



The Vice



Newsletter of the Tasmanian Fly Tyers' Club Inc.

Volume 16 , Issue 21 Spring/Christmas 2022

Inside: The Fly Tying issue – Bothwell Dams, Four Springs, Lake Leake and more ...

Cover Shot –David Young and Ellie with a Lake Crescent beauty!

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President	Andrew Reed
Vice President	David Travalia
Secretary	Tony Abel
Treasure	Andrew Blackwood
Committee	Wayne Bellette
	Dave Long
	Paul Markey
	Tim Urbanc
Vice Editor	Doug Miller

<http://tasmanianflytyersclub.org>

President's Report 2022

It's winding up to Christmas and things for most of us are getting busy. Thanks to the Committee for their ongoing work since the AGM. Tony Abel has done a great job taking over from Tim Lewis as secretary and new committee member Paul Markey is now successfully onboard.

Wardens Tim U and Tony A are keeping the home fires burning at our two club shacks. The water storage issues have been sorted out at Miena and new drainage works at Sorell have been successfully tested with some rainfall.

The Club has held some very successful and well-attended events over the last few months. The Great Lake Tie In had nearly 30 members there. The organising committee deserves praise for such a stellar event. I was roped in as a guest tier as there had been some rain damage to the roads from the north. I entered the fly competition and was outdone by Tim Urbanc who won with a stunning effort. (He is number 11 and I was 1)

Lake Fergus saw a dozen attendees and there were 3 boats. I had the pleasure of being guided by Tim Lewis in his battery powered World Championship boat. I managed 6 fish including 3 decent size ones from very close to shore.

For another year the Farm Dams Weekend was a great success. 28 Members attended over the 3 days with some cracking fish caught. One even managed 3 redfin on 2 flies! The weather was better than last year enabling the Saturday night BBQ to go ahead. Henry and Felicity were happy with the bottle of Club wine to say thanks for having us!

There was a well-attended mid-week Miena trip that was based at the Club shack. The New Year has the Cane Day at the Pine and the Penstock Weekend in early February. Thanks to all trip leaders and helpers. Have a safe and merry Christmas and I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.



Tight Lines

Andrew 'The President' Reed

Editorial

Apologies for the tardiness! The Spring Vice has become the Christmas Vice as I have been on an epic road trip across the Nullarbor, around South West Australia and back via the Eyre Peninsula. I did some fishing, mainly from the many beaches and mainly with little success and mostly very small fish. The weather was challenging, often cold and windy. I'm sure club members will sympathise and tell of the wonderful warm spring that they have endured!

This issue features early trips to Four Springs and Lake Leake and also features a beautifully written report by the Treasure on the Bothwell Dams weekend.

David Travalia has also penned a piece on why fish the Western Lakes. As usual, he is right!

Lets hope things pick up from here on in!

DM



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 vouchers go to... Treasure Andrew Blackwood and VP Travalia!

Send your stories to 55dmiller@gmail.com

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Four Springs Trip 2022

1.54pm we saw the first dun.

1.56pm we saw the first rise.

2.00pm it was on!



And so it went on for the three days we were there. Nothing much in the morning apart some random takes on a duck fly trailing out the back and winds that blew you round in frustrating circles. Then, at two o'clock on the dot every dun in the lake appeared to agree that it was time to hatch and the big trout came out to play with them!



The Treasure had organised a field trip to Four Springs. We stayed at the Hadspen Caravan Park, which is quite good really. It is only about 30 minutes away from Four Springs and Brushy Lagoon, has an excellent IGA Supermarket next door and is close enough to Carrick for a pleasant counter meal for those who eschew cooking on the barbecue. We did both!



A group of nine members gathered for the assault on the lake over a period of three days. In fact on one of the days there were more members of the Fly Tyers Club than northerners when Tim Munro, David Hemmings and Zuie turned up.

Even with the incredible hatch the fishing was not easy as there were so many naturals to for the fish to choose from.

There were quite a few fish caught over the time and



some were in exceptional condition. What's not to like about catching a 5lb trout on a size #12 mayfly pattern!

John Smith made a welcome return to club events and managed a beautiful trout caught on a dry fly he tied himself!



Four Springs is a magnificent early season fishery with anglers doing well from both boat and the shore. Even though it quietens down after Christmas it is still worth a look throughout the season. David Hemmings rates it as one of his favourite waters and that is certainly a good tip!

