



The Vice



Newsletter of the Tasmanian Fly Tyers' Club Inc.

Volume 19, Issue 6 Winter 2026

Inside: ... The Fly Tying Edition and a bit more...

Cover Shot – My Fly Tying Retreat

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	Tom Woolley
	Wayne Bellette
	John Spencer
	Tim Urbanc
Acting Vice Editor	Doug Miller

<http://tasmanianflytyersclub.org>

President's Report

I'm very happy and somewhat relieved to welcome Craig Granquist as our new Vice-President. The plan is for him to become president next year so I can step down after what will be 7 years. I am supporting him over the next year, although I'm not sure he needs much help as he has had previous experience with different clubs. The Committee is in pretty good shape with many of the senior people staying on. I would like to thank the 2 departing members, Dave Lipscombe (3 years in total) and Scott Haslock (2 years), for their hard work and commitment to the Club. I would like to congratulate Tom Woolley as our new addition. Thanks also to Stopper who offered to join us if there were any vacancies, maybe next year.

I would like to thank Wayne Bellette for his 2 years as a very supportive Vice-President. He does an amazing amount of work behind the scenes for all our Club activities as activity coordinator.

Some of the Committee are, and will be, traveling this year and the fact that the Club still runs smoothly is a testament to everyone's hard work.

The Club has hosted its usual array of trips and outings this season.

- Interlaken Fly-Tying Extravaganza.
- Beginner's Fly-Tying Day.
- Four Springs
- Cane Fishing Day with TFFC
- Bothwell Farm Dams
- 70th Anniversary Lunch at Valleyfield
- Lee's Paddock Walking Trip
- Lake Ina Field Trip
- Derwent River Bream Day
- Wind Knots Fly Casting on Wednesday Evenings

- Tuesday Night Zoom Fly-Tying

These activities don't happen by themselves, and I would like to thank all those involved in the organisation. This is not only the official 'Trip Leader', but all those helpers who chip in. People who bring food, boats, fly tying supplies, spare rods, life jackets, venison, butchering equipment and the list goes on!

The Lake Sorrel Shack renovation is still in progress. Our project builder, Kenny Fisher, has retired recently and after finishing of a few of his own projects will be available to the Club as the weather warms up this year. He will continue to be supported by Cubby and David Travalia.

We were also very involved in Rob Phillip's Estate after his untimely death at 73 years of age. Rob was the Club's Honorary Solicitor for many years and loved the feeling of belonging to a group of like-minded people. We coordinated the sale of some of Rob's premium fly-tying gear with these proceeds going to the family estate and held several sales of his remaining equipment with the money going to the Club. This was a win/win situation as we helped his family, benefitted the Club and found good homes for his fly-tying equipment that he collected over a lifetime. Peta, Rob's wife, has asked me to pass on her thanks to the Club for its support of Rob and his family.

Membership of the Club has continued to change, and this year is no exception. Some have departed, some have changed classification and several have joined the fold. This is mostly because we continue to offer a wide range of events and more importantly offer a supportive environment for new or existing fly-tyers. The 'Beginners Day' is a great example of this.

I would like to welcome Craig Mackie to the Club and hope we spend more time talking about fly fishing than any pending legal issues.

Awarding Life membership is one of the great joys of being president and I whole heartedly support the words of Macca. Westie is a perfect example of what is exceptional about the Club. May we continue to share our love of all things fly tying and fly fishing and encourage those who are just starting their journey.

Tight Lines and Happy fishing.

Cheers

Andrew 'The President' Reed

Editorial

The Winter Vice is focused almost entirely on Fly Tying and I hope it inspires people in the lead up to the season opening. I am currently in North Queensland on a road trip and will not be back until September so I will forgo the wind and snow and concentrate on learning how to use a double handed fly rod on beaches and estuaries.

The Interlaken Tying Weekend is an annual event that provides the main impetus for this edition. There are many flies and their recipes for the avid tyers in the club. Thanks to all those who allowed me to photograph their patterns. Thanks also for the patience of those who may or may not have had their sleep interrupted by a lost Editor in the early hours!

John Bessell has provided some absolutely wonderful articles on the origins of some of his favourite flies as well as the methods and materials involved in tying them. He has also sent in a wonderful website that deals with identifying Tasmanian Insects that will be invaluable when trying to 'match the hatch'!

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 **John Bessell** for his fantastic articles on Fly Tying Origins and the WWW Link to Tasmanian Insects.

Send your stories to 55dmiller@gmail.com

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Interlaken Tying Weekend 2026

When the main season closes it is time to start replenishing the stocks of flies for the new season and there is no better way to begin the process than spending a few days in the high country with expert tyers from this wonderful club. The Lodge at Interlaken is the perfect venue for this.

