



# The Vice



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

Volume 15 , Issue 11 Autumn 2020

Inside: Western Lakes Walk, Commonwealth Champs, Zoomers, Tying tips *and much more...*

*Cover Shot – Penstock Webcam Covid19 Closure  
Where trout gorge on Jassids in total safety!*

## President's Report

Well so much has changed since my last report. The emergence of the Corona Virus has changed the way the club now functions beyond recognition. We have canceled many Club activities including the Salmon Pond's Casting Day and the Tiger Hut Fly Tying Sessions. The Committee has closed both the Club shacks until (hopefully) the 15<sup>th</sup> of June. I don't think any of us could have predicted these changes early in the year!

The Club has transferred many activities to the digital world in no small part with the help of Steve Butler and Tim Lewis. Both Committee and General Meetings are now on Zoom with the April meeting getting 40 members online. There is a regular Thursday night fly tying session with guests. So far, we have had Craig Granquist and Brent Bowerman tying bream flies, Paul Markey doing a shrimp pattern, Delly with a rabbit fur Mud eye, Norm Cribbin with a Mud eye and a Tyenna dry fly and Laurie Matcham showing us a Jassid beetle and an amazing Stonefly. Steve Butler also added an international flavour by inviting Steve Dally to tie from America at 0400 local time! The club sends every member an email describing these sessions so please join in.

For those who missed the live show there is a link on the Club webpage to the short video clips. If you go to the 'Activities' banner, then click on 'Zoom Presentations'. There were the usual intelligent questions to the guest tyers and much friendly banter amongst the viewers. I learned several good tips about finishing off chenille bodies and how to get the perfect Jassid body profile in red wool. The best quote from Smithy to Laurie about his Stonefly pattern was "It looks like that thing just crawled up your vice and sat on it!"

The Committee continues to work hard planning out Post Corona Recovery Plan, including having a casting day in the off season to replace Salmon Ponds and re-scheduling the annual dinner. As mentioned, the Club shacks are closed until 15<sup>th</sup> June and we encourage you to social distance when utilising them. The Fowler Trophy close date has been extended until the September 21<sup>st</sup> General Meeting.

Fishing reports have been few and far between with some members taking on the Derwent River. Steve B has put up some footage of a bream capture on the club Zoom space. I think there are plans for a Derwent Fly fishing Day and we will keep you posted.

I encourage you to maintain your social networks in fly-fishing via the available technology and drop each other a line when you can. As the isolation restrictions ease up please engage in our club activities so we will be ready for next trout season.

Tight Lines

**Andrew Reed**



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!**

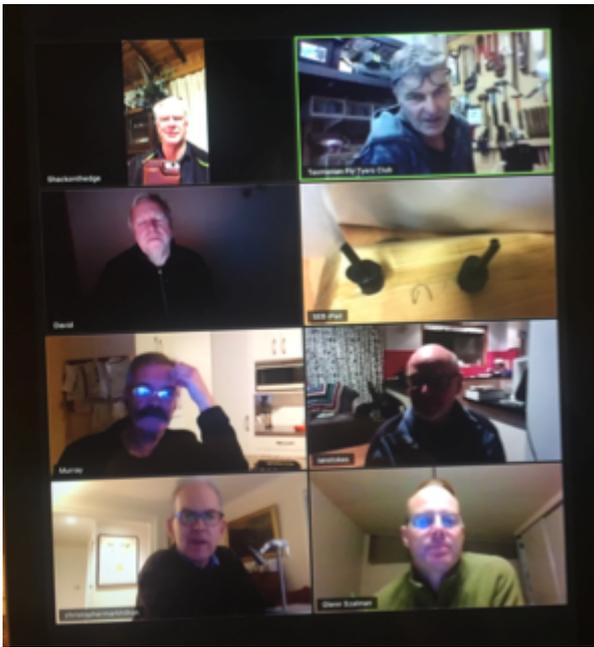
***This time the winners are Chris Berndt for his Western Lakes report and Tim Urbanc for his piece on his Diary and the successful flies he used.***

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

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## Editorial

This issue has some great articles and heralds the ramping up of the Clubs online presence. The trout fishing is essentially over for the season and the global pandemic has ensured that everyone is staying put.



What better time to investigate the online possibilities for fly tying whilst we wait for things to come back to something approaching normal. We have so many brilliant fly tyers that are ready and willing to share their ideas, tips skills and patterns and the 'Zoom' meetings that have begun are not only a great thing to look forward to each week but have the potential to create a library of online resources for us and others to share. Well done to Steve Butler (pictured) and Tim Lewis for their brilliant efforts!



