



The Vice



Newsletter of the Tasmanian Fly Tyers' Club Inc.

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Inside: Casting Day, Fergus Trip, Bothwell Dams *and much more...*

Cover Shot – Laurie Matcham at Henry's place

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Treasure	Andrew Blackwood
Committee	Wayne Bellette
	Dave Long
	Tony Abel
	Tim Urbanc
Vice Editor	Doug Miller

<http://tasmanianflytyersclub.org>

President's Report



The year of Corona marches on and fortunately for the Club things are starting to get back to normal, at least in trout fishing terms. The new Committee with plenty of old faces has assigned roles with the addition of Tony Abel as Shack Warden for

Sorrell and David Travalia as Vice President. Wayne Bellette and David T are our Guest speaker team. We are using surname initials as we now have 2 Andrews, 2 Tims and 2 Davids on the committee.

The Fowler Trophy has been won for last season and congratulations go to Chris Medwin and Eric 'Zuie' Howard. This makes it two years in a row for Zuie, which is a great achievement. We held the draw for this season recently and have 21 teams entered and Steve Butler/David Young are already on the board with 10 fish from Penstock. Please find your pairing and enter your scores once you have fished. You can fish together more than once if you want to.

The Club events are returning to normal with 4 Club events. The Casting day at Salmon Ponds was run later than usual as we awaited restrictions to lift. It was an excellent turn out with about 40 members, children and grandchildren. Thanks to David Hemmings and team for the casting setup and thanks to David Travalia for the food setup. Doug Miller stunned the crowd with his win the Dry Fly honours and Wayne Bellette is this year's Grand Winner of the 2 Headley Griggs Trophies, Wet Fly and Combined.

Lake Fergus provided challenges in both weather and fishing and I will let you read the report from people who were there. Thanks to Tim Lewis for not only being the Club Secretary but also for organising this trip as he does every year.

The Farm Dams looked very different this year as the Shearers Accommodation was closed. It was changed to a self-contained camping event at Weasel Plains and was a roaring success. There were 35 members

registered and they all turned up plus more. Thanks to Steve Butler and Craig Granquist who brought the PortaLoo, Marquee and BBQ and it was a perfect campsite. I met some long-time members of the club and all had a good time. The fishing was excellent with access to Weasel Dam, Henry's 3 Dams and Brickfields. Thanks to Henry Edgell and Scotty Bowden who happily provided access to their dams and fish! I had good success and, hopefully here are a few photos of my fish.

The Club Shack at Miena has reverted to pre-Covid restrictions as Tasmania celebrates well over 100 days without any community transmission. I urge all shack users to socially distance and keep the shacks clean. Please do not go to the shacks, or anywhere for that matter, if you are even slightly unwell, stay home and protect us all. Tim Urbanc reports Miena is working well, with thanks to Macca for fitting dimmer switches to the main room. Tim was heading up last week with a coat hanger to fix the slow drainage in the shower. Tony Abel reports the painting is almost complete at Sorell and the shack is usable, although a bit of a construction site at the moment. Thanks to both of you and your band of helpers!

In upcoming events Christmas Drinks are planned for the 21st of December. Come and join the Club for drinks and finger food at the Lenah Valley RSL. Starting at 6pm, please register and partners are more than welcome. A selection of hot and cold food supplied.

Our January meeting will be held Saturday 16th January at the Central Highlands Lodge at 6pm. This is a work in progress as the club is unsure of the Zoom possibilities. Wayne Bellette is looking for a guest speaker.

The Club remains fully subscribed with the recent addition of Simon Ellis, proposed by Brent Bowerman and seconded by Chris Rothe. For those of you who haven't met Simon yet you can see some of his exploits at <https://www.instagram.com/rivuletflyfishing/>.

As I write the duns are up and Penstock looks perfect on the webcam. Enjoy your fishing and see you on the water.

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!

This time the voucher goes to Tony Dell for his updated instructions on Dyeing materials.

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

Send your stories to 55dmiller@gmail.com

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Editorial

‘Spring has sprung and the fish has riz!’

