



# The Vice



**Newsletter of the Tasmanian Fly Tyers' Club Inc.**

**Volume 19, Issue 5 Autumn 2026**

**Inside: ... Weasel, New Zealand, Dinners and much more...**

*Cover Shot – New Zealand success for Stokesy!*

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Acting Vice Editor	Doug Miller

<http://tasmanianflytyersclub.org>

## President's Report



The President has been wandering in the West with his caravan and family. Judging by his Facebook pictures he had a wonderful time!

Instead of a report I have included his words of wisdom from the front of the book that David, Tony Dell and I put together for the dinner - they work well!

*Welcome to the 70th Anniversary Lunch for the Tasmanian Fly Tyers Club.*

*It is a celebration of all those years sharing knowledge, fly fishing adventures, teaching, learning and appreciating the time we have together.*

*Look around the room and consider that this group of people share your passion, commitment and love of fly tying and fly fishing. Take a moment to thank those who have shown or taught you something. Share a story of your past and relive the joy of fish caught and the occasional disappointment of that lost trout!*

*Thank those people who may have supported you through tough times, they might not know that their kind words helped you.*

*Mostly, enjoy this occasion with all these people, some you may have known for decades and others you have only just met. The Club has done*

*a remarkable job bringing us together over the years and long may it continue.*

Tight lines and happy tying

**Andrew Reed**

**President**

## Editorial

The Autumn Edition of The Vice has three great articles from Adrian Hope, Pete Murphy and Steve Butler. There is also a report on the 70th Anniversary Dinner which was wonderful!

Adrian (Abes) hope has been involved in a fascinating endeavour involving growing trout in boxes in the Calder River. He has reached the stage where electro fishing was possible to assess progress. Its a brilliant idea that must add to the fishing opportunities in the state.

Pete Murphy, Ian Stokes, Andrew Hood and Bryn Carmen had a wonderful trip to New Zealand and by the look of the photos caught some fantastic fish! Enjoy their success vicariously and plan a trip for yourself!

The Weasel camping weekend was one that I had planned to attend but an electrical fault on my camper meant I couldn't put it onto the ute. I wasn't too sad initially because of the weather report but I now realise that I missed a great weekend. I won't make that mistake again!

The Dinner was brilliant! Well done to Jim, David and Andrew for their efforts!

**DM**



Steve at Spot On fishing tackle has kindly provided the Club with four \$30 Vouchers for the best stories contributed to The Vice. Vouchers can be picked up from the Editor at your leisure!

This time the voucher goes to **Pete Murphy** and **Stephen Butler** for their fantastic reports on their various trips.

Send your stories to [55dmiller@gmail.com](mailto:55dmiller@gmail.com)

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Thanks to Corey Harris for the Dinner photos!



## Calder River Report

Hi Doug,

Attached is Paul Middleton's report after the electro-fishing in the Calder. While I did cover this in the presentation last week it might make a nice follow up for the vice. It's ok with Paul and happy if you need to make a few edits.  
Regards Abes

Brock, Martin Droz, Adrian Hope and I today visited the Calder River and did some electrofishing to follow up the egg box trial from last year.

We electro-fished 2 sites. One at the site that the egg boxes were located, and then another site approximately 5km downstream where the Calder River enters the Inglis.

Results were very interesting:

Site 1 – Calder River where egg boxes were located

- Fished approximately 400m of river for 1500 seconds shock time
- 38 juvenile rainbow trout noted, in the 80 – 115mm size range
- 6 Brown trout were shocked in the 160 - 200mm range
- Eels, G. macs, G. trut, blackfish, sandies and several juvenile A. gouldi were also noted.

Site 2 – Calder River upstream from Inglis confluence, approx. 5km downstream from the egg box site.

- Fished approximately 300m of river for 800 seconds shock time
- No juvenile rainbow trout noted in this area at all.
- About 20 juvenile brown trout were shocked, interestingly in the 80 – 100mm size range. Smaller on average than the rainbows from upstream
- 15 older browns in the 160 – 220mm size range. They are noticeably in great (fat!) condition.

