



The Vice



Newsletter of the Tasmanian Fly Tyers' Club Inc.

Volume 17, Issue 4 Winter 2024

Inside: ... The one with lots of tying and much more...

Cover Shot – RSL Tying Day - Shot taken by Stephen Butler

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Committee	David Travalia
	Scott Haslock
	Paul Markey
	Tim Urbanc
Acting Vice Editor	Doug Miller

<http://tasmanianflytyersclub.org>

President's Report

The President is currently on tour in the US.
Here are the new committee members though

President: Andrew Reed
Vice President: Wayne Bellette
Treasurer: Norm Cribbin
Secretary: Tony Abel
Committee:
Scott Haslock
David Travalia
Paul Markey
Tim Urbanc

Newly appointed Life Members
Tony Abel and Noel Wilson

New Patron
John Fowler Jnr

Clubman of the Year
Norm Cribben

Editorial

Once again the main focus of the Winter Vice is fly tying. There are enough patterns here to fill your boxes twice over!

Whilst the early season weather has been problematic with storms aplenty there is a lot of water spilling out of lakes and rivers and this can only be a good thing.

Congratulations to Tony and Noel as our new Life Members and to Norm as a very deserving Clubman of the Year.

Once again many thanks to Laurie for sharing his tips on organising your gear and for sharing his wonderful fly tying skills. Thanks also to Noel for sharing the nymph he uses to such great effect. Enjoy the new season and put those newly tied flies into the mouths of unsuspecting and overconfident fish!

DM



Steve at Spot On fishing tackle has kindly provided the Club with 4 voucherVouchers can be picked up from the Editor at your leisure!

Send your stories to 55dmiller@gmail.com

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Opening Day Adventures

There is a magical element to heading out to a river on the first day of a new fishing season and you know that when it is organised by Jim Jones there will be cane rods and also if David Travalia is involved there will be the obligatory good coffee, a nice lunch and the possibility of an evening meal



as well. Fish would have been an added bonus!

Our hardy band of adventurers met at the Granton car park and agreed to make the all important decision about where to fish over a nice coffee at the bookshop in New Norfolk. The Tyenna was the obvious choice, after a brief suggestion and subsequent dismissal of the Lachlan.



River levels were pretty good with some good flow, overcast conditions and little wind. It looked really good! There were no other fishers on the river so we had it to ourselves. Unfortunately there were no fish seen at all. Time for lunch at Maydena and a regrouping after having our licences checked by the IFS - all of us were 'legal' thankfully.

We moved to the weir near National Park and explored a very promising section but only two fish were caught - one by David and one by Dr Chris. I didn't fall in and caught a number of different species of tree which I am quite proud of for so early in the season.

As darkness began to encroach we headed into New Norfolk for a very nice meal at the Bush Inn.



Good company, good food and unproductive but
fun fishing for the first day!

DM

Interlaken Fly Tying 2024

In the last issue I reported on the brilliant trip to Interlaken, which was the replacement session for the traditional Tiger Hut weekend, but I didn't focus on the flies. So... here are some of the things we produced.

Fly: Bream Fly (Granquist version)

Tyer: Anna Bellette

Hook: Gamakatsu

Saltwater 3x #6

Thread: Fire Orange Uni 6/0

Tail Underwing: EP Fibres Pink (Gold Olive etc)

Over-wing: Arctic Fox

Bead: Dumbbell eyes



Fly: Duck Fly (Hughes)

Tyer: John Hughes

Hook: #14 305

Thread: Uni 6/0 dark brown

Tail: Blue or red goose biot

Body: Mohair or similar

Wing: Mountain duck flank



Fly: Duck Fly (Hood variant)

