



# The Vice



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

**Volume 15 , Issue 5 Spring 2018**

**Inside: *Bothwell Weekend, How Much Wood, Third Time Lucky and much more...***

*Cover shot – Weasel Dawn*

## President's Report

The period since my last report has been relatively quiet although the pace of the current season is obviously picking up rapidly.

My optimistic expectations for the annual dinner were fulfilled in style with an excellent meal and lots of fun being had by, I believe, the largest number of dinner attendees on record. We have already booked the 2019 dinner at the same venue. Many thanks to Grace and Laurie Matcham for their great help in arranging the event.

The AGM was again well attended. Essentially the same office bearers were re-elected, hopefully reflecting general satisfaction with management of the club. Although not all committee positions were filled, Tim Urbanc has since accepted an invitation to join the committee.

In mid-November we held our first fishing activity for the season in the Farm Dams weekend at Bothwell. Once again this proved to be one of the club's most popular events with about 28 attending. Good conditions prevailed during the weekend and many excellent fish were caught, as well as a very convivial barbecue being held on Saturday night. Huge thanks to the Edgells for providing accommodation and fishing at Denistoun and to Scott Bowden for allowing us to fish Weasel and Woodsprings.

An ongoing issue of great interest to many members is that of the possible Lake Malbena "development". On the basis of passionate discussion at club meetings we have made submissions to both state and federal authorities. It is gratifying that somebody must have read these as the club was specifically quoted in a recent Mercury article. It was also of great interest to hear Greg French's insights on the issue at our November general meeting. Although government and bureaucratic decisions have so far favoured the development, it is quite clear that there is widespread dissatisfaction with the process and the final outcome still open to intense discussion.

Our next function is our regular Christmas drinks session on December 17<sup>th</sup>. This is always a really pleasant chance to get together, reflect on the past year and discuss current and future fishing opportunities. I hope that all can attend but, in any case, wish all members a happy and safe Christmas and New Year and many tight lines!

**Andrew Hood**

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## Editorial

After spending the best part of three and a half months traveling the outback and Western Australia in a campervan it was nice to get back home and wet a line again. The trip was great although I only caught one fish, only replaced one motor and only needed to repair the transmission three times!

As a result of the trip the Spring Vice comes out just as spring is leaving and the delights of summer come upon us. The fish are looking up and so is the prospect of some ret fishing. Enjoy!

DM



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... Malcolm Crosse for his great story on Kashmir. Contact Malcolm if you're interested in going!***

**Have a go**

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

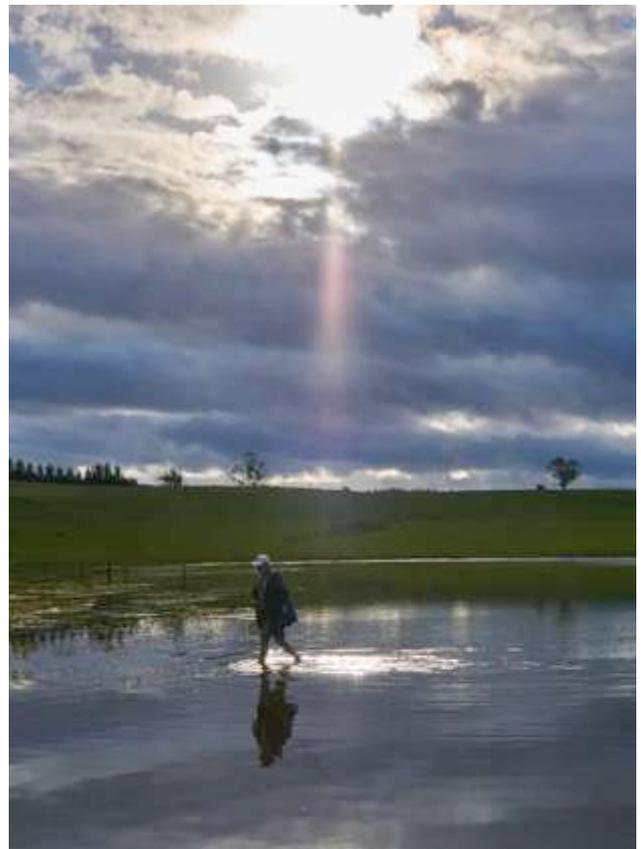
## Bothwell Farms Weekend 2018

It is probably the club's most eagerly anticipated weekend of the year and this one was no exception. It is an absolute privilege to be invited to fish the three dams at Henry's place and the two at Scott's. The properties are immaculate and must be some of the best-managed farms in the state!