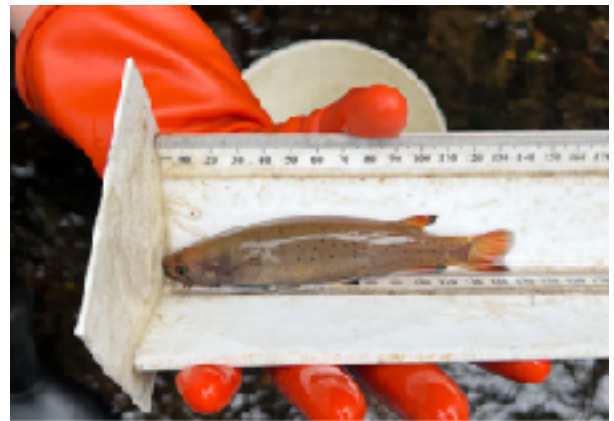
- Also came across a good school of grayling here, maybe 20 fish. Managed to shock a couple of them (rest swam away) about 175mm.
- Also shocked blackfish, eels, G macs. Sandies, juvenile A. gouldi and Paratya shrimp at this location

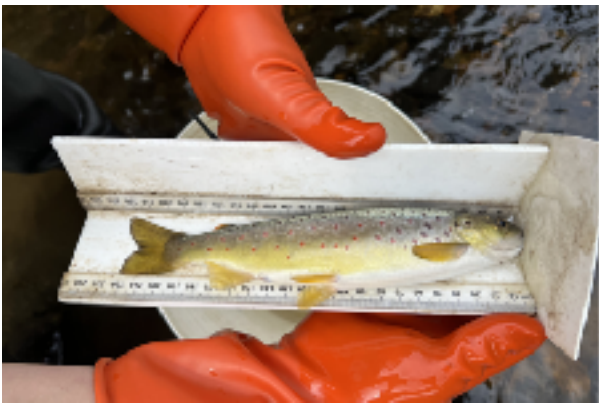
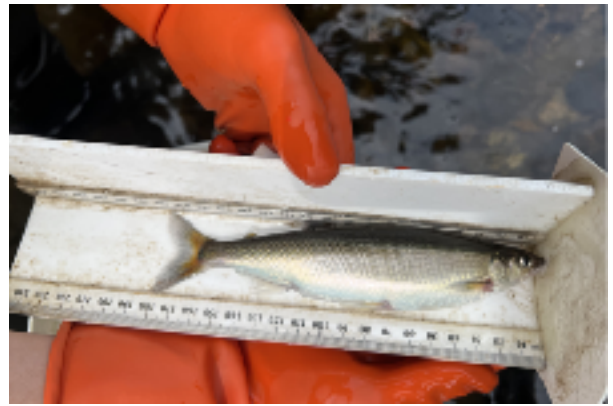
It was interesting to see that the rainbow trout weren't found at the second location, 5km downstream from the original egg box site. Maybe they haven't spread this far or maybe they have been driven out by resident browns?

The stream looks healthy with a good head of both brown and rainbow trout present. As well as the natives. This is encouraging for that fishery as the recovery from the cormorant event of 2024 continues.

Photos following courtesy of Adrian Hope:







Thanks to Martin and Adrian for their ongoing involvement with the egg hatching box project! It was great to catch up.

Regards  
Paul and Brock

*In recognition of the deep history and culture of this island, I acknowledge and pay my respects to all Tasmanian Aboriginal people; the past and present custodians of the land.*

## Southland NZ Fishing

Four club members, Bryn Carman, Andrew Hood, Peter Murphy and Ian Stokes, recently went on a guided fishing trip organised by Hurley Fly Fishing. We were joined by two friends of Bryn.



We fished for 6 days, the usual pattern being departure at about 8.30 in pairs with a guide, there were 3 guides and 6 clients, so each day you would fish with one of the others. Over the 6 days you would see each of the guides twice.



