

FLY LINES



APRIL 2016

April Auction

Our April meeting will be an auction of fly fishing equipment and books. Auctioneer Hughie Maltby has put together a catalogue of the lots for sale. This catalogue was included as an insert in last month's newsletter. For your convenience it is again included in this issue. The catalogue indicates that there are 120 lots for sale, with several rods and reels, some waders, and a large number of books going under the hammer. Many of the books are popular classics that every fly fisher would want in their personal library. This will be a great opportunity to pick up a bargain or two.

THURSDAY, April 21
8.00 pm
at the
Celtic Club

So mark it in your diary – Thursday, April 21, 8:00 pm at the Celtic Club – for our annual auction.

PLEASE make a Dinner booking by 12 noon on Wednesday, April 20, by phoning 0498 254 497 and leaving a message.



THE VICTORIAN FLY FISHERS' ASSOCIATION INC.

VOL. 64 NO.6 – APRIL 2016

Organisation No. A0024750J

P.O. Box 18423 Melbourne Bourke Street, Melbourne 3001

info@vffa.org.au **www.vffa.org.au**

President

Hamish Hughes

Email: president@vffa.org.au

Honorary Treasurer

Tony Mitchem

Email: treasurer@vffa.org.au

Honorary Secretary

David Grisold

Email: secretary@vffa.org.au

Honorary Editor

Lyndon Webb

Email: editor@vffa.org.au

VFFA Website Administrator

Kevin Finn

Email: webadmin@vffa.org.au

Honorary Librarian

Rick Dugina

Email: library@vffa.org.au

Other Council members:

Senior Vice President: Mike Jarvis

Junior Vice President: John Permewan

Councillors: Hugh Maltby

Ian Sambell

Peter Boag

Dermot O'Brien

Terry Rogers (Immediate Past President)

All material copyright © all rights reserved. No part of the contents of this publication may be reproduced without prior written consent of the publisher. Published monthly by The Victorian Fly Fishers' Association Inc., PO Box 18423 Melbourne Bourke Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3001.

Index

VFFA Office Holders	2	The Warrnambool Team In Tassie	18
New Members	3	The Big River...a Poem by Alan Pilkington ...	23
President's Message	4	VFFA Trip To Chateau Pilkington.....	24
The May Meeting With April Vokey	5	It's All About The Fish	26
Donger Battle In April.....	7	Web Fish	28
Vale John Alcott	7	Fly of the Month	29
Editor's Desk – Lyndon Webb	8	VFFA Meetings & Activities	32
March Meeting With Clinton Isaac	10		

New Members

In recent months we have welcomed both Corey Houghton and Judith Oliver as new members. Here are photos of Corey and Judith, so that when you see them at future meetings you can make them feel very much part of the group.



President's Message



Where have all the fish gone? This seems to be the question many of our members have been asking recently. At the beginning of the season I heard some good reports from NSW and encouraging ones from some Victorian rivers and Tasmania. But since the Christmas break all reports are that the fishing has been very poor. Fish were few and far between for our members on our February VFFA Tasmanian trip regardless of where we fished. All reports were that this was so everywhere throughout the state. Members have returned from Lake Eucumbene and NSW rivers with similar reports. The fisheries authorities assure us that trout were around at the beginning of the season and that this should still be the case. Officials at the Dutton Trout Hatchery at Ebor in NSW told Mike Jarvis early this year that they knew the trout were in the nearby rivers but that for some reason they weren't feeding. This month John Pilkington politely advised all his guests prior the Enoch Point weekend that he had not seen any trout in the Big River in recent weeks. Wes Betts reports the same from the Howqua River near Whisky Flat.

It seems that most experts believe that the weather is the reason why.

Poor rains combined with an overuse of storages for irrigation and electricity generation have led to low levels in many rivers and some lakes. Neil Hyatt at Snobs Creek Hatchery reports that Lake Eildon is now down to 20 percent and will become a big concern for Fisheries Victoria if it goes much lower.

But is global warming the main culprit? We all know that trout struggle to survive once the water temperature starts to exceed 20 degrees Celsius. Last week the Age reported that the average temperatures in February were 1.35 degrees Celsius above the norm for the 1951-1980 period. Experts report a notable climb in temperatures across the country in March. Sydney had a record 39 straight days above 26 degrees and Melbourne had its hottest ever March night of nearly 28 degrees. The widespread coral bleaching of the Great Barrier Reef has been triggered by elevated sea surface temperatures. It would seem that no one really knows the answer. All that I can hope for is that next season is much better than this one. Like the farmers let us pray for good rains and a more temperate summer.

Having seen Clint Isaac's presentation on fly fishing the flats around Hinchinbrook Island I can't wait to get there in June. I am going with Gordon Baker, Robert Tuck and David Wakefield and we have since added a few more days to our trip to make the most of our opportunities there.

We have our VFFA annual auction coming up on April 21 and I know this will be well attended. And on May 19 we have a special dinner with April Vokey as guest speaker. We have arranged for a bigger

than usual turn up as we hope members will invite female and male guests to hear this internationally famous fly fisher.

Good luck to our anglers at the Donger weekend with the Bairnsdale Fly Fishers on April 30 to May 1. If you wish to join us see the Notice of Event in last month's

newsletter and respond accordingly to Mike Jarvis. We need your help to win back the trophy they have held for far too long.

Tight lines,



The May Meeting with April Vokey

April Vokey is a very high profile Canadian fly fisher, fishing guide, casting instructor and TV personality. And she has accepted our invitation to speak at our May meeting.

After discovering a passion for fly fishing in her teens, she has since dedicated her life to the pursuit, and has established herself as a respected authority in the sport. She has travelled the globe in pursuit of game fish on a fly rod.

Her articles have appeared in numerous prestigious fly fishing publications and she has become a very popular TV personality. She recently wrote and hosted her own series, *ShoreLines with April Vokey*, which is shown on the *World Fishing Network*. April is a FFF certified casting instructor, a fly tying instructor, an active conservationist, travelling speaker and an eternal student of life and love.

The May meeting will be a fabulous opportunity to hear April speak. Accordingly the VFFA Council is organising a dinner at the Celtic Club for this event with an invitation to members and their guests to hear April's presentation. An invitation is included in this newsletter as an insert.

The cost of the dinner has been deliberately kept at a very attractive \$30 in the hope that members will bring wives/partners and other guests to meet and hear this exceptional speaker.

April has indicated that she will provide a fly tying demonstration prior to the dinner. During the evening she will speak for about 45 minutes, addressing a number of aspects of fly fishing and giving us perhaps a few fascinating glimpses of her life as a very successful fly fishing personality in a very competitive industry.

Mark it in your diary – Thursday, May 19, for an evening with April Vokey.

On the following evening – May 20 – April and Kristina Royter have organised a film festival at Cinema Nova in Carlton.

Then on Saturday, May 21, April is giving a casting demonstration at the Red Tag Pool.

Information advertising these events is shown on the next page.

So, the week ending May 21 offers our members three fabulous events featuring April Vokey - a very talented and world acclaimed fly fisher.





VICTORIAN FLY FISHERS' ASSOCIATION
PRESENTS APRIL VOKEY



Join April for a speaking presentation and
and fly tying demonstration at the May Meeting
of VFFA, on the evening of Thursday 19 May, 2016.