The Lodge, which is set up for school groups, has everything you need from 20 separate bedrooms, large dining areas, a perfect tying room, a commercial standard kitchen and even a whisky room resplendent with leather couches which are particularly conducive to solving major world problems!



The weekend is the brainchild of Lyndon 'Cubby' Cubbins who has been the mainstay of the trip since its inception at the now unavailable Tiger Hut at Liawenee. The trip always runs smoothly and it is easy to miss the considerable planning and attention to detail that goes into organising the event so many thanks to Cubby, Wayne Bellette and Pete Murphy who were the main coordinators this time.

Such is the popularity of this tying event there are now two sessions - the first begins on Friday and goes until noon on Sunday when the second group arrives and shares a BBQ lunch and stays until midday on the Tuesday. Some brave individuals do the full four days such is there appetite for tying.

The evening meals are always a highlight. Casseroles and curries on the first night followed by a roast meal on the second evening. The famous Mrs Mac's Apple Pies were once again cooked by Brian McCullagh from Tony Dell's

apples who sent them along even though he couldn't attend!



Its not all about tying though. There was an opportunity to go and have a look at the spawning creek running into the lake. I am pleased to say that there were many large fish in the creek with a very clear intention on spawning. They paid little for no attention to the excited fly tyers invading their privacy!



If you can't make it for the whole 2 days there is also an option to attend just for a day trip and a few members availed themselves of this opportunity. So if you have never been you won't know what you're missing out on!

DM

Interlaken Weekend - The Flies

The Winter Vice is the fly tying edition so here are some of the flies that people tied. The sharing of techniques, materials and wisdom is amazing!

Fly: Parachute Midge Emerger



Tyer: John Spencer

Hook: #16 Eufeng emerger
Thread: 10/0 Gudbrod
Body: Possum underfur
Post: Float Vis in fluoro pink
Hackle: Whiting Bronze
Rooster Golden Badger tied parachute style



The pink Float Vis post is easy to see!

Fly: Natural Brown Yeti



Tyer: Andrew Reed

Hook: Hanak B200 #12
Thread: Semperfli Black 8/0
Tail: Glo Brite Fire Orange
Body: Senyo's Laser Dub Brown
Rib: Ultra Wire UTC fine red
Wing: Fulling Mill Rabbit
Zonker Micro Brown
The wire holds the zonker in place. Perfect for Penstock weed beds on a floating line!



Tyer: Glenn Becher



Hook: Hanak H 300 BI #14
Thread: Black Uni
Tail: Black Hen
Body: Possum and Peacock SLF
Rib: Angel Hair with green and red
Wing: Possum shaving brush style folded back and Possum dubbing near the eye





Tyer: **Doug Miller**

Hook: #14 dry fly

Thread: Black

Tail: Strand of luno white flash

Over Body: Black closed cell foam 2mm

Body: Metallic thread in iridescent blue or Green

Post wing: Crystal flash

Hackle: Black cock

Fly: **Anna's Great Lake Variant**



Fly: **Black Spinner**

Tyer: **Anna Bellette**

Hook: B400 #14 or #12

Thread: Black Uni

Tail: Black cock

Body: Black Thread

Rib: Uni Mylar #16 stretched thinner

Wing: Antron White for Post

Hackle: Black Cock



Tyer: **Wayne Bellette**

Hook: Hanak 200BL #10

Thread: Black Uni

Tail: Orange and black marabou

Body: Holographic red

Rib: Fine brown wire

Front Hackle: Black Hen

Body Hackle: Olive

Grizzly Hackle

Bead: 2.8mm Red

metallic

tinsel



Fly: **Oholi's Tasmanian Devil**

Tyer: **Craig Granquist**

Hook: Fulling Mill FM5065

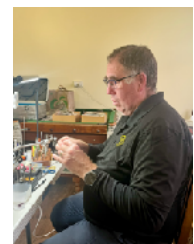
#14 and #16

Thread: 24/0 Semperfli Nano Silk

Body: Possum underfur

Post: Possum fur from the butt section

Hackle: Possum guard Hairs tied parachute style using a dubbing loop



Fly: **Orange Parachute Spinner**



Tyer: **Paul McCosh**

Hook: #14 Hanak H 130BL

Thread: Black UTC

Tail: Coq de Leon

Body: Fulling Mill Tactical Microflash

Wing Post: Lost Fly Bright wing in orange

Hackle: Burnt Orange Grizzle

Fly: **Amber Parachute Spinner**



Tyer: **Norm Cribbin**

Hook: B401 #12 or #14

Thread: Black Uni or UTC 8/0

Tail: Grizzly Brown (Dark is preferred)

Body: Fiery Brown possum

Rib: Fine red wire

Wing Post: Amber Antron Body Wool

Hackle: Grizzly Brown tied parachute style

Fly: **Parachute Caenid (Tony Dell)**



Tyer: **Lyndon Cubbins**

Hook: B160 #16

Thread: Black 30D

Tail: Grey Cock

Body: Super Fine black - fine as possible

Post: Dark Possum tail

Hackle: Parachute Grey

Fly: **Risky Segmented Crab**



Tyer:

Michael Bourne

Hook:

Gamakatsu
Single Lure

#4

Clip: Mustad
Ultra point
Fastach Clip!

