



The Vice



Newsletter of the Tasmanian Fly Tyers' Club Inc.

Volume 17, Issue 7 Autumn 2025

Inside: ... Weasel, Casting Day, Talbots and more...

Cover Shot – Sunset at Weasel

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<http://tasmanianflytyersclub.org>

President's Report



Hopes of a quiet off season for the Club have not happened as there are many events on the go at this time of year. The Wind Knots Fly-casting Group had its end of activity BBQ at the park in West Hobart. It was attended by about 20 casters and instructors. It is a great community outreach program and for many it is their first introduction to the Club. It is also beneficial for experienced fly casters as trained instructors can correct common technical problems.

Weasel Dam Camping weekend was run over a weekend in April. The Club is always appreciative of the Bowden family for access to this private trout fishery. Steve Butler and Granny did an awesome job organising this event, including venison supply and wastewater management.

The Club casting day was moved away from the Mother's Day weekend to a week later. This proved a master stroke of organisation as we had over 40 people with many guests and children. Lunch was prepared by the 'Weber Experts' and helpers resulting in roast pork, lamb, potatoes, snags, burgers and enough salad for all. The casting competition was very close with the overall champions having to share the trophy as two people finished with the same combined

score. Long time Club member Heather Noga presented the Margaret Knight Trophy for dry fly casting, named in honour of her mother. Club Patron John Fowler, and his wife Dianne, came along to enjoy the perfect autumn weather and meet members and their families.

The Winter Fly Swap is now fully subscribed, with participants tying 12 of their own flies to swap with each other. The flies will be collated and boxed up by the Committee for distribution at the AGM.

There is a Bream Fishing Day planned for the middle of June, please register on the Club's website if you are interested.

I'm getting ready for the Interlaken Weekend, planning to restock my early season fly box and complete my Winter Fly Swap offerings.

Stay warm and safe over the winter and tight lines for the season opening in a few months.

Andrew 'The President' Reed

Editorial

This issue has stories about Weasel, Casting Day, Talbots and a day on Sorell with Tony Dell. I haven't included the regular bits about tying and tips as there was so much on!

John Spencer has submitted a piece about the rods and reels that he has available for members who may be considering a saltwater expedition to borrow. This is a wonderful resource and may be useful for anyone planning a trip in the future. It will be included at the end of each edition of The Vice from now on - thanks Spence!

Send your stories to 55dmiller@gmail.com

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Weasel - Autumn Weekend

After a very enjoyable early season weekend at Weasel there was another opportunity for



members who love camping and fishing at this remarkable location to do it all again!

Stephen Butler and Craig Granquist put in a power of work setting up the site. They gather firewood, set up marquees and tables, organise barbecues and even bring along a Portaloo to make things a



bit more civilised and also to leave no trace at the campsite. Nick Ingles also contributed once again by getting some venison from his local source. Again Craig did the butchering, much to everyone's relief.

The lake level was low but still very fishable. The weather was generally superb and the winds were kind to us. Fish were moving out deep and could only be reached by boat but there were quite a few fish around the shores as well. Flies that had black and red were the most successful although there was a lot of support for purple colours as well.

The early morning rise didn't really get going like it did in the early season trip but some fish were caught on wets. Dry fly purist didn't really get many opportunities but some were rewarded for their persistence.

Sunsets were stunning!

The evenings were spent around the camp fire and the discussions were wide ranging and very entertaining to say the least. (What was said at Weasel stays at Weasel!). Whisky tasters and experts were in their element and many different varieties were sampled, critiqued and enjoyed!

It was yet another brilliant trip and I think that nearly everyone caught a fish or two. Thanks to Stephen and Craig for all their efforts and to the Bowden family for once again giving access to this wonderful piece of Tasmania.

DM



Casting Day 2025



The Salmon Ponds at Plenty has to be the best venue for a casting day anywhere in Australia! The beauty of the place with its majestic trees, wide expanses of lawns and huge trout cavorting in ponds is extraordinary.



Wayne Bellette and his team set up the dry and wet fly courses and Chris Hilton, John Spencer and Pete Murphy took care

of the catering. I counted well over 40 people at the event which is fantastic!



The first event was the Margaret Knight Dry Fly event. Contestants have 3 casts at 5 hoops all at different distances. False casting between each attempt was mandatory. 5 points for the first cast at each hoop and 3 and 2 for subsequent efforts was how it ran. It looks easy but its not. Wind, glare and nerves all take a toll on performance. However the best casters do seem to emerge in any conditions.



The results were:
Margaret Knight Dry Fly
1st Paul McCosh 36 Points
2nd Chris Medwin 35 Points
3rd Adrian Scott 31 Points

The second event was the Hedley Griggs Wet fly competition. In this event you need to cast into hoops set in a straight line with about a metre between them. This time the rules stipulate that there is to be no false casting after your very first attempt. There scoring is the same as the Dry Fly competition. This is very difficult for the Acting Editor of The Vice who once again got the yips and failed to score at all - (even though he got at least 5 in during the warm up).