We were based at Hurley's Lodge at Lumsden, about an hour south of Queenstown. The lodge is very comfortable and well equipped with all meals and transport provided.



The fishing was all on the Mataura River and a tributary, the Waikaia River. Each day was a new location, the guides were excellent, their ability to find fish in fast, turbulent water was astounding.



It was usual to start the day with a small nymph under a dry, then change to two dries later in the day when duns and spinners appeared. The fish were all browns in excellent condition, usually in the 3 to 5lb range. Nobody had a blank day, on average we were catching 4 or 5 fish a day. The best that I am aware of was Bryn with 12 for the day.

evening meals were excellent, and were followed by people talking bullshit.



All in all it was an excellent trip which I would highly recommend.

**Pete Murphy**



Fishing would end about 6pm then there was a drive of typically 30 minutes back to the lodge, with a couple of cold drinks to pass the time. The

## 70th Anniversary Dinner 2026



The idea to have our 70th Anniversary at New Norfolk was first floated in the aftermath of last years Casting day at the Salmon Ponds. It was the brainchild of James Jones (of Cane fame) who had done some amazing architectural work on the property over the years and had a great relationship with both Kate and Dick Warner. We had a tour of the facilities and decided it was a possibility- as long as the weather was kind to us. I promptly forgot about it but Jim, Andrew Hood and David Travalia persisted and planned in great detail. They sought out great caterers, sourced wonderful wines and planned everything in minute detail. The result was a truly memorable event!

The weather for the event was perfect- warm, sunny and most importantly there was little or no wind. We had about 70-80 people attending and it all went rather well!

There were some speeches from the Warners before the main meal where people sipped

sparkling wine and supped on various delicacies in the the courtyard.



There was also a chance for attendees to sign a collection of photos from the the archives that David and I put together. This book will be annotated and will eventually reside in the club shack at Miena - check it out!



The main meal was in the large dining area and was a veritable smorgasbord of delights.



There were some great speeches from Malcolm Crosse, Tony Dell, Steve Butler and Elliott Blackwood. Andrew Hood did a great job as MC for the day.



At the end of the day everyone pitched in and cleaned up and put away all the table leaving the whole place in pristine condition.

Very well done to Jim, David and Andrew for planning and running an absolutely brilliant event! Thanks also to Corey Harris for his photos from the day!

The room was filled with merriment and conviviality throughout the afternoon and



everyone seemed to be very happy.



The Caterers did a brilliant job too. Here are their contact details - just in case!

**Silver Bean Events**

<https://silverbeaneventstas.com.au/>

**DM**

## Weasel Dam Camping Weekend

The world was in turmoil there is talk of fuel rationing, world leaders were at odds were we about to go into another covid era of having to restrict travel and become isolated.

It was just a week before the Bothwell Weasel Dam Camping weekend and I was sitting in a boat in the middle of Oyster Bay off Swansea. It was Easter weekend the sun was shining there was little to no wind, and the fish were on the chew. It allowed my thoughts to drift away from the world events and onto the following weekend when I and Graig Granquist were to host the camping weekend at Weasel Plains dam. Surely the weather would be kind to us, and fuel prices might come down.

One week later....

World is still in turmoil fuel is over \$3 a litre and I'm driving to Bothwell. So, to get some relief from the radio bad news I stopped at Mood Food for my obligatory Chico Roll. The temperature had plummeted the foreboding clouds descended and suddenly I was caught in a wind-swept rainstorm. It was at this juncture I knew the forecast of wet wild and cold conditions were unfortunately on the money and thoughts move away from fuel price to how to set up a camp in the wet!!!

As I continued the journey the weather forecast was updated. The forecaster on ABC radio was now saying a very cold and windy front was passing through the state and issued a sheep graziers alert for the central highlands with snow forecast. She then continued that after this had passed an even colder front was due..... It was almost exactly at this point that I got a phone call from Aspro who was in hysterics with laughter... "have you heard the weather report...."

