



The Vice



Newsletter of the Tasmanian Fly Tyers' Club Inc.

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Inside: ... World Exclusive - Matcham's Redfin, Bothwell and more...

Cover Shot – Matcham's Redfin - a world exclusive!

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<http://tasmanianflytyersclub.org>

President's Report

Annual Lunch was held at the Black Buffalo Hotel and proved a great success. It was a return to the scene of the crime for some of our older members as the club held its General Meetings there for many years. We had plenty of donations for the raffle including some great trout flies, artworks, books and accommodation vouchers.

The Bothwell Farm Dams Weekend was run over the 17-19th of October. It was a camping trip at Weasel Plains with access to Dennistoun waters. There were about 25 attendees including the usual large crowd for the Saturday night BBQ. Nick Ingles had somehow bribed one of the local farm hands for a whole venison. This was expertly butchered by Granny and was cooked on the world's largest BBQ plate. Served with jacket potatoes and fireside stories, was the highlight of the weekend's adventure. Thanks to Steve and Granny for a job well done.

Congratulations must go to the Great Lake Tie In Committee. Anna, Wayne, Scott, Tom and Norm did a superb job organising this year's event. I struggled with the fly-tying competition this year as I tie very few Mrs. Simpsons. Club member Shane Broadby took home honours with his beautiful fly.

Four Springs Trip was well attended and I'm sure those who attended will fill you in at the next Club meeting.

Lake Sorell Trip was moved from the School House venue due to low numbers. Regarding Lake Sorell, AAT has just opened the new camera to the public, and this is available under the webcam list on the AAT website

Last month the Club was very happy to have Ryan Wilkinson, Inland Fisheries Commissioner, as our guest speaker. This has been planned for a long time, and he spoke passionately about his love of trout fishing and outlined his direction for the Inland Fisheries Service. He took a series of questions from the floor and seemed at ease in a room full of our members.

On the subject of guest speakers, the Head of Environment for Hydro Tasmania will be

speaking at our next general meeting so come along and have a listen.

The Fowler Trophy was drawn at the October meeting. There are 16 teams this year so get out there and get amongst some trout!

Some Club members, including me, have recently installed Starlink Satellite services as a way of keeping in touch and staying safe. If you need any further information, you can contact me, Tim Lewis or Brian West.

AAT has issued an invitation to the next Bug Collection Day. It is in the Club's activity calendar and is being held at Ladies Walk, Penstock Lagoon on 29th of November.

Christmas Drinks are fast approaching. The format will be the same as last year, held in lieu of a December meeting with an early start of 6pm for finger food and drinks at the RSL Club. Come along to catch up with both old and new members.

The Fly Fishers Club has invited us to the Cane Day on Sunday the 25th January at Little Pine Lagoon. We have a lot of interest in this event, and I'd like to thank both Peter Ras and Glen Becher for their organisational work. The Club does not have a January meeting, but there is a meal at the Great Lake Hotel on Saturday night.

70th Anniversary Lunch preparations are well under way. Valley Fields in New Norfolk has been locked in for Sunday 26th of April. David Travalia and Jim Jones are taking on this event and have a host of great ideas.

Club Stickers have been printed and will be distributed soon. Tom Woolley has sorted this out for the Club, and we appreciate his efforts.

Our trusty Secretary has been sorting out members who don't have shack keys and Club badges. New keys have been cut and if you need one, please email Paul Markey.

Club Member and Honorary Solicitor Robert Phillips died recently at the age of 73. His funeral was to a packed house at St. Johns Church, in Lenah Valley. Several members attended and his wife, Peta, wanted me to say that Rob really enjoyed his time with the

Club, especially the tying days at the RSL Clubrooms and the camaraderie of fellow fly tyers and fishers. He has already made several donations to the Club and will be sadly missed by us all.

I've been tying some flies for my upcoming trip to New Zealand early next year and hopefully our trusty editor can add some photos for your viewing pleasure.

Tight Lines.



Editorial

I am thrilled to put out this edition of The Vice as it contains the first documentation of how to tie a wet fly with a crocheted body. The method was devised by life member and world class fly tier Laurie Matcham 26 years ago. This is the first time he has ever shared his method with anyone. The Matcham's Redfin fly demonstrates a method of tying that can be extrapolated to tie a myriad of flies with wet and dry and in between. So thanks Laurie once again for sharing this!

The report on the Bothwell weekend and the Four Springs trip both mention events that were affected by the elements. I was informed that there have been 25 severe weather warnings in the first 5 weeks of Spring! This is not great! Hopefully things will start looking bettering November and early summer and those duns start popping!