April will speak about Canadian fly fishing history,
her fly fishing journey and travels, and demonstrate
the use of fly-tying materials when applied to streamers

April Vokey
APRILVOKEY.COM

international fly fishing film festival
2016 MELBOURNE
WITH AUSSIE ANGLER

Flygal
Aussie Angler

FlyLife | *Flygal* | *3M* | *Epic*
AIRFIELD | *W* | *paragon* | TACKY | *PROFESSIONAL NORTHWEST TERRY OGDEN* | *3TAND*

GET YOUR TICKETS FLYFILMFEST.COM

Screening Information:
FRIDAY 20 MAY, 2016 | SHOW START 8PM
CINEMA NOVA | 380 LYGON ST, CARLTON
Tickets \$28 with \$1 proceed to Grant Barclay Red Tag Fly Fishers Casting Pools
BOOK AT AUSSIE ANGLER OR flyfilmfest.com

APRIL VOKEY
SPEY CASTING DEMO

WITH THANKS TO AUSSIE ANGLER, JOIN APRIL AT:
RED TAG FLY FISHERS CASTING POOLS, YARRA BEND PARK, FAIRFIELD
SAT MAY 21, 2016 | 9.00AM | COST \$20 | BOOK WITH AUSSIE ANGLER

April Vokey
Aussie Angler

Donger Battle In April

The long-standing, friendly rivalry between the VFFA and the Bairnsdale Fly Fishers, in competing for the Dudley Lee Donger, will be fought out again this year on waters around Omeo over the weekend of April 29 to May1 and based at the Bairnsdale club's superb lodge on the Mitta Mitta River.

Recent years have seen the fishing quite disappointing but despite this a great time has been enjoyed by everyone making the trip. The hospitality of the Bairnsdale Fly Fishers is legendary and their lodge in its great riverside setting is very comfortable and welcoming.

This year reports suggest the fishing in the area has improved somewhat, so hopefully a more successful weekend will result. The VFFA needs to field a strong team for the weekend, and we look forward to providing the locals with some keen competition.

Senior Vice President Mike Jarvis is taking responsibility for organising the event in conjunction with our Bairnsdale hosts and would like to hear from any members interested in taking part. Mike's mobile phone number is 0418 265 390.

Everyone taking part can be assured of a great weekend with a very congenial bunch of Bairnsdale fly fishers in stunning surroundings. If you have never fished in the area here is a great opportunity to explore new waters. In addition, the BFF has generously offered the lodge for any VFFA members who would like to stay on for a further day or so.

The much sought after Donger Jim trophy



Vale John Acott

John Acott has been a member of the VFFA since 1969. Sadly he died on February 29, just a few weeks short of his 87th birthday.

John completed his apprenticeship in painting and decorating in 1949, and was awarded a medal that year for being the 'Apprentice of the Year'. He moved to Trentham, where he lived for most of his life, working as a painter in the Mt Macedon and Woodend area.

In 1959 he married Phyllis. They had one son, Paris, who is an engineer working with motor racing teams in the USA. John and Phyllis also have two grandchildren.

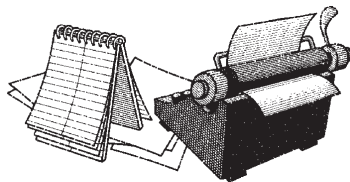
John's hobbies including painting, working with timber, and fishing. As well

as being a house painter he was also a very skilled artist, and Phyllis was very proud to tell us that some of his superb landscapes had been framed and decorate the walls of their house. John was also a very clever carpenter and loved working with timber.

Right from his earliest days he has enjoyed fishing, and with his good mate Snowy Butterworth was often found casting a line at Newlyn, Hepburn, and Bullarto. Together they also made regular trips to Eucumbene.

John was a keen fly fisherman and a long-standing member of the VFFA, and members would all convey to Phyllis our deepest sympathies and condolences at this time.

From the EDITOR'S DESK



"I tied on my favourite fly, the Adams, a pattern that exemplifies my indecisive nature. The Adams looks a little like all bugs. It's grey and speckly and a great salesman." (Thomas McGuane: "The Longest Silence").

A US website (WildTroutStreams.com) tells us: "There's an old fly fishing joke about two men who met at the end of the day as they had parked next to each other at a motel near a famous Montana stream. Since they were both unpacking wet fishing gear, it was obvious they'd spent the day fishing.

The first angler asks the second, a rather tweedy, distinguished-looking fellow, "How was your day?" "Pretty good!" the second angler replied. "It took me a while to figure out the right fly. First I thought they were taking *Ephemera subvaria*, but I realized they were too large. Then I tried *Seratlla deficiens*, but that didn't work either. Finally I put on an emerger pattern for *Drunella flavilinea*, and that did the trick. I took 10 trout!"

"Congratulations! That's really interesting, I'm sure," replied the first man.

"How'd you do?" asked the second man. "Oh, I had an OK day." "How many did you catch?"

The first man looked a bit embarrassed. "I don't know, I lost count. Probably 30 or so."

The second man was astonished. "What fly did you use?"

The first man pulled off his hat and pointed to a small, scraggy, mangled fly stuck in its brim. "That little grey thing."

I'm not exactly sure what deep and meaningful insight this story suggests, but it does remind us that flies are important. They're the cheapest item of equipment we use, but if Mr Speckles turns up his nose at our offering then it's all just exercise and casting practice.

Do you buy or tie your flies? I've known some good anglers in both camps. One of the buyers said to me that he was busy with work and valued the limited and precious hours he could spend fishing, so wanted to spend all of them on the water and not fiddling around with bits of fluff and packets of fur. Fair enough.

But tying your own has its advantages too. I started out with the idea that tying my own would save me money. This is probably still true, as I saw on one New Zealand website recently flies for sale at \$6.50 each. But good quality hackles are brutally expensive, and tungsten beads and even hooks are not cheap these days.

Of course you can always find an overseas site flogging flies at \$5 a dozen (or is that per gross). Hubert tells me that one of his regular travelling companions stocked up on cheap overseas flies, but when the aforementioned companion hooked his first decent rainbow in New Zealand the fleeing fish straightened the hook. So did the second. And the third. By this time Hubert's pockets were being picked, and the content of his fly boxes ransacked for replacements.

Here's my list of reasons for tying my own. First, and a personal thing – I find a lot more satisfaction in catching a fish on a fly I personally constructed. I also find fly

tying a very pleasant and relaxing pastime and a delightful way to fill in those grim winter nights. There are some skills involved, along with some creativity, and thus a real sense of achievement in completing another dozen of your favourite Parachute Adams.

In constructing your own you have total control over the final product. If you're tying nymphs for example, then the style of hook, the size and colour and weight of the beads, type of dubbing, material for the tail fibres, ... it's all under your control. And you can experiment. These days people are adding rubber legs, or pink hot spots, or a few turns of very mobile CDC hackle to their nymphs. Do these work? Are such flies more effective? Well, you can knock a few up and give them a try.

There's no doubt that some flies are complicated and tricky to tie, but many of the best are quite simple. One of my favourite and most effective nymphs is a pattern given to me by Mick Hall. Take a few fibres of ginger cock hackle for a tail, put a gold bead at the head, and add a body of dubbed medium brown synthetic dubbing, skinny at the tail and fatter behind the bead. And that's it. No ribbing and no mucking around with wing cases, so you can turn them out in no time. I tied some variations with darker dubbing and a black tungsten bead and they worked a treat in New Zealand some years ago.