From the IFS -

Background

Four Springs Lake is a Trophy Fishery providing excellent early and late season angling.

Getting There

Four Springs Lake is 20km north of Hagley via the C735

Recreational Fish Management

Four Springs Lake is managed as a Trophy Fishery and is regularly stocked with both brown and rainbow trout.

Angling Notes

At Four Springs Lake wading anglers should be wary of sudden changes in depth in parts of the lake. All methods of angling can be productive including fly-fishing, spinning and set rod bait fishing. All shores are accessible for wading and fishing from a boat is popular in open water. Early in the season bait fishing is popular in deeper water on the western shore and off the dam wall whilst trolling and drift spinning also account for good catches. Fly-fishing with woolly worms and nymph patterns throughout the lake can be productive. During the spring and summer weed growth restricts fishing from the shore and trolling. Fly-fishing can be productive particularly from a boat. Recommended dry fly patterns include duns, red spinner, caenids and caddis. Wet flies such as mudeyes and nymphs are also favoured.

Regulations

5 fish combined with only 2 over 500mm

Min size: 300/500 mm

Bag limit: 5

Method: All methods (bait, lures and flies). From 1 hour before sunrise to 3 hours after sunset

Season: 6/8/2022 - 30/4/2023

Lake Leake 2022



The Lake Leake trip followed on from the Four Springs trip and it couldn't have been more different. There were very few if any duns, The lake was full to overflowing, discoloured and fishing wet was the main method used to search for Mr. Speckles.

Most people chose to fish from boats but others tried their luck from the edges, particularly around Choc 'n' Log Bay which often fishes well from the shore. Not on this occasion though.



The accommodation at the Lake Leake pub was pretty good really. The counter meals were reasonably priced and included the surprising option of crocodile schnitzel! (The new lessees were from Cairns and were obviously missing it!)

We drifted the edges with very little success. The Treasure landed two fish that were long but very narrow and seemed to be relieved to be finally caught! There were some memorable captures however with Tony Abel, Pete Murphy, Andrew Hood and others doing quite well. We should have followed Wayne and Anna around, as they seemed to catch a lot of fish!



The temptation to motor right up to the top end of the lake was generally irresistible with a number of really good fish being caught there in the previous year. The Treasure and I tried this and only managed a couple of small fish so we tried every edge and cast beautifully. It was far too good a display of our art and was obviously well beyond the abilities of the fish!



The locals told us that the water was too high, too cold and too turbid and that we should have been there last week or next week. I think we might go back next year, or just maybe a little later in the season as this is a fantastic water to fish!

DM

Fly Tying on the WWW

Custom Colouring Beads

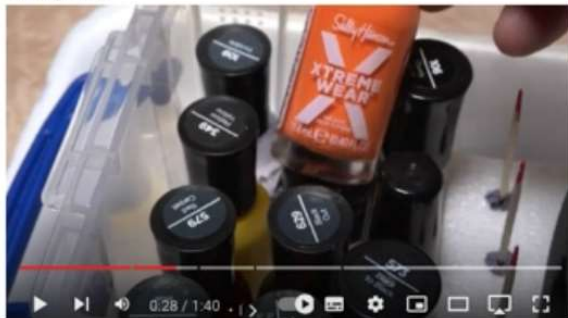
One of my biggest gripes about having to fish wet with a beaded fly is that it only takes about 10 casts for my Red Beaded Magoo to become a silver beaded one. All the redness seems to rub off in a very short period of time. I have tried different types of bead and maybe the anodized ones are slightly better but I don't always love the colour.

I also wish that I had a couple of different colours to the standard ones. A yellow for instance or even a blue on occasions... I don't want to part with the cash for just a couple of flies and when I saw this on YouTube I thought it might be worth sharing and even get some tips from other members on how they maintain or even change bead colours.

You never know, there may even be a chance to use a dry fly in the near future now that the long winter of our discontent seems like finally abating!



Fly Tying Tips & Techniques
Coloring Beads



https://youtu.be/vxdr9jv_h4Q

DM

Cane Day



Might be worth sharing with members
All the Best
Peter Ras.

Reminder- Cane Day on the Pine Sunday 22rd January 2023
Are you keen to get out your old or new cane rod and fish Little Pine for a Day in January?

The Fly Fishers' Club of Tasmania is keen to continue to revive an old tradition of fishing with cane rods on Little Pine. Last year we supported a cane day revival with participants from around the state and mainland.