This bumper edition features a wide range of club activities and some useful tying tips to boot!

The Annual Casting day at the Salmon Ponds was a day of two very distinct halves. The first part was calm and the water was mirror-like. The second part was a storm with winds of biblical proportion. Of course this had little effect on the competition, especially in the dry fly event!

Last year’s Lake Fergus was canceled due to appalling weather but this year it went ahead thanks to the efforts of Tim Lewis and the generosity of Randall Trethewie. The weather was, to say least, variable but nevertheless some good fish were caught and a very

many spotted in the crystal clear waters. If you get a chance to come to this event you should take it as it is a very special trip in a wonderful part of our island.

Tony Dell has provided an updated outline to the dyeing instructions that both he and Brian McCullagh have developed over many years of study and experience, they are very comprehensive and I think you would be hard pressed to find a better set of notes on how to dye any sort of fly tying material.

Club Treasure Andrew Blackwood is very keen on fishing Four Springs, particularly early in the season. He and I both fished neighboring Brushy Lagoon too which was a very interesting and promising fishery in this part of the year. The trip was great but the persistent rain punctuated by periods of bright blue sky, which made the fishing tricky, affected us. When the duns got up and the fish found them though, it was fantastic!

The Thursday Zoom sessions have been brilliant and have been opened up to other clubs too. This afforded us the opportunity to meet and hear from Marian Miller from the Ballarat Club. Marian created a deal of interest in her SwissCDC Clamps – enjoy her article.

The Bothwell Dams weekend proved once again to be a brilliant opportunity to catch some truly remarkable fish and spend time with other club members in a remarkable setting. The campsite at Weasel was perfect and the organisation was fantastic. Well done to the organisers and thanks to both Henry and Scott for allowing us to access their properties.

Finally I would like to thank members David Travalia, Chris Berndt, Chris Hilton, Andrew Reed and Norm Cribbin for sending in some great photos from the various club events. This is much appreciated and I would love it if other members sent in any photos that they have taken!



DM

Casting Day 2020



The annual Casting Competition was once again held at the Salmon Ponds. This is a great club day with opportunities to meet, eat and compete in an absolutely brilliant setting. There is no better venue for casting in my opinion.

The day starts with the Margaret Knight Dry Fly competition. The aim is to cast your fly into an array of hoops set up by David Hemmings and his group of enthusiastic casting geni. Each competitor has 3 shots at each hoop with the first shot being worth 5 points the subsequent attempts score 3 and 2 points respectively. There needs to be a false cast between each attempt.



On this particular day I decided to go first as I was cooking a paella for lunch under the guiding gourmet eyes of David Travalia. Conditions were perfect and I managed to hit quite a few targets. I had prepared a bit for the event by tying a fly out of bright yellow foam (no hook of course). His was more accurate than the bit of wool most people used as it was not blown off track by the water level zephyrs that abound. What happened next was that all the winds of hell then descended on the Salmon Ponds, playing havoc generally severely limiting the chances of other competitors. The spirit of Stephen Bradbury smiled on me as I left to battle the winds with the Paella pans.

The second competition is the Hedley Griggs wet fly competition. This is particularly tricky. The 5 hoops are placed in a straight line with about a metre between them. The aim is to cast into each hoop 3 times with no false casts at all. Shooting line with no false casting in the prevailing winds was quite a challenge indeed.



The organisers, scorers and judges did a great job throughout the day and the luncheon was, as usual very nice. The weather proved challenging but failed in its efforts to spoil the day.



As an added bonus, Chris Medwin gave a demonstration of short line nymphing, which was excellent. He even managed to demonstrate the

technique in the Plenty River, which runs through the place. The river was running quite swiftly!

President Andrew Reed said, 'Following a successful casting day at the Salmon Ponds I would like to



congratulate Doug Miller on winning the Dry Fly Margret Knight Trophy and Wayne Bellette on winning the Wet Fly Hedley Griggs Trophy. Wayne is also our combined winner. The casting was done under some wild conditions triggered by Tony Dell stepping up to the platform!



