



# The Vice



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

**Volume 14 , Issue 3 Spring 2017**

**Inside: Four Springs, Miena Tie In, Tim's Great Start, A Dam Fine Weekend *and much more...***

*Cover shot – Bryn Carman in the heat of battle*

## President's Report

The first real signs of summer this week herald the passing of a winter of fly-tying and introspection and the beginning of another active fishing season.

The Annual Dinner highlighted our late winter activities at the end of July. This was a successful and very enjoyable event, again, largely due to the great contributions made by Grace and Laurie Matcham. Thanks are also due to several other members who helped organize the raffle and other activities on the night. A real feature was the excellent presentation on fishing photography by Brad Harris.

The Club AGM in August saw the installation of a new Committee, albeit with most members being re-elected from last year. The only new member is Wayne Bellette, possibly making it the first time that a husband and wife have both served on the committee at the same time. Andrew Read has stepped up to the Vice-president's role, and has already filled in in my absence from the September general meeting as well as enthusiastically taking on the job of activities coordination.

Already we have a full and interesting calendar of fishing events for the coming season. Two northern trips to Four Springs for some early action on the dry fly and the upcoming Talbots Lagoon trip which offers similar opportunities, although not expecting great attendance due to the travel required, promise excellent fishing and enhanced contact with northern clubs.

The Bothwell Farm Dams weekend in mid November was fully subscribed and was once again a really great event with some truly magnificent fish caught. Many thanks to Henry Edgell for making this activity possible.

Looking further ahead, the Lake Fergus weekend provides a rare opportunity to visit this iconic and difficult-to-access water, while Noel Wilson's Miena week will allow attendees of mature years to fish in a gentlemanly and dignified manner befitting their status.

Unhappily, since our last Vice, Ray Longden has died. Ray was the last surviving foundation member of our club, so his passing is a particularly sad and significant loss. Many now senior members, who would have been relative "new boys" in Ray's hey-day, undoubtedly have many happy and amusing memories of him.

However, time moves on and we are at the beginning of a new season, so tight-lines and happy and safe fishing to all!

Andrew Hood

Inside this Issue	Page
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

## Editorial

After a wonderful trip away in our slide-on camper to the wilds of far north Queensland to avoid the Tassie winter it has been good to get back home and get stuck in to the new season.

I was sensible enough to take Tim Urbanc's advice from the last issue to heart and fished both Penstock and Woods with DI3 and DI5 Sweep lines teamed with a combination of Shreks, Magoos and Humungous with some unusual success for me. My highlight would have to be the double hookup at Woods where I managed to catch and land both fish! I thought it was appropriate to repeat Tim's advice for the next few months as well.

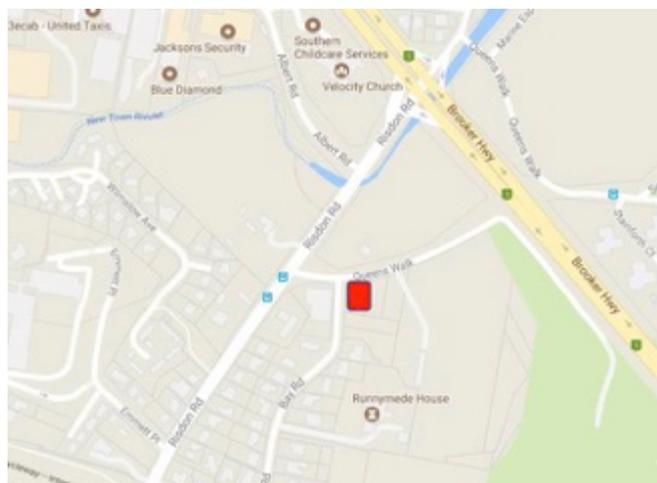
The trip to Four Springs was a great one and it was actually quite wonderful to cast to rising fish with a dry fly for a welcome change to the successful but mechanical wet fly tactics that were necessary in the highlands. Four Springs is well worth a visit before Christmas.