On Sunday, January 22, 2023 we will host another day. The day will start at 10.00am and conclude at 4.30 pm.

Please register at the Fly Fishers' Club shack, 'Noonamena' at Little Pine by 9.45am

A BBQ will follow at the club shack with the presentation of a bottle of Whisky to the angler with the lucky participation number.

Dress up in your old tweeds and deer stalkers if you wish or your normal gear.

Club members, friends of club members and anglers from other clubs and keen fly fishers are warmly welcome.

A charge of \$5.00 for entry will be made to help with catering.

If interested or attending please contact Chris Crawford at clcrawford@netspace.net.au or Secretary Richard Hawley, via email at secretary@flyfisherscluboftasmania.org.au.

We would love you to come along, compare cane rods and fish.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Peter Ras

Bothwell Dams Weekend

The annual "Bothwell Dams" weekend was held this November 11th to 13th. The editor of "The Vice" usually covers this event but he was busy



masquerading as Matthew Evans in Western Australia. I hope the Margaret River locals won't be too disappointed when they discover it wasn't actually Matthew's signature!

The weather for this year's event looked particularly enticing with rain, overcast conditions and little wind being forecast. Recent warm weather also heightened the prospects of some insects on the water. Reports of a spilling dam and well-conditioned fish just added to the sense of anticipation. Naturally it was dashed with no duns despite perfect conditions and very few insects. The weekend was spent flogging wets! Even David ("dry's only") Travalia was reduced to this lesser form of fishing.



There were 23 participants booked in for the weekend with an even split between those camping at Weasel

and those staying at the shearer's quarters. There were also at least 6 "day trippers" making this weekend the best attended activity outside of the lunch at the Salmon Ponds. It was particularly pleasing to see Chris Roberts up with David Travalia and Jim Jones. You may be aware that Chis has had a very tough few years and we all wish him well and hope to see him back fishing again.



Great to see Chris

Perfect conditions

Weasel Plains was indeed spilling, and a predominance of Easterly weather made fishing the Northern shores the most attractive option. There were lots of well-conditioned trout and many smaller ones that must have come from the 2021 spawning run. They will make for great fishing in the years to come. I personally had lots of grabs and swirls on Friday, but the fish seemed hesitant to commit. I suspect they were smaller fish as of the 5 fish I caught 3 were very small. Chris Medwin undoubtedly caught far more than me and he did confirm that there were lots of small fish.

Chris Medwin gave a group of members a master class of Euro nymphing in the stream below the dam wall. It may be a small and seemingly insignificant stream, but Chris was able to haul numerous fish out of each riffle. Thankfully, his "Fowler Trophy" partner wasn't there as well. There is a very large fish sitting in a hole



just below the dam wall! David Lipscombe and Jim Jones also enjoyed some success.

New member, Elliot, lived up to the hype surrounding his surname catching 4 beautiful trout along the shoreline just east of the camping site.



Having seen Plankton catch a large trout I decided I would have to swallow my pride and call upon his guiding skills the next day. We rose at 5 am hoping to find some tailing fish in the shallows and we were not disappointed. They were hard on the shore but what was disappointing was the amount of green slime and the difficulty of presenting your fly without having it covered in gunk. You needed to wait for the fish to move out a little and then present your fly. Well, that was the theory, but I only got busted off by one large fish and Plankton managed to wrap his fish around a star picket.

Ken Fisher had little luck and I only heard of Dave Lipscombe landing a nice fish using a dry rather than a wet. This may have been the best tactic to avoid the

slime although there were no fish rising. The “Steve Butler Trio” was too late to bed for any early rises. I don’t know how Sunday morning went.

After a brief breakfast most of us headed down the Northern shore, as the wind was more favourable from this side. The trout were also more cooperative with lots of solid takes and connections. I seemed to lose all the better fish but then thought I had a whopper only to be surprised by a large Tench that latched onto my sunken fly as I endeavoured to remove slime from my line. Aspro was rewarded with two crackers from the bay just before the campsite.



It can't be true!

The afternoon saw many of us decamp to Henry’s “Brickfields” dam in preparation for the evening barbeque. At times the fishing seemed more like a Redfin eradication program, but some excellent rainbows were caught.

A fisherman, whose identity will remain unknown (possibly to himself as well), gave the Redfin an ultimatum by tying on a fly larger and more colourful than most of them He then demonstrated his supremacy by landing the largest rainbow of the day. The president also netted two beauties using a fur fly tied with claret zonkers.