Tyer: Andrew Hood

Hook: Tiemco 102y #13

Thread: Uni 8/0 dark brown

Tail: Blue buck tail

Body: Superfine Adam's grey



Wing: Mountain duck flank

Fly: Green bead Magoo variant

Tyer: Chris Berndt

Hook: #10 B175

Thread: Black Uni 8/0

Tail: Marabou light and dark olive

Body: Peacock herl

Rib: Copper wire

Hackle: Grizzle hen

Bead: Brass in pale green



Fly: Black and White
Emerger
Tyer: Ashley Artis
Hook: B116 #16
Thread: Ultra thread 70d
Black
Tail: Dark grey cock
Body: Black thread
Thorax: Black dubbed fine
and dry



Fly: Christmas Island Special
Tyer: Ian Stokes
Hook: Tiemco TMC 811S #8
Thread: Pink 8/0
Tail: Pearl Crystal flash 6
strands
Body: Pearl Crystal Flash with UV resin
Beard: Crystal flash and tan craft fur
Bead: 3mm Brass dumbbells gold



Wing: White CDC



Fly: Mataura Spinner
Tyer: John O'Halloran
Hook: B830 #12
Thread: Uni 6/0 Black
Tail: Brown Coq de Leon
Body: Brown super fine
Post: White Float Vis
Hackle: Black and white grizzle parachute style



Fly: Naked Charlie
Tyer: Peter Murphy
Hook: O'Shaughnessy Stainless #6
Thread: Ultra Fluoro Orange 140d
Wing: Crystal flash and EP Fibres
Bead: Bead chain eyes - gold



Fly: Orange Spinner
 Tyer: Denis Abbott
 Hook: B830 #14 long shank
 Thread: Uni 8/0 Rusty brown
 Tail: Ginger cock whisks
 Body: Pearsalls Marabou silk
 Thorax: Reddish Brown dubbing
 Post: HiViz White tied under shank



Fly: Interlaken Variant
 Tyer: Tony Abel
 Hook: Max catch #12
 Thread: Pearsalls Light Olive
 Tail: Red cock
 Body: Green Fritz UV
 Straggle Claret
 Wing: Green Partridge
 Hackle: Dark Olive Hen



Hackle: Brown Cock

Fly: The Famous Pellet Fly
 Tyer: John Smith
 Hook: Semi submersible
 Thread: Brown black green
 Body: Grey packing sponge
 Bead: Optional variety of colours



Fly: Bibio Hopper
 Tyer: Neil Pinkard
 Hook: B401 #12
 Thread: Uni 8/0 Black
 Body: Black and claret
 seals fur
 Rib: Pearl Mylar
 Legs: Knotted black pheasant tail
 Hackle: Black cock



RSL Tying Day



It is always nice to have a chance to spend a day at the Lenah Valley RSL tying flies and chatting to people and this was no exception. Once again Steve Butler and his team put on an excellent day. Many flies were tied, stories told and sausages cooked and consumed - even a mystery type! (Crocodile!!!) courtesy of Vermey's Butchers in Sandy Bay!

Book sales were offered as well thanks to some mystery donors with profits going to the club.



This story doesn't focus on the flies that were tied - rather it looks at travelling with your gear.

Whenever there are fly tying events there is a dilemma about what you should bring and how you should get it there. Everything from supermarket shopping bags to highly organised professional kits were on display at the RSL.

The most common issue is that when you arrive at the venue you find that you have most of the stuff you need and a lot of things you don't. This

results in you almost be able to tie the flies you want to make. But enough about my personal



system.

Tim Urbanc organises his stuff in plastic boxes labeled, creatively, Wet box and Dry box. This way he knows he has exactly what he needs to tie the flies he wants to tie at any given time. Keeping the materials in an easily accessible manner makes it a lot easier and efficient to grab when heading off to the shack and so on.



Places like Spotlight and even other craft stores like Shiploads have a wide range of interesting storage containers like this one which is perfect for storing beads and so on.



A well organised tying space makes it much easier to produce the killer fly!



It is worthwhile to check out what others have done to make it easy to bring your gear along with as little hassle as possible and there were many great ideas on display on the day.