The Great Lake Tie In was another big event with many club members putting in time and effort to ensure that it was a success. If you didn't manage to get there, consider putting it into your calendar for next year as it is definitely on an upwards trajectory and will only get bigger and better each year. If you want to get involved just speak to Anna Bellette and she will certainly help you!

One of the great things about going to the Club Shack is that you get to spend the evening with other members and can seek out advice that is immediately useful. We are fortunate to have not only some of the best fly tyers in Australia but also some of the most talented fishers in the world so take the time to chat and if you listen then your fishing will improve dramatically!

The Farm Dams weekend at Henry's place was again a brilliant event and is the main reason that this publication is coming out a couple of weeks later than usual. It was a great event and the opportunity to catch fish over 10lbs in amazing landscapes is certainly not to be missed. If you didn't manage to get there have a look at the photos and try and get there next time.

Finally, if you are free on a Wednesday night remember that Wayne Bellette and others are running casting practice sessions at the Friends Oval Queens Walk Newtown.



If you want to attend give Wayne a call on [0418138672](tel:0418138672)

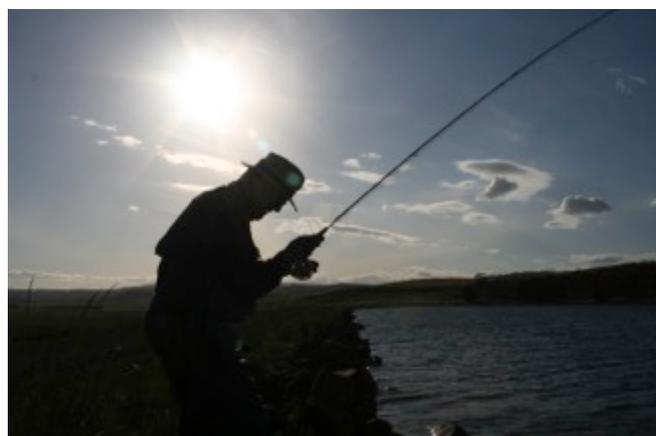
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The boys at Spot On fishing tackle have kindly provided the Club with 4 vouchers to the value of **\$30** each for this year's **competition**. I'm sure everyone will join with me in thanking the lads for this kind support, and continue to patronise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

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

**Have a go**  
**Simply send your entry to Doug Miller**  
[55dmiller@gmail.com](mailto:55dmiller@gmail.com)



## Four Springs Weekend



Four Springs Lake was constructed in the 1990s when four creeks were dammed. It is located about 20km north of Hagley on the C735. The drive in through the lush farming country is quite wonderful! The lake itself is open to all types of fishing but is only open an hour before daylight until an hour after dark. No camping is permitted. You can see what is going on there by checking out Malcolm Crosse's wonderful web-cams at <http://anglersalliance.org.au/web-cams/four-springs-webcam/>



The trip was organised by our beloved Treasurer Andrew Blackwood for the middle weekend of October. We stayed at the Caravan Park in Hadspen, which was an easy 30-minute drive from the lake. The accommodation was adequate and comfortable



enough. The bonus was that the park was right next to an IGA, Newsagent and Bottle Shop!

Andrew and David Young fished on the Thursday afternoon with 4 fish coming to hand all on the dry. I didn't catch any in the couple of hours I tried but I saw enough fish to make the next couple of days quite promising!



I fished with David on the Friday and it was a great day. It was quite sunny but whenever the clouds came over the fish started to rise. It was such a fantastic change to actually see fish rising instead of the blind casting with sinking lines that was the only way to catch fish in the highlands during the early parts of the season. The fish we caught were both Rainbows and Browns and were in fantastic condition. They were mostly around the 3-4lb mark and beautifully coloured. For me they all took a floating Stokesy's Nymph, which matched the colour of the duns quite remarkably. We managed 10 between us and it was a great day! Chris Berndt arrived on Friday evening and fished with me on the Saturday whilst David and Andrew were again a formidable team. Chris and I got some great fish, again on the dry and the floating nymph. The floating Claret Dabbler made a great bob fly as well. Chris and I managed another 10 fish all of similar size to the day before as well as a number of break-offs and follows that made the sight fishing even more exciting.