A few months ago I read an article by an English fishing guide in the UK *Trout and Salmon* magazine. The guide was recommending a nymph pattern he'd had great success with. It consisted simply of hare's fur dubbed on a hook and ribbed with some blue or green tinsel. No tail. Just a hook and two other common materials.

I think I've mentioned this before, but I recall arriving in Warrnambool in January 1974. A few weeks into the year

Warrnambool fly fisher (and VFFA life member) Barry Quigley very kindly carted me out to the Hopkins River at Allansford on a very warm and pleasant evening to show me the basics of fly fishing. He also took his son, then quite young. Quigley junior had a fly rod with him too, and some flies he'd tied up, these being simply bits of black wool pilfered from mum's knitting basket and wrapped around a hook. He then found a likely looking pool and with eight casts hooked and landed eight fish – all estuary perch of quite respectable size. And all on a fly that was so simple that anyone could put it together.

I love the wise advice of US fly tying guru Skip Morris, who talks about the very profound and important fly tying principle of 'substitution'. If you haven't got precisely what the written fly tying instructions demand, then use something close that you do have in your supplies. Perhaps a fancy new pattern you want to try requires for the tail the darkish brown fibres from the inner covert feathers of the left wing of a one year old female Brazilian painted snipe. Well, you just don't happen to have some of these on hand. Then possibly the darkish brown fibres from a tired old well-plucked cheap Indian hackle might do just as well. At least it's worth a try.

We have in our ranks some truly superb fly tiers, and their handiwork can only be admired. But I've discovered that lots of trout are not always so discriminating. If my fly is about the right size, and roughly the right shape and colour they'll give it a go. Thank heavens for that. I think this is what Phil Bailey is also saying in his article in this issue. So get those furs and feathers and hackles and tools out and create some very personal flies.

Tight lines, and great fishing

Lyndon Webb

March Meeting with Clinton Isaac

Clinton grew up in the Blue Mountains where he fly fished for Australian natives and trout. He then discovered the world of saltwater fly fishing. His passion became a fulltime job guiding in Cape York and on the east coast into the Coral Sea in far North Queensland. Here is the text of his talk at the March meeting.

I guess a lot of you come from a freshwater background chasing trout, so you can appreciate sight fishing for trout. Stalking and hunting a trout in a clear river and then making the presentation – that's the pinnacle isn't it. At Hinchinbrook we specialise in sight fishing and flats fishing in shallow water – the visual aspect of saltwater fly fishing. We are not chasing trout, we are chasing barramundi and trevally and species like that.

If you look at a map you will see Hinchinbrook Island. Cairns is about two hours north and Townsville is about two hours south. Hinchinbrook is visually a spectacular place, and the fishing is amazing too. It's a big island - 55 km from top to bottom and about 20 km wide.



Clinton speaking at the March meeting



A big barramundi

A major feature is the mountain range with a highest peak of 1,100 metres. This works in our favour in that it protects us from the wind. The normal winds in winter are from the south-east and in the summer from the north. So we've always got a creek we can go up or a leaside to fish, so we can always find somewhere out of the wind. In my five years guiding there I have only had to cancel two days because of the weather.

The Hinchinbrook channel runs between the island and the main Queensland coast, and for the last 15 years there has been no commercial netting in this area. This is great for us as a fly fishing operation, as Dave Bradley and myself, the two fulltime fly fishing guides there, effectively have the whole area to ourselves.

You will also see the town of Cardwell on the map. It is the main township closest to where we are operating and I'm currently setting up a fly fishing lodge there.

Let's describe a few of the species that we target on the fly there. They include of course the Australian barramundi and the



Hinchinbrook Island and Channel

permit or snub-nosed dart. This latter species I think would be seen as the pinnacle of saltwater fly fishing. Catching a permit is like catching a 10 lb trout in a crystal clear river on a size 22 Humpty. We also catch queenfish, trevally, giant trevally, tuna, Aussie tarpon, mangrove jack, blue salmon, and grunter, which are a bit like your southern bream.

An integral part of our operation are the boats that we use, which are called flats or skiff boats. These are made in America and are designed specifically for getting



Cinton's Boat

>>>

up into the shallow water, where we spend the majority of our time. My boat, shown here in the photo, is 16 foot and it can get up into water only 20 cm deep. Big predators have no difficulty in venturing into these sorts of places, so this is where we do our hunting.

Our boats have a large flat area at the front where anglers can safely stand to cast. The guide will be up on the high seat at the rear. This is where we do most of our work, as standing on this tower gives us a huge height advantage. Because we are up high with better vision we can see a fish's reaction. When we are guiding clients we can tell them to stop the fly or move the fly, and we can see what the fish is doing in response. Sight and flats fishing is now more technical and harder, so every advantage we can get is useful.

You can also see in the photo the long carbon fibre pole we use. When we are on the sand flats we use this to push the boat around - a bit like the gondoliers in Venice, though we don't sing while we're at it. It's all about the hunt and the stalk, the guide and the angler working together. Other guides there use electric motors on the front of their boats but these create noise which is transmitted through the water,

and when you are fishing very shallow water fish can hear it and are spooked.

So with this pole we do a lot of sneaking up, enabling us to get very close to the fish. Of course you know that if you make a long cast to a fish your margin for error is big, whereas if you are casting short distances you have a much better chance of putting the cast where it is needed. So whether we are fishing for barramundi in the creeks or trevally on the flats we can get to within 20 or 30 feet of the fish. With saltwater fly fishing you've always got the wind to contend with, so it is a huge advantage to have to make only short casts.

I'll now play a short movie showing you aspects of the fishing at Hinchinbrook. You will see an angler fishing for barramundi in very shallow water. He makes several casts before the fish takes the fly. His cast is a small roll cast of no more than 10 to 12 feet. People often think that saltwater fly fishing requires 80 foot casts into howling winds, but you can see here that it doesn't have to be that sort of fishing. A lot of the fishing to barramundi involves using relatively light gear, with 8 weight rods being typical. Leaders are typically about 20 lb monofilament.



Barra fly



A typical Hinchinbrook permit

One of the good things about Hinchinbrook is that there are always other options if the weather isn't sunny. We can duck up creeks and fish for other species, so the day is not totally lost.

Barramundi will cruise along the mud flat edges, and Hinchinbrook has miles of these. It's one of the few places where you can sight fish for these fish. At different times in the year barramundi are laid up in the snags and you can see them. In overcast conditions we tend to fish for barramundi because we can still see them even when it's overcast. You see their tails sticking up. However if the sun is out then of course we are out on the sand flats.

Because the water is typically very shallow when we're fishing for barramundi we use an 8-weight outfit with a floating line and fairly light flies. I'll pass around one of the flies we use. It's a very simple fly yet very effective. You will see that it has a short length of 60 lb fluorocarbon line sticking out over the barb as a weed guard. This is necessary because we are fishing in heavy timber and the weed guard helps prevent the barb from hooking up. Barramundi hide in the heavy timber and when the weed guard hits the woodwork it bounces over it. Our flies use a lot of marabou, which you are all familiar with, and casting these flies is not tedious.