Thread:

Black waxed
Hook Body:

Black Foam
Cut into a

claw shape
with a red

Flash tail

Clip Body: Gold Bead chain eyes

Crab Legs chenille brown tied crossways

Crystal Chenille in delightful brown

The Hooked section will float and wave in the current resembling the claws of the crab!

Vale Graeme Howard 1936-2026



Graeme Howard, Dee Lagoon, c 1990

Older members of the club will remember long-time member, more recently Honorary Member, Graeme Howard who died on Thursday 6 August 2026 aged 90.

He had been unwell for some time and is survived by his wife Judy and children.

Graeme joined the Club in 1989, nominated by Philip Fisher and seconded by Don Hammond, sadly both no longer with us.

Graeme was a keen fly fisher and shooter (he procured me my first Wood Duck skin).

During his early membership he was a very active member and regular attendee at Club field weekends and functions.

During his later years he was the recipient of Nick Ingles' kindness, taking him fishing to Cluny dam and to Wood Springs until his mobility no longer allowed it.

During his working life Graeme was Chief Engineer of the Hobart City Council.

**Tony Dell
7 August 2026**

Fly Tying on the WWW

The *WWW* is a rich source of information and inspiration for fly tyers all over the world. It is fantastic to find sites that are very much a local resource. This site was mentioned at a recent Club meeting during a talk about two field trips, it was mentioned there were a lot of a particular green beetle, but no one knew what they were.

John Bessel (who is totally on fire in this issue!) mentioned that there was a very good site members can access for free that will help with insect identification in Tasmania.

That site is:



Field Guide to the Insects of Tasmania

<https://tasmanianinsectfieldguide.com/>

Once in the site open the “Find an Insect” section and you’re away. It’s easy to navigate and if necessary those that run the site can be contacted with help to identify an insect of interest.

John said that he had used the site many times and contacted them for information as well. The critical thing one must do is take really good close up pics of any insect that needs to be identified. That’s not always possible of course but it sure helps if you have good pictures to look at while searching the site.

Here are some images from the gallery...



Thanks to John Bessel for sending in this fantastic resource.

DM

John Bessel Fly Tying Origins

I have an interest in the origins of fly patterns. The following two patterns were tied by me in the eighties. Their popularity grew as a consequence of them being regularly fished at London Lakes and possibly more significantly because they appeared in the original version of Australia's Best Trout Flies, compiled by Malcolm Crosse. The following is a brief outline of their origins.

Woolly Bugger Mk11



Retired" WBMK11

"Although the original Woolly Bugger pattern was believed to have been created by Pennsylvania [fly tyer](#) Russell Blessing as early as 1967 to resemble a hellgrammite, or [dobsonfly](#) nymph, its precise origin is unknown, but is clearly an evolution of

the [Woolly Worm](#) fly, which itself is a variation—intentional or not—of the British palmer fly, which dates back to Walton and beyond (Wikipedia)".

I first saw an article on the Woolly Bugger in the early 1980's in an American Fly Fishing Magazine. That pattern had a black marabou tail, green chenille body and black palmered hackle. I tied up a few and Ken Orr and I fished them for a few years with reasonable success.

On a trip into Lake Fergus one very cold October day, we were traversing the swampy section on the north-west edge of the lake, dodging more Tiger Snakes than I have ever seen in one place. The frog song was amazing and the snakes were after them. Fortuitously as it turned out, we saw some frogs with very bright orange strips on the inside of their legs. I needed to tie a new fly to match those frogs.

Modifying the Woolly Bugger was my first option. I tied a stubby orange marabou clump either side of the Woolly Bugger's black marabou tail but was initially not happy with the flies – they seemed somewhat garish and unfrog like. Out of respect to the original mixed with a tinge of poor imagination, I called the new pattern the Woolly Bugger Mk11 and gave Ken all I had tied to experiment with on his Xmas trip to Penstock Lagoon. It worked so well I got a call to tie more, as the initial six had all been lost.

The Mk11 has now become a staple in many Tasmanian fly boxes and is available commercially in its original and other forms.



