



The Vice

Newsletter of the Tasmanian Fly Tyers' Club Inc.

Volume 11 Issue 4

Spring 2013



Presidents Report

With the start of our 2013/2014 season along with our AGM this is when members turn their thoughts to what the fishing season will hold for us all.

With the changing of the guard of the committee at the AGM, a few changes took place. Peter Murphy who has been a diligent and hard working secretary has stepped down to be replaced by Tim Lewis who will take on this important role. Thank you both for this. With Peter outgoing, Stephen Butler has stepped on to the committee and with it some new ideas particularly about modern technology and how it can be of use to our club. Hopefully we will see and hear more of this as the year progresses.

John Smith, already a long term committee member, has stepped into the role of Vice President. Work commitment by Tim Munro made holding this position untenable and Tim continues good counsel as a committee member.

Guy Nicholson has been the back stop for secretary over the past twelve months when Peter and Tim have been away and will continue on as a committee member.

The shack team under the guidance of Brian Mac and Tony Dell have slugged away

through the winter to have almost finished the Great Lake Shack upgrade. Their contribution both physically



and financially is greatly appreciated.

Just lately I received an email from Brian and he has volunteered to be the shack warden for both Lake Sorell and the Great Lake. We all know this task is in good hands and many thanks, Brian.

Steve Butler has taken on the role of activities program manager and a program is out for events up until Christmas. These are times when we can get together and I encourage all of you to think about attending these weekends.

In the past few months at our meetings there have been presentations by members of angling adventures worldwide, personally I have just had a most amazing fishing adventure and look forward to presenting it at our November meeting.

I think that is one of the interesting aspects of our

sport of fly fishing the "next adventure" and I know a number of members are planning angling adventures to far away places and will look forward to their tales of travel and fishing.

For us at home it's down to the business of extracting our Tasmanian trout and what flies to use, how deep, how fast etc.

We are always looking for



edges and our last evening of fly tying by John Spencer, Jason Garrett, Chris Medwin and Brian West all had 'edges' to show and I thank them for their openness.

I cannot wait to try some of the 'edges' myself.

So there it is, new season, new edges, new adventures and I wish you all the best for it and look forward to interesting and fruitful reports.

Regards

Malcolm

Inside this issue:

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



Editorial

Spring is upon us and the anticipation of the new season is immense. The weather however has been atrocious for those who have to wait for weekends to venture out. I think I should probably take up wind surfing.

In this edition there are a few real highlights. For me the most interesting has been writing the article about Laurie Matcham. I managed to spend two wonderful afternoons with Laurie as well as a number of evenings in the 'Gentleman's Retreat' at my place where we tie flies every Wednesday evening. Laurie has been generous enough to come along and share his prodigious skills with our little gathering—we are indeed extremely fortunate to get tips from one of the world's best!

If you like travel then Malcolm Crosse's account of his trip to Kashmir will certainly whet your appetite. I know Malcolm can't wait to go back and that he would love to share this life changing experience with others. He is going to talk about it at one of our next meetings so don't miss this.

If however you are more of a stay here and be creative type then you will enjoy Mark Rampant's story of his first forays into the world of bamboo rod making. His journey of understanding the adaptations he has made make great reading. I am sure he would be glad to give anyone more information and would probably love some suggestions from those in the club with even more expertise.

Dave Tadd has written a really interesting article about a great way of making his boat a much safer platform for fishing without breaking the bank. Check it out!

Have a look at the short article at the end about Andre. He is a remarkable fly tyer and one to really keep an eye on in the future. I have no doubt he has the potential to become one of Tasmania's most remarkable fly tyers before too much longer.

Finally—in this edition I have tried a slightly new template using a different program for the layout of The Vice. I will try to improve on it as time goes by as it is a bit more flexible than the older one. Let me know what you think!

DM



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
douglas.miller@education.tas.gov.au**

*This time the prize goes to **Mark Rampant** for his account of his first steps into the world of bamboo. Anyone who has that much patience should get a prize*

Coming Events

Date	Event	Contact
November 1-3	Macquarie Trip	Craig Granquist
November 18	Monthly Meeting	
November 22-24	Penstock Weekend	Mark Aspinall
December 1	Christmas Drinks Lenah Valley RSL	

If I can draw it – then I can tie it. Every fly I have ever designed has started this way.