Speaking of dubious fishing techniques, Ian Stokes has been accused of using live bait. Having caught a very large Redfin (perhaps 1 kg) and a second one on the point fly he had difficulty finding the fly in the mouth of the large fish. Closer observations revealed the tail of a small fish that had gone headfirst down the throat of the larger fish and obviously got stuck. Three fish on two flies is very impressive! He is therefore the winner of the "Captain Redfin" award as I'm sure everyone else lost count of the numbers they caught.



Smash them please!

The evening was spent at the Shearers quarters with a typical Australian barbeque. The fat caught fire in the drip tray threatening to burn everything! Speaking of healthy diets - what has happened to the traditional "bacon and eggs" for breakfast? I guess you can't let



architects infiltrate the club without some consequences!

There were some delicious salads and South Arm pinkeye potatoes. Thanks go to Ian Stokes for organising the meal and liaising with Henry. Thanks of course to Henry for his hospitality and access to his dams. We were delighted to hear of his intention to



continue this event, as it is one of the highlights of the club calendar.

Sunday morning dawned with the threat of heavy rain, so I packed up early intending to go home. The sudden, urgent arrival of Wayne Bellette with evidence of a large rainbow and tales of a second one caught off the dam wall, sent many of us scurrying off to try our luck. I was just plagued by Redfin but was happy to net a smaller but still impressive rainbow for Tony Abel. As the rain set in, I packed up and went home.

Thanks as well to Steve Butler, Craig Granquist and Mark Aspinall for organising the Weasel campsite. I'm not sure but, I think Ken Fisher provided a trailer of firewood as well. Thanks also go to Scott Bowden. We have heard some positive news about his health battles and wish him all the best. Both owners were presented with a bottle of wine although Scott was not present. I'm sure Steve Butler will forward the Pinot Noir to Scott... Anyhow, a great weekend with lots of fish, great company and next year to look forward to.



Andrew Blackwood



Why Fish the Western Lakes

I wrote this recently to send to someone who is just starting to fish with a fly in an attempt to widen his horizons!!

David

Why fish the Western Lakes?



A while ago Doug, Jim, Chris and I went west of Lake Ada past Christies Creek and Lagoon onto Lake Lunka for a 4-day 3-night trip.

On the second day Chris and I headed around Lunka to the far eastern end of the lake - looking for cruising fish the whole way - perhaps 4km - nothing to be seen...

After a bit of sit - It was a splendid blue sky day not too hot - we thought that we would go further east to follow the little creek that runs into Lunka - not quite sure where it would lead.

After a while, the creek turned into a smallish lake with a shallow sandy bottom, leading out to a deeper drop off.

'There's got to be a fish in there!'
Further along Chris says quietly, 'You see that one?'
"Yup, you go - you saw it first!"

One small dry, one nice cast and the golden beauty mooching along, gently rises and explodes as Chris sets the size 16 Bibio ...

Quickly he brings the lovely male fish to the shore, admires him and then, quickly but gently slides him back into the lake for another day.

Nice fish!

Moving along and it is my turn to see another equal size cruiser - but I'm quite a way up the bank and behind some kerosene bushes 6 or 8 m from the lake - I can't risk moving down to get into a place to have an open shot at him as he unhurriedly moves along ... my pulse rate goes up a few notches ... better stay put.

Strip off as much line as might cover the bush and then get the fly out into his path. He is getting much closer by the second - pulse rises further ...

No time to hesitate ... make the cast and hope that years of practice will put the - you guessed it-size 16 bibio - in front of him in time for him to see it.

The cast lands about a metre short.

'BUGGER,' (spoken sotto voce.) But it is out there in time ...

He changes direction enough to rise, to take it... 'YES!' (Not too loudly though.)

A near identical brother to Chris' fish!

Our theory goes that they are the dominant fish each on patrol lords of their territory.

A good start and after a bit of lunch the question is do we continue?

Why not?

In total another maybe 15kms ... not a fish to be seen, fantastic high plateau vegetation, small lakes and streams, very large wallabies, the odd wombat maybe a snake and eventually cross-country back to our camp.

'How did you go?'

'Not bad - How about you?'

'Saw nothing flogged wets!'

And on, the next couple of days looking, walking and relishing being in such a place ...

Why fish the Western Lakes?

Four days...

One cast made...

One fish caught...

That is why!

David Travalia

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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