

# FLY LINES



APRIL 2019

## The April Meeting with Geoff Hall

Please Note – the April meeting is being held on Thursday, April 11 – a week earlier than usual because of Easter the following week.

Thursday, April 11,  
8:00 pm,  
at the Kelvin Club

We would encourage all members to join us for a meal beforehand, but PLEASE make a booking for dinner by 5:00 pm on Wednesday, April 10, by phoning 0498 254 497 and leaving a message.



### Geoff Hall Goulburn Valley Fly fishing

One of the original founders of Goulburn Valley Fly Fishing Centre, Geoff played a huge part in the overall vision, direction, and success of the company for over twenty years. Geoff is an expert rafting guide and instructor.

**Kelvin Club, 11<sup>th</sup> April at 8pm**

# THE VICTORIAN FLY FISHERS' ASSOCIATION INC.

**VOL. 67 NO.6 - April 2019** Organisation No. A0024750J

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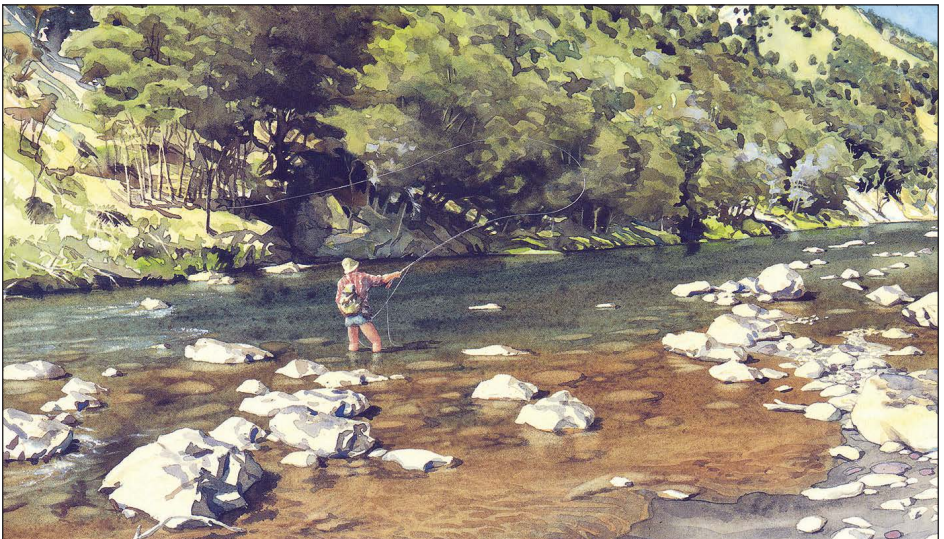
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*Waiau River- a Nancy Tichborne watercolour*

# President's Message

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... from Christopher Gray

It's great to see that some rain has finally made it into some of our north-east rivers and streams and few good reports are coming in from NE Victoria. Sadly, closer to Melbourne the King Parrot Creek has stopped flowing and Fisheries is monitoring the pools containing fish.

A full house enjoyed the wonderful hospitality of John Pilkington at Enoch's Point on the Big River. From all accounts some managed to catch a trout or two, while others provided the audience. A full report by Judith Oliver and John Pilkington is included in this issue.

Richard Kos was guest speaker at our March general meeting. Kossie presented us with his history of fly fishing and tying flies. He shared his favourite locations for fishing and the variety of fish each offered. Kossie, as always, shared the details on each of his locations and the flies that bring him so much success.

A few brave souls made the trek to Omeo for the Donger weekend on the Mitta Mitta River with the Bairnsdale Fly Fishers. However the weather was horrendous, so it was decided that the Donger weekend would not see a fly cast.

The North East CMA has been very busy with habitat work. They took delivery of hardwood timber in the form of stumps and trees for habitat improvement on the Mitta Mitta River. The timber was sourced from a farm in NSW. They also completed some habitat restoration work on the Nariel Creek at the Folk Festival Grounds, so it's good to see our licence fees supporting some great initiatives.



The inaugural Cod/Trout Ovens River Challenge was held on the Ovens River over the weekend April 6 and 7. Congratulations to those who attended and caught fish. I see that one of the successful anglers was VFFA member and ATF President Terry George who caught a healthy 41 cm brown trout in the Ovens. Well done Terry.

There has been some interest expressed in bringing back the Sunday casting at the Red Tag pool through winter, so if you're interested I would encourage you to make contact with me and we will put some plans in place.

Our guest speaker at the April meeting is Geoff Hall from Goulburn Valley Fly Fishers. As a well-known long time fly fisher and guide on the Goulburn River Geoff will bring to us his charisma and wisdom on fishing the Goulburn, along with a report on the riparian restoration work that's being done on the surrounding rivers and streams. I look forward to seeing you at the general meeting to hear Geoff.

We have received books and fly fishing gear for the auction in May, with Peter, Hughie and John all working on the lots to be auctioned.