The results were:

Hedley Griggs Wet Fly
1st Wayne Bellette 31 points
2nd Jim Jones 20 Points
3rd Anna Bellette 17 Points

Overall winners and place getters were decided by combing the totals for both competitions.



Overall Winners

1st Place Wayne Bellette and Paul McCosh 49 Points
2nd Place Chris Medwin 45 Points



3rd Place Adrian Scott 41 Points

At the end of the competitions everyone descended on the lunch area where Chris and his loyal team had cooked up a storm. It was a great day and the sun came out to melt away the early morning frosts.



On a closing note it must said that of the large Murphy clan that arrived the highest scoring family member was Heath who managed to outperform both his father Tom and grandfather Pete. Bragging rights are his for the next year!

Once again thanks to all those who helped in the setting up and running of the day. It was fantastic!

DM

Talbots Lagoon Season 2025

Recapping 13 trips to Talbots Lagoon with various fishing partners.



Tom Lucas' Woven Humbug

Opening day 3rd of August is a good time for some rainbow action. The rainbows are feeding hard in preparations for spawning in the next few weeks. Dean and I boated 26, mostly rainbows on opening day. We caught them using woolly buggers MK2 but I also landed a couple on a hot head leach. The browns are in less than perfect condition but occasional maiden fish were in good nick. Almost all the fish were released.

The second trip in August (14th) with Doogs, and President Jason was only short and late in the afternoon following on from most of the day at Lake Plimsoll where Jase landed a bookie. Four fish came to the net 3 x rainbows and a single brownie.

A third trip on 20th August with my son Jacko, we only managed one small rainbow on a woolly bugger, the weather was poor and the fish (rainbows) had obviously gone to spawn.



Crunchers

My next trip wasn't until the 15th of November, Steve Butler from the Tasmanian Fly Tyers Club made the journey up from Hobart and we fished as a team for the "Fowler Trophy". We landed 5 fish each browns and rainbows. A highlight of the day were the high jumping rainbows, as Steve will recall "you need to control your fish" at Talbots.

I fished typically with a woolly bugger early and changed to nymph under dry later, Steve used two wets early and had fish coming to boat very early. A nymph on the point and English wet similar to a duck fly on the dropper. Steve changed the way I fished for most of the rest of the season.



Red arse green Peter

Deano and myself made our way back to Talbots on the 15th of December. Not much recorded about this trip, I landed 2 x browns and Deano landed 1. From memory we weren't doing very well out in the deeper water and ended up polaroiding the shore from the boat. We did see quite a lot of fish but could not get them to take. I

had a refusal on the blue Damsel and was broken off with the same fly not long after.

The first trip of the new year was the 4th of January, Deano had fantastic day landing 5 rainbows and a brown, I managed 2 rainbows and a brown (It was a long trip home, also note '**do not drink the lagoon water this time of year**', it was also a very long night). Dean fished a single woolly bugger on an intermediate line. I fished with an English wet style duck ("chook") fly and a cruncher on a sweep line and later with the red arsed green peter, which is an Irish lough style, long hackle dry. It makes a nice wake if pulled slightly. I had some fantastic takes last season by just pulling the fly a tiny bit when the duns are coming off.

Later in January Tom Lucas from San Diego (ex-pat Australian) came for another visit and we fished 29,30 and 31. We landed 18 fish over the three days 9 each, 9 browns and 9 rainbows. I fished with the English wet and a cruncher, Tom mostly used a small dark woolly bugger with metallic green tinsel and his "woven humbug", he also landed one on a dry. We enjoyed a couple of nights at the Lodge with the Break O' Day members. This was Tom's second trip to Talbots in past 12 months.

February 8th Deano and self are again on the water, Dean landed 2, 1B+1R. Abes landed 5, 4B+1R. I think at this stage we noticed the small rainbows (silver bullets) are missing from our catch maybe the cormorants caught up with them??? Woolly buggers, damsel nymph, English wets and crunchers were all doing the job. I think this was the trip a fish came out of the water and took my fly on the way back in, amazing to see!



WBMK2

End of the season trip - 24th and 25th of April, again with Deano. We were on the water early and all day, the weather wasn't that good and the fishing much the same. I landed the only 2 fish for the day, both browns, one on a hot head leach and the other on an 'f'-fly. Thankfully the weather and the fishing improved on 25th landing 7 between us for the day. On the water about 9:30 we made our way across the end of the peninsula and fished the Wey Arm. Not really having much success we headed back towards "Steve Crowley St." a place where I had seen Steve catch a few in seasons past. Both of us fishing with intermediate lines and the ever faithful 'WB-MK2' we had a nice session landing rainbows. We kept a few fish for the smoker both browns and rainbows, all fish were in good condition and well into spawning mode 'colour' and 'row/spawn'. We headed back across the Lagoon and called in to the "bosses hole" to clean the fish. I must say the cleaning table there is fantastic (credit to LR?). Loaded up and headed home in time for roast lamb.



