

Agenda GM 20 November 2023, LVRSL and Zoom, 7.30pm

Zoom GM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83012995447?pwd=dUI2Wis0Y3UxMwWd0b3Rkc1dxSThxdz09>

Meeting ID: 830 1299 5447 Passcode: 007

Present: Denis Abbott, Tony Abel, Glenn Becher, Chris Berndt, Elliott Blackwood, Rob Brodribb, Norm Cribbin, Tony Dell, Rob Dineen, Martin Exel, Andrew Fisher, Craig Granquist, Scott Haslock, Dave Long, Paul Markey, Paul McCosh, Tim Munro, John O'Halloran, Robert Phillips, Danny Rimmer, John Spencer, Ian Stokes, David Tarbath, David Travalia, Tim Urbanc, Angus Williams

Zoom: John Smith, Doug Miller, John Hardy

Guests: Ron Thresher (speaker), Chris Stopp, Darryl and Leanne Griffiths (Cairns Saltwater FFC), Frank Neasey, Alan Williams

Apologies: Wayne Bellette, Michael Bourne, Glenn Cannell, Lyndon Cubbins, Andrew Hood, Nick Ingles, James Jones, Tim Lewis, Stephen Luttrell, Brian McCullagh, Douglas Mosenthal, Chris Roberts, Bill Turner, Noel Wilson

Minutes GM 16 October 2023: Elliott Blackwood, John Spencer

Corro in and out:

Communications re proposed Hydro licencing of events

Mark Links re assistance with Nationals - circulated

Financial:

Term deposits \$7294.74, \$6457.86

10/11/2023	TFR DEP TRANSFER FROM 12085123 SHACK FEES - TIMOTHY URBANC	\$180.00	\$17,047.31	
08/11/2023	DIRECT CR FROM:MR ANGUS RON WIL REF: Angus Williams	\$225.00	\$16,867.31	
06/11/2023	DIRECT CR FROM:SAM CROW REF: Sam Crow	\$100.00	\$16,642.31	
23/10/2023	DIRECT DR TRANSFER TO 10005642 FROM:BOC LIMITED REF: 7101438389		\$7.99	\$16,542.31
20/10/2023	NPP CREDIT davidTadd*out of	\$55.00	\$16,550.30	>
15/10/2023	NPP CREDIT c berndt shack	\$15.00	\$16,495.30	>
11/10/2023	NPP CREDIT Johns Subs	\$110.00	\$16,480.30	>
10/10/2023	NPP CREDIT Subs	\$110.00	\$16,370.30	>
08/10/2023	EXT TRF TO 587118533 4 Springs beer-Mr A M Blackwood		\$63.00	\$16,260.30
23/09/2023	NPP CREDIT Murphy shack fee	\$35.00	\$16,323.30	>
21/09/2023	DIRECT DR TRANSFER TO 10005642 FROM:BOC LIMITED REF: 7101426384		\$8.25	\$16,288.30
21/09/2023	TRANSFER TO 12085123 Mena repairs-Tim Urbanc	\$560.06	\$16,296.55	
19/09/2023	DIRECT CR FROM:MYSTATE LIMITED REF: SEP23/00809943	\$51.29	\$16,856.61	
19/09/2023	DIRECT CR FROM:PO REF: PATRICK OXBROUGH	\$110.00	\$16,805.32	
19/09/2023	CHQ DEP	\$400.00	\$16,695.32	
18/09/2023	DIRECT CR FROM:Daniel Rimmer REF: Subs Danny Rimmer	\$110.00	\$16,295.32	
18/09/2023	EXT TRF TO 553647111 Gift bags-Andrew Reed		\$9.98	\$16,185.32
18/09/2023	DIRECT CR FROM:Ken Fisher REF: subs	\$110.00	\$16,195.30	
12/09/2023	DIRECT DR TRANSFER TO 307230 FROM:AURORA TAS REF: AURORA AC 50211584		\$187.26	\$16,085.30
12/09/2023	NPP CREDIT bright assoc subs	\$55.00	\$16,272.56	>

Arising:

Hydro proposals: Brief discussion of the Hydro licencing proposals. These appear to have been poorly conceived in terms of the application of legislation and are presently being reconsidered. Rob Phillips suggests it is highly unlikely they would apply to ourselves and other voluntary organisations. Watch this space.

Australian Championships: went well and particularly well for our recent member John Hardy, Australian Champion! John spoke of his strategies and tactics – considerable planning from session to session. Of particular interest to we mere mortals – 24 fish down the middle of Little Pine in his 3 hour session, fishing Type 3 Sweep with teams of small wets, Magoos, Humongous(ii) and the like.

Activities reports and updates:

Leake: ultimately only 3 starters. The lake lower than in recent years but all caught fish, some of them very good. The river end was too low to access.

Fergus: another very good event much enjoyed by the 13 or 14 who attended, with plenty of sight fishing. Fish quality a bit variable.

December Mid-week, Miena: the traditional gentlemen retirees and some others, with the traditional dinner on the Tuesday night.