With the promise of a mayfly hatch Tony Abel and I decided to visit Weasel first and although there were not many fish taking visibly from the surface they were definitely 'looking up'. The dam, which is huge and endlessly fascinating, was nearly full and the water was remarkably clear. We managed three fish between us in the afternoon, all browns, all in magnificent condition.



We decided to go back to Henry's place and fish the first dam, which was home to some memorable fish in past years. The conditions seemed perfect and there were a number of members trying their luck dotted around the lake. For me it was not easy. A long layoff without casting regularly meant I had to remember skills that let me avoid tangles, particularly troublesome when droppers were involved. Still, it all finally came together and I landed a nice rainbow of between 3 and 4lbs. The fish was in exceptional condition and seemed very keen not to come and get



in my Esky, so I returned him to continue getting bigger and stronger.

Lyndon Cubbins was pulling in fish left right and centre. I'm not sure how many he caught in the end but he had that satisfied grin that suggested he had a very good weekend.



The evening meal back at the shearers' quarters was a great night with many great conversations and laughter. The club provided some beer and there were numerous bottles of wine to lubricate the event.

Saturday morning saw the alarm go off at 4.30 for a dawn raid but better judgment saw the application of the snooze button and a more realistic 7.30 start was achieved. People who had spent the night at Weasel started coming over to Henry's place and the other dams. The first dam again seemed to be the most popular.

At the evening meal, Club President Andrew Hood thanked Henry and Felicity for their generosity and all in attendance appreciated this. The fruitcake supplied by Henry and Felicity was delicious!



4.30am happened again and this time we responded and drove out to Weasel. We got there at first light wandered the edges looking for movement. Again Cubby showed us how it was done with a seemingly endless number of strikes. Clouds of midge were forming on the edges and it was a matter of time before the fish found them. When they did the fishing was extremely challenging but fascinating as large fish were gobbling down these little flies in extremely shallow water only metres from the bank. I was skilled enough to hook one but apparently not skilled enough to tie knot that would hold onto it. The take was savage and exciting though.



We eventually went back to Henry's place and met up with the last fishers of the weekend. Nick Ingles called in on his way back home, walked over to the edge of the dam and managed to catch a magnificent fish on a 4# weight rod. The fish came in at around 7lbs and was in magnificent condition. I think it was bound for the smoker!

The weekend was a great success and it was a credit to the organisers and to the generosity of our hosts.

Roll on next year!



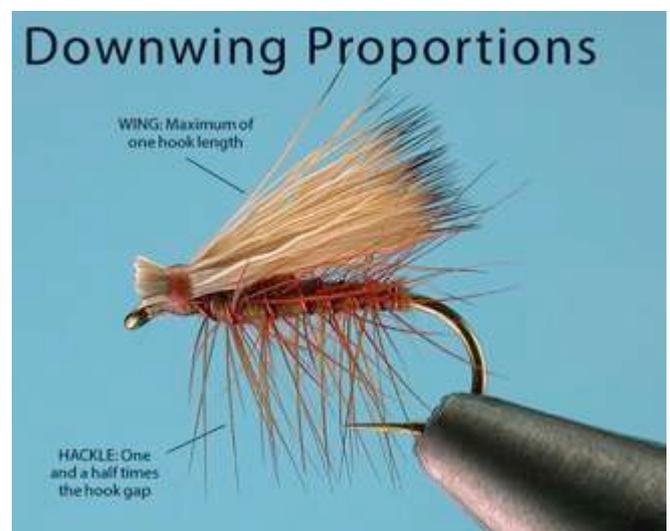
## Fly Tying on the WWW

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.

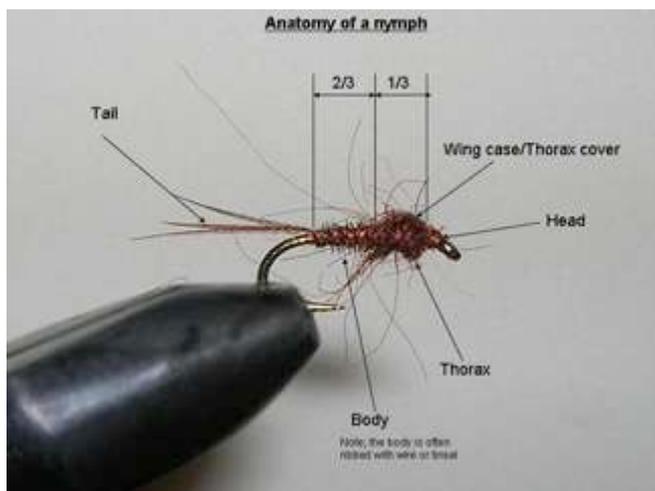
As the fish are starting to look up our thoughts turn to tying nymphs, emergers and dries. The following charts are useful guides in getting the proportions just right! The sources for these links are below the pics.