Hughie has also put plans in place for the Bruce Whitehead Western Lakes Challenge with the Bairnsdale Fly Fishers in late June, so put this one in your diary

and head along for a great weekend at Camperdown.

Tight lines and heavy nets for the month ahead.



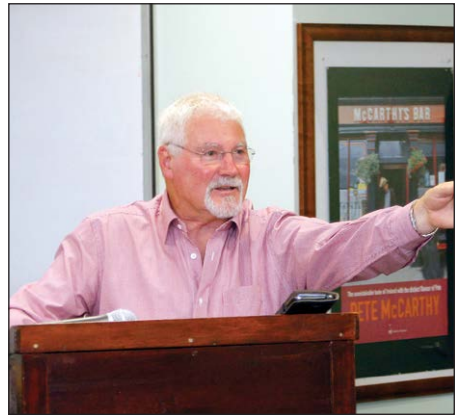
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## The May Meeting - Our Annual Auction

Members are reminded that our Annual auction of fly fishing gear and books will take place at our May meeting (Thursday, May 16).

Auctioneer Hughie Maltby tells us that he and Peter Boag and John Pilkington have been busy putting together the lots. At this stage it is anticipated there will be about 101 lots to go under the hammer, including both books and items of tackle. Some of the books are from the David Scholes collection. Items of tackle come various members.

A catalogue of items for sale is included as an insert in this issue.



*Auctioneer Hughie*

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## The March Meeting with Richard Kos

The March meeting was well attended and those there heard one of our own, Richard Kos, give a very informative talk on catching fish and tying flies. Here is a brief report on Richard's presentation.

I am not going to go into great detail on each facet of fly fishing tonight. What I will do is give you a general overview of what I think are some important hints to make your fishing more productive and more enjoyable. Or at least some of the things that have made my fishing more productive and enjoyable. I'd like to start with a quote from Harold Blaisdale, the author of *The Philosophical Fishermen*, who said "the only thing

I'm certain about today is that what I don't know about fishing would fill a book – and it has." In my case it's more like filling a bookshelf full of books.

I have been a passionate fisherman since I was a kid of about eight years of age, fishing both salt and freshwater. I started my fishing life down at the Merri Creek in North Coburg where I used a handline to catch anything from blackfish to >>>

carp, along with the occasional trout. This was before it got polluted by the factories that were built upstream from the creek.

I think I got my first fishing rod from my mum and dad when I was about 11 or 12 years of age, and as I was living on the Coburg line I could catch the train to Port Melbourne and cross the road to Station Pier where I would fish all day if the fishing was on the go. If it wasn't I'd walk down to Kerferd Road pier and try there, eventually catching the last train from Port Melbourne back to North Coburg. And the funny thing about it was that I can remember always catching fish. I can't recall any time when I went fishing there and didn't manage to go home with a feed.

I began fly tying in 1998 after purchasing a book which included a fly tying kit. The book gave instruction on how to tie five patterns and I tied four of them. At this stage I wasn't a fly fisherman so I handed my flies out to people who I knew were, and they came back to me and asked me to tie more flies for them, as my flies had worked. I now have four or five different hackle pliers, but still use the one supplied with the kit.

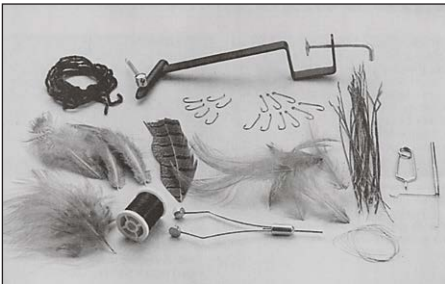
In 1999 or perhaps 2000 I received a small bonus at work, so bought myself a fly rod and fly reel and set myself up as a fly fisher. The closest trout waters to me

then were the reservoirs and lakes around Sunbury where I was living. I taught myself by reading, watching videos and hours of practice. It took me a while to get into it and after three or four months of catching nothing I was almost ready to break the rod over my knee. Then one afternoon I went to Malmsbury Reservoir, saw a fish rising so tied on a little emerger pattern I had developed, and promptly caught a 1½ brown trout. And was hooked for life.

In June 2001 I joined the VFFA and this was the turning point in my fly fishing journey – not only did it provide me with countless opportunities to mix with and learn from like-minded fishermen, but it also got me into fishing rivers, which I hadn't done before.

A trip that stands out in my memory was my first Donger weekend. At one point I was fishing a section of the Mitta by myself and saw a rise, so cast to it. The trouble was it was a platypus I had cast to.

My favourite areas to fish for trout now are Enoch's Point on the Big River, and



*Richard's original fly tying kit*



*Kossy with a fine carp. They are often quite large when hooked, and they fight hard.*

many of the streams in the Otways such as the Barham River and Wild Dog Creek.

