



# The Vice

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



**Volume 15 , Issue 7 Autumn 2019**

**Inside: Fowler Trophy, Salmon Ponds Casting Day, Walks and Trips *and much more...***

*Cover shot – Macca holding Anna's fish!*

## (Acting) President's Report

With our illustrious leader enjoying the sights of Europe it has landed in my lap to write the President's Report. As usual for this time of year the brown trout season has closed, however at the last general meeting the round robin showed there was still good fishing to be had right up to the end. Several people reported catching fish on the dry at Penstock Lagoon and others had visited Dee for a last gasp expedition. The club has had some excellent guest speakers at our general meetings including ..... from IFS talking about Galaxia species in Tasmania and Michael Youl discussing the introduction of brown trout to Tasmania. Both speakers also answered a series of member questions.

The casting Day at Salmon Ponds was a great success with perfect casting weather and a BBQ lunch. The club's casting instructors, led by David Hemmings, were on hand to set up the hoops, provide encouragement and score the participant's efforts. The overall winner was Adrian Scott who won the wet fly and combined trophy. David Travalia proved to be an excellent organizer and head BBQ chef.

The off-season offers numerous trips and activities. Tiger Hut Sessions 1 and 2 are being prepared by Cubby. This is a perfect opportunity for members to learn fly tying from the best and enjoy great food and company.

Our president is hosting a wine appreciation weekend at the end of June at the same venue; this is almost full so book now if you want to attend.

The Fly Tying day at the Lenah Valley RSL is booked for Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> of July with snags on the BBQ for lunch so put it in your calendar. Steve Butler has offered to run this activity.

The Club Annual Dinner is booked for Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July and the Committee will be looking for raffle prizes soon. Bryn Carmen has already donated a fly rod for this purpose.

The Club's membership is almost full with only one vacancy available.

There is a plan for some work at the club shack over the next few months, being coordinated by Macca and Delly. Changes to car parking and driveway drainage are well progressed and the Committee is looking to reorganize the displays of trout flies and pictures inside.

It has been great to see our club meetings and events so well attended by members. I would like to thank those of you who have run club activities and for the time and effort put in over the year by the committee members.

Tight lines and happy fly tying -

**Andrew Reed**

Vice President and Activities Coordinator.

Inside this Issue	Page
President's Report	2
Editorial	2
Western Lakes Trip 2019	3
Fly Tying on the WWW	5
Casting Day 2019	5
AdVice Tips and Tricks	7
Lees Paddocks Revisited	8
Fowler Trophy Fishing in Friendship	10
Vice Index	12
Club Contact Details	25

## Editorial

And so another season draws to a close and another edition of The Vice is published. This edition has some great articles about club members venturing into the wild places in search of Mr Speckles with varying degrees of success but wonderful and sometimes redacted adventures ensuing!

There is also an account of the Casting Day at the Salmon Ponds where once again David Hemmings and his team of casting gurus set up a wonderful competition and David Travalia coordinated a wonderful lunch. It was a terrific day and a great way to wind up the season at a truly beautiful venue.

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Steve at Spot On fishing tackle has kindly provided the

Club with 4 vouchers to the value of \$30 each for this year. 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!**

***This time the award goes to... Pete Murphy for his brave and heavily redacted account of his Western Lakes adventure!***

Send your stories to [55dmiller@gmail.com](mailto:55dmiller@gmail.com)

## Western Lakes Trip 2019

*Note: This document has been redacted because the leader wishes to remain anonymous. He also does not want the location of the 'trophy' lake revealed.*

Monday March 18<sup>th</sup>

Three intrepid fishers drove to the Miena shack prior to our walk into Wadleys Lake. The party consisted of Peter Langton, Peter Murphy and [REDACTED], our leader.



The drive was free of incident, although upon arrival the driver was asked if he had competed in yesterday's Melbourne Grand Prix. A pleasant evening was had, dining at the Lodge, then a few wines at the shack. As many of you know, Plank has a reputation for casting his fly out then losing concentration, sometimes even dozing, and thus missing takes. To assist with this he was presented with one of the essential tools of bait fishing, a set of rod bells.

The following morning we began walking from West Augusta, [REDACTED] with GPS in one hand and walking stick in the other, set a cracking pace and only took us on one of his famed 'shortcuts'. Plank jingled along merrily. Around midday we arrived at Camp Lake where [REDACTED] declared that he was close to collapsing and needed to rest. Judging by the accompanying groans and moans a collapse seemed the most optimistic outcome, which left us pondering the least insensitive way to ask important questions such as 'Where in your pack is (a) your whisky, and (b) your car key'? It was at this time that Plank, very helpfully, calculated our combined age to be 216.