It is from this seemingly simple statement that you can start to get an insight into why Laurie Matcham is such a genius in the world of fly tying and fly fishing. He combines his passion for fly fishing with a scientist's knowledge and the artist's skill to produce some of the most innovative and successful fly that are in existence – 134 patterns in ten different sizes for Mustad in fact – all with a bit of Matcham magic!

I went up to spend a Saturday afternoon with Laurie and try and write this article about him for The Vice at his home in Lenah Valley. He greeted me with a glass of white wine and a beautiful Laksa soup and the afternoon kept on getting better. After the soup we went down to the 'Man Cave' to begin the real talk. Those fortunate enough to have visited this room downstairs will know how remarkable it is. His fly tying room is a veritable wonderland of treasures. The temptation to open up every draw and box is almost irresistible and there is the potential for pretty good sized book in that room alone!

At the August Meeting at the Lenah Valley RSL, Jason Garrett Jnr let us all in on a big secret – using a UV torch when purchasing fly tying materials – this little gem of wisdom made a huge impact on Laurie. His excitement was contagious as we went in to the fly tying with his brand new UV torch and started shining it around. The first thing we looked at was the hat - Laurie's famous fly hat. (I had seen this before at one of the Annual Dinners that he and the wonderful Grace had so generously hosted for the club.) Under the blue UV light the hat started to sparkle. We then shone it into the fly boxes and the beautifully tied collection lit up like a Christmas tree. Every fly seemed to have a trigger tied into it. The flies that had been best sellers all over the world



had finally revealed one of their basic secrets that set them apart.

Laurie is famous for the flies he has developed himself and to see the Matcham Rosella, the brown nymph and the Damsels glowing the UV light was an amazing insight into the success of these flies that he designed and tied over twenty years earlier. We mucked around with the torch for a while longer, just checking out the different materials and older fly boxes before moving into the main bar area and opening a rather nice bottle of red to start checking out more stuff!



On the bar was a pile of over forty books – all of which had articles about Laurie. Nearly all of them were signed specifically for him with names like Gary La Fontaine, Jason and Gary Berger, Paul Schmoockler, Jack Dennis and just about any famous name in world fly tying and fishing. There were videos of Laurie with Olivia Newton-John when she did an episode of 'Beyond 2000' on

him; there were excerpts from Nexus TV in Japan that highlighted Tasmanian fly tying and appeared all over Japan in the late 1990s. There were even copies of an article that appeared in Delta Airlines Magazine that appeared on flights all over the world which had a valuation of over \$500 000 for advertising of Tasmania as a destination. Combine this with the television shows with the likes of Peter Morse and I reckon Tasmanian tourism and Tasmanian fly fishing owes a lot to the 'Ambulance man with a passion for insects and haberdashery' as one article described him.



So – how did it all start?

One of Laurie's earliest memories is as a very young boy, walking the banks of the Goulburn River and seeing the Kosciusko Dunns rising in the evening light. They looked like fairies to him and this enchantment has stayed with him ever since. Nearly all the articles on Laurie mention his passion for finding the insects in the trees sags and likely lies all around the area he fishes. An old kitchen strainer is an essential part of his fishing gear still!

He and good mates like Les Roberts and John O'Halloran fished Sorell and Lagoon of Islands with remarkable success and news soon got around about Laurie's fly tying skills. Jason Garret Snr heard about his Caenid and invited him to London Lakes – took one look and asked if he could tie some and if he would like to do some guiding there – this was in 1993 and led to a 20 year job!

Laurie represented Australia in numerous One Fly, World and Commonwealth Championships in

places like New Zealand, Italy, Canada and the USA but it was when he worked with the Norwegian team in the 1988 World Championships in Tasmania that he got his really big break. The enterprising Norwegians videoed Laurie knocking out amazing flies on a vice mounted on the rear bumper of a Volvo at Little Pine. The people at O. Mustad took notice and invited Laurie to work for them as a hook and fly designer with Torill Kolbu – Norway’s most famous fly tyer. This opened up the doors to the world and the places it has taken him would make your mouth water.