DM

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Andrew 'The President' Reed

Exclusive - Matcham's Redfin

*This is an actual world exclusive! For over 26 years Laurie Matcham has been one of the only fly tyers in the world to crochet the bodies of wet flies. He has kept his method under wraps for all that time and has now decided to share it with our club members. This is a very generous thing to do and to choose to do this in **The Vice** is extraordinary! So thank you Laurie!*

The Background

'It was at the 1992 Trade show in Brisbane and the flies were selling well and Grace saw Karl Mayer the Southern Hemisphere President of Mustad looking at us. He wanted a chat...

He said our 80000 series professional range are doing reasonably well but needed a boost. Could you (Laurie) come up with a different range - we need some new ideas.

At the show there was a huge tank full of fish - trout, bream and Redfin perch and I came up with the idea of tying perch with the stripes. So I did 6 of the Redfin with braided or crochet body in different colours with the wing interconnected. I gave them to Karl Mayer who seemed pleased with them but I didn't hear back for ages and basically thought no more about them. Then, to cut a long story short a lot of events happened - the factory burned down and then, 6 years ago, Karl died! So of course all the plans came to a stop.

Recently however, Karl's son found an envelope with the name 'Lorry' on it in his safe. Karl's son sent them to the only 'Lorry' he knew! The prototypes were in the envelope and he sent them to me! I'd forgotten all about them - they are, I believe, the first braided body wet fly in the world!

This one fly demonstrates a unique method of how to:

- Tie a fly where the wing and the body are one
- Braid or crochet a body using mohair and Antron
- Tease out the wing from the body
- Tie in the over wing
- Put eyes and flash on it

The trick is to practice until you can get the balance of the materials just right! The techniques demonstrated can be used to make crocheted bodies on lots of different flies. The range seems limitless.



The problem to solve was that Redfin have 6 vertical stripes and how those be tied in? The solution that Laurie came up with was to crochet or braid them in. (Braiding and crocheting is basically interconnecting loops. Crocheting is done with needles).

To make it commercially viable to tie these flies the technique had to be simplified and the amount of materials used limited as much as possible. Laurie thought about how crocheting worked and developed a way of doing it without using a needle - just using your fingers. This made it much more time effective and achievable for his team of tyers.

The following instructions outline the method as clearly as possible. Laurie has offered to demonstrate this for club members on the release of this edition!

Matcham's Redfin

Hook: 8-10 wet fly hook

Tail: Red feather (Cardinal Red)

Thread: Black 8/0

Weight: Fine lead wire tied on the side

Body: 20cm strips of Peach Antron, Mirror flash and Grey Mohair 2ply

Overwing: Black Arctic Fox or similar and 2 pieces of peacock sword

Throat: Red feather as in the tail

Eyes: Jungle cock or holographic stick on eyes

Flash: Red lurex as side fins

Tying procedure:

Tie in the tail first even before the wire so it sits



straight out the back 2/3 the hook length making sure to cover any sharp bits of wire



Take the Antron and split it in half lengthways to reduce bulk and lay a piece of Mirror flash along it

Tie in the Antron and Mirror flash on one side and the Mohair on the opposite side making sure that the body has a perfect smooth taper with no bits sticking up. It is also a really good idea to ensure that the hook point is concealed in the vice so it doesn't cut the material.



Now the key trick is to turn the vice away from you with the hook eye away to get ready for the crocheting or braiding



Make an overhand knot at the bend of the hook with the mohair and Antron



Now we begin making interconnecting loops of mohair and AntronRight finger on top - make a loop and place it over the hook



Do the same with the left finger and pull it tight



Keep going for the length on the hook making 6 stripes of pink and grey



Lock and glue the head with super and tying thread.



Rotate the body 90 degrees
Tie off and seal with superglue (this is important because it won't then come unstuck when its brushed out with velcro!)



Get a piece of velcro or similar to brush or pick out the mohair

Start at the back of the fly and try to get a bit of body length. Keep brushing until the wing is formed



Tie in the red throat half the hook shank and make sure it is centred
Whip finish and seal with uv resin

Part the mohair into sections either side of the hook and brush it back.

Tie in the arctic fox up the middle
Tie in the 2 peacock swords on top of the arctic fox



Glue on eyes
Add lurex 'fins' (this is the trickiest bit!)

Pull the remaining arctic fox back over the eye of the hook and tie it in.



Many thanks again to Laurie for sharing this with me and letting me publish it in *The Vice* first for a world exclusive and giving us an exciting new way of tying flies.

DM

Bothwell Dams Weekend



Everyone was looking forward to the Dams Weekend which was held a few weeks earlier than usual. Tents, campers and even caravans were organised, day trippers coordinated schedules and venison was kindly transported from the tree outside Joey's place and delivered to Craig. The only thing that didn't really put in much of an effort was the weather. It was generally appalling apart from a few hours of blessed relief on the Saturday afternoon.