>>>



*Clinton's
Crab Fly*

A tip for anyone thinking of doing some barramundi fishing is to practice by fishing for Murray cod, as they too live in the snags. Or, if you want to do some practice at home then take a chair outside and tip it over, then practice casting through the gap between the upturned legs. A lot of the time the barramundi sit in sneaky places. They won't spook but tend to be a lazy fish that won't move far to take a fly. We often sit on a spot where we can see a barra, and you just need to keep casting near him till you eventually draw a strike.

If you are fishing for barramundi at Hinchinbrook you won't be casting all day to metre long fish. Last year the biggest fish caught when I was guiding was about 92 cm. Typically Hinchinbrook barramundi are from 50 cm to about 80 cm. But on an 8 weight fly rod they still pack a punch. If someone particularly wanted to chase big barramundi I'd take them to places I know in Cape York. But sight fishing to the barramundi we typically get at Hinchinbrook is still great fun. When fishing for barramundi we often catch mangrove jacks, and they pull pretty hard too.

On sunny days we fish the sand flats where our main target species are golden trevally, giant trevally, permit and queenfish. One of the flies that we use is a shrimp fly. There are lots of shrimp patterns on the market. I'll pass around mine. The great thing about our shrimp fly is that it's what we call an 'each way bet' fly. If we are out on the sand flats and a queenfish, which feeds high in the water column, swims past then you can throw out your shrimp fly and strip it back fast as a baitfish pattern. And the queenfish will eat it. However on the sand flats you don't often have the luxury of time to change your fly pattern. So if you missed the queenfish and a golden trevally comes along feeding on the bottom looking for prawns and yabbies then your shrimp fly is again a good choice. You let the pattern sink down and you fish it along the bottom and then you might catch the golden trevally. Permit will eat it too. So that shrimp fly is indeed a great 'each way bet' fly.

In tying this fly we use some glow bug material and strands of Krystal Flash. We also use rubber legs and mono eyes, which I make by burning some 60 lb monofilament line with a lighter. But I



The Shrimp Fly

have to admit that the eyes are purely cosmetic – they don't attract fish. We finally wind up with a fairly simple shrimp fly that has been particularly effective. The sizes we mostly use are tied on 1/0 size fish hooks.

Out on the sand flats we like to use 10 weight rods because they have a bit more grunt and backbone, and will assist in the delivery if there's some breeze about. We also often use intermediate lines. If a queenfish comes along feeding just under the surface, as they do, we can strip the intermediate line in quickly just under the surface. But if something comes along feeding off the bottom we can let the line sink to that level too. Some new lines on the market are floating lines with a sinking section, and these are helpful because some people have difficulty pulling a full intermediate line out of the water to recast it. These new lines help people with their water hauling too. So intermediate lines and intermediate sink tips are both fine for our sort of fishing. We also like to use tapered leaders in this sort of fishing. The taper varies from 60 lb regular monofilament down to 40 lb mono. We use monofilament because fluorocarbon in these sizes is very stiff

and we like a little more flexibility in our leaders. But our tippet sections are still fluorocarbon, and our leaders are typically about 9 foot long.

The three species you see here in the photo on the screen are GTs, queenfish and golden trevally. The queenfish on the flats tend to be quite large – from 80 cm to 120 or even 130 cm. The school GTs are quite common and they really pack a punch. Normally when we are fishing on the sand flats we also have one rod rigged up in case a big GT comes along. These won't eat our little shrimp flies; hence we need the separate rod.

When we are fishing for barramundi along the mangroves we can fish two anglers at a time because we are moving parallel to the bank. We can have one person at the front of the boat and the other at the back, and both can safely cast to the snags as we drift along. But out on the sand flats fish can come from any direction and if two anglers are on the boat casting and madly trying to change direction things can get messy. So it is safer to have just one angler casting at a time.

>>>

The golden trevally we catch range from 60 cm to a 100 cm in length. Australian flats fishing really started with this fish in Harvey Bay, when people like Dean Butler and Rod Harrison explored the flats and saw these beautiful golden tails sticking up.

Golden trevally, queenfish and GTs are all 'user friendly fish' in that they eat the fly well. If the cast and presentation aren't exactly perfect these fish will still turn and find the fly and take it. However permit will just ignore it unless the presentation is spot on.

The last fish I'll talk about tonight is the permit. Hinchinbrook is the premier location for catching these fish, and the majority of my days on the water are spent with anglers who want to chase this species because it is the pinnacle of saltwater fly fishing. It is a very hard fish to catch. But the great thing about Hinchinbrook, and the reason why people catch a lot of permit there, is because of the sheer numbers. I have fished all around the country and you don't see the numbers of permit at any other places. If the sun is out and the tides are good we will spot 100 and 250 permit a day.

Permit fishing is a percentage game – the more shots you have the better the chance of catching one, and in a day at Hinchinbrook you will get a lot of shots.

The fly I'm passing around now is the kind of fly we use for catching permit. The fly has to be on the bottom, as permit feed on the bottom. If it's not on the bottom they will swim over and have a look at it but they won't take it. So the flies we use are quite heavy, and they are tedious to cast and take a little bit of getting used to.

One cast that I recommend anglers use with heavy flies is the Belgian cast, also

known as the 'constant tension cast'. It's almost a type of roll cast with the fly constantly moving and the line always under tension. It's the ideal cast to use with these very heavy flies and the weight of the fly actually assists you in throwing it out.

The crab fly I'm passing around has burnt mono eyes and rubber legs. There are lots of crab fly patterns but to me it's more important to get the fly in the right spot. My fly is tied with some bucktail and a grizzly hackle, then trimmed to size. I think it sort of looks a bit like a crab. I've been experimenting for some time now with different crab flies and this one has been particularly successful. I have caught a lot of permit on it, and on two separate days I had guys catch four permit each on this fly. In Australia we have two species of permit. We catch both species at Hinchinbrook and sizes are typically from 60 - 90 cm. These are Indo-Pacific permit which are unique to our part of the world. In America they catch the Atlantic permit. The really keen guys travel the world chasing all three species.

One of the big challenges in trying to catch permit is that when they are feeding they are constantly changing direction. They dart around a lot, so if you lead the permit by too much in your presentation then invariably the fish will have changed course. And your first shot is usually your best chance too. This of course is a reason why we use really heavy flies that will sink quickly in front of the fish.

When I'm guiding someone fishing to permit I'll get them to make a cast and when I think the fish has spotted the fly and is in the right zone I'll ask the angler to give the fly a bit of a bump or strip. Then you'll have his interest. You won't spook the fish with a descending fly but he won't eat it until it settles on the bottom. Approaching permit it is similar



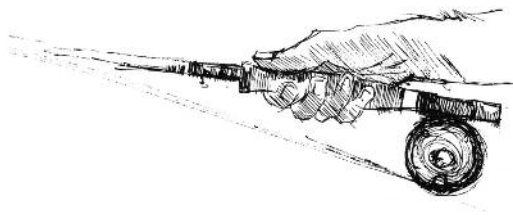
A fine barramundi from the timber

to fishing for trout in that we are using the boat with the wind and the tide to sneak up behind them. It's very rare to have the fish coming towards us. And because we can move our boat very quietly anglers are usually only casting short distances to the permit. A lot of the casts are just 20 to 40 feet.