We had a great meal at the Carrick Pub on Saturday night and talked away until the efforts of the day made sleep a great option. The Sunday was cloudless and bright so I decided to head home early and Chris and David headed off to try their luck on some of the streams.



The Four Springs Lake is a great early season fishery where you can find fish rising to duns long before they start 'looking up' in the highlands. I will certainly go back again next year... maybe even next week!

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### Ad-Vice 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.*

#### **101 7 Ways to Improve your Fishing**

These tips were gleaned over the space of a few nights at the Miena Shack and come courtesy of red wine, late nights and a combination of the likes of Macca, Delly, Tim and Jason Junior. Ignore them at your peril!

Ghost Tips – You need to get yourself a 15 foot Ghost Tip fly line. The other ones with the shorter 5 and 10 foot tips don't work as well. (I bought one on EBay as I couldn't get one through our local shops here or in Launceston)

Wash and stretch your fly lines regularly which keeps them in top condition and allows them to flow more smoothly.

Get rid of your middle dropper when using multiple flies. This makes it easier to control in the wind and

doesn't reduce your catch rate too much. It is also a good thing to do if it is really sunny!

Always hang your flies after each cast with your rod held at 10 o'clock to give any fish that are following your flies a chance to hook up. Hold the flies there and then strip long and slow.

Avoid tangles and birds nests in your line by not having too much line stripped off your reel. It is often good to have the line 'snap' a bit on your reel at the end of the cast – particularly when wet fly fishing.



Take time to get your Drogue set square and the boat tracking properly. It will take a bit of time but it is worth it.



Don't drive your boat through water you want to fish. It sounds obvious but sometimes-even Editors forget this basic rule!

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## Tim's Terrific Start



The Cricket season of 1927/28 saw Australian legend Bill Ponsford score over 1200 runs in the space of a month, including a score of 457 against Tasmania. If it wasn't for the arrival of a young batsman called Don Bradman, Bill Ponsford would have been one of Australia's first superstars.

Although not yet renowned for his cricketing prowess this year, club member and fly-fishing gun Tim Urbanc has had a similar start to the season. At the time of writing Tim has caught well over 430 fish in the opening two months of the season!

Tim and his 'junior apprentice' Laurie Matcham have terrorised the fish in Penstock and Woods with regular daily catches in the high 40s. When told to go and see how other lakes were performing he did similarly well in both Bronte and Little Pine!

I featured an article on the flies Tim uses in the last edition of the Vice and I am pleased to say that he followed his own advice and simply used a combination of 3 flies – Shrek, Magoo and a Humungous. The technique was to basically change the order of these flies until they caught fish! There were some variations in colour of beads with red and copper being the top two. He would also take off the middle dropper, which made casting in the wind a lot easier. It was important to make sure that there was at least 1.5 to 2 metres between the top fly and the point.

As this goes out at the end of spring it is probably worth revisiting the tips for November, December and early summer in general. The water will be warming

and the fish starting to 'look up' more and become a little more selective. Huge catches may not be as common.

Things start warming up so use smaller flies. They also start moving higher in the water column.

Top: Stick caddis

Middle: Black or brown nymph

Point: Woolly bugger, Shrek etc. – I tie these still reasonably large but slimmer.

I would be starting to experiment with intermediate, ghost tips or even floating lines as the fish are starting to work higher in the water column.

### December, January and February

Fish are starting to rise to emergers and dries. If they are showing it is best to fish a team of nymphs and small woolly worms.

Top: small nymph like Becks Crystal nymph

Middle: lightly weighted nymph

Point: Tungsten beaded nymph or woolly bugger

This is usually fished on a floating line and fished slowly with short strips.



February tends to be one of the toughest months, as fish seem to be feeding on really small things so you need to downsize to size 14 and 16 nymphs.

If fish are rising of course look to match the hatch in terms of size. Don't go bigger than what is on the water though!