After some lunch and a nice lie down the leader made a miraculous recovery and led us on an unnecessary scrub bash for the remaining few hundred metres to our camp-site. After setting up camp we fished the shores of Wadleys, seeing the occasional rise, again

with very few insects evident. [REDACTED] and Plank caught one each on dries, 1lb and 1.75lb. Plank saw his fish rise and cast to it, bells were not needed. Murph caught nothing and was reminded of this several times that evening.



Wednesday morning was overcast with a light NE breeze. We walked to Lake Lepera, which was noticeably lower than last year. We fished the SW section first; again there were very few insects, but some fish moving. Murph waded out and sat on a large rock where he caught a 2.5lb fish on a black spinner, Plank caught a similar sized fish in the deeper NE section. We then went to Upper Lunka where the only fish seen was one which took [REDACTED]'s fly, but he missed it.



It was very noticeable how unusually dry the country was. Lake Lepera was 100-150mm lower than last

year. On the way back to camp we passed a small tarn, which was partly dry with dying vegetation, including pencil pines, around the shore. The other thing we all commented on at various times was the almost complete lack of snakes, birds, and insects. The following morning was completely calm with fog, which persisted until late morning. We made our way to Camp Lake with visibility at about 50 metres, then in a [REDACTED] direction to a reputed trophy lake. Here Murph spooked two huge fish, which were hard in on the shore. [REDACTED] also saw three or four very large fish. It is hard to put a size on these fish, but I wouldn't go swimming there!



Around midday we returned to Camp Lake and polaroided the shores. Quite a few good fish were spotted, Plank and Murph caught one each, 4 lbs and 3 lbs.

Later, [REDACTED] and Murph wade-polaroided the northern part of Wadleys with [REDACTED] hooking one and Murph missing a take. The water level was also noticeably down on last year.

There was some rain overnight, but the morning was clear and almost calm. We packed up and headed out stopping first at Camp Lake where the Peters acted as spotters for the leader. A fish was found for him almost immediately, but he quickly managed to spook it, so we left him to his own devices and went looking for our own fish. Quite a few were seen, some quite large, but we weren't good enough to fool them. On to Stumps Lake where there was a moment or two of mild panic when our leader thought he had lost his treasured GPS, but then Murph noticed that his right knee was more knobbly than usual – the device had slipped through a hole in his pocket! He wanted to wade-polaroid the northern side, so the Peters were again relegated to spotting. They did this very well, finding a number of good fish, but were let down by the team member at the pointy end. [REDACTED] did learn that wading and fishing carrying a full pack is not a good idea, and having your phone in

your pocket in such circumstances is also not a good idea.



A brief stop for lunch at the Tin Hut, then on to the car.

The fishing wasn't easy, but it was very interesting. The company was excellent and the location outstanding.

Thank you [REDACTED] for organising it.



Pete Murphy

## 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.

### Knotting Pheasant Tail Legs –



There are many flies that are enhanced through the addition of a set of pheasant tail legs. You can buy whole feathers that are pre-knotted and even small loose packs of legs but they cost \$\$\$\$. This short video by the wonderful Davie McPhail shows how to use a crochet hook and some clever fingers to make your own!

Enjoy!



<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=LHUM8FBQPdk&feature=share>



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## Salmon Ponds Casting Day



The weather was much kinder this year for the annual casting day held once again in the autumnal beauty of the Salmon Ponds at Plenty. A ten o'clock start was suggested that this year so that the casting competitions could all take place before lunch, leaving the afternoon for chatting and generally mucking around with all sorts of casting pursuits. The decision proved to be a good one!



Another break from tradition arose through the absence of previous 'chefs de mission' Spencer, Smith and Hood and the elevation of David Travalia to the highly coveted role. As is his wont, he responded magnificently. David, ably supported by Celeste Scott (who managed both gourmet comestibles and an inquisitive infant son with aplomb) and Chris Berndt, who supplied and mastered the Weber in truly awesome style, produced a luncheon of such splendour it will be talked about for years to come!

The competition got underway right on time due to the wonderful work by David Hemmings and his well-drilled team of casting gurus. The first event was the Margaret Knight Dry Fly where competitors had to land their fly in each of the five hoops tethered at varying distances. False casting between attempts was important and some excellent scores were recorded in the still autumn air.