Our main fishing season is from April to December. From December to February the weather is very hot and humid, and in February the tides aren't the best. We mainly work on the neap tides when

there's less water movement and the water is cleaner, and we have more time on the sand flats for productive fishing. With the other tides the water movement is much higher and you only get 30 minutes of peak fishing time before the water recedes and the fish are gone. So we find that the neap tides are the optimal times for good fishing. This means that we effectively work two weeks in each month.

So that's Hinchinbrook. Any questions?



The Warrnambool Team in Tassie

... a report by Jim Blakeslee on a Warrnambool Fly Fishing Club trip to Tassie late last year.



Not enough hands Jim!

Lester Walton, Bob Loch, Bill Hewett and I made an early December trip to the Apple Isle for a week's fishing. Bob, Bill and I went with my car on the ferry. On arrival the next morning we drove from Devonport to Launceston, did our grocery shopping, bought a few fly tying necessities, then made tracks to the airport to pick up Lester. Then we drove to Cressy to collect a second 4WD and we were off to Miena.

We had just enough time to move into our "shack" before we were joined by Peter Boag and Kevin Finn, who had been fishing there in the previous week. Fine conversation was enjoyed over a few drinks and a casual BBQ of chops, sausages, grilled mushrooms, onions, potatoes and a green salad.

They had planned to make it a relatively early night as they were returning to Melbourne the next day, but I think they

rather enjoyed our company because it was after 11 PM when they left. We took the opportunity to quiz Peter and Kevin about the fishing conditions on the various Western Lakes. There had been some good dun hatches on Penstock and large browns rising, along with lots of new-release rainbows. Elsewhere, Peter reported, lake levels were down, it had been cold and windy, not much hatching, few rises and fishing had been tough. Hmmmm.... It appeared we would have to work hard to catch a trout.

Day 1

Being the eternal optimists, we were up early and outside looking at the overcast sky, with a steady breeze from the north-west. After plenty of vacillation we took off for the 19 Lagoons. It was 7°C when we got to Howes Bay Lagoon, which was extremely low as we drove past, and thus ticked off the list. There was no one at Carters, so we stopped there, rigged up and started a lap around the main lake. It, too, was very low. The normally productive backwaters were fishless, so we concentrated on casting along the drop-off where the deeper water met the rocky perimeter.

I was into a good fish on a #10 black Woolly Bugger straight away, but lost it around a rock. Miraculously, a few minutes later duns started to hatch off a rock promontory and I found a few fish taking them. I put on a #12 dun emerger and covered a rising fish. It sipped, I struck, and the fight was on. It ripped line off the reel, cartwheeled out of the water, then leapt twice more. Eventually it tired. I kept up some steady pressure and finally landed a beautiful, well-conditioned 4 lb hen brown – my first fish and a good start to the trip. Then, as



Tassie lakes are fabulous in the sun

quickly as it had started the mini-hatch ended. I caught up with Lester and asked if he had seen any rises. Only a few. Bob and Bill? The same. We headed back to the cars for lunch and pondered our next move. It was still breezy but the clouds were clearing and it had warmed up to a balmy 17°C (the warmest it got during our trip), so we decided to try Botsford and see if we could polaroid a few or maybe even find a rising fish or two.

Bob and Bill decided to wade out from the eastern shore and fish back in towards the edge. Lester and I tried wading out from the west. On my second cast I fluked a fat 3 pounder blind-casting an emerger near the rocks along the shore. Later, I had a fish take a #12 Great Lake Beetle trailing behind a Pedder Bug while I was wading and polaroiding. Again, another fat 3 pounder. Sashimi material.

When we got together after the afternoon session Bob reported catching a 3 pound brown on (again) a black Woolly Bugger. None of us had seen a rising fish.

Day 2

Conditions were colder and windier, but not as cloudy as the day before. We decided to try Kay. No-one was at the carpark when we got there. No wonder. We rigged up and walked the 20 minutes to the lake. It was the lowest we had ever seen it, and the strong north-west wind was stirring up the silt making it murky. We turned around without wetting a line. Kay was ticked off the list. Where next? Bill and Lester tried Rocky. Bob and I went back to Carters, which was at least fishable. I managed a brown blind flogging, taking it on a Pedder Bug dragged across the waves to make a little wake. Bob caught a rainbow, a couple of browns, and lost another on a black Woolly Worm during one frantic hour. Finally, we all tried Howes for a few minutes on our way home but quickly gave up. Too shallow, too murky, too weedy. It was definitely ticked off the list this time!

>>>

Day 3

Things looked promising. The sky was clear and the north breeze had abated somewhat. We decided to give the Cricket Pitch end of Little Pine a go. A few other fly fishers had the same idea. Unfortunately there was only the occasional fish rising whenever spinners flew out onto the water, and that was only when the wind died down. The dun hatch was a non-event. We were skunked and so was everyone else. The wind gradually built up, so after lunch we decided to call it quits and make tracks for Penstock where we might find some shelter.

The road shore of Penstock was protected by the trees and the breeze was blowing a flotilla of duns in wind-lanes outside the strap-weed. The water level was normal and clarity good. We could actually see a few rises! We waded out, tied on a dun or emerger and started casting. Bill was the first to hook into a fish. Shortly after, I took one on an emerger. The fish then seemed to go off for a while, so Bill and I went back to the shack to clean our fish, have a coffee, and start preparing dinner. Lester and Bob stayed put.

Both of our fish were well-conditioned 3 lb browns with bright orange flesh. One was turned into a sushi and sashimi entrée, and the other was rolled in cracker crumbs and fried crispy for the main). When cleaned, their stomachs were full of mayflies - duns and nymphs- as well as a number of spider mudeyes. Later that afternoon there was a good dun hatch and rise at Penstock, and Bob caught a 3 pounder and lost five others on the emerger. Lester missed a few on the strike.

Day 4

The north wind was predicted to weaken and it was sunny and clear – a “blue sky day.” We drove up top again. No-one else in the Flora and O’Dell car park, so we

pulled in and started hiking. O’Dell was the lowest I’ve ever seen it. The north wind had stirred it up and it was still



Nice work Bob

murky and unfishable in parts. Not a rise to be seen. We walked on down to Flora which was mostly clear, but the wind built up during the afternoon making the fishing quite unpleasant. We polaroided a few fish, I lost one on the strike, and that was it. Another disappointment. Tick!

On the way back to the shack and, noticing there wasn’t anyone in the car park, I asked Bill if he had ever fished Cameron’s Lagoon. He hadn’t, so we stopped, rigged up, and walked around to the west end to start fishing. I spotted a few fish bulging here and there. Remembering the stomach contents of the Penstock fish, I tied on a Pedder Bug with



Tassie highland trout are magnificent

a trailing emerger. With the sun and wind to my back, I started casting and retrieving the flies with short, sharp strips to create a little wake as the flies floated over the ripples. It wasn't long before there was a swirl, the fly disappeared, I struck and my reel screamed as a big fish streaked across the lagoon towards the reed bed in the centre. I leaned on it as hard as I dared and managed to pull the fish up short – just in time. I had a few more anxious moments as it rushed for the lily pads but it finally came to the net. It had taken the emerger. The next fish was bigger and tried the same escape route as the first fish. It succeeded in reaching the reeds, burrowed in and broke me off. The next three weren't so lucky. They all took the Pedder Bug and all ended up in the net, to be gently released and hopefully provide just as much entertainment for some other lucky fishermen.