A few weeks earlier the intrepid few who come over to tie flies in the ‘Gentleman’s Retreat’ at my place in Howrah were delighted when Laurie came along to share his wisdom with us. He brought with him some examples of his creativity. The first thing we used was an Ostrich feather with really unique markings that Laurie had developed through the creative use of a computer and a colour photocopier.* Next we had lessons in the use of wing burners and wedding dress material that had been hand painted and used to create amazing organza wings for stoneflies. We learned how to use scissors to curl the hackle on stick caddis in a way that made them look so alive and realistic it was amazing. The UV torch and resin then came out and we got an insight into some of the possibilities for this relatively new material might be used.

The conversation then inevitably turned to flies and fly tying. It was an incredibly wide ranging discussion that is difficult to document in any chronological way so I will generally order things according to the appeal they had to me (the writer’s privilege).

Laurie ties many versions of the classic flies but only has put his name to a select few - namely

Matcham’s Caenid



Matcham’s Rosella



Matcham’s Pedder Woven Mud-eye



Matcham’s Claret Dun



The Tassie Governor was one of the first flies Laurie developed. It began as a cross between a Geehi Beetle and the Red-tipped Governor and eventually morphed into the Tassie Governor. From the sounds of it there were a great number of very large fish that found it to be totally irresistible.

The idea of developing a fly from an original observation was a fascinating one. So after pouring scorn on people (often in American magazines) who do

something like put a blue tail on a red tag and claim to have invented a new fly the conversation moved on to the process of actually transforming a good idea into a brilliant one. (My



note taking here is a bit hazy but in my defence I remind the reader that this is a fishing article and therefore includes mandatory elements of exaggeration and subtle inaccuracy – please feel free to contribute an article correcting anything you disagree with!) The story starts with a fly tied by John Bessel that he called the 007.

It was essentially a nymph-snail like creature with a red tag. Laurie – meanwhile had noticed a tiny red spider in Lake Samuel that really glowed brightly despite its miniature size. He also noticed that this spider had the habit of hitching a ride on the back of the tiny snails that migrated from one end of the lake to the other. Add a curved hook, some crocheted Madeira thread and an orange UV tag and the newly named Clearwater Nymph really became a winner.



As the afternoon drew to a close the talk veered from the past to the future. The idea of driving

* Check at work before you try this

around in ambulances was obviously not going to be on the agenda for much longer. There is obviously a great deal of fishing



to be done but I got the idea that there is an artist of considerable talent that will emerge over the next years. The drawings, models, paintings that I saw indicated the direction that Laurie might take. Those who went to the last Annual Dinner and saw the trout centrepiece and model mayflies that graced the room will not be surprised by this prediction. So – watch out for some real creativity coming from a man who definitely is an ornament to the art of the fly!

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 new trial 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.

DM

I have been a little obsessed with a new toy recently—namely a UV Torch and a bottle of Bug Bond. I first saw Craig Granquist demonstrating this amazing bit of gear and was impressed. I managed to pick up a set quite cheaply and set about wasting hooks trying to get used to it. After a few early efforts I went to the web and typed in ‘Bug Bond tying’ and one of my old favourites - Davie McPhail came to the rescue with some wonderful Buzzer patterns. They are reasonably easy to tie and provide lots of room for innovation. I love that!

Click on the picture to follow the links



Bug Bond Quilled Buzzer



UV Quilled Buzzer

Bamboo Winter Project

During March I went fishing with a friend I've known for about 12 years or so and I was intrigued with the bamboo rods that he had - One of which arrived while we were fishing in the northern river systems while based for a few days in Longford. We talked endlessly about fishing our exploits and other lies whilst indulging in vast amounts of expensive single malt and cigars; most of which I was lucky to have enjoyed at my friends expense.

One evening while we were extracting the most out of a bottle of fine single malt, another of our friends happened to take out a 5 weight 8'6" bamboo rod that he had recently finished and not usually feeling completely adequate at fly casting but having been encouraged by my friend and a familiar Scottish helper by the name of Talisker, I proceeded to pull out some fly line from the five weight and tried to hit a few moths out on the lawn. I found that I really enjoyed the action of his new rod, surprised at how much line I could cast out with a bamboo rod. Although this definitely was not the Sage TCX or TCR it seemed that there was some magic spell from this wand that I was under.

A few weeks later I found myself thinking about this rod again and sent off an email asking about this rod's taper and curiosity caught me to continue down this path. I read a bit about making bamboo rods and asked a couple of other friends about their experience with bamboo. While in this state of romantic musing I went along to one of the club meetings and the guest speaker was Bill Lark and his bamboo rod building as well as malt whiskey; well this started the smouldering into a flame.

