



The Vice



Newsletter of the Tasmanian Fly Tyers' Club Inc.

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Inside: ... Bothwell, Four Springs, Flies and more...

Cover Shot – David admiring a magnificent midge morning

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President's Report

I have recovered from my overseas trip and am happy to be back in Tasmania. The trout fishing is starting to pick up with duns being seen on Penstock over the last few weeks. Thanks to the Committee and others for running the AGM in my absence. I am happy to have been re-elected as President for another year.

The Club has had many successful activities recently. The Great Lake Tie-in was very well organised and 27 club members were either working there or visiting for the day. Scott Haslock and the organising committee did a great job. Total attendance was over 200 people.

Brian West's Beginners Day was terrific for the 7 students and 3 juniors that were there. Thanks to Tony Dell for demonstrating the fly patterns to all. The lunch was great, with David Travalia and Noel Wilson cooking up a storm on the BBQ. Several people from the day have expressed an interest in joining the Club and attending the Wind Knots fly casting group. I enjoyed being a mentor and realise how many skills I have committed to muscle memory. Teaching someone to whip finish was a challenge for both me and them! The day aligns perfectly with the Club's aim of 'The cultivation and encouragement of the art of fly-tying and fly-fishing.'



Steve Butler ran the Bothwell Farm Dams Weekend over the 22-24 of

November with some changes from last year. It was camping only at Weasel Dam with access to Deniston waters. I arrived on Friday afternoon to witness Granny expertly butchering a deer that had been organised by Nick Ingles. It was hard to decide if the fishing was better than the BBQ venison, as both were excellent. I would like to thank the Bowden and Edgell families for the ongoing access to these waters. As an added bonus the weather was perfect apart from one short burst rain.

I have been selected to be on the Inland Fisheries Advisory Council representing Southern Tasmanian anglers. We meet 4 times a year and I'm happy to discuss IFS related topics with Club Members. If you would like more information about the function of the council you can go to <https://www.ifs.tas.gov.au/about/advisory-council>

I would like to encourage all those in the Fowler Trophy Draw to get out there and do your day of fishing. It's important for the Club for its members to get to know each other and this is the ideal opportunity.

There has been much conversation within the Club about the recently released 'Shallow Waters Interim Report'. For those interested the full report is available on the Anglers Alliance Tasmania (AAT) website. Many of the issues were discussed at the November General Meeting. There was broad support for the continuation of the insect population studies at Penstock and for AAT to focus some of its future attention and resources to water management issues across the state. The 5-knot limit on Penstock was discussed at length with some Members saying it was too fast. John Smith proposed that Club Members could adopt a voluntary 3-knot speed limit, so we could protect this water and lead by example.

On a related topic there is a new boating sign at Penstock Lagoon. Hopefully our trusty editor can publish the picture I sent him.



Christmas Drinks will be on 16th December from 6pm. Please register on the Club website for catering numbers. That's my report done!

Tight Lines.

Andrew 'The President' Reed

Editorial

Spring is a time when duns start to emerge and the fish look up... apparently. It has been a tough season for me so far with a lot of time spent for very few fish. The much anticipated Four Springs event which usually coincides with big hatches never really got going. Still it was a great trip for the plonkers who attended.

Tony Dell has had a big influence on this edition with two articles. One about the nymph pattern that inspired the one discovered by Noel Wilson in the last edition. The second article is a cautionary tale of how good help can rescue a potentially dire situation.

Thanks also to Adrian 'Abes' Hope for his piece on tying a really nice Blue Damsel. These have been about the only insects I have seen on a regular basis. The pattern is open I will certainly have a go at and use to try to sort out these frustrating creatures.

Another thing to try is the floatant that is featured. I was not happy with paying so much for so little and thought that there must be a better way. The feedback so far has been amusing but generally positive. I will certainly be making more and refining the recipe.

Stephen Butler and Craig Granquist once again hosted and organised a wonderful Bothwell Dams weekend. The considerable efforts they make before and after really makes this a wonderful trip. Throw in a wonderful early morning midge hatch and willing fish and the success of the weekend was guaranteed. Special thanks also to Nick Ingles for negotiating for us to have a wonderful feed of venison. Chris Berndt picked up the beast and helped Granny carve it up. An astonishing feat!

With news coming in that the duns and spinners are finally hatching I hope that everyone gets the opportunity to catch a fish on the dry!

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 vouchers go to **Tony Dell** and **Adrian Hope**

Send your stories to 55dmiller@gmail.com

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Four Springs 2024

The Four Springs club trip...