This event was only possible because of the many helpers. David Hemmings and Eric (Zuie) Howard laid out the casting course and Wayne was chief score - keeper. Many thanks to the catering team, lead by David Travalia and assisted by Doug, Andrew Hood, Chris Hilton, Tony Dell, James Jones and others.'

DM



Fly Tying on the WWW

The World Wide Web is a treasure trove of information and tips for the fly tyer. YouTube in particular reveals a staggering number of responses to the most basic search. In this 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.

Dragonflies and Mudeyes feature in our fishing here and there are many flies that imitate them or are suggestive of them. We use Shreks and Magoos, Damsel nymphs and many more in an attempt to fool Mr Speckles. The following videos are fascinating in that they show how these various creatures swim. If you know how they swim then you can try to make your fly imitate this and maybe, just maybe increase your catch rate.



Damsel nymph swimming

Damsel nymph swimming

<https://youtu.be/tKblc6k71e8>



mudeyes movie

Mudeye

<https://youtu.be/VNPQVm8y3l4>

Twisted Dragon Nymph



SAN ANTONIO
The Twisted Dragon - Nymph Fly Tying Tutorial - McFly Angler

<https://youtu.be/pKo3Zwl5K84>

McFly Anglers notes about this fly shamelessly lifted from the description...

Dragonfly and damselfly Nymphs are tasty snacks for many fish species. They are larger than many other aquatic bugs and therefore fish are more willing to move out of their hole for one. Many say an olive woolly buggler is a fly that can mimic a dragonfly nymph and I don't disagree. But where you want something more true to the look of a dragonfly nymph, I find there aren't a whole lot of popular patterns out there. Not saying they cannot be found, and you will always find a few at a fly shop. But when you search for them online, you find some samples of what people have tied, but not really any staple patterns. This I believe is because the vast majority are tying something that is too difficult to create at quantity. You can maybe bust through 5 an hour on a bench and that just isn't fast enough to effectively fill a box for most people. I designed this fly with that in mind. I wanted something simple, and easy. The body will be automatically built in both taper and the right width using just a single marabou feather. It also forms the tail. Same thing with the head and thorax of the fly, simple techniques and quick, easy ways of tying in the materials that are quite simple.

Hook: Risen streamer 300 in size 10 -

Weight: .015 sized lead wire -

Thread: Olive Veevus 140 Power Thread -

Ribbing: Chartreuse Small Ultrawire -

Thorax casing: Olive FTD Baby Bug Back -

Thorax Dubbing: Dark Olive Antron dubbing - [htt](#) Legs: Perch (olive could work also) FTD Kraken

Eyes: Homemade mono eyes -

UV Resin: Solarez UltraThin -

DM

Four Springs Trip



Organised by Club Treasure Andrew Blackwood, the Four Springs trip was a great way to get some early dry fly action on a wonderful little lake in the north.

We stayed at the Legana Caravan Park, which was ... adequate but very handy to both Four Springs and Brushy Lagoon. It turned out that we didn't fish Brushy as the weather intervened somewhat and the fish on Four Springs were pretty good!



We arrived on the Thursday afternoon and the first thing we noticed was the duns. They were all over the lake but nothing seemed to be up on them. Newly anointed Committee Member Tony Abel was in the boat with me and he managed a very nice fish, which took him well into the backing whilst I busied myself with tangling my fly line in the motor and ramming dropper flies through my finger.

The Friday session saw bright sunshine and still conditions and, though quite pleasant, was not conducive to rising fish. We managed a few fish between us and ended up having a nice BBQ meal back at the Legana Park. Football finals were on the TV and it was a fun event generally.



Saturday saw rain and more rain and some of the supposedly sensible people decided not to fish, opting for an early trip home. It was indeed very wet but there was a brief afternoon session where the duns 'popped' and the fish targeted them very enthusiastically. It was one of those times when fly fishing comes alive! The fish were all in great condition and quite sizeable indeed!