As with most things in my life so far, if it seems difficult then I'll do my best to try to overcome it. I jumped in head first and tried to explore options and the gear needed to make

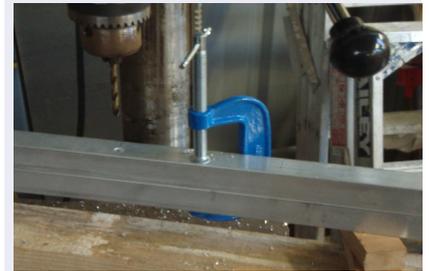
bamboo fly-rods. After speaking to David Hemmings about the method and gear he was using I convinced myself that I would confidently lash out and bite off more than I could probably chew.

The road I went down was to make a bamboo form out of aluminium as I was going to be able to acquire the lengths required for about the same price as steel. As it turned out the aluminium came in 4m lengths and I then decided to make the form at 2m as to the usual bought steel form that are 6'. The form profile I settled on was a design by Thomas Penrose; he has a website (<http://www.thomaspenrose.com/form01.htm>) that outlines the making for this design (at 6' as opposed to 6'6"). The web site has the material and details that is needed to make the form.



I had the aluminium stock sitting on my shed workbench for about a fortnight while I picked up the other bits and pieces that I would need to complete the form, and also wait

until my wife had left to go to WA for a few weeks and I would have time to slave away



diligently without having to give an account for my continued hiding in the man-cave.

It was in July that I started, with a little hesitation and much procrastination, to make the first mark on the aluminium. From here on the form measurements will be in US talk as it is easier for me to relate from the information that is available.

The stock I used for the form was 1 inch aluminium bar, slide rods- 5mm rod 50mm long, push bolts-M8 shoulder bolts 60mm long with 30mm shoulder, pull bolts- M8 set screws 40mm long.

The first requirement is to clamp both pieces flat and together. I put the aluminium on some blocks of 20mm MDF to keep the work off the G-clamps. The two pieces of aluminium that are now face up will need to be filed flat as this will be the internal edges of the finished form, if they don't sit flat together when the tapered groove is cut it may not give an accurate finish. I found that the extruded aluminium was not exactly square flat surfaces, the middle of the sides were slightly recessed; this would result in the form not closing tightly and correctly. Filing was done with a 10" bastard cut file, I estimate that it took about 10,000



strokes to remove about a thou; yes that is right not a typo!

Needing to keep the file flat to the work, I used my thumbs together to push the file across the aluminium, the aluminium has a tendency to come away in large filings if you push down too hard; the down side is the larger pieces will stick to the grooves in the file and cause gouges in the form. Lighter strokes have smaller filings but less sticking; less gouges in the form. There is a trade-off to removing more material with each stroke but having to clean the file out then having the chance of the swathe gouging the finished work. Using gloves helps to reduce blisters on the thumbs. I only ended up with 3 after the complete job.

Once the forms are filed flat remove the G-clamps and roll the aluminium so the filed faces are together then same as before. At this point this is the surface that the bamboo will be finished on. The form will have two working sides, one for the tip and the opposite side will be for the butt sections.

With the form clamped together you will need to drill holes through both pieces of the form these are for sliding rods to help keep the two pieces parallel when opening and closing the form. All the holes are centre and square, there is a hole for a sliding

rod every 5 inches. These holes go through from one side to at least half way through the second piece (35 -40 mm). After these had been drilled I went

through and drilled for the pull bolts.

The pull bolts start at 1 inch from the end and are at 5 inch intervals; the sliding rod holes are offset to the pull bolts; 2.5 inches from the first bolt. The pull bolts are M8 shoulder bolts. The shoulder needs to be slightly longer than the width of one piece of the form and the thread at



least the same. The directions tell me that first drill the primary hole for the thread to cut in the form, e.g. 8mm bolt I used a 6.5mm primary hole. This hole goes through both pieces. Before you move the form and do the second hole remove the 6.5mm bit and replace it with a 8mm bit. I found out that this really should be followed, the 8mm only goes through the first piece of the form to allow the shoulder bolt to slide unhindered.