The results -



**Margaret Knight Dry Fly**

- 1st Adrian Scott 37 points
- 2nd Wayne Bellette 36 points
- 3rd Tim Munro 30 points

Following straight on came the Hedley Griggs Wet Fly Competition, which saw a different configuration of targets and a strict enforcement of the no false casting between shots rule - A slight head wind adding to the complexity of the task. The scoring was not quite as high this time (with the Editor managing a 'pair' in that he didn't bother the scorers in this event for two years running).

Presentations to the overall placegetters followed and therein the day grew to a contented and satisfying close.

Results

**Hedley Griggs Wet Fly**



- 1st David Hemmings 27 points
- 2nd Adrian Scott 25 points
- 3rd Noel Wilson 15 points

Observant readers will note the Noel Wilson managed a third placing in this most difficult of events, which is

very creditable given the preponderance of casting superstars that the club enjoys. (In fact Noel has won every trophy in the club with the possible exception of the Fowler Trophy!)



**Hedley Griggs Overall Trophy/Shield**



- 1st Adrian Scott 62 points
- 2nd David Hemmings 51 points
- 3rd Tim Munro 43 points

David Hemmings has the detailed results if any one would like to read them.



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## 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.*

### Slim Beauty Knot

When Peter Morse spoke to us at a meeting earlier he mentioned that his 'go-to' knot was the Slim Beauty. This is a little bit about that knot courtesy of this website

### How to tie the Slim Beauty Knot.

This knot came out of the Key West area in the 1990's as an innovative means of tying tippets or leaders to the main line. It has rapidly become a very popular knot due to its strength, low profile and the fact it is easy to learn. It is also an effective way to join slippery braided line to a monofilament leader.



### Slim Beauty Knot Tying Instructions

- Tie a double overhand knot in the end of the leader.
- Pull knot only semi-tight to form a figure eight.
- Double 15-24" of main line and pass through top and bottom of figure eight. Wrap 4 times down the leader and 3 times back again. Pass loop through first gap formed by the wraps.
- Tighten down the figure eight knot in the leader (pull 1's). Then make a fast, steady pull with the leader and the doubled main line (not the loop) (pull 2's).
- Trim off loop and tag ends of the double line.

Source:

[https://www.netknots.com/fishing\\_knots/slim-beauty-knot](https://www.netknots.com/fishing_knots/slim-beauty-knot)

## Lees Paddocks Revisited 2019

It seemed like a very good idea - pick the weekend of the full moon, nearly summer, river levels likely to be moderate, the chance of some early season hatches, enticing possibility of dry fly activity- lets make another trip into the head waters of the Mersey, up past Lees Paddocks and on to Reg Wadleys hut.



*Swing bridge over the Mersey River*

So with glints in the eye, Chris Roberts, Jim Gandy and I meet up on Wednesday morning in the last week of November - the full moon was on Friday.

We packed enough food - likely more than enough for 5 days / 4 nights. Into the car for the long drive up to the swing bridge 12 km past the Lake Rowallan dam. Of course, there are mandatory coffee stops at Campbell town and lunch at Deloraine.

Finally after about a 5-hour drive we land in the small parking area to start the walk. Crossing the swing Bridge puts us the trail that leads gently through the rainforest for about a 4-hour walk until the clearing at Lees Paddocks is reached. We decided to camp there for the first night which then makes for a very easy hour walk onto the Reg Wadley hut.



*Lees paddocks on the way in*



The last time we ventured up into this area the leeches on the way in had our legs covered in blood and us looking like we had just survived the chainsaw massacre - I should have worn long pants not shorts and gaiters! But this time no leeches - who knows if it's the time of year, temperature, amount of rain but their blood bath habits were not at all missed.



*Rainforest break*



Reg Wadley Hut is the most splendid hut. It is very elegantly proportioned and is in very good repair. It is obviously well respected by all who visit and if you are lucky enough to stay, a delight. My guess is that it was built in the 1930's and has been well used and maintained ever since. Over the years various pots

and pans have been added which makes cooking on the fire a whole lot easier than the limits of small bushwalking pots and a small gas burner.



*Reg Wadley Hut*

For me, that meant paella! When cooked over an open fire it is very good. Easy to carry in the makings but having the big pan in the hut is the secret. The recipe is more of method than anything else but for those that want to have a go try this.