As I pulled into Weasel the weather had subsided to just a strong wind as opposed to a gale...and the rain had stopped. Along with Craig Granquist and Elliot Blackwood we managed to set up camp in dry conditions and gather enough wood to keep the fire going for a week.



Craig proceeded to cut up the donated deer (thanks again to Nick Ingles) into steaks, and we finally settled back in front of a raging fire with a nice wine and BBQ deer steaks.



The weather cleared during the evening to produce a star filled sky. Our discussions moved very quickly away from world events to fishing.



Many wines and the odd whiskey later we retired, hoping the weather would allow us to at least get a cast or 2 in next morning...this was supposed to be a fishing trip after all....

But alas Saturday was essentially a repeat of Friday it was either wet and windy, cold and windy or cold, wet and windy with the odd 30 seconds of blue sky just to get our hopes up.

Tim Urbanc arrived and immediately donned the fishing gear with confidence as did the rest of us (all 3 that is). I did get a message from another of the flytyers about coming up for a day trip and after I gave an honest weather report his response was... "Yikes, I'm struggling with motivation"



Saturday night we again settle down to BBQ deer steaks some club beer and the odd wine. It got very cold, so we retired early.

Things looked grim Sunday morning as even the olive oil had frozen in the cold. However, the weather improved enough as we got on the scoreboard with 1 fish caught YAH!!!!



On Monday morning the sun came out enough to dry off the tents and so we packed up and as we were doing so Norm turned up donned his fishing gear and was soon onto the second fish for the weekend.



So was it wet?  
YES  
Was it cold?  
YES  
Was it windy?  
YES.  
Did we catch fish?  
YES  
Did we have fun?  
ABSOLUTELY!

More importantly no matter what the conditions when you are out fishing in our wonderful state the troubles of the world events evaporate.

Tight Lines!!!

**Stephen Butler**

## Club Loan Equipment

There are 3 rods and one reel currently available to be borrowed by club members for their fishing needs

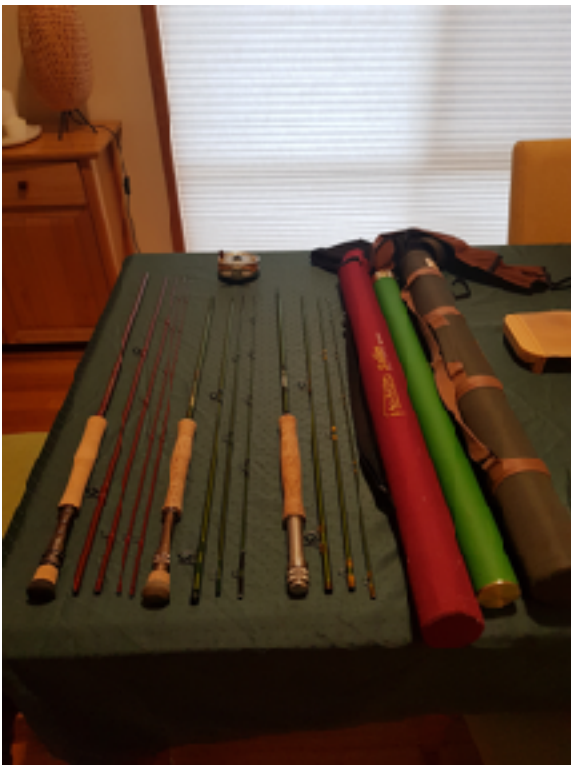
### Rods

- Stalker 10/7/4+1      10' 0"   #7 weight  
(spare tip)
- Sage TCX 990-4      9' 0"   #9 weight  
(fighting butt)
- Sage TCX 990-4B      9' 0"   #9 weight  
(fighting butt)

All rods come with rod tubes (but 1 sage rod has a non sage rod tube)

### Reel

- Fly Axle – Shina      Loaded with a 7 weight orange line



To book and arrange a pick a rod or the reel please contact John Spencer on 04 27538446