Tony and I, and the Treasure, decided to call in to Lake Leake on the way back to Hobart to see what all the early season fuss was about. The lake was very full but still quite discoloured. I hooked and lost one really strong fish before I became a victim of a bacon and egg croissant purchased earlier on from Campbell Town. An unscheduled rush to the bank saw one stretch of shoreline rated as 'unwise to explore' for the foreseeable future!

Thanks to Club Treasure Andrew Blackwood for organising the trip. It is a brilliant way to transition from pulling wets to experiencing the joy of dry fly fishing a month before the highland fish start looking up. I would recommend it to all members!

DM

SwissCDC Multiclamp

Those of us who have been enjoying Steve Butler's Zoom sessions will be aware of Marian Miller from the Ballarat Club and her SwissCDC Multiclamp. Following interest from members I approached Marian and asked her to write something for The Vice about it. So... here it is!



I was so impressed I became a distributor Whilst fly fishing occupies most of my days and fly tying occupies most of my evenings my research of both of these fields cannot be ignored. Some people read in bed before they go to sleep, I watch

YouTube videos on my favourite subjects.



While watching an assortment of videos at about 1am one night, I came across a demonstration of a tool which

mesmerised me. I watched as feather and fur were manipulated, put into dubbing loops or thread split and materials inserted. I had discovered the Swisscdc Multiclamp.

I searched the internet to find a supplier. After several failed attempts, I finally found a supplier in the UK. I ordered the Multiclamp there and then, awaiting its delivery with great anticipation. I know this may sound like an extreme reaction to a fly tying tool, but I saw the potential of this tool.



When my package from the UK arrived I set to work learning the uses of this versatile tool. These included removing fur straight from the pelt and spinning it up to form dubbing brushes and coaxing the fur back to form a beautiful simple caddis. Also inserting CDC into a thread split and forming a neat collar on nymphs; mixing material on my tying bench and picking it up with the multiclamp to put into a dubbing loop to make buggy bodies. I discovered ways of using large hackle feathers to produce small hackles. The uses of this tool just keep increasing.

I contacted Swisscdc to become a distributor. I couldn't believe nobody else in Australia was selling this versatile tool. During the course of my time in New Zealand for the Commonwealth Fly Fishing Championships my fellow team the multiclamp impressed all members. By the time I returned to Australia I had orders for not only the multiclamp, but also a host of other products from Swisscdc. I am now an official distributor for all Swisscdc products, including the multiclamp, in Australia and New Zealand. I import products directly from Switzerland and distribute to all areas of Australia and New Zealand.

CDC

The range of CDC is extensive, ranging from CDC puffs through standard and superselect, through to Ultra select. Available in 39 colours. The range includes undyed dyed and neon, there are also a number of 100% biologically dyed colours. A range of CDC dubbing is available in 14 colours.



Dubbing

Dubbing made from Argentinian Hare in standard or long varieties is available in 17 colours, including five 100% biologically dyed.

North and South American furs available in 10 colours Swisscdc edition is a mixture of Swisscdc dubbing and South American fur, available in 6 shades found in nature giving ample scope to match the hatch.

In addition, Artic fur available in 10 colours and an undyed Alpine fur is also available.

Deer and Chamois Hair

Roe deer and Chamois available in autumn and winter versions.



Amadou is made from fomes fomentarius, a natural fungus perfect to dry delicate CDC flies.



Other products



Swisscdc products include CDC wax, to use during fly tying. CDC oil to dress flies. CDC grease to treat lines.

Checkout full range of products at Swisscdc.com

Contact details:

Fb : [Swisscdc in Australia](https://www.facebook.com/swisscdcinaustralia)

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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.

Tony Dell and Brian McCullagh are both Life Members and experts on dying materials for fly tying. The sessions they have conducted over the years have been eagerly anticipated and well attended by members. Previous events have been featured in The Vice and Tony has been good enough to provide me with an updated version of his notes.