## 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.

### Fly Tying Bead Sizing

Fly Tying Beads are sized either in Millimeters or Inches. The right sized bead makes the fly perfectly proportional and easily fits around the bend of the hook. Below is a guide to choosing the right bead size. This guide is a general guide. Bead size can vary depending on the style of hook. Some curved hooks are more difficult to get a bead around the bend. You have to sometimes de-barb the hook in order for the bead to clear the bend. Fly Tying Beads fit a range of hooks. If you are not really sure of the style of hook and the bead, choose the bead that has the hook size right in the middle of the range. For example for a size 18 hook, a 5/64" bead has a range from 16, 18 or 20. #18 is right in the middle and a 5/64" bead is perfect for all size 18 hooks.



All Metal Beads have two different sized holes in the bead. The smaller hole is made to go against the eye of the hook. The larger hole faces backwards and lead wire can be wrapped around the hook and slid into this space. The larger space on the back of the bead aids in sliding the bead around the shank of the hook and makes it easier to put on. This is called counter sinking.

#### Fly Tying Bead Head Sizing Chart

1/16" or 1.5MM – Hook Sizes 20-24  
5/64" or 2.0MM – Hook Sizes 16-20  
3/32" or 2.4MM – Hook Sizes 14-18  
7/64" or 2.8MM – Hook Sizes 12-16  
1/8" or 3.2MM – Hook Sizes 10-14  
5/32" or 4.0MM – Hook Sizes 8-12  
3/16" or 4.5MM – Hook Sizes 6-10  
1/4" or 5MM – Hook Sizes 4-8

### Brass Beads



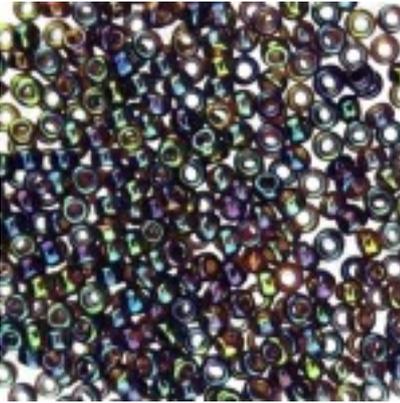
Brass Beads are the most common type of beads used for fly tying. Brass Beads are inexpensive, metal style beads. Brass Beads usually come in several different colors both plated and painted. The most common are Gold, Silver, Black and Copper. Brass Beads have been the standard for many years and add a little bit of weight and flash to the fly. This is the style of bead that is used on most flies.

### Tungsten Beads



Tungsten Beads are similar to brass beads in their appearance. In fact, they look exactly the same. The only difference is that Tungsten Beads are much heavier than brass beads, almost 3 times heavier (depending on the brand). This means less weight has to be used on the leader or tippet, giving the fly a much more natural drift and presentation. Tungsten is non-toxic, harder and much denser than brass beads. Tungsten is also much more expensive, that is the only down side to Tungsten Beads.

## Glass Beads



Glass Beads are great for midges and small flies. Glass Beads are available in TONS of colors. The most common used color is Clear. Clear Glass Beads imitate a air bubble on a fly and are often used on mayfly and midge emergers. The other great thing about glass beads is that they are very small. Glass Beads are the best beads for flies size 20 and smaller. Glass Beads are inexpensive and are available in hundreds of colors.

## Faceted Beads



Faceted Beads are available in both Brass and Tungsten. Faceted Beads are not completely round, they have flat faceted around the entire bead. These facets add more material to the bead, compared to a standard round bead. This makes faceted beads heavier than standard beads. These beads are great on stoneflies, Czech nymphs and streamers. Faceted beads are usually made in larger sizes, so they are normally used on larger flies.

Source: In The Riffle Blog

<http://intheriffle.com/the-riffle/how-to-choose-right-fly-tying-bead/>

## Miena Tie In



The Tie In was held at the Community Hall in Miena and it was a great success!

The concept of the Tie was begun by Ken Orr originated 23 years ago and was held at Bronte. The current format was revived in 2016 and the second of the new era.