A Professional Approach

It is always good to ask how a professional Tyer would approach a tying day - especially if you are invited to tie on the big stage. Not many of us have had this opportunity and it was interesting to talk with someone who has. Of course I am speaking of our own Laurie Matcham who was one of the two professional Tyers For Mustad back in the day.



'At the Denver show for example, you get given a time slot to tie on stage. You have to be ready. It's a performance. It's good to be and look organised



because people make up their minds about you in the first few seconds.'

Laurie of course is well organised as a professional Tyer should be. He decides on what he wants to tie, gets the materials together - usually not too much, and packages them up in an easy to carry and, importantly, a visually pleasing manner. It is a obviously important to look professional as well as having the skills!

The Vice he uses packs down quite small and of course so does the light. Tools are stored in a small leather satchel or wallet. Bobbins go in a hard container so they don't break. Pick a bag that everything fits in nicely and of course if you're a professional it should look good too!

Laurie's Tips:

Decide what to tie

Only carry what you need.

Gather materials you need - no more

Gather the tools you need - a pencil case is useful!

Plastic ziplock bags are useful for feathers, tinsels etc

Take time to find exactly the right containers

Double check that you have the tools!

A separate traveling set of gear can be a worthwhile investment.



All set and ready to go!

Noel's Flash Nymph

A real treat to those who came along to the RSL day was to watch one of our newest Life Members and dearly beloved club legend Noel Wilson tie a fly. Noel has an incredible ability to produce flies that really work with the added bonus of telling you how and when to fish them. He said that this fly was told to him over the phone and he tied wrongly but- it worked like a treat. The Accidental Flashback Nymph was born!



The nymph has all the trigger points that are the hallmark of a Wilson fly. Simple tweaks and additions elevate his flies to another level.

Hook: B830 #14

Thread: Black or brown

Bead: Copper or gold tungsten

Tail: Pheasant tail fibres

Body: Veniard Kringle Mirror flash in Peacock black

Rib: Fin reddish copper wire from an old radio

Thorax: Good quality peacock herl



This is a fairly slim tie with the body 2/3 of the hook shank and the bead and herl as the top 1/3. The pheasant Tail moves nicely in the water but can break if you catch too many fish on it! He suggested that the addition of some Coq de Leon tail fibres might strengthen it a bit more. Reading between the lines it is obvious that this fly is very effective!



Noel has had the most success fishing this fly on



the point on a ghost tip line. He usually starts using it from October onwards when the nymphs start to move around more.

Possible variations could be to use a glass bead and fish on the middle dropper but this is yet to be tested - it could be worth testing it out!

AGM Awards

There were two new life members presented with their badges at the AGM as well as the Clubman of the Year, Casting champions and Fowler Trophy winners. Congratulations to all!



Life Members: Tony Abel and Noel Wilson



Casting Champions: Paul McCosh



Fowler Trophy: Dave Lipscombe and Martin Excel (Absent)

Clubman of the Year: Norm Cribbin

Laurie's Vixen and Nymph



Laurie was generous enough to share two of the flies he tied at the RSL day. They deserve a place in any fly box and, although they may be challenging to tie initially they are awesome!



Black Vixen Muddler style dry
Hook: Wet fly #8
Thread: Black
Body: Silver Madeira thread
Tail: Bear or Cashmere goat hair
Wing: Cashmere Goat hair (Spirit River)
Head: Black deer clipped

This fly is fished at dusk slowly in the surface, preferably in close proximity to a mud eye tree*.



Metallic Flashback Nymph
Hook: 80000 Mustad #14
Thread: Black
Tail: Black Goose biots
Legs: Black goose biots
Thorax: Black dubbing
Wing Case: Red or green Mylar lurex
Antennae: Black feather pins (the 'stalk' of the feather once the webbing has been removed)
Coat the wing case in UV resin
Laurie bends the legs of the fly with a heated needle. It looks simple...



* A mud eye tree is one where you see the casings of mud eyes hanging off it. This means that the mud eyes travel towards it at dusk to hatch into damselflies. Fish love to take them as they head towards it.

DM