To remind us of better times there is a great report from Chris Berndt who went on the Western Lakes walk before everything went pear shape. It seemed like a great trip and most of them avoided ordinary weather!

Tim Urbanc has been generous to share with us the flies he used to catch a staggering number of fish this season. He has kept a diary for many years now and it is fascinating to get a glimpse of his successes in this season. - I kept one for the first 2 years that I fished but, as I only caught about 3 fish in total it was a bit futile and not overly useful!

*(If there are any other members who keep a diary I would love to see how you go about it, how you set it out and the things you record for a possible future article.)*

Anna, Malcolm and Chris have prepared a great account of their involvement successes at the recent Commonwealth Championships held at Taupo in New Zealand. They really did themselves and the country proud and are to be congratulated on their efforts. Well done to Jason Garrett Jr too for his leadership as captain the men's team.

Also congratulations to Malcolm and Kaylene Crosse who have been awarded Life membership of the CFFA. Your energy, commitment and drive is astounding!

Lets hope the new season starts well and that things get better!

DM



*Doctor Chris and Denis contemplate a beautiful river near Sheffield - pre lockdown of course!*

## Taupo 2020 New Zealand

### Commonwealth Fly Fishing Championships

The Commonwealth fly fishing championships were held in New Zealand's North Island based in Taupo 17<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

Club members who participated in one way or another included Malcolm Crosse, Jason Garrett Jr, Glenn Eggleton, Chris Medwin, Wayne Bellette and myself. Malcolm putting his hand up once again as International organiser, Jason as the Coach for the Australian men's team, Chris and myself participating in the Commonwealths and Glenn assisting Tom Jarman (coach for the Australian ladies team). Malcolm, Chris and I have written some words, on reflection of our trip.



Australian men's and ladies team at opening ceremony at Wairakei Resort Hotel



### Malcolm Crosse

With the announcement in Northern Ireland in 2018 of the next Commonwealth Fly Fishing Championships to be held in New Zealand in the Autumn of 2020 a great deal of excitement was generated and many of the Northern Hemisphere countries were keen to travel the long distances to compete.

For a number of reasons, the initial arrangements for the event stalled and at one stage the event looked like being moved to Scotland

Following on from phone calls from the CFFA board I volunteered my services to help with the committee from Sport Fly Fish New Zealand [www.flyfishing.org.nz](http://www.flyfishing.org.nz) to take a fresh look at arranging the event in the "Land of the long white cloud." Apart from a tentative booking with the Wairakei resort [www.wairakei.co.nz](http://www.wairakei.co.nz) nothing much else was in place and with the help of Gareth Godfrey (President SFNZ), Lloyd Struthers, Johannes Krill Peter Scott and Doug Snell a sub committee was formed.

After much discussion the five angling sectors were arrived at the attached Group to Sector rotation details them. The usual food and transport arrangements also were put in place.

The actual fishing was over 2.5 days and with five sessions to be fished made for long days of travelling and angling. For future CFFC I would suggest that the event be spread over 5 days making for a much more relaxed event.

One of the big surprises was the inclusion of the Tongariro River, which was not a popular choice by some of the locals as it is not fished by many of the locals at this time. This river proved to be a great choice and enjoyed by all.

The usual arrangements for the opening and closing ceremonies needed to be sorted and with the event it followed that there would be a Maori welcome also the local Maori group were involved in the many of the permits required for us to run the event. Some of the others being New Zealand Fish and Game New Zealand department of conservation, Lake Rotoaira Trust, New Zealand power authorities.

Most of the permits and permissions being ably sorted by Paul Dewar who came on board as the Operations director.

Unfortunately, I had to return back to Tasmania before the teams all booked into the resort into, however with most of the plans in place the show went ahead as planned. With the intervention of the Corona virus some changes had to be made and the event was able to be concluded with some changes. Like only six people to a dining table at the closing dinner etc.

My thanks go to all the teams, controllers, sector judges and the rest of the support staff. Without them it would have been a struggle.

In closing it was indeed an honour for both Kaylene and I to be awarded Life membership of the CFFA.