Travelling up the Midlands full of anticipation. Normally a trip to the lakes take about two hours, this takes three. The anticipation has extra time to build. You know that you can get there before lunch if you leave at a sensible hour. Coffee at Oatlands or Ross extends the trip but is essential in all respects. You know that the hatch usually starts between one and two o'clock and that you will probably have to nymph or drag wets until then. There may be an occasional rise and you may be lucky but you know that when it happens it happens!

Except when it doesn't.

So what do you do?

It is sunny, there is a breeze and it is coolish. There are no insects on the water and pulling wets seems like the only option. This however is not why you drove the extra hours and booked into the Headsmen caravan park. You did all this to cast to fish rising happily to merging mayflies and later to spinner feeders slashing in the afternoon sun!



'The answer my friend is plonking in the wind. The answer is plonking in the wind!'

David Young 2024

So this is what the successful fishers did. Messrs Murphy, Young, Plankton, Lipscomb and more all succumbed and experienced some great success. only Miller and Matcham persisted with the dry. The aforementioned did well on the first few days. Murphy was top rod (as is often the case) and every catch from the Young boat was advertised

loudly by the barking from Ellie the Wonder Dog who cheered on every catch!



It wasn't until the last day when the Miller Matcham dry team finally found fish feeding on orange spinners hard on the shore and had a memorable session taking fish up to 60cm on the dry. Their smugness was unbearable!



Evening meals were held at the caravan park and one at the Carrick Hotel - all were excellent!



A surprise birthday party was held for Plankton who didn't realise it was his birthday until his daughter rang him!

Many thanks to all those who came along and made the trip a success and thanks to Tony Abel for coordinating it (always bit like herding cats!)

Words were spoken about the greatly missed Andrew Blackwood in whose name the event was organised. He would have loved it!



Laurie's Orange Spinner that did all the damage

DM

Four Springs 2024 Addendum

MY FOUR SPRINGS TRIP: HEART-FELT THANKS AND A CAUTIONARY TALE

Macca, Bryn Carman and me, in consultation with Cubby and Stokesy had arranged our attacks on Four Springs for the season and made our bookings at Hadspen. Kate and I had done a reconnaissance in late September to confirm our intelligence that the Duns were hatching, albeit only a trickle and with no fish on them.

It was with this background that five of us set out from Hobart with four boats in tow on 7 October last for our first serious crack. Unfortunately, Macca had to pull out due to illness and his place was taken by Tim Urbanc.

I arrived last at the Four Springs ramp about 10.30 am as Cubby and Stokesy were launching and Tim was ready to put in. Bryn was already out there. It was fairly windy from the north-west and there were only 2 other trailers at the ramp.

I got organised, launched, was on the water by about 11 am and went straight over to Bryn on the western shore just south of the dam to see how he was going. He had been plonking and had caught one small rainbow.

I set up just below the line of buoys to drift the deeper water out from the camera, fishing my plonking rig at about 9-10 feet with a #12 flashback nymph on the point and #12 Pot Scrubber nymph about 5 ft down.

Things were fairly slow but I managed a 410 mm brown which I returned, and lost a bigger brown, it having weeded me but got it out, at the net. Both were on the point fly

About 1 pm quite a good trickle of Duns started to hatch around me but with no fish showing an interest. I saw that most of the boats had started to congregate in the shallower area south of the ramp so went down to join what I hoped would be some dry fly action,

Unfortunately the fish didn't co-operate so I had lunch and headed back to deeper water to

resume plonking. Talking to the other boys there, they were faring much the same as me, but none of us were fishless.

I was back fishing where I had started, with Cubby and Stokesy just down off the trees toward the ramp.

About 4 pm I started to get what I thought was my customary indigestion after lunch, but it quickly got worse and I was not feeling flash so decided I should head in. I took of flies, rolled up reels and dismantled rods then headed for the ramp, yelling at Cubby and Stokesy as I passed that I thought I was having a heart episode.

By the time I got to the ramp I was feeling quite ordinary so cut the power, lifted the motor and ran the boat onto the ramp and just sat. I was not quite with it.

Cubby and Stokesy arrived soon after and Cubby insisted I call 000, which I did at 4.25 pm, but by that time I was a bit out of it and talking shorthand so Cubby took over and made arrangements for an ambulance.

The ambulance was despatched from Beaconsfield not long after and arrived within a half hour. In the meantime, Cubby and Stokesy phoned Tim Urbanc who, as many of you will know, is a registered nurse. He came in, took my pulse and generally 'rode herd' on me until the ambulance arrived.