Then back to the 6.5mm bit and so forth until all the holes have been drilled accordingly. Once these holes have been completed separate the form and on the piece with the 6.5mm hole only, the other piece should have the slide rod hole through and an 8mm hole through. With the 6.5 mm holes tap a thread to suit the M8 shoulder bolt. When these are done you will need to drill

and tap another hole for the push bolt, about 10mm away from the shoulder bolt holes. Then put the form together again.

At this point I felt that I was on the home stretch. I was



sadly mistaken - this is about a quarter of the way complete! With the two pieces bolted together tightly you pick up the file and proceed to flatten both sides of the form; many more than 10,000 strokes of the file.

I found that running lines across both pieces you could see where the hollow spots were which meant file more off the high points! When these surfaces are flat I got to thinking that I bit off more than I could chew and was either going to choke or chew



like hell.

With the surfaces flat the tapered groove needs to be filed in the form. This taper should be around 20- 25 thou at the tip end and taper at 1 thou per inch down the form. Generally this will give you a give a V groove at around 85 thou deep at the other end of a 6' form. To create the required angle of the V groove a standard triangle file is the correct angle. 60 degrees will give you an equilateral triangle and six of these will give you a complete hexagonal rod. I sacrificed a triangle fie by cutting the ends off and epoxying it into a makeshift base to use as a palm block.

The form is then opened up so



the edges of the file in just touching the edges of the form. With extreme caution gently run



the block up and down the form, 20 thou is all that needs to be removed. Now I thought that 20 thou with 10,000 strokes to remove half a thou no problem go for it; it takes a lot less when removing the corners. Half a thou over the width of the form is a lot more cubic material than the corner. As a result I had to go back and reduce the top of the form down to get a correct depth at the tip end; worked on the third blister

at that point.

As the groove is formed to the correct depth at the tip close the form by 5 thou at the second station point (push-pull bolts) from the tip . By closing the form by about 5 thou progressively at each station point the taper should be easier to control. To get the actual 5 thou depth taper the width is slightly more than 5 thou: 5577 thou, close to 6. By working at 5 thou this gives you a margin to fine tune without cutting too deep.

This has been my experiences with making my bamboo form and some could have been avoided if I followed the instructions correctly that Penrose lays out. They are really very precise but don't tell you what happens if you don't follow them. This allows me to tell you what can go wrong.

Mark Rampant

Ad-Vice -Tips and Tricks

Gadgets, gear and good ideas are always close to the surface whenever fly tyers get together. This regular 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.

Keeping your glue pliable

Laurie Matcham often uses nail varnish to finish off the head on his flies. Nail Varnish however tends to 'go off' a bit with constant use. To make his varnish stay in top condition for longer he simply drops in a couple of bead chain eyes which help loosen up and mix the varnish when you shake it. This certainly works and any money saved can always be used to buy more gear!

UV or not UV—that is the question!

For me the most fascinating tip was from Jason Garrett Jr who announced at one of the monthly meetings that he always takes a UV torch with him when he goes into a fishing shop and checks that the things he is buying that claim to be 'UV'. He went on to say that fish can see in the UV spectrum so it seems that this should be a definite trigger to include in any fly. In particular he had a great deal of success with his version of a Shrek with a UV tag. The fly was extremely successful 'on the hang' in Penstock in particular.

A tip worth remembering...





I have a 30 year old, 13 foot Stessl with 25 horsepower Mariner and forward control. I have been concerned for some time that the built-in buoyancy was inadequate. I searched the web looking for some way of increasing the buoyancy, having in mind some sort of inflatable add-on.

I found the *Kapten Boat Collar* and was very impressed with the video on their website. The collar is 240mm x 145mm cross section and comes in lengths to suit any boat. The collar is made of high density laminated foam that is manufactured in Germany. It has a hard lamination on the outside surface and a hard structural lamination 20mm in from the inside surface. The big difference with this collar is that it attaches along the chine of the boat and not around the gunwale like other inflatable devices.



Installation

The Collar comes with a good set of fitting instructions. Fixing plates, self tapping screws with neoprene seals and washers are all supplied.

The collar is much easier to fit on hulls that have a planking profile. My hull has a 40 millimetre corrugation and so I had to cut a groove in the foam to fit over it. I also had to modify my trailer because it has 13 inch wheels and there was not

enough clearance for the collar. The axle had to be increased in length by 120 millimetre. Trailers with smaller wheels should not present any problem.