## Chris Medwin



I write this from the comfort of my quarantine shack, a small 14 day price to pay, for representing Australia at the Commonwealth Fly fishing championship in New Zealand. Having plenty of time to reflect on the weeks practice and competition, and forensically dissect my poorer sessions, I find my fondest memories are hanging out as a team, which I find interesting as fly fishing is quite often a solitary sport.

Being involved in a team, does offer plenty of opportunity to share different techniques and learn all sorts of skills from others. With the main reason I fish competitions is to learn, as you're at the forefront of the latest techniques, flies, gear etc. While going away as a team encourages the sharing of information, like leader setups, types of knots tied, swapping of flies, fishing techniques and tips n tricks. Each tip and technique can become an extra fish during a session.

During the competition we fished five different venues with a 3hr sessions on each. My first session was on Lake Kuratua where I caught 23 fish and finished 1st in my group for that session. I've put together a write up of this session. For my second session I was on the other lake, Rotoaria. The session started well, then the fish seemed to slow, I caught 3 fish to finish 7th, while my boat partner caught 7 and won the session. On Day 2 I fished the Tongariro in the morning, and felt I fished the session poorly, my beat contained good water, but nothing like I'd ever

fished before, very fast and deep, so I didn't feel completely confident, only catching 4 fish I was lucky to finish 4th in that session.

That afternoon I was off to the Whanganui river for my fourth session. I felt much more comfortable on the Whanganui and found fish on the opposite side of the river in the deep slower moving water around boulders. There were some cracking fish amongst the 13 I recorded and they put me into 1st for that session.

Prior to our final session on the last day, we spoke about leaving nothing out there and to bring it home as a team. If we needed extra inspiration that was it, as the whole team fished extremely well, making up lots of team points to finish second overall for the teams event. It was during my last session on the Whakapapa I caught my PB for the trip - a 620mm rainbow around 8lb. Adding to my total of 13, I won the last group session and finished the competition off in the Bronze position individually.

Teams are made up of many people and a big thanks must go to Jason Garret jr as captain, and Paul Simmonds as manager. Both worked hard to get us into medal winning contention, through organising everything, making our meals, driving us all over the country for practice, and helping us best prepare for the competition.

Also if you haven't already fished the North Island New Zealand, do yourself a favour and go, lots of beautiful fish amongst an amazing setting.

**Chris Medwin**



## Anna Bellette

Both the Australian men's team and ladies team were to meet at the Tongariro Hotel in Turangi for a week long training before the Commonwealths were to begin on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Low rain falls over a long period of time caused the rivers to be lower than normal and warmer so the Tongariro river was added to the sector list. The sectors were, Lake Kuratau, Lake Rotoaira, Whakappa River, Whanganui River and the Tongariro river.

The first ever Australian Ladies team consisted of Karen Brooks TAS, Jane Forster NSW, Kerry Milligan ACT, Mirrian Miller VIC, Casey Pfeiffer SA and myself as reserve. Tom Jarman coach and Jane Vincent as manager.

Training began on the Tongariro river, the men's team heading to their destination and the ladies headed to the Lower Tongariro. Only the upper section near Blue Pool and the lower section about 900 meters below the Turangi/Taupo bridge was allocated for training. On arrival we noticed fish rising immediately and constantly sipping away. We quickly discovered the Lacewing moth were the cause of the continual rises that we witnessed the entire time we were there. The locals saying it was unusual, and the low dry spell was the cause. The Lacewing moth were also referred to as the Passion vine hopper. They did cause much frustration for me, I tried a variety of methods to catch them, fast flowing water causing my dries to drag until I finally had success swinging with an intermediate line. I used a pink or orange tag on the point and a spider pattern on top dropper. Only two flies are allowed to be used at one time on the Tongariro waters but during the competition we could use three. Two seemed to work swinging, once a fish took, they hit the fly hard.

We spent a day with Steve Brown on the Whanganui River where he taught us the art of swinging flies, tactics and techniques. A very effective method to use during a comp and targeting the smaller fish, we all quickly picked up fish. It is a technique I used through out training and in the comp, and used it with my Czech nymphing rig and the end of a drift.

Tom pushing us to challenge ourselves each and every day, it was so good to have him as our mentor. We bonded as a team during training and were ready to go, it was now time to head to Wairakei Resort at Taupo for the commencement of the fly fishing championships.

As the reserve my job was to help the team during the championships, checking out other beats, watching anglers fish and tying flies that the ladies needed. Flies were tied by Tom and Glenn Eggleton provided most of the river flies for each session on the Lakes. I found watch the girls fish their beats right along side our coach was an incredible experience in itself. Watching

and listening to how Tom coached these ladies to produce their best was amazing.