Graham Blight was the coordinator in chief and he received some great help from Club members including Malcolm Crosse, Anna Bellette, Stephen Butler and some extra much appreciated help on the day from Mark Aspinall, Andrew Reed and Marion Blight.



Club members John Spencer, Shane Broadby, Neil Pinkard, Tony Dell and Brian McCullagh all played important roles on the day and were also instrumental in demonstrating their considerable fly tying skills.



As well as fly tying demonstrations in the centre of the hall there were numerous stalls around the perimeter with representatives from Adrenalin Flies, Steven Ooi photographs, Anglers Alliance, Wombat Rescue amongst others. Kaylene Crosse also had a stall selling her remarkable customised mugs and belt buckles and member Bill Lark demonstrated cane rod making.



Tony Dell and Brian McCullagh did two special demonstrations on the intricacies of dying fur and feathers and as usual were very professional, informative and generous with their time, materials and advice.

There were well over 100 visitors up until lunchtime and many more throughout the day. The organisers would like to thank the Great Lake Community for their support and also thank the 10 Fly fishing and Tying clubs from all over Tasmania and even Victoria!

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## A Dam Good Weekend

The weather was amazing, the venue was brilliant and the company was outstanding at arguably our most popular and anticipated weekend at the farm dams around Bothwell.



I must admit to having some trepidation, as I was one of the few who didn't manage to catch a fish last year so I was thrilled to manage a fish on my second cast on the Brickfields Dam with a lovely rainbow caught on a black and red woolly bugger and using my brand new 15 foot ghost tip line! The trip only got better from then.

As more people arrived they spread themselves out over the length and breadth of the five venues on offer. The size of the fish was only outdone by the smiles of the lucky anglers.



The fish ranged from around 1lb to well over the magical 10 and all were in exceptional condition, which indicates just how healthy the environment they lived in was.



As darkness fell people wandered in to the Shearers Quarters, which was the focal point for the preparation of evening meals. Conversation, laughter various refreshments were ubiquitous and secret skills and insights were passed on until the early hours of the morning.



Some intrepid souls took on the challenge of getting on the water at first light, many heading off to the wonderful Weasel Plains only to return a little bewildered at the massive hatch and almost total absence of fish rising to them. There were some great fish caught but many of the dry fly enthusiasts chose to return to Henry's place and the monsters therein!



Saturday's weather was hot and sunny and wet fly fishing was generally the go. I went to visit the Wood

Spring dam and managed to see Ian Stokes almost get spooled as a fish of over 8lbs took him well into the backing – something that I have rarely seen in practice! Stokesy (the masked man) managed to land and release the fish unharmed.



The Saturday night barbecue saw an even greater number of members in attendance and an even wider array of beverages on offer. The club supplied some magnificent pink eyes and some salads and as usual the generosity of others was amazing. It was great to see our host Henry and his wife Felicity at the dinner and the fruitcake they brought along was amazing!



The Sunday morning saw fewer people heading off for the dawn raid but those who did fared quite well with James Jones proudly picking up 6 before breakfast! Many others decide to have a final fling at the Wood Spring dam on the way home with some more great fish caught.



The Bothwell weekend was again a great success and it is important to thank Ian Stokes and the committee for all their hard work organising it and special thanks go to Henry Edgell and Scott Bowden for their generosity in allowing us access to their beautiful properties in a very special part of Tasmania!



DM



## Index of Vice Articles

I have compiled a list of contents from previous editions of the Vice as some members have asked about various stories and the like. All these can be accessed directly from the club website under the link to The Vice. I will include it in all future editions and add to it where possible.

<http://tasmanianflytyersclub.org>

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<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
<b>Spring 2012</b>	
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
<b>Summer 2013</b>	
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

<b>Summer 2014</b>	
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	

## Autumn 2014

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	

## Winter 2014

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

## Spring 2014

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

## Summer 2015

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

## Autumn 2015

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>	
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>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>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>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

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



<http://tasmanianflytyersclub.org>