The collar is attached to the boat by aluminium plates inserted into the foam on the outside of the structural laminate. Glue is then injected into the slot. Plates have to be inserted at 300 millimetre intervals along the length of the boat.

Using the supplied drill template, two holes are drilled at appropriate intervals along the length of the boat.

Placing the collar in the correct position, and, from inside the boat, mark off through the drilled holes with a felt pen, to the inside surface of the collar. This provides the correct positions for the aluminium plates.

To insert the plates, using a sharp knife, cut a slot in the foam from the underside of collar on the outside of the structural laminate. The aluminium plate is inserted into the pocket and glue is injected into the pocket on the outer side of the plate. The recommended glue is Liquid Nails (original).

Having fitted all plates, hold the collar up to the boat making sure it is in the correct position, this requires two people. From inside the boat drill holes into the plate in the foam, fit self tapping

screws with sealing washers. Repeat until all plates are secured.

How does it work?

The first thing I noticed, it was much easier launching the boat. As soon as the collar enters the water, the boat floats off the trailer. The boat has a smoother ride, particularly when traveling into the waves. As the collar extends to the bow of the boat it prevents any spray coming into the boat. The boat has greater stability at rest, and moving around in the boat is much easier. Overall, the collar adds approximately 330 kilograms of buoyancy.

Kapten Boat Collars are produced in Nambor, Queensland. The cost of the collars is \$100 per metre, which includes all fixing plates and screws. The cost of freight is a bit expensive at \$363.00, using their carrier, but I shopped around and received quotes nearly double. All up it cost me about \$1 200.

Check out the web site at www.kaptenboatcollar.com There is a very impressive video of the inventor in a tinnie crossing a river bar.

If you want any more information or want to come and see my boat, give me a ring.

Dave Tadd.



Around the Corner—Fly Fishing in Kashmir



I guess in all of us is the spirit of adventure, particularly with fly fishermen where the next fish is just around the next corner and we have to go there.

Sometimes the next corner is the Sand flats of Christmas Island, the bubbling rivers of New Zealand or just a morning walk along the shores of Little Pine they all have the same effect on our angling make up as anglers .

So when the chance to fish in Kashmir presented itself it was another angling corner to go round.

This corner turned out to be probably the most rewarding angling experience of my life and one which I must share and promote to others.

Trout into Kashmir had a similar introductory story as did Tasmania after two attempts one in the late 1890's which failed and one in 1900 which succeeded saw the birth of a sport fly fishery primarily for the Colonial British and the Indian royalty .

Since then the Brits have been and gone and the Browns along with the later introduced Rainbows have flourished and now inhabit most of the rivers and lakes of this country.

Along with this and the modern day need for food the Kashmir IFS have over the years established a number of Trout hatcheries with the prime aim of producing fish for the table which are sold to the local population.

The sport fishery these days could best be described as a side venture and a fishery underutilised and bountiful.

The chance to visit Kashmir with local Kashmiri/Hobart based doctor Humayoon Shah became available and along with his angling friends made my visit a very easy exercise. Shah and his friends in Particular Muzaffar Goroo arranged all the accommodation travel licences and all I had to do was get out of bed at the ungodly hours of 0430 on the days I went fishing.

This country is Asia/India /Persia etc. all rolled into one with the main city being Srinagar. All the larger towns have all the Asian chaos and mad traffic with cows,

horses and dogs all sharing the road which made for interesting travel.

As the boys were keen for me to see as many different rivers as possible I was based at Srinagar which necessitated the early starts each day to clear the city before the morning madness.

Once away and into the "Switzerland of the East" with huge mountain ranges stretching



back to the Himalayas life was better the further away the more rural life became with horse mounted shepherds, flocks of sheep, and goats all on the move with women and children on foot. Very rural very colourful.

Unseasonal heavy rains in my first week meant a change of plans but still and all over the time of my visit I was able to experience rivers both Large and small spring feed water through to raging mountain torrents. All of which had fish in them and on this trip caught more Trout per day than I have ever

caught.

The angling methods varied from streamer wets fished across and down (one such cast resulting in a double header which in fast water was challenging with only a team effort resulting in a landing), through to nymph fishing using 'leader to hand' (which seems to be the way the local go about their fishing); to nymph under an indicator or dry fly and finally the best of all dries on their own.