Session three, and it was my turn to fish on the Tongariro river. My heart was pounding but I was ready. I tied over 500 flies before I left Tassie, and during training had my favourites that I knew that would work...I knew I was ready.

My beat was in the lower section, not a long beat but wide with an island dividing the section. It had long fast water, deep runs and shallow water. Opting to start at the bottom and head up towards the top of the beat was my plan. Some sections were too fast to wade but I gave it a shot. I managed to get two fish half way through my session on dries, and missed a couple on the swing in the rougher water. One of my fish measures quite long so this put me in seventh place for this session.

I fished again in session five on the Whakapapa, the last session and my immediate thoughts were fifth session the water would be hammered. It was a morning session and I was up well before 5am and ready to go to catch the 6am bus to meet my controller. He drove me to the river and showed me my beat, which was much longer than the Tongariro section I fished the day before, plus he let me know the water hadn't been fished on the fourth session so I knew the water was rested.

I managed to get 14 fish in the lower section and only 4 measured. The legal limit was 20cm and my heart sank when the controller told me each time that the fish was not long enough. I did begin my session using a dry dropper, and managed to pick up fish right away on the size 18 pheasant tail nymph with a nickel tungsten bead. Boosting my confidence, I continued to hook fish and continued to use the nickel bead on both my dry dropper and Czech nymphing rig. Some did take the dry but I missed a couple because I had to strike quickly with the nymph and much slower on the dry. I managed to place Seventh on this last session. The Australian ladies team came 8<sup>th</sup> overall. I would have to say this has been an incredible experience, it was great being part of an amazing team and I have learnt so much. My next trip to New Zealand's North Island will be one I am looking forward to and will be heading out fishing with a whole new set of skills.

I have attached the link for the Commonwealth Fly Fishing Championships, it has final team results.

<https://commonwealthflyfish2020.co.nz/>



First ever Australian Ladies team.



Training day.



Training on the Tongariro. Double hook up with Tom Jarman.



Final look at the Tongariro before heading to Wairakei Resort Hotel.



Training day - Tongariro



## 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.*



I hadn't heard about much about 'Zoom' when the last *Vice* came but in the space of a few months things have certainly changed! The Covid19 restrictions have seen our monthly meetings go online and members have managed to log in and participate from the comfort of their homes.

This has developed into fly tying evenings – currently held each Thursday from 7.30 until it comes to a natural close! Many members of the club have been retreating to 'Zoom Rooms', pouring themselves a nice drink and settling in to take part in some brilliant virtual fly tying sessions.

In my opinion our club is blessed with some of the best fly tyers in Australia, if not the world. We have seen some brilliant fly tyers such as Brent Bowerman, Tony Dell, Norm Cribben, Paul Markey, Craig Granquist and Laurie Matcham. There has even been an international flavour with ex-pat and now international celebrity Steve Dally all the way from the Ozarks! The tying has been of an exceptional standard and it is a great way to learn and share skills and ideas.

Steve Butler and Tim Lewis have done a brilliant job setting up our Club Zoom account, organising and running these meetings and even editing and uploading some of the tying tips to YouTube.

YouTube links so far are listed below and I would recommend clicking the subscribe button to keep up to date. Steve has done a great job filming extra session, particularly the Laurie Matcham's Stonefly

and Jassid patterns, which are a remarkable piece of fly tying!

### YouTube links so far:

Laurie's Stonefly

<https://youtu.be/KL61P8eDuCl>

Laurie's Jassid

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdncPIOMRtQ&list=PLSS636L\\_qekF--zHfeC3Oxd0k6gZzPyo-&index=2&t=0s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdncPIOMRtQ&list=PLSS636L_qekF--zHfeC3Oxd0k6gZzPyo-&index=2&t=0s)

Norm Cribben's Mud eye and Tyenna special

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSS636L\\_qekFx-VRb4wsQCyfUICYrWUgd](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSS636L_qekFx-VRb4wsQCyfUICYrWUgd)

Steve Dally – Big Flies

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSS636L\\_qekEoiJqLx1jdl-OC5uVfykKv](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSS636L_qekEoiJqLx1jdl-OC5uVfykKv)

An example of a full Zoom session

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSS636L\\_qekF--zHfeC3Oxd0k6gZzPyo-](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSS636L_qekF--zHfeC3Oxd0k6gZzPyo-)

It is very simple to join in on these meetings – simply click on the links that are circulated weekly, grab a refreshment and tune in!