From then on it was all action, I was lifted out of the boat and onto a trolley then into the ambulance, wading boots removed, singlet cut off and contacts stuck all over my chest for an ECG as well as being pumped full of pharmaceuticals. I don't know whether the two ambos could have got the trolley back up the ramp and into the ambulance without the help of Cubby, Stokesy, Bryn and Tim.

Anyway, I was whisked away to the Coronary Care Unit at the LGH leaving the boys to retrieve my boat, pack up my gear and drive the rig back to Hadspen.

The ambulance driver, David, was a volunteer from the Beaconsfield area and the paramedic,

Bronwyn, was Launceston-based and posted to Beaconsfield for the day. She took serial ECGs and fired them straight to the CCU and we were met on the way by two more paramedics to assist.

I arrived in the operating theatre still in my waders, which fortunately weren't cut off after me giving instruction on how to easily pull off them by the heels.

By 9 pm I was back on the CCU ward with stent implanted and in recovery mode, which fortunately, has continued well.

I couldn't fault, at any stage, the quality of the care I received, notwithstanding the State Health System being under such pressure, and I am very grateful to all involved. The outcome could easily have been very different!

The cautionary aspects which are plain from this experience for us old farts are: don't fish alone in isolated areas without phone contact; carry chewable aspirin (and/or critical prescribed medication) on your person; and keep in touch regularly with mates on the water.

The whole trip had its challenges: Macca didn't make the starting gate due to illness; I fell at the first hurdle due to heart issues; and Tim did a fetlock (a wrenched knee on the ramp, retrieving his boat) at the finish line!

In closing I want to express my profound thanks to Cubby, Stokesy, Tim and Bryn for their care and assistance. Stokesy drove my rig home from Hadspen on Thursday and he and Cubby bought it to Dynnyrne, parked the boat, unloaded the gear and packed it away.

Thanks also to all those members who contacted me with messages of concern and support.

Good mates are priceless.

Tony Dell 13 October 2024

Advice Tips and Tricks

Floatants are expensive. They basically have one job - making your fly, or your line float. So how hard could it be to make some of your own.



I went onto YouTube to search for a recipe and found one which combined paraffin wax, paraffin oil and vaseline in equal portions and set to work trying to make some of my own. I purchased the wax, paraffin oil, vaseline and bottles from various places (eBay and Bunnings) with a total expenditure of less than \$20.



The procedure I used initially was to place equal parts of wax, paraffin oil and vaseline ointment a tin in a water bath and melted it down. The result was a solid block of strange solid stuff that was a bit greasy. Not a success.



The next few attempts saw the ratios dropped significantly and the the final one was one part paraffin oil, one part vaseline and a dash of wax. The addition of wax was the key to making a liquid or a paste.

Members of the club present at the Four Springs trip were given a little bottle of liquid or a container of the paste and were asked for honest reviews.

I have used your floatant to stop my braided leader connection from sinking, and have found it to be very good and much better than using Gink for the same purpose.

I haven't tried it on a fly as yet as I feel it may be a bit too tacky to use on hackles, but would probably be great used on a deer hair pattern . It certainly appears to maintain its stability and not liquify at the temperatures that quickly melt Gink.

I would be keen to get some more in a slightly larger container.

Cheers

Tim U.

I used the floating on a dry fly and it sank like a stone so I reverted to my usual floating which never fails. It also sank like stone. The conclusion is that neither your floating or the commercial ones work on a sinking line!

D Young

I now use this all the time and with the price of floatant it may well be worth exploring this more. If you have a better recipe than I would love to hear from you!

DM

Tony's Flashback nymph

I Thought you might be interested in the more detailed story about how Noel's fly came about. (Featured in the last edition of The Vice)

I've been tying and using my version of the Flash Back Nymph for many years, but the earliest I can document is 2017 when I was invited to demonstrate a whole range of flies to the Devonport Club at their Miena Shack. I have no idea where I got the pattern, but probably from the web, and probably about 2010.



FLIES FOR DEVONPORT CLUB TIE-IN MIENA 16-18 JUNE 2017

Nymphs and Wets

1. Flash Back Nymph

Hook: #12 or #14 Kamasan B175 (now using Black Magic C12 and C14, as per second photo)

Thread: Black 8/0

Tail: Bunch of Pheasant Tail fibres

Rib: Thin copper wire, closely wound to protect the flashback.

Flash: Pearl holographic Mylar, tied in after the rib and pulled over the top of the body and thorax

Body: Bunch of Pheasant tail fibres, spun round thread

Thorax: 3-4 Peacock tail herls, spun round thread

Bead: optional, but I generally use gold, copper or black tungsten



I use it exactly as Noel describes but it is also my go-to plonking fly at Four Springs.