Day 5

We decided to try Arthurs. We should have stayed in the shack by the fire with a good book. The sky was ugly with heavy cloud getting lower by the minute. It was blowing a gale out of the west, and cold and getting colder with showers every

now and then. We tried the Cow Paddock in the surf, and eventually found some shelter from the wind in the lee of trees near the power lines. I managed a 2 lb brown on my third cast. It had grabbed a Pedder Bug that I skated across a clear patch amongst the strap weed. There were a few duns, but it was hopeless and miserable. We retreated to the road shore on Penstock. Once again the trees gave us some shelter from the wind and we got a few browns that were taking duns. Still, it was a relief to finally get back to the shack, stoke up the fire, have a hot shower to thaw out, then relax with that first glass or two with cheese and bikkies before dinner.

Day 6

Another cold, windy, one. We were skunked at the Impossible's Shore on Little Pine this time. Conditions improved a bit later in the day so I took Lester to Camerons. I got another two on the Pedder Bug. Lester had a chance at four.

Day 7

It was 3°C and blowing a gale out of the south-west with showers. We escaped

>>>



The team off to Flora and O'Dell

down the hill to Bronte Lagoon and found calm conditions in the lee of the big gums from the Shack Shore to the beginning of the Long Shore. There were a few rises and Bob scored one and lost several on a Great Lake Beetle, while Bill landed a 3 pounder on a Red Tag. After lunch the sky to the south-west was turning black so we retreated to the shack. The temperature gauge said -2°C and it was snowing when we got there. By morning there was 15 cm of snow on our cars and it looked like an early "White Christmas" at Miena.

Day 8

We waited until 11 AM for the snow to melt a bit, but there was still plenty on the ground when we got to Little Pine. There was shelter from the south-westerly on the west side of the dam end of the lake, but that didn't make any difference. It was cold. No hatch. We blind flogged. I had a few swirls at my fly but no solid takes. In the end we had to admit the fish had beaten us at the Impossible's Shore on

Little Pine ... this time. Conditions improved a bit later in the day so Bob took Lester to Camerons for one last chance. Bob got a nice fish, then Lester got a fine 3½ pound brown on the Pedder Bug that was going off to the smoker as soon as he got back to Melbourne.

So, that's Warrnambool Fly Fishing Club's fishing adventures for now. We're looking forward to plenty of rain to flush our rivers and fill the lakes in 2016.

Tight lines everyone!



December snow at Miena

The Big River ... a poem by Alan Pilkington

(A very timely contribution to go with the report on this year's Big River trip.)

There's a river flowing brightly in Australia's southern hills,
it dances down the valley and its current sings with trills;
once host to flocking miners, by its bank one chanced to dig,
'twas grander than his English brook, so he called the river Big.
It wanders through the bushland where game comes down to drink,
and they see the darting rainbows as they loiter at the brink;
there is music to its rapids as we listen to its voice,
its melody enchants us and it makes our hearts rejoice.

For more than eighty golden years our men have fished the Big,
and cast their lines in serpentine beneath the ti-trees' twigs.
Some tied their flies with failing eyes, Red Tag and Doctor Wark,
then sort the rise, that grand surprise, inside the current's fork.
In early morn or evening's cool they fought the wily trout,
for leaping 'bow and dogged brown can win the toughest bout.
They fought them under summer's sun, by autumn's wattled sprig,
and if they won with pride they'd say, "I fished the River Big".

For long the river's keeper has been my brother John,
with Cara close beside him they have ushered it along;
midst cabins built for families along its wooden track,
the river raised our children, and they all keep coming back.
Our friends have shared its pleasures, its fish and yarning nights,
when 'neath the high Cold Weathers with gold stars blazing bright,
they talked about the mountains, of the miners and their dig,
and they counted themselves lucky to have found the River Big.

I see the river really, but I fish it in my dreams,
I re-live my childhood by it, this loveliest of streams.
I'd like to have a camp somewhere along its winding shore,
where I can spend my waning years in peace for evermore,
where I can see the silver flash of strong trout in the runs,
and no intruding circumstance can dim my spirit's sun.
Then, when my course is ended, in some celestial rig,
I hope up in God's heaven I may find a River Big.

Alan Pilkington, August 2010

VFFA trip to Chateau Pilkington, March 2016

... report by Alex Evans

It says something about John Pilkington's skills as a host that he not only rang every person intending to join the VFFA's annual weekend trip to Enoch's Point - to forewarn them of low water and a scarcity of fish - but that he also failed to dissuade a single fisherman in their plans.

There were, of course, other significant factors to consider beyond the fishing. "Will there still be sticky date pudding?" was Corey Houghton's first reaction, according to his father Bruce.

Prayers for rain were answered, but unfortunately too late in the week. Friday arrived with driving rain and wild wind, which shook the Black Spur's towering sentinels as we passed through and intermittently lined the route beyond with fallen branches. Our hopes that the rain might freshen the river and our prospects



The Big River is usually clearer than this

were boosted when we reached Still Creek, which was running high but reasonably clear. The Taponga, however, was murky brown. The Big River, in contrast, was still low, clear and noticeably warm on Friday afternoon, with no trout but a few good sized carp seen by the fishers who went out.

A convivial first night was refreshed by an array of wines, including a superb Panton Hill liqueur muscat, kindly provided by its maker Teunis Kwak. Rain started again late on and continued through much of the night.

News from the river for early risers huddled around the kitchen fire was not good. "The river's up six inches and running dirty", reported Peter Clayton on return from a dawn patrol and preparing a monster breakfast of bacon chops. The awakening party surveyed the damp scene and followed his example, with elaborate cooked breakfasts prepared over the roaring fire. Terry Rogers and son in law Andrew Howie arrived, having overnighted in Mansfield to attend a sadly rain swept school fete. Bernard Holbery sent apologies, having missed a flight home from Sydney.

A small party eventually left for the river, starting at the old suspension bridge about 2.5 km downstream from Enoch's Point. Houghton father and son headed further downstream, Alex Evans upstream - after entertaining those present by disappearing up to his chin twice off a slippery rock during his openings casts. Other members made trips to the river immediately below the camp, but all returned empty handed.

After a lunch of handmade pizzas and sausage rolls cooked in the wood fired



The magnificent Saturday night roast dinner

oven, a large contingent of the Victorian Forest Fuel Association went in search of firewood. Head lumberjack Andrew Howie attempted a new caber tossing world record, felling a mighty tree which made a successful bid for freedom by rolling down the hillside and over a road, nearly taking some senior members of the party with it.

Hamish Hughes arrived mid-afternoon and joined a small kitchen-based group, which was earnestly reviewing wine to accompany the evening's much anticipated banquet. With firewood safely installed back at the camp, Pilks (enduring a very sore back) and sous chef Hughie Maltby continued to toil selflessly in the galley, assisted by aide de camp



Meet some of the team

>>>

Richard Kos. They produced two perfectly cooked roast legs of lamb with all the trimmings, followed by a tremendous sticky date pudding - rated by many of the assembled gourmards as 'the best yet'. President Hughes gifted a rare and magnificent magnum of 1999 vintage red, made as the official wine for Centenary of Federation celebrations and blended by a group of well-known winemakers from around Australia. Another bottle of Pantone Hill muscat washed down a high quality cheese board. Bill Jeans kindly undertook a marathon session of washing up.