<https://pin.it/ag25bptunfodu>



<https://pin.it/wzokrxl3n6y72j>



<https://pin.it/l6kfguvemgyte2>



<https://pin.it/ksgyyreb35gts4>



## Third Time Lucky

The Wardwan Valley, I doubt if 1% of Fly fishing readers have ever heard of it, ok so just imagine a river in a Valley some 300kms long mostly all fishable with the fly and by other methods., and what is more awesome this river system was last fished by a European in 1947 and only a handful of locals have fished it since.

So now I have your attention you will be wanting some details.



Kashmir in northern India has in the past been a destination of choice for Fly anglers around the world however since the civil turmoil of the 90's this state of India has pretty well dropped off the angling radar and only a small percentage of foreign anglers fishing these waters these days.



My introduction to Kashmir and its angling began three years ago when I first visited the region which sort of sits under the Himalayas and a trip was planned at that time to go into the Wardwan, access to which is a tortuous drive over winding up then down mountain tracks through a pass at nearly 4000 meters ASL then down to the valley floor which is still at an altitude of 2500 meters ASL. This road!!!! - for want of a better description has only been in existence for 12 or so years and the valley population has been cut off from the outside world for hundreds of years. Landslides mainly caused by shepherds

moving their huge flocks of horses, sheep and goats through the mountains and pass had blocked the road so no access was possible in 2013.



However, I was able to fish some of Kashmir other rivers and spring fed streams but that's another story. So not to be deterred I again made a visit in 2014 and again my attempts to get into the Wardwan were thwarted this time by massive floods and more landslides. However, through more fishing in the streams and rivers I began to start to understand the fishing here.

Now the Wardwan Valley had got under my skin so when my Hobart based Kashmiri fly fishing doctor promised me we would make it this time what could I do.



So September of 2015 and things were looking good and an expedition was mounted which consisted of two four wheel drive vehicles similar to the old short wheel based Toyota of past years complete with drivers one of which would double as a cook and the other as the house boy!

The angling party consisted of five anglers including me as the only foreigner, of the other four only two of the guys had been into this valley and they were local. The 'main road' is in the background!



The distance to the village of Wardwan from the capitol of Kashmir Srinagar about 130kms, say Hobart to Penstock Lagoon, which to me is a travel time one and half hours, not this trip though!  
The plan was to getaway at 0:700 but given Eastern /Asian time we left at 0:800 and after 9 grueling hours over some of the steepest and rough roads I have been on we made it to the valley floor - so that works out at about 1km every four minutes!



The road, which was no wider than two tracks with numerous small passing bays, winds up and over the pass and for 8 months of the year is closed so the opportunity to access this region is limited.  
In addition, due to the occupation of Kashmir by India there is a large military presence and numerous road barriers necessitated passport and Visa checks by serious looking army guys who with their rifles, dogs and other gear are all battle ready.



Having a westerner enter the region was a big deal and the checks took on a show of over the top officialdom, and they were not completed in 5 minutes. Finally, just as the sun was setting we made the valley floor and local villagers gave us a place to set up camp.

I was the source of great interest as many of the folk had never seen a white face before so I had a trailing crowd for a while.

A horde of people appeared and the camping gear was portaged to the campsite and I was told to just look on as it would all be done.

On our way to the valley floor it was obvious that the colour of the river was not we had hoped for, as for 6 months of the year the river runs high with Glacial snow melt and then in September it clears and then supposedly remains clear through the winter. We were here in September but, as is usual the world over, we were told we should have come next week, as then it should be clear!

Well we weren't there next week so we had to get on with it. The tents were up so we could settle in and the cook, complete with pots pans and pressure cooker set about making a typical Kashmiri feed, which consisted of Rice, curried Chicken, lamb and local vegies. So, after a good feed it was bed and a well earned sleep.



In the morning a great deal of vigorous chatter amongst the guys and locals resulted in being told that a gin clear stream ran into the Chanderbaga which was the main river about half an hour up the road.

From previous visits to this country I had been able to work out and tie up a series of flies that have caught well for me so it was no surprise to find the river, although coloured, teeming with food from stone fly and mayfly nymphs to numerous types of caddis.

On the way to the clear stream a large pool in the main river looked so good we had to stop and fish. Down the bank and into the water - first attacking

with a Green Woolley Bugger on the point with a Black Woolley as a dropper.



Bang first cast and my first fish and small about two pounds but as fat as mud and very healthy. I had made it - A fish from the Wardwan Valley!