In a bit of olive oil, fry up garlic, onion, capsicums, mushrooms, tomato paste and anything else you might have into a rich sort of base, add stock( from cubes is ok) and saffron; let it all come to simmer and then add 'bomba' rice at about half the volume of rice to stock and stir in bit. There is even a use for surprise peas here. Now just leave it all alone for 22 minutes don't stir. About 10 mins before its finished add a few branches to the fire to raise the heat a bit and make a nice toasty crust on the bottom. Easy!



*Chris on the Mersey*

As to the fishing, now that is another story. The last time we were up there, the dry flies had a real work out and there seemed to be fish everywhere! But this time - nothing! As we know, all good fishing is accompanied by a good theory. After four days of pretty intense looking, not a fish was seen. As for the theory, there had been some recent rain and snow melt so the water temperature was pretty low which we think means that the fish are lying a bit 'doggo' down near the bottom. We even resorted to weighted flies down deep but even that didn't produce anything. There were absolutely no bugs to be seen so, I guess, no reason to look up but.... who knows



*there has to be a fish in that bubble line...*

For that it just didn't matter. There were Waratahs in flower everywhere and just a general sense that the whole world was beginning to wake up and having a bit of stretch from the long winter recess.



*Jim having a look*

The privilege of being in this amazing valley, bounded to the east by the grandeur of the Walls of Jerusalem and to the west by the Pelion ranges is a world apart.

This valley shows evidence that many generations of aboriginal people and others have made this place their home.

It is deeply humbling to be able to wander into this place with a fly rod in your hand and to share the experience of being there with such good friends in a truly splendid place.

Next time maybe catching a fish or two would be an added bonus.

The upper Mersey is well worth a visit...

**David Travalia**

All images are by Jim Gandy

## John Fowler Fishing in Friendship

What's not to like about this event!



Each year club members sign up to a special event (competition?) that commemorates John Fowler who, along with his wife Barbara were hugely important members and Patrons of the club for many years. The Fowler Trophy involves members going into a draw to organise a fishing trip with another member whom they have never or rarely fished with. It is the sort of event that brings members closer together and forges deeper friendships within the club. Points are awarded for the number of fish caught and the winners announced at season end. There are however only winners in this event.



I managed to fish with beloved secretary Tim Lewis who not only guided me in his magnificent boat, which had enough room for me to take a run up to



cast, but also put me up for the night in his wonderful cabin at Mienna. It was a great trip indeed although the weather was a bit too perfect with Little Pine being an absolute mill-pond and the fish rising confidently three casts away from us wherever we went. If it weren't for Tim's bold decision to try and hit one on the head with a Shrek we wouldn't have trouble the scorers at all. It was a similar story on Penstock the next day with fish everywhere but few willing to come within reach and those that did proving to be totally

As you would imagine the trip was as much about fine food and wine as fine fishing! David and I both managed a season ending trout on a dry fly but Tony and Jim relied on excuses!



Anna Bellette, who fished with Brian McCullagh, posted some absolutely wonderful shots on the club's Facebook page. She reportedly had a wonderful time with Macca and even let him hold the fish she caught! The look on Macca's face at the end of the day sums up all that is wonderful about the competition.



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unimpressed with our offerings!

I also bore witness to another Fowler pairing of members Jim Jones and the redoubtable Tony Abel. I joined them at the club shack with David Travalia in the final week of the brown trout season.



## 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

<b>Winter 2012</b>	Page
Presidents Report	1
Coming Events	1
Editorial, Competition	2
Noel's Flies	2
Fly tying on the www	4
Casting Day – Salmon Ponds	4
Snowy Ranges Mid-winter Fishing Day	5
Tips and Tricks	6
Australian Fly Fishing Museum	9
Classifieds	7

Page

## Spring 2012

Presidents Report	1
Editorial	2
Casting into a Headwind – David Hemming	3
Fly tying on the WWW	4
Peck's Highland Dun – Charles Peck	4
AdVice - Tips and Tricks	6
Penstock Management Proposal – John Diggle	6
Classic Fly Gear – James Jones	7
Portable Fly Tying Kits – Doug Miller et al	8
Fly Tyers Club Bequests proposal	11
Snowy Ranges John Fowler Trophy	12
Classifieds	13

Page

## Summer 2013

Presidents Report	1
Editorial	2
Penstock Weekend 2012	3
Fly tying on the WWW	4
John Fowler Trophy – Snowy Ranges	6
AdVice - Tips and Tricks	9