Kevin Hindle provided a selection of musical treats on his ukulele before and after dinner. 'The Professor' strummed, plucked and warbled an eclectic mix, including works by Turk & Ahlert, Irving Berlin, Warren Zevon, Gilbert & Sullivan, Eric Idle and Isham Jones - and was

accompanied in the better known tunes by an enthusiastic choir gathered around the fire. This was in addition to a quick fire round of jokes, limericks and amusing tales provided from all sides - most of which remained within the bounds of decency.

A few people were planning to try their luck on homeward bound streams, so may not have returned empty handed. Regardless, we all greatly enjoyed another weekend in the magical High Country as lucky guests at Chateau Pilkington.

Those attending included John Pilkington, Richard Kos, Bill Jeans, Peter Clayton, Teunis Kwak, Kevin Hindle, Hugh Maltby, Bruce Houghton, Corey Houghton, Terry Rogers, Andrew Howie, Hamish Hughes, and Alex Evans (and apologies from Bernard Holbery).



It's All About The Fish

(from Philip Bailey)

With modern technology we can trawl the internet for fly patterns while at the same time receive a myriad of ideas through social media. So after more than three decades of tying flies (even commercially for a period) why is it that I keep using the not so perfect tied flies?

Let me start by making a very bold statement - "perfect flies are not required to catch fish". They do some of the time but I have found that flies that have imperfections, at least in the eyes of those that try and get us to conform to standards, seem to be more successful. Why is that?

Fish live in an imperfect world where they are constantly subjected to variability. The environment that they feed in is constantly changing, they themselves move from location to location, the water

is full of millions of unusual things (including food) and the sky changes by the minute. All of this is pooled into a world where nothing is certain. As for food, even this is presented in ways which we cannot mimic - insects hatch in different ways, some are damaged and present themselves in different shapes, others come inside materials which can vary even within species, and so forth.

So why is it that I have to tie a fly with so exacting proportions, turns of hackles or thread at the eye for it to be accepted as a good tie? I think the reason is that we have been subjected to media which presents to us good looking flies (almost too good sometimes) and we are goaded into accepting them as the 'standard' by which we must judge our own meagre offerings.

A couple of examples to illustrate my point. Let's take a very basic pattern, the North Country Fly (aka Spider). I constantly hear that certain hooks must be used, you should only bring the thread down to a set point adjacent to the where the barb might be (a bit difficult now that barbless is more common) and you can only use 2½ turns of hackle. What! 2½ turns, why not three or even more. Surely 2½ turns presents an unbalanced fly for those so called purists who want us to stick to a 'standard'. Have a look at this.



our very talented expert fly tiers, don't despair. Keep tying your flies that you know catch fish.

So what might work. There are people in our sport who want to tie exact imitations. There are those who tie perfect standards and there are lots of others, like me, who want flies that trick fish. Oh, I can tie the 'perfect' fly and for a period I went down the exact imitation and 'standard' route. But I have learned over the 40 plus years I have been fly fishing that 'its all about the fish' and not about us.



This is a fly tied by a well known angler in the early 1800's. Does this match what we are told to produce today?

2½ turns? The old masters came from an age of frugality so they probably whacked the whole hackle on. What about the dry fly. Let's take a Catskill tie where the standard calls for the fly to be able to sit on the points of it's tail and the hackle. Admirable, but does it actually sit like that once cast? Probably not, but it is a standard that is still applied nearly a century after it was developed. And now we are forced to use genetic hackles which I think would be counter productive in allowing it to sit 'as required'.

The point I am trying to make here is that you can have an 'imperfect' fly to the human eye which might just be the 'perfect' fly for the fish. So all of you fly tiers out there who are trying to emulate



Because fish live in a world of variation they are opportunistic. They will take anything that is suggestive of food and quickly reject anything that isn't. That could mean that some of our patterns are too rigid in design and do not feel or act like any natural. A point to ponder.

>>>



With this in mind I am now tying more and more 'suggestive' and 'seductive' flies, incorporating more and more natural materials to give 'life' to my imitations. How I love hare's ear, mole fur, feather fibres for a body and now CDC. I can create imitations that I think 'trick' the fish because they are 'imperfect'. Dry flies need to have a silhouette to trigger a response so size, proportion, shape and leg or body indentations are critical. Wet flies need to have the right colour (and that is a topic on its own), translucency and movement for a fish to take it confidently.

I am a die hard dry fly man (although I do fish nymphs sporadically) so my flies are

more about size, proportion and 'suggestiveness'.

For those readers who love to tie to standards, please do not regard this as a slant on your skills and please do not stop what you are doing. Despite all of this I still love to look at the quality of what you produce and even I tie the occasional standard patterns. This article has been written to suggest that imperfect flies can and do catch fish. In other words sometimes we need to step back, realise that our quarry isn't quite as sophisticated as us and canvasses a whole range of different things (including food) in order to feed and survive.

Web Fish

Cast regularly at vffa.org.au

About the VFFA web site:

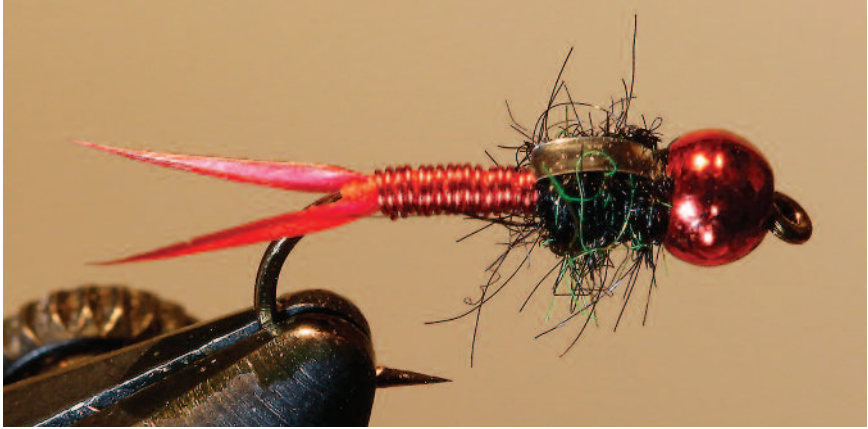
The VFFA web site has a comprehensive coverage of VFFA events, meetings, trips, ...updated monthly making it easy to track dates and times.

Features of VFFA web site:

- Monthly Newsletter delivered to members in full colour.
- Live access to more than five years of past Newsletters
- Newsletter in PDF format for easy reading on computers / iPads / tablets & smart phones
- Newsletter in PDF format that can be read and saved on iPads and tablets like eBooks
- Calendar of all activities that can be synced with all you digital device calendars
- Gallery of events - Photos and Event reports
- Where to fish directories: Victoria, Tasmania, NSW, New Zealand

FLY OF THE MONTH

Cameron Parker's Copper John



Yes, we've featured the Copper John nymph before, in the May 2014 issue of *Fly Lines*. But another version recently appeared – a very effective variation devised by Cameron Parker.