Again, many thanks to Tim Lewis and Steve Butler (pictured) for coordinating this venture!



### Editors note:

*Steve has many hidden talents and the use of a sewing machine to create wonderful costumes is just one of them. I'm sure he has other talents that would best remain hidden too!*

DM

## Western Lakes Trip 2020

Weather was to be the key planning consideration for this year's club walk into the Central Plateau Conservation Area. Six eager participants David Young, Pete Murphy, Pete Langton, Andrew Blackwood, Bruce Barker and myself were to meet on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> of March for a three-day fishing adventure around the Christies Creek area. We naturally sought leadership and guidance from the most experienced member of the group David Young, who did not disappoint.

A number of us met at Miena Hotel for a hearty meal Sunday night and then back to David's shack for a few wines and a coaching session from Ian Stokes to prepare us for the many challenges we would face over the next few days.

Monday morning saw Andrew arrive from Hobart and we set off picking up Bruce on the way. Pete Murphy had offered to drive the packs to the end of the four-wheel drive track past Ada Lagoon which he did, demonstrating his mastery of four-wheel driving, just another one of his many finely honed skills.

Base camp was to be set up overlooking a small unnamed body of water on the Eastern side of Christy's Lagoon, which we reached by mid afternoon to see Duns on the water and a good sized rising fish taunting us, one and a half casts from the shore. An afternoon adventure was had trying to spot fish in Christy's Lagoon without success.

Our meticulous planning around the weather now came to the fore with the overnight temperature plunging to 2C and even the experienced camper Andrew was heard to comment, 'I was only just warm enough last night'.

Tuesday, our first full day of serious fishing, saw groups eager to achieve.



David giving preamble before setting off.

Some discussion took place mainly about how to solve some serious world issues and then we headed off to explore the surrounds. During this exploration Pete M caught a good fish out of the first Christy's creek lake only a stones throw from base camp in an easterly direction and then went onto Terry Tarn and landed what was to become the fish of the trip an 8lb brown in excellent condition. Other outcomes of the day included Pete L landing a good sized fish at the same lake as Pete M, David spotting a good sized fish in Lake Y, Andrew spotting fish in Christy's Lagoon and I spotted a good sized brown about a kilometre up Christy's creek towards Lunka Lake. All fish were caught using black spinners or at least similar. Wednesday, saw Pete M and myself fish the western shore of Ada Lagoon, seeing several fish but unable to get them to show any interest in our impeccably tied dry's. The remainder of the group revisited Terry Tarn without success then visited Theresa Lagoon where Bruce picked up a good 3lb fish that was reportedly in excellent condition. Feedback suggests, to fish Theresa well, a float tube would be handy.



The camera broke after taking this photo which suggested to me the club would benefit by having a more robust camera than mine which could be shared around to encourage more reporting back. The last day produced rain and a wet pack up.



These trips, which are so capably organised, are challenging but rewarding when you get to mix with great company and get to see the Tasmanian wilderness in all its glory.

**Chris Berndt**

## 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.*

Bobbin holder 101



I have a special bobbin holder for my rotary vice. Its purpose is to hold the bobbin whilst I'm using the rotary function to wrap hackles and so on. It works really well

but I find it a bit of a nuisance when I'm wrapping hackles and dubbing in the normal manner. The wire frame keeps getting in the way! I know that I should simply swing it out of the way like any normal person would but it still annoys me and as a result I tend to remove it entirely which means that I rarely use the rotary function.

I saw an alternative on the Norvise set up where the bobbin cradle is on a separate post. Now I don't have a Norvise (or the funds to buy one) so I got creative and made a simple moveable bobbin cradle that sits in the corner of my bench and is really easily moved out and back as required.



All it is is a simple base with a round dowel stuck (clumsily) in the middle. It works really well and I am now more likely to use the rotary function, which helps in accurate wraps, particularly with delicate hackles!

Give it a try!

**DM**

## Tim Urbanc's Season Summary

Tim's 2019/20 Diary:

### Opening day thru till Oct 24<sup>th</sup>

16 Trips for 29 days for 414 Trout, 333 Browns and 81 Rainbows

Of the 29 days 4 were only 4 hours or less.