12-12-12 A Date we won't see again	9
AAT Webcam Project	11

Classifieds	13
-------------	----

<b>Autumn 2013</b>	Page
Presidents Report	1
Coming Events	1
Editorial, Competition	2
Vitamin Dee	3
Fly tying on the www	4
Ad-Vice - Tips and Tricks - Boats	4
February Plains in February	5
A Pom Down Under	8
The Mt Morriston Macquarie Trip	10
Classifieds	13

<b>Winter 2013</b>	Page
Presidents Report	1
Coming Events	1
Editorial,	3
Flies for all Season	4
Ad-Vice - Tips and Tricks	9
Tiger Hut 2013	10
Fly tying on the WWW	12
Casting Day 2013	13
Classifieds	15

<b>Spring 2013</b>	
Editorial	2
If I can Draw it I can tie it Laurie Matcham	3
Fly Tying on the WWW	5
Bamboo Winter Project - Mark Rampant	6
Ad Vice Tips and Tricks	8
Kapten Boat Collar - Dave Tadd	9
Around the Corner - Malcolm Crosse	10
Andre's Flies - Doug Miller	13
Club contacts and Details	14

## Summer 2014

Vale Jim Davis	2
Editorial	4
Golden Stickies	5
Fly Tying on the WWW	7
Macquarie Trip 2013	8
Tips from the Top	9
Ad Vice Tips and Tricks	

Float Tube 101	10
Penstock Weekend	11
Club Contacts and Classifieds	

<b>Autumn 2014</b>	
Editorial	2
Queenies in Broome Casting Day 2014	3
Ad-Vice—Tips and Tricks Dee Lagoon 2014	4
Casting Championships Fly Tying on the WWW	7
Ad Vice Tips and Tricks Favourite Flies 2014	7
The Last Hurrah and New Beginnings	9
Gourmet Trangia #1 The Back Story	
Our New Facebook Page	13
Club contacts and Details and Emails	

<b>Winter 2014</b>	
President's Report	2
Editorial	4
Drogue Design – Tony Dell	5
Ad-Vice Tips and Tricks	6
Carp on the Fly – Malcolm Crosse	7
Fly Tying on the WWW	9
Fly Tyers Annual Dinner	9
Fly Kashmir – Malcolm Crosse	10
Dying Made Easy	11
Tiger Hut 2014 – A Tale of Vice	13
Annual Dinner Pics	15
Club Details	16

<b>Spring 2014</b>	
President's Report	2
Editorial	3

Christmas Island Diary 2014	4
Ad-Vice - tips and tricks	7
Macquarie River Trip 2014	9
Fly Tying on the WWW	12
Old Timers Field Weekend	13
Macquarie Trip Pics	15
Club Contact Details	15

<b>Summer 2015</b>	
President's Report	2
Editorial	3
Tying the LM Emerger	4
Ad-Vice - tips and tricks	6
A Trip to Henry's Place	6
Fly Tying on the WWW	7
Casting Session Pics	7
Five go to Halkyard	9
Club Contact Details	12

<b>Autumn 2015</b>	
President's Report	2
Editorial	3
Burbury Trip	4
Ad-Vice - tips and tricks (Ticks?)	6
Fowler Trophy – Fishing in Friendship	6
Fly Tying on the WWW	7
Penstock 2015	8
Casting Day – Salmon Ponds	9
Plastic Fantastic – buying a new boat	11

<b>Echo Weekend</b>	13
<b>Club Contact Details</b>	14

<b>Winter 2015</b>	
President's Report	2
Editorial	3
Tiger Hut 2015	4
Ad-Vice - tips and tricks	6
Great Lake Beetle – Neil Pinkard	7
Fly Tying on the WWW	9
RSL Tying Day	10
Annual Dinner – Cascade Gardens	11
Opening Weekend – Lake Crescent	12
Club Contact Details	13

<b>Spring 2015</b>	
President's Report	2
Editorial	3
Plonking for Beginners	4
AdVice Tips and Tricks	5
New Boats	6
Fly Tying on the WWW	7
Killer Bug	7
Twin Lakes Adventure	8
The Shack Working Bee	9
Activity Calendar 2015/16	10
Club Contact Details	11

<b>Summer 2016</b>	
President's Report	2
Editorial	2
Macquarie Weekend 2015	4
AdVice Tips and Tricks	5
Henry's Place	6
Fly Tying on the WWW	7
Lake Burbury Adventure	8
Lake Silver Trip 2016	10
Club Contact Details	13
Where are they now	13
Vice Index	14