Now I was into it and concentrating on the job so I was a bit miffed when my doctor mate called out and pointed up the bank to see an Indian army patrol all armed to the teeth complete with sniffer dog.

I was being beckoned out so it was with great care that I slowly waded ashore hoping like hell that I did not go a gutser and again went through the passport/visa thing. The Boss, Captain, Sergeant or whatever spoke excellent English and told me all the checks were really for my benefit as if anything happened to me it would be the Indian Army and choppers who would get me out and they knew I was about so they come looking for me.

With that we moved onto the clear stream where the road ended at a village which really takes you back, no

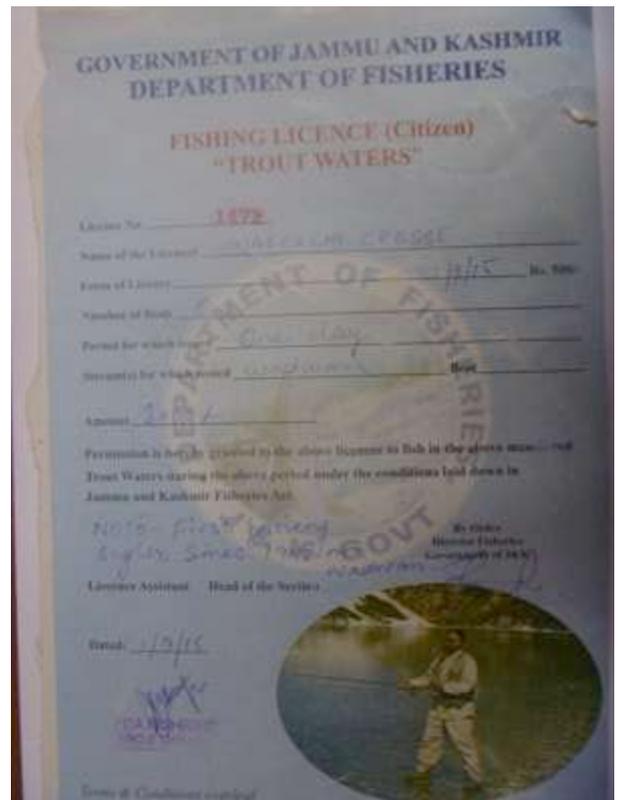


power, running water or sewage and primitive to the extreme, the big action at the moment was hand cutting grass hay and manually with scythes carrying in from the surrounding grassland to store as winter feed for the stock this valley is cut off from the rest of the country all through winter and beyond.

More chatter and this time rigged with some nymphs we check the gin clear stream to find not a scale more chatter and yes there are big fish in the stream later in the month, which I suspect are the spawners coming up out of the main river.

By this time, I was beginning to wonder if we would find big fish and spent the rest of the day searching the edges of the main stream and catching numerous fish on, Pheasant tails, Hair & Copper, Copper John all the usual we are used to in our Australian and New Zealand streams.

The day ended with still nothing large to show for the day, which did not worry me much. The group, probably caught 100 plus fish at about 2lbs average. The next morning a guy came into the camp armed with a book of forms. He turned out to be the local Inland Fisheries guy who apologised profusely for not being there when we arrived but was away checking on poachers!



With more hand waving and gestures he told our crew that he only had a book of local citizen licenses and he was not able to issue a foreign angler license.

He then proceeded to write out the license for me and collect 2000 rupees (the daily angling fee for foreigners which is about AUD 40.00). Then with a great flourish he endorsed the license with the note of the first foreign angler to fish here since 1947! How the heck he knew that I don't know, he did not look a day over 40. Anyway I have a very special license document.

The rest of the day was spent fishing the edges doing some down and across on the big pools still for no big fish. The fish came readily to the fly all day and both my Kashmiri doctor mate from Hobart Shah Humayoon and I would have bagged 80 fish each for the day.

I was able to talk with a young guy who, in broken English, told me that the big floods of last year had washed the larger fish away and that in a couple of weeks when it cleared you should see 4 plus kilo fish which would readily rise to dries. Who knew?

The thing is that at 73 I made it to the Wardwan valley, the first westerner in 68 years to do so and caught fish in the turbid water. Who will be the second to make this epic trip and fish in the late autumn in the clear water and come up with the goods I was hoping to?

Oh and by the way the trip out was no quicker than the trip in !!!!!!!!!!!

Foot note: This place still getting under my skin and I am thinking of maybe going back for another time. If anyone is interested in a trip which will be nothing like a fly fishing trip you have ever had contact me on 0429870550.