Xmas drinks, 18th December: details in the calendar

Shack reports:

Miena: Tim Urbanc congratulated on completing the Toilet Repair Marathon – nothing further to report at this point, though the committee is considering questions re the defibrillator.

Sorell: a preliminary workplan was circulated – email 19 November - together with David's designs. The initial step will be laying out and pouring the required slab late February-early March.

General business:

AAT: Tim Munro spoke briefly about some of the issues he's now dealing with as Exec Officer – 3 weeks into the job. There have been some 350 take up the webcam arrangement to date; there is a forthcoming report not yet available having particular reference to the shallow water work done on Penstock last year and this; and discussion of a meeting with James Johns re the proposed Great Lake Bike Trail; re this, there is a fair amount of community dissension and the Hydro have not approved use of their land, thus far. Also, the WMP negotiations to which we have been privy over the past year-plus remain stalled. In retrospect, after hearing Ron on the Penstock work – see below – it would be interesting to access some drone footage done of the lake wrt weed disturbance and the like.

Round robin: not done, anxious to hear Ron

Meeting closed: 8.05pm

Guest speaker: Ron Thresher on his Mayflies publication

To say Ron's presentation was excellent and fascinating is a considerable understatement. We have it on Zoom and will seek his permission to put it up on our website. It has very considerable reference value. As to the content, where to start? The book goes in detail into the entomology and the Zoom material covers a lot. Perhaps most salient at this point – given the low-key NRM discussion paper on Threatened Species released for comment by 22 December – are questions or hypotheses which might

be drawn from the extreme historicity of the mayfly, the oldest – 300 million years – of flying insects. The many families have evolved and survived over a vast history. Ron and others are extremely concerned that their continued survival is severely threatened by a range of factors, not least issues of land and water management. These concerns are world-wide. Why is this important?

Ron describes the mayflies as wilderbeast or beavers – they are prey. They perform the function of transferring aquatic materials – detritus, waste, algae – into a form – themselves – that feeds others – fish, birds, reptiles, other species. An estimated 228 species, including humans, eat mayflies in one form or another. They're a critical link in the ecosystem, the food chain. As such, their well-being is important to many and any diminishment of that well-being indicates likely damage passing up the chain. Diminishing numbers beg the questions of root causes and possible consequences.

Viewed from our narrower perspective – trout fishers – some of Ron's studies and his fishing experience over many years suggest questions with respect to various IFS management policies and practices – more on this later. But other elements point to widespread issues of environmental mismanagement and degradation. Few of us fish the Macquarie any longer, few the north-eastern rivers like the Break O'Day. The mayflies are pretty much gone. Ron's observations and hypotheses include excessive water draw-down, especially over high temperature low flow seasons, streamside habitat management resulting in erosion, siltation, loss of shelter and habitation for aquatic life. In other areas things like forestry, mining, other waste discharges, excessive fertilizer loads disrupt aquatic chemistry and the dependent species. Ultimately all we feed, grow and eat are dependent on water quality and water availability. If, as Ron argues, mayflies and other aquatic fauna are significant indicators of water health, then we must pay attention to the causal factors. Similar apparent declines in lake populations beg different but probably similar questions.

With regard to our fishy friends, Ron pointed to some questions – what was the state of aquatic play before they arrived? – and have, as seems apparent, recent practices substantially altered a sort of harmonious balance achieved between the introduced and the native fauna? His studies and observations appear to suggest the recent development of striking imbalances. The Duns project – Penstock last year – estimated some 5 million mayflies + or – in November. They are estimated to make up some 30-50% of trout diets. Some estimates suggest trout consumption leads to around a 50-80% reduction in mayfly populations annually. Trout are not the mayfly's friend. International studies of comparable lakes – US, NZ – indicate massive differences between those with trout and those without – magnitudes of 30, 40, 50X. Thus whether or not high stocking rates of waters such as Penstock are appropriate appears pretty questionable. Similarly, low catch limits might appear contra-indicated. Other issues include factors such as the impacts of the disturbance of weed beds – motors, swans, waders – and it would be interesting to see the drone footage Tim Munro discussed earlier.

Some of Ron's discussion pointed to activities which members or this club as a body might consider. For example, many of us have fishing diaries going back many years and the club has shack records. Ron would like to hear from those with good records and or recollections as to mayfly seasons and populations. More widely, it might be possible to come up with some useful aggregations of these materials wrt fishing seasons and conditions – or, indeed, to talk to other clubs about also participating. Ron also talked about the desirability of getting some organised sampling baseline data wrt particular waters, such as to enable analysis over time. Other suggestions are very similar to the strategies adopted by the hugely successful Trout Unlimited in the US, and now Canada. Those of us at the Penstock Dinner a few years back heard an inspirational account of how the interest groups spreading from Colorado sought to engage the best science by funding the young scientists – as Ron put it, a microscope here, a PHD study grant there – and grew science which they then brought to the

table. Seeking funding from various national groups with responsibilities or interests – eg FRDC, UTas – at these sort of levels – \$30,000 here, \$20,000 there – is very doable. The Americans demonstrated it works. A great deal of food for thought.

Many thanks, Ron – a great talk.