<b>Autumn 2016</b>	
President's Report	2
Editorial	3
Lees Paddocks or Christies Creek	4
AdVice – Tips and Tricks	6
Redemption	6
Penstock 2016	8
Fly Tying on the WWW	9
Time for a New Dinghy	10
Casting Day 2016	12
Vice Index	14
Club Contact Details	

<b>Winter 2016</b>	<b>Page</b>
President's Report	2
Editorial	2
Tiger Hut 2016	4
Australia's Best Trout Flies Revisited	6
AdVice Tips and Tricks	6
A Season That Was	7
Champagne on Tooms	9
Fly Tying on the WWW	10
Fly Tying Day Lenah Valley RSL	10
Tasmania's Large Grey Dun	12
Vice Index	17
Club Contact Details	20

<b>Summer 2017</b>	<b>Page</b>
President's Report	2
Editorial	3
Henry's Place Revisited	4
AdVice Tips and Tricks	5
Cliff – Club Legend	6
Miena Field Trip – The Crocks!	8
Fly Tying on the WWW	8
Casting Tips with Zuie Sensei	9
New Zealand North Island	10
Talbot's Lagoon Trip	12
Vice Index	14
Club Contact Details	18

<b>Spring 2016</b>	<b>Page</b>
President's Report	2
Editorial	3
Modifying a Small Boat	4
AdVice Tips and Tricks	5
Our Newest Life Member	6
Fly Tying on the WWW	7
The New Committee Q&A	8
Fly Tyers Dinner Pics	11
Vice Index	12
For Sale	15
Club Contact Details	16
Activity Calendar 2016/17	17

<b>Autumn 2017</b>	<b>Page</b>
President's Report	2
Editorial	3
Christy's and Lunka Trip March 2017	4
AdVice Tips and Tricks	6
Fowler Fishing and Friendship	6
Fly Tying on the WWW	8
My Valentines Day – Rotorua 2017	8
Casting Day Salmon Ponds 2017	10
Wanted to Buy and Sell	12
Masters Fishing Competition	12
Vice Index	15
Club Contact Details	19

<b>Winter 2017</b>	<b>Page</b>
President's Report	2
Editorial	3
A Bamboo Tool	4
AdVice Tips and Tricks	7
Penstock Wine Appreciation Weekend	8
Fly Tying on the WWW	9
Lenah Valley RSL Fly Tying Day	9
Penstock Tips from Tim Urbanc	12
Vice Index	15
Club Contact Details	18

<b>Spring 2017</b>	<b>Page</b>
President's Report	2
Editorial	3
Four Springs	4
AdVice Tips and Tricks	5
Tim's Great Start	6
Fly Tying on the WWW	7
Great Lake Tie In 2017	8
A Dam Fine Weekend	9
Vice Index	12
Club Contact Details	17

<b>Summer 2018</b>	<b>Page</b>
President's Report	2
Editorial	2
Lake Fergus Weekend	3
AdVice Tips and Tricks	4
Lees Paddocks	5

Fly Tying on the WWW	6
Unwelcome Guests	8
Penstock Weekend 2018	9
Vice Index	12
Club Contact Details	16

<b>Autumn 2018</b>	<b>Page</b>
President's Report	2
Editorial	2
Casting Day 2018	3
Fly Tying on the WWW	5
Lunkas from Lake Lunka	6
AdVice Tips and Tricks	10
Once Bitten Twice Shy	11
Vice Index	14
Club Contact Details	19

<b>Winter 2018</b>	<b>Page</b>
President's Report	2
Editorial	2
Tiger Hut 2018	4
Fly Tying on the WWW	5
RSL Tying Day – The Flies	6
AdVice Tips and Tricks	8
Lake Sorell perhaps...	9
Vice Index	12
Club Contact Details	17

<b>Spring 2018</b>	<b>Page</b>
President's Report	2
Editorial	2
Farm Dams Weekend	3
Fly Tying on the WWW	5
Third Time Lucky	6
AdVice Tips and Tricks	9
How Much Wood...	10
Vice Index	11
Club Contact Details	16

<b>Summer 2019</b>	<b>Page</b>
President's Report	2
Editorial	2
Why Malbena Matters to Me	4
Fly Tying on the WWW	10
Penstock Weekend 2019	16
AdVice Tips and Tricks	18
Vice Index	19
Club Contact Details	25

## 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>