392 caught at Penstock;

8 at Woods (one trip);

12 at Little pine ( 1.25 days)

All these fish caught loch style from boat and flies used were:

- Magoo,
- Magoo with orange butt #14,
- Red beaded Shrek,
- Black woolly bugger with Orange butt
- Red beaded Black and Peacock woolly bugger,
- Brown Magoo with orange bead,
- Damsel pattern #14



Magoo #12 and Magoo with orange butt #14 were the stand out flies.

On nine days 20 or more trout were caught, the best was 40 in a day, which was a personal best! There were two days with a catch of 40.

### November 3 thru till April 1.

This was the best part of the season, with Mayfly hatches and rising fish. I spent a total of 38 days on the water.

Caught 181 Trout on dry flies/ emerger patterns

Caught 54 trout on #14 nymphs

Penstock – 166 fish, (119 Browns, 47 Rainbows)

Little Pine - 24 Browns

London Lakes 50 fish, (29 Browns and 21 Rainbows ).

Largest fish was a 7lb rainbow caught on an emerger at Lake Samuel.

Of the fish caught 24 were 5lbs or better, all on dries / emerger patterns, and all these were caught at

London Lakes, (Samuel).

My best days results on dry fly were 19 and 18 trout, both on Penstock. But some days were tough. We had a few days where I had as many as 20 to 30 takes on the dry but only managed to hook and land 3 or 4. Another day I was fishing with Doug Mosenthal and his son Ronan, the fish were up feeding all day long, and both Doug and myself only managed two or three takes, and ended up with a blank each, whilst Ronan, whom we were teaching, hooked and lost one and caught another. Doug and I had not felt the weight of a fish that day.

Another trip fishing with Laurie Matcham we had a couple of days where we were catching the larger residents of Penstock, (fish between the 4-5lb mark), only managing 2, 3 or 4 fish per day, and breaking several others off, actually, I think the fish broke us off! But every fish we saw that couple of days were the waters larger specimens. Several others were dropped as well.

Then to top things off the Jassids appeared and what a seasons end we were looking forward to! That's when that Covid 19 showed up!

Bugger!!!

And Bugger again!!



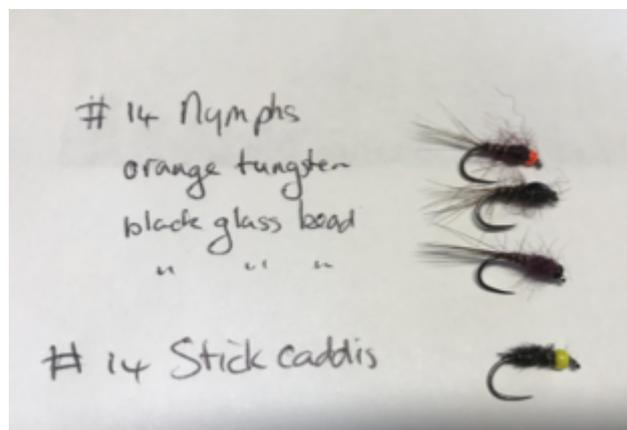
Dry flies /emergers used:

- # 12 Brown para dun
- # 12 Brown emerger nymph



Nymphs used:

- #14 black nymph with 2 mm orange tungsten bead
- # 14 claret nymph 2 mm orange bead
- #14 Dark brown nymph with 1.8mm black glass bead
- # 14 /12 stick caddis (peacock herl with 1.8mm solid yellow glass bead
- # 14 claret nymph with black glass bead 1.8 mm



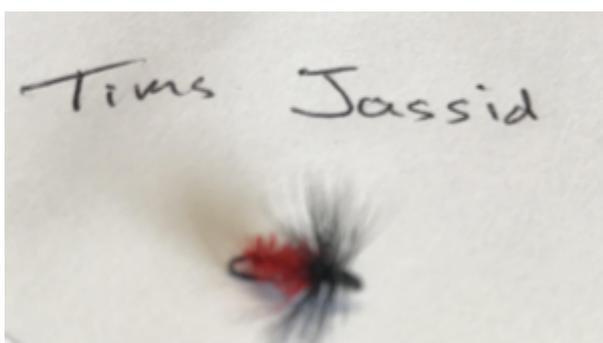
# 14 Tim's Orange spinner

- #14 Claret dun
- # 14 Claret emerger
- # 14 Grey dun (Brent Bowerman)
- # 14 Claret loop wing emerger nymph

Tim Urbanc



#14 /16 Tim's Jassid



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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

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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>