**Malcolm Crosse**

## 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.*

Tying droppers onto leaders has always been a challenge for me, particularly when you change flies a lot. That little tag gets shorter and shorter but you don't want to make up a new leader so you struggle with something that is far too short. There are a number of solutions that I have tried but the latest one is the use of tippet rings.

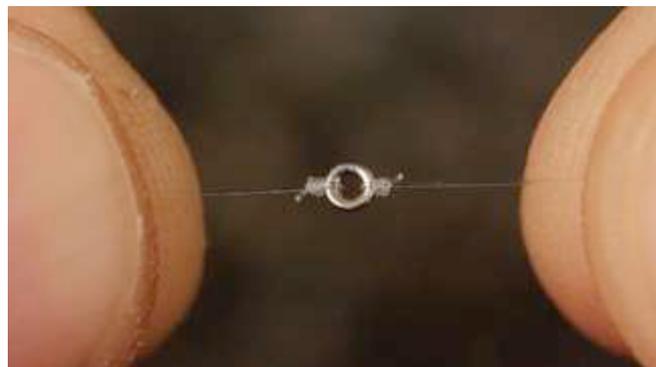
Tippet rings are 1-2mm stainless steel rings that are really light and really strong. They don't cost much but they mean you can easily add a dropper to your leader. I have used it successfully this season and haven't lost a fish due to breakage. (I haven't tried it with a dry fly set up though).

This article and slightly bizarre video clip discusses it in more detail. Of particular use is the bit where it suggests to tie on the leader whilst the ring is on the storage clip – this is much easier than trying to hold the tiny ring in your fingers!

## Attaching Tippet Rings to Leaders

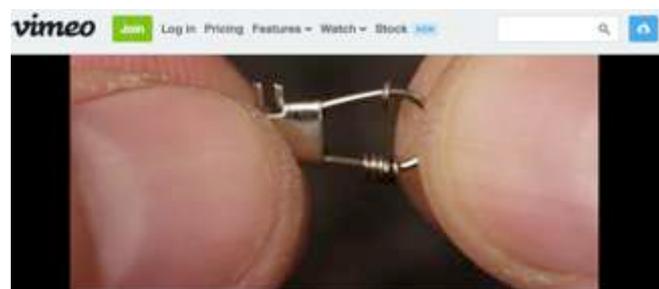
Producer: Tim Flagler | [Tightline Productions](#)

Tim Flagler demonstrates his foolproof method for attaching tippet rings to pre-packaged leaders and tippets.



“To add a tippet ring, go up about 2 feet from the very end of the tippet. On this 9' 5X leader, at this point, the leader gauge indicates 8. This means it's .008 inches or 8/1000th's of an inch in diameter or what we commonly call 3X leader material.

Snip the leader at this point but keep that tippet that you snipped off. Get hold of your tippet rings and isolate the ring closest to the snap opening.”



The address for the clip itself is <https://vimeo.com/77507727>

Try it – I reckon it's worth it!

DM

## How Much Wood...?

The call came out from Brian McCullagh and Tony Dell for people to come up to the Miena Shack and stack and split 8-9 tons of firewood and a dozen members responded with enthusiasm.



As is their wont the organisation for the day was exemplary with the wood delivered to the shack at a great price, a group picking up the log splitter on a trailer from the very generous Malcolm Crosse and morning tea and lunch being prepared for the workers by Noel Wilson and Malcolm Crosse.



The log splitter was run by Andrew Reed and Mark Aspinall and the carrying and stacking was undertaken by Chris Berndt, Tim Urbanc, Tony Dell, Andrew Hood, Chris Hilton, Doug Miller and Andrew Blackwood and his brother in law Hans.

In a remarkable feat of coordinated effort the wood was split and stacked in under 3 hours and a trailer load was even taken down to the Sorrel Shack!

Lunch was provided and everyone felt pretty good about themselves!



So if you do avail yourselves of the excellent Club Shack and do light a fire to sit in front of and reflect on the days fishing be impressed by the efforts that go into making everything just that little bit more comfortable!



The added bonus was having the time to going down to the Woods and finding that the duns were up and the fish were on them!

DM

## Index of Vice Articles

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

<http://tasmanianflytyersclub.org>

DM

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## For payments to the club

BSB: 807 007

Account No: 12130456

Name: Tasmanian Fly Tyers Club Inc

Then email the details to

Andrew Blackwood: [andrew.blackwood1@bigpond.com](mailto:andrew.blackwood1@bigpond.com)

Please remember to clearly identify yourself for ease of recording your payment

## Club Website



*Tasmanian Fly Tyers' Club Inc*

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



<http://tasmanianflytyersclub.org>