Despite the difficulties of wind and rain some great fish were caught, some excellent food was cooked and consumed and many stories of dubious origin were aired and enjoyed.



The winds kept the midges away and there was very little surface activity so wet flies were the order of the day.



The highlight of the trip was the evening meal on the Saturday night where we feasted on the venison supplied by new life member Nick Ingles, prepared by Craig Granquist and beautifully cooked by Steve Butler (with timely advice from Craig who really is quite central to all this!)



Malcolm Crosse and Stephen Butler made a surprise presentation to Nick of a satellite phone for his car that was funded by all the grateful people who have spent time fishing with Nick in his dams over the years. It was a lovely gesture and certainly took Nick by complete surprise!



Most people caught fish on the trip with some very nice ones caught at Henry's place - some rumoured to be in the 7-9 pound range! Special mention goes to 16 year old Lachie Trott who was the only member of his family to catch a fish on the weekend!



Some brave members were lucky enough to have access to a boat at one of the other dams Nick stocks and reaped the rewards



The winds really picked up in the early hours of Sunday morning making fishing on the last day inadvisable so most of us packed up and left early as breakers smashed into and over the dam wall!



The trip was as usual a wonderful event and thanks and eternal admiration must go to Steve and Craig for their efforts once again. They do have it down to a fine art but the effort they go to should never be underestimated or taken for granted. So thank you for once again organising this great trip

DM

Four Springs - Early Season



There was a club trip organised to Four Springs in mid October that was well attended by more than a dozen members who braved the appalling weather that seems to have been the norm in Spring this year.

As usual accommodation was booked at the Caravan park at Hadspen which is around 25 minutes drive away from the lake (or 24 minutes if you take the short cut!)



I traveled up with Dr Chris we arrived on Tuesday at around noon. We were confronted with a string wind blowing down the lake making it difficult to control the boat, lines and flies. We spent the time trying to find sheltered parts but fished without luck for the rest of the afternoon. Others did much better catching fish on black nymphs and even emergers!

We were pleased to get to Hadspen and the warmth of the cabins. We met up with the others and made excuses, marvelled at their successes and planned for the next day

which was supposed to be a bit wet. Maybe there would be a hatch...

The Wednesday rain forecast was accurate - around 40mm fell and it was bitterly cold. I managed to fluke one on a possum emerger which was inexplicably there when I went to recast. It was our only fish for the day.

That night we retreated to the warmth of the cabins and listened to the others regale us with stories of over 20 fish caught mainly on black nymphs and even by 'plonking'! I was too cold to take pictures.

Thursday was dry and even slightly warm. It was also very sunny so the fish stayed down. I managed two nice browns on... black nymphs. One came out of nowhere and hooked itself. The other was there when I went to recast after untangling the drogue from submerged timber. Skilled fishing was not present!



We traveled home on the Friday but instead of fishing at Four Springs called into Lake Leake which was very low. There were so many tree stumps over the lake it made traveling very slow. Dr Chris managed to catch a beautiful brown trout which made the efforts of the previous three days worthwhile.

Thanks to Wayne Bellette for organising the trip and to Andrew Hood too!

DM

Four Springs - Only a bit later



The first trip to Four Springs was, in my opinion, a bit early and the challenging weather bolstered that opinion so I resolved, along with Pete Murphy and Andrew Hood, to go up again when the weather was a little warmer and the duns would definitely be popping. My fishing partner/guide was Laurie Matcham so I was confident of having a productive trip!

I had car troubles yet again and had the 'loaner' ute from the mechanic - an old Hilux from the mid 90s - but this didn't stop us. We drove up on a Monday morning and arrived at Four Springs around lunchtime. It was windy but not too cold and there were quite a few duns but nothing feeding on them. I managed a lovely fish around 4-5 lbs on a possum emerger. It was our only fish for the day. We went back to the Caravan Park at Hadspen and had a wonderful meal.



The next two days were again incredibly windy and a lot colder - so much for my theory about waiting for better weather! We

were one of only 2 boats on the lake so the locals knew what the situation was! Laurie managed one nice fish and Pete and Hoody who had to leave early, got one between them.



Our final effort on Thursday was much better with light winds and much appreciated warmth (the barometer was 1014 and rising). Duns popped and Damsel Flies were around enticing rainbows to start leaping. Laurie caught another one and I managed to hook and lose two others which was fun but a bit frustrating.



When the fish are looking up and the insects cooperate Four Springs is a wonderful fishery.

DM

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