The story goes:

As a regular fishing partner of Macca, he obviously became aware that I was having quite a bit of success with the Flash Back and I had given him some to use and as patterns.

He was on the phone to Noel and they were discussing my success with the Flashback and Noel asked for the pattern, which Macca gave by description and , as they say, the rest is history. Cheers,

Delly

A Blue Parachute Damsel



Hook: #12/#14 H 530 BL (Hanak barbless medium wire or similar)

Thread: black uni thread 8/0

Body: dark blue and turquoise organza furred and a drop of superglue
(a tan colour and crystal flash can be used for the female)

Thorax, 1mm blue foam 2mm wide, possum underfur

Hackle, (wings) coq de leon

To form a body, strip the organza back to individual threads and select an equal amount of both at least twice the length of the body. Twist the threads in opposite directions/opposing hands. Use a fixed point of some description to fold it in half before allowing the material to twist back on itself, apply the drop of superglue to prevent un-twisting.

With the hook in the vice and the thread just beyond the point, catch in the body and secure. Offer the foam to the hook about half way

between the body and the eye, tie the foam down towards the eye, the excess trailing over the body. Select a hackle that is long enough to represent the wings, catch it at the base of the foam, stand the foam upright and post the hackle up 3-4 mm, then wind the hackle down 4-5 turns, secure and snip away. Dub a small pinch of possum fur to form the body then pull the foam over the top to form the thorax. Catch the foam in a millimetre or so behind the eye with a few turns of thread and then finish off in front of the foam with a small dam and whip finish. Snip away the foam forming a small head, apply some head cement to the thread. Spread and adjust the hackle fibres to resemble the wings.

Tie up several bodies at a time to save time, damsel flies are smaller than you think, Peacock herl also looks good as the underbody, This fly sits low in the water and can be hard to see, the addition of a hi-vis post would be helpful if fishing at a distance.

Abes (Adrian Hope)

Bothwell Dams Weekend



The opportunity to fish the dams at Bothwell is a real treat and should never be taken for granted. We have been very fortunate to have access to these fantastic waters and we are indebted to the families that allow us to experience these great waters.

The last trip to the dams in April this year saw them incredibly low and very few fish were caught. Levels were down about 10 metres but it was interesting to see the substructure of the dams and the camping was of course great fun as usual.

This time the dams were completely full due to an amazing rain event that saw it spill after about one week of solid rain. The question was were there any fish? Stephen Butler and Craig Granquist paid an early visit and Steve declared that if he didn't catch anything then the trip wouldn't happen. Luckily for all of us he caught one and it was on!



We had access to Henry's place and the Weasel dams. The camping was at Weasel and Stephen and Craig had organised firewood, a BBQ and a Portalo to make things more comfortable. The wonderful Nick Ingles had

organised a venison carcass which the Editor flick passed to the very capable Craig Granquist and Chris Berndt to deal with, which they did with great effort and expertise. The results were absolutely delicious!

I fished with David Travalia and we tried our luck at Henry's dams but didn't touch a thing. The evening rise at Weasel didn't really get going but the fire and discussions that ensued were fantastic fun. We decided that an early start was on the cards.



As usual Pete and Tom Murphy were the first on the water (4.30am!). David and I were out by 5.00. It is a magical time of day. First light and the world waking up. The fisher rising lazily at first but a hatch of midge at around 6.30 saw them coming in very close to the edge. Midge feeders are very focused and are difficult to spook. Multiple casts are required to land the fly in exactly the right spot (3mm inside the mouth apparently). It is fantastic fishing and totally absorbing. David and I had the best morning of the season so far and landed and lost multiple fish, all in fabulous condition and all before breakfast!



After a little nap at midday - essential for fishers past a certain age - we decided to explore the river below the dam top do some Euro nymfing. Stories of the huge resident fish abounded but the aftermath of a cormorant barrage had a huge impact, Even with the gun fishers involved no fish were caught.



The Saturday night saw the arrival of Nick Ingles



of Venison fame and recently out of hospital. Accompanied by his personal physician Dr Chris

they arrived to general applause and graced us with their presence for the evening meal.



Back straps, cutlets and steaks were cooked to perfection and it was a brilliant evening where the problems of the world were solved*

The morning after rise could never live up to the hype of the previous day but was nonetheless enthusiastically attended. It was however a ver different morning. Cloudless, warm and very few midge. Some fish were caught on emergers and nymphs bit there wasn't the excitement.

In all 35 or more fish were caught for the weekend. Many thanks to /Stinky and Granny for the incredible organisation and the work it takes to put together such an amazing weekend!

*Results and recommendations may be published later

DM