STEP BY STEP GUIDE TO DYEING FLY TYING MATERIALS

(Feathers, deer hair, possum fur, seal's fur, wool etc)

1. Equipment

- Stainless steel or enamel container large enough to use for cleaning material such as hackle capes and swatches of fur etc so they can lie flat in the cleaning solution;
- Stainless steel pot capable of holding 2 litres of water and the materials to be dyed; (I got both of these for about \$12.00 at the local tip shop)
- Milk frothing clip-on thermometer (costs about \$5.50 - \$6.00 at hospitality supply shops);
- Pyrex 250ml measuring jug (about \$12.00, hospitality supplies) or an old 250 ml tea cup with glaze intact;
- Set of plastic measuring spoons - 1/4 teaspoon to tablespoon (about \$4.50, hospitality supplies);
- Box of plastic disposable gloves (Supermarkets);
- Eye protection;
- Old clothes or clothes protection;
- Notebook for documenting your dyeing efforts so you can easily replicate successful results.

2. Supplies (cleaning agents, fixers and facilitators)

- **Winscour SSA.** This is a concentrated surfactant (i.e. scouring agent) used in the textile industry. Where do I get it?
Oxford Technologies Australia
44 Mickle Street

Dandenong South
Victoria 3164

Phone:+61 3 9768 0100

email: info@oxfordtech.net.au

It costs about \$25.00 per litre but is THE magic bullet in dyeing materials.

- White vinegar is the old method of fixing dyes but since it has been sold in plastic containers they have halved its acetic acid strength to about 3% and is not really effective. Consequently we have looked for more effective alternatives and have used concentrated 100% **glacial acetic acid** which we have sourced from:

Imbros Pty Ltd
1059 Cambridge Road
Cambridge, Tas
Phone: +61 3 6216 1500

This is a hazardous chemical, is quite expensive and great care is required in using it but it is very effective and only requires a dessertspoonful in each dye bath;

- A cost-effective, efficient and much safer alternative is **citric acid**, which comes in a powder form and can be bought from health food shops for about \$7-10 per Kg. We use a tablespoon dissolved in 100 ml of boiling water per dye bath as an alternative to acetic acid.
- An optional facilitator (which assists in getting an even take up of dye by materials) is **sulphate of ammonia** which you can get in a small bag from your local garden shop. You only need a teaspoonful dissolved in 250 ml of boiling water in each dye bath.

3. Dyes

- The type of dye needed to dye **natural** materials, which most of our fly tying materials are, is **acid dye**. This is why Rit and other general purpose dyes are sometimes ineffective in dyeing fly tying materials. Because they are designed for general purpose dyeing across a wide range of materials, including synthetics, they use a mix of various dye types not all of which will work on natural materials
- The most easily available dyes specifically for fly tying materials are Veniard's dyes which are available at most fishing tackle shops from about \$12.95 to \$16.00 per 15 gram tube;

- I have recently, in my searching on the web, found a US textiles craft site, Dharma Trading (www.dharmatrading.com) which sells a huge colour range of acid dyes (as well as other types of dye) at a very competitive cost, averaging out at about \$US5 per 2 ozs (60 grams). Even accounting for the exchange rate and freight, this is quite a deal cheaper than Veniard's dyes although obviously not as easily available. I recently got a trial shipment of ten different colours and they gave very good results. Their service was excellent.

4. Do's and Don'ts

- **Do set up near running water**, preferably hot and cold, and with a stainless steel sink. Cover susceptible surfaces with plastic and/or newspaper;
- **Do wear gloves, old clothes/clothing protection and eye protection** (I wear an old plastic apron) for all stages of the process;
- **Do ensure that, before you do anything else, you clean your materials in Winscour SSA and warm water** for at least a couple of hours and preferably overnight;
- **Do accurately measure and document each step of your dyeing process** so you can replicate good results and/or avoid poor results next time;
- **Do ensure you only dye like materials in the same dye bath** - feathers with feathers, possum fur with possum fur, deer hair with deer hair etc. because different materials take up dyes at different rates and if you mix materials you run a high risk of getting patchy or poor results for both materials;
- **Do ensure you dissolve dye completely** before adding it to your dye bath. The best method for ensuring this is to 'paste' it first. Put 1/4 teaspoon of dye in your Pyrex jug or cup, add a tablespoon of boiling water to it (never add dye to water) and mix it to an even paste ensuring any lumps of dye are smoothed into the paste, then add a cup of boiling water stirring well again. Then add to your dye bath.
- **Don't put too much material in a dye bath.** you need plenty of room to enable you to stir the materials and so they have good access to take up the dye evenly. In a dye bath of 1.5-2

litres, aim for a maximum of 3 capes or 3 x 250mm square swatches of possum on the skin.

