishing event will be hosted by the North West Fly Fishing Club based in Burnie

www.nwffc.org.au

The event will be conducted over a three day period and a timetable is attached to this document.

The availability of and distances apart of angling venues, boats and volunteers required to run this event has determined the actual numbers of anglers that can compete and this been limited to three one day angling sessions of four hours each with 60

anglers made up of 20 teams of three anglers, team captains and managers will be at the discretion of each team.

Registration for teams will be on a first come first registered and paid basis and individual anglers are encouraged to register and will be placed into teams. See the registration details and process below.

All anglers to qualify for this event must be over 50 years of age as of October 21st 2017.

The following program for the event with the notes attached meets the above limitations. The competition will be strictly on a catch and release basis for Brown and Rainbow Trout and local native Grayling with a minimum size of 200mm, rules for the competition will be circulated at the time of anglers registration (Rules to be used will basically be modified rules of international fly fishing set by Fips – Mouche) . www.fips-mouche.com

The following program with notes attached outlines the program:

Saturday 21st October Sunday 22nd October Monday 23rd October

Opening Ceremony for the AMG. Angling practise day

Angling practice day.

Anglers will be able to fish and practice in any of the Tasmanian Inland waters controlled by the Inland Fisheries service (all anglers will be required to hold a current Tasmanian state angling license). The waters allocated for the competition will be closed to all angling by the competitors fourteen days prior to the competition. Any infringement of this rule will incur automatic disqualification for the competition. Detailed maps and all information pertaining to the competition venues will be provided when angler registration to the event is received.

Tuesday October 24th 1.00pm Angling team registration draw and event briefing to be conducted at the North West Fly Fishers club rooms.

Wednesday October 25th Thursday October 26th
Friday October 27th

Angling competition day 1. (See session times below)
Angling competition day 2. (See session times below)
Angling competition day 3 (See sessions times below)

On Friday evening there will be an angling event medal presentation dinner at the Wynyard football Club rooms medals will be awarded for first second and third individual placing's and first, second and third team placing's.

Saturday October 28th Australian Masters Games closing ceremony. Angling Program

The angling program has been set up to provide anglers with a varied and interesting three days of fishing.

1. Venue One :Talbots Lagoon (Described as this season's best Stillwater fishery in Tasmania see a review in Tasmanian Fishing and Boating news issue 126 www.tasfish.com) Boats to be used will be 12ft Purdon Dinghies powered by electric out board motors. There will be two competing anglers per boat .Session times would be one two hour session in the morning followed with a two hour lunch break and then a two hour session in the afternoon. Anglers will score and record each other's fish.



2. Venues two: Will be fishing from a bank on four separate dams, (Dams are all in close proximity to Burnie populated by both Brown and Rainbow to double figure size). The proposal is that one two hour session will be fished by a group of ten anglers in the morning and then during the lunch break anglers change lake venue and fish a further two hour afternoon session .

Controllers will be on hand for scoring on this venue. 10 (ten) controllers needed.



3. Venue Three: Mersey River. Twenty beats will be required on the Mersey River of approximately 250m each that equates to five kilometres of river. Not all the beats will be consecutive but road access to bridge drop offs and angler distribution have been taken into consideration to minimise travelling times to beats.

There will be a two hour angling session in the morning with a one and a half hour lunch break with anglers moving one beat on to fish the afternoon session of two hours.

This will mean that the angler on Beat 20 will have to be transported back to Beat 1 during the lunch break.

Controllers will be required for each angler on the Mersey river sector. 20 (twenty) controllers needed.



West Fly Fishers or a member of a Tasmanian Fishing club under the umbrella of Anglers Alliance.
Mandatory for angler insurance purposes.

Transport fee Boat hire and batteries.

Medals Event Costs Beat Markers, Score cards and other office support materials.

Coffee /Tea at the angling venues during the lunch break. Provision of Lunches to be the responsibility of the competitors.

Session Times Talbots Lagoon:

AM Sessions

PM Sessions

Mersey River

AM Sessions PM Sessions

1000-1200 1400-1600

1000-1200 1330-1530

Pet Dam and Atkinson's Dams

AM Sessions 1000-1200 PM Sessions 1400-1600

Team Accommodation

Each team and or individual angler will be responsible for their own accommodation and meals for the duration of the event.

Event Costing's

A mandatory AMG cost of \$99.00 is required which will cover all the costs of Official functions for the games.

An angling event fee of \$201.00 has been determined on the following basis:

To be eligible anglers must be a member of the North

Angler teams Registration and payment:

All Angler Teams and individual anglers are required to register by contacting

Louis Phone: 0364475023 Email:

amg.sport1@unisport.com.au

Stacey Groves Phone: 03 6447 5020 Email:

amg.rego@unisport.com.au

Other contact Persons

Adrian Hope President of Northwest Flyfishers
Phone 0417136959

Wayne Bellette Phone 0418 138 672

Malcolm Crosse Phone 0429 870 550

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

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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 1936, this club aims to encourage the arts of fly tying and fly fishing



<http://tasmanianflytyersclub.org>