Surprisingly this was not a preferred method by the locals but which produced a lot of fish for me - and I don't profess to be a gun dry fly fisher.

The fishing is still based on the old British system and is highly regulated by the IFS as they can see the value in the sport fishery which is in need of international promotion so as again become a viable tourist business.

Day licences are 2000 Rupees (we will stick to 50 Rupees to the AUD) which I thought was a bit expensive, however to offset that your mandatory Gillie who was there to wade into the river to unhook your fly from the bottom or climb trees to retrieve your fly from the branches was priced at 500 Rupees .

The angling venues were strictly controlled with a beat allocation system going back to



the British days. Beats on average were 8-9 km long and only two anglers per day were permitted to fish which ensured you had plenty of untouched water to fish.

For me I was doing well to cover 2-3 km for the day - the younger guys would do much better.

The fish were, as I said, plentiful and well-conditioned; whilst the biggest I would have landed was 4.5 lbs my hosts caught bigger fish. Given the



vast amount of rain which put the rivers up and being told they would all be 10-15 days before they would fish at their best I was very happy with my returns.

I only scratched the surface of what is a rediscovered emerging fishery, I was supposed to travel to a river last fished by a foreigner some 70 years ago but the rains over

the mountain pass (14,500 ft) had caused washouts and landslides. That adventure is still there for someone.

All this with eastern food, bears and possible sighting of leopards, different birds and no snakes made this a great corner to go around.

In the next issue I will give some detail for anyone interested in visiting this virtually untouched fishery.

Malcolm Cross



Andre's Flies

Whenever I tie a fly it is a bit hit and miss - some look just right but other look a bit ... well a bit mutant! Andre however, is one of the best fly tyers I have had the privilege of meeting. He has only been tying to a standard he describes as 'acceptable' for about 4 years. He is totally self-taught and has the happy knack of being able to look at a natural insect or creature and then choose exactly the right materials to imitate it. He also seems to get proportions right every time.

It is fascinating to watch a good fly tyer in action. They move with an assuredness and confidence that comes from a very clear understanding of the features of the fly they are creating. They know the size, the proportions and the main trigger point they are trying to recreate. They have gleaned this knowledge by taking the time to look at the natural in its habitat. Andre is a font of knowledge regarding the creatures that inspire his flies. He is also able to choose everyday materials to create the effects he is seeking.

The flies that astound me in their elegance and simplicity in particular are the shrimps with their translucent bead bodies and the creative use of nail polishes to great and wonderful effect. These are apparently very successful as both a freshwater and saltwater fly.

With the creative use of strips of plastic bag, bead chain eyes, crystal flash antennae and a basic red cock hackle all tied backward facing so it imitates the real shrimp; this fly just oozes life and deception.

But do these flies work? At the last John Fowler Day at the Snowy Ranges the trophy was won by Shelby and Mark who just knocked off Jim Davis and Pete Murphy. Between them they managed a total of just 6 fish. In the same time, Andre, who was not competing managed to land and release unharmed 9 fish – all on his own flies!

As remarkable as these flies are, probably the most remarkable thing about them is Andre himself. He often ties without the use of a light, uses very rudimentary equipment and is only 12 years old! He is in the class I teach at school. He has an insatiable thirst for anything to do with fly fishing and is constantly seeking new uses for common materials. In him, the future of fly tying and fly fishing is safe.



Your new committee

President: Malcolm Crosse

Mob: 0429 870 550

Vice President: John Smith

Secretary: Tim Lewis

secretary@tasmanianflytyersclub.org

Treasurer: Andrew Blackwood

Committee Members

Tim Munro

Guy Nicholson

Steve Butler

For payments to the club

BSB: 807 009

Account No: 12130456

Name: Tasmanian Fly Tyers Club Inc.

Then email the details to

Andrew Blackwood andrew.blackwood@education.tas.gov.au

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

<http://tasmanianflytyersclub.org>



And finally...



Picture: <http://www.fieldandstream.com/blogs/field-notes/2013/07/kiwi-angler%E2%80%99s-42-lb-brown-trout-official-world-record>

New World Record Trout caught in New Zealand by Otwin Kandolf—42lb 1oz (19kg!)