- **Don't let your dye bath get to boiling point.** Use your thermometer to keep a close eye on temperature and turn off the heat at absolutely no more than 90C. For feathers, aim for a maximum of 75C. Ideally use a low to medium heat to bring the dye bath slowly up to temperature.

5. The dyeing process

• Step 1 - Cleaning.

- Mix a dessertspoon of Winscour SSA with 2 litres of warm water, place materials to be dyed in the cleaning bath and stir about. Leave for at least 2 hours or, preferably, overnight. Rinse in clean warm water, squeeze out excess but leave wet;
- If you are going to dye loose fur (such as seals fur) it is recommended that you put it, loosely packed, in the foot section of an old stocking and tie a knot in it before putting it into the cleaning bath;

• Step 2 - Preparing the Dye Bath.

- place 1 - 1.5 litres of warm water in your stainless steel dyeing pot;
- place 1/4 teaspoon of dye in Pyrex jug or cup and paste with 1 tablespoon of boiling water until no lumps of dye are left (N.B. always mix water into dye, never dye into water) [*If dyeing black or some other dark colours you will need to use 2-3 times the amount of dye];
- add 250 mls of boiling water and stir well to ensure dye is well dissolved, then add to dye pot and stir well;
- add a teaspoonful of Winscour SSA to the dye pot and stir to mix;
- (*optional) dissolve 1 teaspoon of sulphate of ammonia in 250 mls boiling water and add to dye pot and stir well (see note on facilitators in 2. above);

• Step 3 - Adding material to the Dye Bath and the Dyeing process.

- place material in dye pot and place on heating source over a medium heat and stir well;
- fix thermometer to dye pot and continue stirring until temperature reaches about 70C;
- dissolve 1 tablespoon citric acid in 100ml boiling water and add to dye pot stirring constantly to mix it in quickly and evenly;
- continue stirring until temperature reaches 80-85C (75C for feathers if you don't want the skin of the cape to get too brittle) then take

the dye pot off the heat to check material for colour saturation. With feathers you can pluck one out, rinse it under warm water, put it between sheets of kitchen paper and press it to get rid of excess moisture, then dry it with a hair drier on medium heat to check the colour. It is not quite so easy with fur - you need to take it out of the pot, rinse well in warm water and check colour remembering it will be much lighter when dry.

- if the colour is not where you want it replace the material in the dye pot, controlling the temperature so it remains around 80-85C (or 75C for feathers), and continue stirring until the optimum colour is reached, then turn off the heat and leave the material in the dye bath to cool down, checking the colour occasionally in case it may get too dark as it will continue to take up dye as it cools;
- if the colour is still not as dark/intense as you want it, mix up another 1/4 teaspoon of dye as per instructions in Step 2 above and stir quickly and evenly into the dye bath. Then add another dose of 1 tablespoon of citric acid dissolved in boiling water and proceed as before stirring and checking colour until you are happy with the result;
- once happy with the result, remove material from the dye bath and rinse well under warm running water until all excess dye is removed and the rinsing water runs clear.
- squeeze out excess water and shake material to re-align feathers or fur, then place between sheets of kitchen paper inside an old dry towel and tromp on it well to remove moisture. Shake well again.

Step 4 - Drying dyed materials

- drying is best done slowly in a warm airy place with the materials placed inside old dry newspapers shaking the material from time to time to ensure feathers/fibres remain aligned;
- you can speed up drying by using a hair dryer on medium/low heat for capes and feathers. Feathers separated from the cape or loose fur can be put in a sieve and then an old stocking stretched over it to be dried by a hair drier;
- you can also dry fur on a pelt (e.g. possum fur) with a hair drier and Macca has had good success using a clothes drier on normal dry with a dry towel also in it.
- even after using the hair drier or clothes drier leave the material out overnight to properly dry and stabilize.