Talbots 15/12/24



Talbots rainbow 3/8/24

Abes

All up I had 12 trips out on the lagoon this season, 6 with Dean, Doogs and Jase 1 (a very crowded little boat that day), Jacko 1, Tom 3 days (we stayed at the lodge 2 nights) and 1 with Steve Butler TFTC. I landed 50 fish and busted off possibly 1/2 that many times as well as losing a few through poor hookups, short takes or just generally being too heavy handed, there were 35 other fish brought to the net and a similar number of misses/losses (however in Dean's case it's probably more, haha).



Steve Butler 15/11/24

I would say my catch/bag was down on the past couple of seasons, maybe due to the cormorants, I did catch fish with scarring. And, apart from opening day when I landed 15 rainbows, my bag would have been 50/50 browns and rainbows. Condition of the fish has been typically good as usual, I can't recall any slabby fish this year, maybe the cormorants fixed that problem...

A Fowler Day on Sorell

The John Fowler Trophy is a great Club event that has been going for quite a few years now. Essentially, members put their names down in a draw to spend a day fishing with another member that they haven't fished with much before. The number of fish caught between you is entered and fabulous prizes* are awarded.



This year I had the privilege of fishing with Club legend and Life Member Tony Dell. As it was late in the season and fishing was generally difficult we chose to explore Lake Sorell. The aim wasn't really to catch fish, more to explore the lake together and sort out the best places to fish in the new season - hopefully after a really brilliant spawning run!

Tony was the best person I could think of to explore with as his knowledge of the lake is second to none and there are a myriad of pitfalls and opportunities for the boat angler on this huge water.



The lake wasn't full but was reasonably high, the water turbid with fly visibility at about 15-20cm which wasn't too bad. The sounder on my boat came in for a real workout however as there are so many nasty little reefs that appear out of nowhere. The 5 knot limit is well and truly a maximum as you can be in 3m of water one minute and 30cm in the blink of an eye!

The first bit we explored was 'The Causeway' which apparent is a great place to fish and wade. (As the legend has it Sorell fishes well on the 'rocky shores'). There was a opening that you could apparently get through but We couldn't quite find it so went around the island the long way to be on the safe side.

On the other side of the island there were huge shallow expanses, marshes and more reefs that should all hold fish. There was even a brief dun hatch which looked very promising although no fish were on them that we could see.

We ventured further over towards Kermode's and Robbo's and it all looked very promising but again very shallow as slow going. Back in the halcyon days of Sorell boats were basic, drogues unheard of and sounders and electric motors unimaginable so people used their boats to get to a good place to wade and fish and if the stories I heard were anything to go by it was hugely successful!



The next bit of the day involved exploring the Dog's Head area and it was here that we came across a big Dun hatch and Tony recalled that this was a regular feature in the past. It was good to see that this has continued. The edges of the bays around there looked very good indeed for prospecting with a wet fly.

The water near Dog's Head seemed to be a bit deeper and fewer reefs were showing on the sounder - although it was still unwise to go too fast just in case. I asked Tony if he had fished any of the reefs in the middle of the lake and he basically said that they didn't really know that they were there!

The weather on our trip was just about perfect but you could see that it would be treacherous on a big blow! So be very careful and keep an eye on the weather!



We spent the night at the Sorell shack, ate and drank very well in front of a fantastic fire. It is a brilliant little shack now and will only become more appealing when the renovations take place in the near future.



Flies that worked back in the day

It would be a great idea for the Club to have a Sorell orientation weekend at some time next season where the wisdom of the elders who fished there before closure could be shared with the newer members and those who have never explored this brilliant lake!

DM

* Value is in the eye of the beholder

Club Loan Equipment

There are 3 rods and one reel suitable for salt water fishing, Bone fish etc currently available to be borrowed by club members for their fishing needs

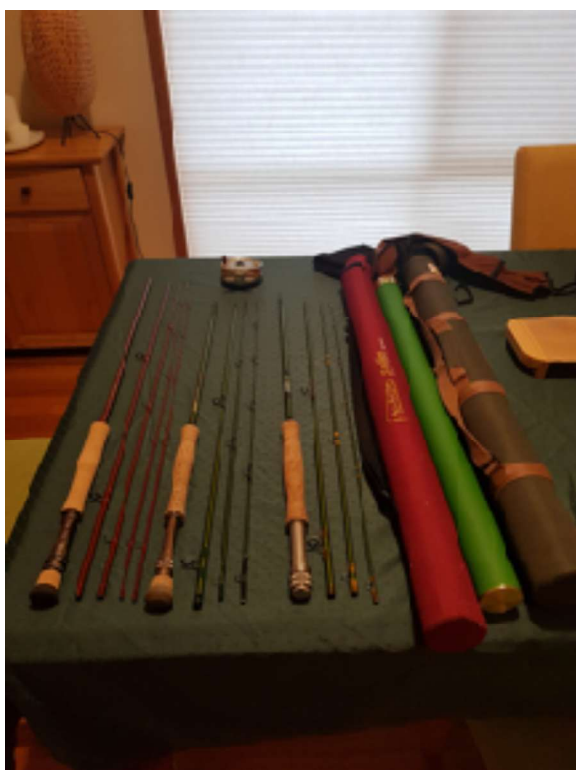
Rods

- 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