Sometime in the 1980's this fly started life as a Clear Water Nymph (CWN), a pattern I had read about in the booklet *Tasmanian Trout Fly Patterns* by Max Stokes. I had committed the fly to memory, or so I thought, and quite a few months later sat down and tied a few up. What I produced turned out to be nothing like the CWN. I had tied in an orange marabou stubby tail (not three natural red cock hackles), the body and thorax were black seals fur with a crow feather wing case, (not fiery brown seals fur) and the rib was fine blue wire (not red marabou silk).

My "CWN" gained notoriety at Lake Big Jim, London Lakes on a perfect blue sky day when fish were in close feeding on midges for most of the day. Ken Orr and I fished the "CWN" all that day under an orange foam strike indicator (come on it was the 80's and I did not know better). Every fish that saw the fly ate it. We ended with a once in a lifetime number of fish to hand. The fly became a staple polaroiding fly at London Lakes and it was there that it underwent a name change. A client who had a brilliant morning fishing with Ken, returned for breakfast, declaring the fly to "have a licence to kill" and that it should now be called the "007". Corny yes, but at least it was no longer being called something it was not.

John Bessell

THE CRICKET

Quite a few decades ago I was fishing into the late afternoon at Father of Marshes with a friend Robert Gott. It had been a reasonable fishing day with some chunky rainbows coming to hand. Fish began to move more frequently as the evening calmed and just on dark Rob picked up a very fat brownie on a dry fly he called "the Cricket".

As one cannot have too many flies, it was not long before "my" first Cricket came off the bench. It was way different from any other fly I had at the time.

I regret being unable to remember when or where I caught my first fish on the Cricket. I suspect it may have been at Lake Echo, fishing it blind around the deeper shores in the middle of a blue sky day when nothing was rising. It got eaten regularly and rapidly became my go to fly for blind searching.'

The Cricket underwent a small but important change from the original with the addition of flash either side of the deer hair wing. I believe this change elevated the Cricket to another level and it certainly helped older eyes see it amongst the shadows and reflections of some of our tannin stained lakes.

The Cricket has caught fish in Bronte, Echo, Dee Lagoon, Laughing Jack, Great Lake, Arthurs, Lake Samuel, Derwent chain of lakes, Burbury and Pedder.

It comes into its own over summer and excels when fish are chasing damsels and dragons. It has on many occasions also been eaten by midging fish. The rainbows at Burbury took it off the surface in 30m of water. A friend caught three rainbows one glassy calm morning at the Dee, immediately after the morning midge feeders disappeared.

It's not a small fly, but despite that, the vast majority of takes are very subtle, similar to that of a midge feeder. That said, each year we have had active damsel feeders tracking the fly through the air then leaping out and taking it just before it lands or just as it hits the water. On occasions a fish will take it when it has sunk. Returning the fly immediately after a miss, can often entice another take. Our experiences suggest that when blind searching, the fly will generally get eaten within the first 10 seconds of it hitting the water. I

like to keep repositioning the fly to cover as much water as possible. When a fish is known to be in an area it can be left as it will get eaten even if a fish has not seen or heard it land. Its inherent buoyancy allows it to be moved or shimmied to entice a take.

The Cricket



Hook: Black Magic D 8 or similar

Tail: Black deer hair tips or black possum tail.

Body: Fiery brown seals fur.

Wing: Black deer hair with two strands of pearl crystal flash either side.

Legs: Red Uni – Flexx 1680 Den.

Hackle: Black and Brown Rooster.

Method.

I never bother to even the deer hair tips (or possum) when adding the tail. I like the ragged look. I dub the body by starting where the wing will sit, going back to the tail before returning to the start point. It adds two layers and helps me form a chunky body (I never add a rib). The deer hair for the wing is cleaned of fine hair etc but not stacked, in keeping with the scruffy look. Don't overdress the wing – less is usually more – see footnote. Two strands of flash are tied either side of the wing and trimmed to the length of the wing. For the legs I now use the Uni – Flexx on a spool. Two sections approx. 6cm long are enough for the hook mentioned. Once off the spool the Uni – Flexx displays a natural curve. This is helpful, as the legs can be tied in so they naturally curve out from the body. Legs tied like this will move a little and make the fly appear lifelike. Secure the legs well to ensure they cannot be pulled out. Tie in the black and brown hackle - I use about 3 turns of the black and four of the brown and tie off in front of the front legs. Trim the legs to length and it's done.

Footnote

This fly can helicopter if the wing is oversize or a larger hook is used. Using a stiffer tippet and having a modest wing both help. The Uni- Flex can split a little after a few fish. That just adds character to the fly and usually needs no attention.



John Bessell

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