Happy Dyeing!

Lake Fergus Weekend

Tony Dell and Brian McCullagh
Tasmanian Fly Tyers Club
Hobart
1 August 2019

Further Reading:

1. William T (Ted) Roubal, Ph.D.

A series of 5 articles entitled "Modern Dyes and Dyeing for Fly Tiers" published in the 'American Angler' magazine starting in the May/June 1994 issue and continuing in the July/ August 1994, September/October 1994, November/December 1994 and the January/February 1995 issues. This is really the definitive information for fly fishers on dyeing and bleaching fly tying materials. Ted Roubal is a biochemist with particular expertise in dyes and protein chemistry who is also a keen fly tyer. I have the 5 issues.

2. Dharma Trading (www.dharmatrading.com)

This US site referred to above has a wealth of how-to and troubleshooting information on dyeing with Acid Dyes and is definitely worth a visit.

Contacts:

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McCullagh	
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246 799	
email: delltk@bigpond.com	email:
rodandvice@bigpond.com	

Tim Lewis once again organised for club members to have the opportunity to get access to Lake Fergus without having to undertake the long walk up the Pine River.



Randall Trethewie owns the land and he generally restricts access to the general public so it was a great opportunity to see a part of Tasmania that is usually off limits.

Randall wrote - *The area between Little Pine Lagoon and Lake Fergus has long held my regard. It has cider gums, sphagnum bogs, rare native flora and the natural Lake Fergus.*

Whilst my early interest was solely about fishing it has now taken a back seat and it is now more about the landscape, including the flora and fauna and trying to understand the rapid decrease of the Cider Gums. Some 15 years have now passed since this property, known as The Bluff or Skittleball Hill, also known to many as Lake Fergus.

When I acquired this land it was a mess of 4WD tracks and bogs. Since becoming custodian I have cleaned up the property, modestly renovated the hut, provided toilets, removed a huge amount of rubbish, brought orderly access and built more than 21 kilometres of roads and fire trails, other additions include boom gates, security cameras rubbish bins and more.





In collaboration with The University of Tasmania and NRM South two large areas have been fenced to keep out wildlife and aid the regeneration of the Miena Cider Gum. Some of this area had a cool burn to attempt to generate any remnant seed and it has also been micro-mapped to check growth. Reseeding is yet another option.

In conjunction with plans I received from the Parks and Wildlife Service I have been successful in stopping further environmental damage by vehicles driving in and around Lake Fergus-yes, they once tested how far they could drive in to the water! From an environmental perspective it is pleasing to witness the healing of the deep 4WD tracks on the sensitive flats and marshes. The vehicle tracks around the lake are now disappearing.

The early human occupation and settlements in this area are fascinating, it was certainly used by aboriginals and from the 1830's there were European inhabitants. Scottish settlers grazed stock and hunted the area, they built fences in the chock and log style and built small huts with stone chimneys, some 8 separate dwellings sites from around that time have been discovered. It is extremely sobering that as isolated and remote that it is it is hard to imagine what it would have been like for those families trying to survive in that harsh environment. Surveys in the 1860's show some dwellings and fencing marked on the original survey plans.

Since 2004 almost unrestricted access has been granted to anyone that has sought permission. Thousands of people have visited Lake Fergus via recently constructed roads across private property for the purpose of fishing, camping, hunting, walking and enjoying the surrounding area. It has become increasingly challenging to maintain the road.

As a custodian it has given me great satisfaction in sharing this unique and special property with a wide cross section of the community, but recently a large

hidden padlock safe near the front gate was cut and the key has disappeared. The locks have now been changed.

Juggling the request for access and fielding numerous phone calls has been challenging. The caretaker has retired and moved from the Central Highlands and due to this I have had to review access arrangements.