Cameron is a very experienced fly fisher who has fished for trout for more than 30 years in Australia, New Zealand, and the USA. His favourite local water is the Goulburn River. He works part-time at Hookup Bait & Tackle store in Ferntree Gully where he co-manages the fly fishing and fly tying sections.

Cameron is also a highly skilled guide and has guided in New Zealand's Southland for several years for Goulburn Valley Fly Fishers. President Hamish Hughes is one of our members who has fish with Cameron on a number of occasions, and Hamish speaks very highly of his abilities.

Cameron has a secret weapon – a fly he devised as an adaptation of the popular US nymph called the Copper John. In Cameron's version the fly is mostly red coloured. He tells us that when fishing those super clear South Island rivers in recent years he has encountered numbers of big browns that simply ignored the usual offerings of popular dry flies and nymphs. But when he pitched up one of his red Copper Johns the target fish sprang into action and enthusiastically scooped the fly.

In New Zealand rivers Cameron uses the fly mainly in sizes 16 and 18, but no doubt 12's and 14's would work equally well in our local rivers. He assures us the pattern has already proven to be very effective in the Goulburn and the Snowy Mountains rivers.

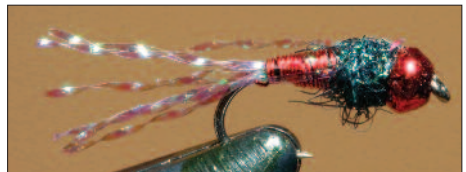
Materials needed:

- Hook:** Kamasan model B175, in sizes 12, 14, 16 and 18.
- Thread:** Red Unithread 8/0.
- Bead:** Red tungsten bead (and some turns of fine lead wire).
- Tail:** Bright red goose biots
- Body:** Fine red copper wire
- Thorax:** Superbright dubbing – peacock colour, or peacock herl.
- Wing case:** Silver tinsel

Tying Procedure:

1. Slide the bead onto the hook and then place the hook in the vice.
2. Take a short length of fine lead wire and wrap five or six turns around the hook shank. Push these turns into the back of the bead to hold it in position and to add a little extra weight.
3. Now take the thread and, starting just behind the bead, wind turns along the shank to the point just before the hook bend starts. At this point wind a few turns of thread back over itself to build up a small bump.
4. Take the thread back along the shank to about the midpoint. Cut two bright red goose biots off the feather and tie them along the shank, one on each side, so that they curve away from each other and their ends stick out past the hook bend to form the tail of the nymph. The tail should be about half the length of the shank. The small bump you tied at the end of the shank should help spread the biots.
5. Tie in the copper wire just in front of the biots, then wind the thread back to just behind the tungsten bead.
6. Carefully wrap the turns of copper wire along the shank to form the body of the fly, then tie off the wire just behind the bead.
7. Take a short length of silver tinsel and tie it in on the top of the shank just behind the bead. Wrap it down, covering about a third of the hook shank. Leave the rest sticking back over the tail of the fly.
8. Now take some small amounts of the Superbright dubbing, wrap them around the thread to form a thin rope, then make some turns to build up the thorax. Keep adding more dubbing until a nice fat thorax is produced.
9. Lift the silver tinsel over the thorax and tie it down immediately behind the bead to form a flashback wing case. Trim off the excess tinsel.
10. Whip finish behind the bead to complete the fly, then cut the tying thread.

Cameron also ties a version of this fly with some small pieces of silver flash as the tail. The fly then looks like this:





LIBRARY NEWS

All members should remember that the Mick Martin Memorial Library is one of the most extensive collections of fly-fishing literature in Australia. It is valuable in its own right but is a great asset to members wishing to expand their knowledge or who simply enjoy sitting by the fireside and vicariously enjoying the exploits of others. In addition, the library boasts a number of videos on trout fishing. Our librarian or one of his assistants will be available prior to each general meeting to assist members wishing to borrow books or videos.

The library is divided into three parts.

- Part 1 Books available for loaning to members.
- Part 2 Books available for reference only and not to be taken from the library.
- Part 3 Books bequeathed to the Association and not to be taken from the cabinet.

V.F.F.A. ITEMS FOR SALE

The Association has the following quality items for sale:

Book "The Country For An Angler" (the History of the VFFA)	\$70.00 each
Book "Geehi to Great Lake"	\$45.00 each
Columbia Shirts.....	\$70.00 each
Polarfleece jacket with VFFA logo	\$40.00 each
Association ties (blue or maroon)	\$35.00 each
Wine glasses and whisky glasses inscribed with VFFA logo, set of 6.....	\$45.00 per set
Cloth badges.....	\$7.00 each
<i>The Australian Trout</i> by Jack Ritchie	\$20.00
V.F.F.A. car stickers	\$2.00 each

Members wishing to purchase any of these items should contact Hugh Maltby prior to the monthly General Meeting on telephone 0423 283 079.

VALUED DONORS

The following made donations for the raffle at the 2015 Annual Dinner:

- Aussie Angler Pty Ltd • Andrew Braithwaite Fishing Gear • Armadale Angling •
- Australian Fishing Network • Bernard Holbery • FlyLife Publishing •
- FlyFinz Fishing Tackle and Books • Gavin Hurley's Fly Fishing Pro-Angler •
- Hayes On Brumbys • J.M. Gillies Pty Ltd • Mayfly Tackle • Mick Hall • Millbrook
Lakes Lodge • Mountain Stream Company • Ray Brown Onkaparinga Flies •
- Stevens Publishing Pty Ltd • The Compleat Angler Box Hill • The Flyfisher Tackle
Store Melbourne • Vision and Pisces Fly-Fishing Tackle •

VFFA Meetings at the Celtic Club & other activities.

April

- 21 Thursday General Meeting - 8:00 PM
Auction of fly fishing equipment and books
- 25 Monday Anzac Day
- 26 Tuesday Council Meeting - 7:30 PM
- April 29 – May 1 Donger Weekend – Bairnsdale Fly Fishers' Club "Mitta Lodge"
Event Co-ordinator – Mike Jarvis

May

- 19 Thursday Special Dinner – 6:30 PM
Speaker: April Vokey,
Canadian fly fishing expert, writer, broadcaster and instructor
- 20 Friday Fly Fishing Film Night
- 21 Saturday Casting at the Red Tag pool with April Vokey

June

- 5 Sunday Casting – 10 AM at Red Tag Pool
- 12 Sunday Casting – 10 AM at Red Tag Pool
- 16 Thursday General Meeting – time and speaker to be advised
- 19 Sunday Casting – 10 AM at Red Tag Pool
- 20 Monday Council Meeting - 7:30 pm
- 26 Sunday Casting – 10 AM at Red Tag Pool

July

- 3 Sunday Casting – 10 AM at Red Tag Pool
- 10 Sunday Casting – 10 AM at Red Tag Pool
- 17 Sunday Casting – 10 AM at Red Tag Pool
- 21 Thursday General Meeting – time and speaker to be advised
- 23 Saturday Warrnambool FFC Annual Dinner
- 24 Sunday Casting – 10 AM at Red Tag Pool
- 31 Sunday Casting – 10 AM at Red Tag Pool