The weather report for the weekend looked, and proved to be challenging for the brave souls who ventured up for the Friday and Saturday with rain, wind and even snow making life and fishing tricky. There were some fish caught on the Friday, particularly along the edges of the marshes. The trout were right in close.



Friday night was very cold and Saturday brought snow and bitter winds but still the intrepid fishers set out to brave the elements. A few fish were caught but generally it was a very tough days fishing. 'They just didn't seem to interested!' was Wayne Bellette's accurate observation. I walked the edge down to the Pine River, which was beautiful, but not really boiling with fish.



Sunday was very different - Sunny, still and much warmer. There were some insects on the water and the polaroiding conditions were very good in the crystal clear water. Those with boats headed off all over the lake, those without sought out the sandy areas and many fish were sighted.



David Hemmings summed it up well in an email thanking Tim Lewis for his efforts organising the weekend.

'I reckon we saw 100 + fish in the reeds but not feeding.

Bruce had one take a scud but they just weren't interested in small natural flies . In the end - out of curiosity I put a big black marabou fly which was pulled aggressively and they followed and tapped and nudged and swirled but reluctant to take. We did get a few takes in the end.

Back to those doggo fish.... In my experience Fergus seems to have more of these fish than other lakes or maybe you just see them more easily. One of my mates reckons you should leave the fly on the bottom and don't move it. Leave it for 5. To 10 minutes. He says they know it's there and one will come over and pick it up. But I haven't had that method work for me

Fished to some midge and stonefly risers. Tim got a ripper so he's happy for the rest of the year.'

I was lucky enough to hitch a ride in Tim Lewis' boat and we spent a considerable time casting at a very large fish lying 'doggo' before resorting to poking it with the landing net just to get a reaction. The fish moved about 3 feet and appeared to be very grouchy about having to do so!



It was a fantastic weekend and many thanks should go to Tim for organising it! Also thanks to David Travalia, Norm Cribbin and Chris Berndt for contributing some wonderful photos for this report.

DM

Scott and Henry's Place 2020



To do: Contact Henry and Scott to check all is ok for the weekend. Contact club members and ensure they know what changes there are for this year. Ensure online booking is followed for Covid tracing. Organise Craig to bring BBQ etc. Negotiate and with Marcus Vermey's butchers for the Marquee. Book, hire and transport the Portaloo. Makes sure all gates are open and that workers are aware that there will be members in attendance. Get Kenny Fisher to bring up firewood. Organise folding tables, spare cutlery and plates, water and basic condiments for BBQ. The list goes on and on...

Organising an event like the Dams weekend, particularly in Covid times, is a massive undertaking and as usual, clubman of the year Stephen Butler, (Pictured) Aspro and their team did a remarkable job. It was a fantastic weekend and saw the Club revive the concept of a camping weekend for the first time in many years.



Members were afforded the opportunity to fish some wonderful waters on Henry and Scott's magnificent properties. There were chances to catch trout and even Redfin in a wide range of size and condition on both dry fly and wet fly. There were opportunities for early morning midge fishing, evening rises and even some very productive river fishing.

The campsite at Weasel was perfect with a row of tall pine trees, which Scott remembers being planted, making a brilliant windbreak. The weather was perfect and the company superb.



A nice touch for the evening was a tribute to late member Steve Martin that was proposed by Tony Abel. Steve would have simply adored this trip and it was wonderful to have the opportunity to remember him. Thanks Tony!



As usual on a widely supported club event there were many valuable ideas traded, lots of laughter and plans for the future. Steve Butler suggested that there might be an opportunity to make the camping trip a regular event and, when and if the world returns to

normal, an addition to the original dams weekend where we have been fortunate enough to have access to the shearers quarters at Henry's place. Given the popularity of the current weekend and the previous trips this will create much excited discussion amongst members.



Thanks to Steve Butler and his team for organising this weekend. Also thanks to Marcus Vermey Butchers for supplying the marquee. (Please support his shop, let him know that you are from the Fly Tyers Club too!) But most of all thanks to both Henry and Scott for providing the opportunity to fish their remarkable properties and have a chance to take part in the most popular club event of the year!

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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