Attitude is important in fly fishing. The phrase “I’m going fishing” implies that your intention is to catch fish. The subsequent comment that “I didn’t catch any but I had a great day” wears a bit thin after about the third or fourth fishless trip. So, what can we do about it?

Here are some suggestions:

Arrive at the water’s edge with a positive attitude. This attitude can be enhanced with prior preparation. Before hitting the water, have your casting sorted out - don’t go fishing to practice your casting!

Have your leader and tippet checked, and your fly line and rod cleaned. I have a habit of cleaning my rod, reel and fly line after every fishing session to clean off the mud, grit and algae.

Do you leave your flies squashed on the patch of your fly vest, never to float or

swim the same as when they were first acquired and used? You can regenerate your flies by steaming them over a kettle of boiling water.

All this preparation adds to that positive attitude. Then all you have to do when you arrive and observe the water is decide which fly to tie onto the end of your tippet.

This leads us into some entomology. I remember when I first started fly tying and then fly fishing and found myself reading all those complicated Latin names and the confusing stages of aquatic insect development. I was lost.

But I soon came to know these insects by their common names. When you hear someone talking about Ephemeroptera, Sub-imagos, or Imagos I guess that more than a few of you would be baffled. But if that person was to talk about mayflies (Family Ephemeroptera) duns (Sub



*A magnificent brown caught a few years ago at Newlyn Reservoir*

>>>

Imagos) or spinners (Imagos) you would be on the same page.

Knowing the life cycles of some insects common to the area you are fishing is most beneficial. For example, if you see snowflake caddis, and no fish rising, the solution might be to tie on an Elk Hair Caddis as your indicator, with a caddis pupa or larva as your dropper. This way you have a 50/50 chance of imitating the required stage.

If however you are an aficionado of Halford and only fish dry flies, then find yourself a nice shady spot streamside and have a snooze. What I'm trying to say regarding entomology is that if you have a good understanding of the connection between fly tying, fly fishing, and freshwater macroinvertebrates, that

understanding will help you greatly in your fly selection.

If you are interested in increasing your knowledge of Australian bugs then could I suggest my 'go to' book - *The Waterbug Book* by John Gooderham and Edward Tsyrlin, published by the CSIRO.

Let's think now a bit about the environment. Knowing where and how insects live and emerge gives the fly angler yet another piece of the puzzle. You can start solving the puzzle before you start fishing by picking up a rock or two and looking underneath them, as this will let you see the size and type of food available to the fish. If you see hatches but no fish rising, the reason might be that the fish are taking the nymphal stage of that particular insect as it emerges deeper in the water column.



*Another fine capture, this time a sizeable rainbow*

Contrast is critical in flies, and fly tiers need to emphasize the following characteristics in their flies - legs, wings, bodies and tails. These are all important features. Some insects have longer legs, some have shorter bodies. Some have two-toned bodies, being darker on top with a lighter underside.

I think that fish first notice profile before colour, so use flies that match the size and profile of the natural food to attract the interest of the trout. Colour only becomes important when the fish is closer to the fly. Contrast and profile can be achieved by using colour, such as tying a darker thorax or including a 'hot spot' in your fly.

The evolution of my Kossy Damsel has ended with it having a dark brown upper and an olive underside.

When inspecting flies, always look at the profile from the underside, as well as from side on. Check out Muz Wilson's Messy Caddis on YouTube for ideas on profile, contrast and some 'out there' ideas on fly design!



*Kossy's very popular and successful damsel nymph pattern*

The colour of the water matters. When fishing dirty or tannin stained water fly colour becomes more important, and the deeper you fish a nymph under these conditions the more colours such as yellow, green, and chartreuse will stand out.

Now for the actual fishing bit. I talked about knowing where and how insects live. It would be quite beneficial to understand where and how fish live.

Trout need three basic things: shelter from predators and the sun (thus they hide in undercut banks); food – thus they linger near current seams and foam lines; and comfort in terms of water temperature and oxygen levels. Obviously casting to areas where none of these conditions exist is going to be a waste of time and energy. Once you understand what trout need, you will be able to find and possibly catch more fish.

A good starting point for information on this might be in our library. Have a look at *Finding Trout* by Tony Ritchie.

Now for some tactics I have found useful:

Don't lift the fly off the water too soon. You often see fly fishers lifting the fly off the water a rod length or more before it reaches their feet. If you do this you are depriving yourself of the opportunity to catch more fish. You will be >>>



*Kossy with a superb brown from one of the lakes in the Ballarat area*

surprised at how many times the fish will follow and sometimes take the fly right at your feet. So bring your rod back slowly and lift it. This is especially necessary if you have a dropper and nymph set-up, because the nymph is then going to rise slowly up through the water column.

When you cast upstream let your nymph drift down past you, then lift your rod. You will be amazed at how many fish will hook up on the swing, especially when using a dry dropper rig. As the nymph swings it is rising in the water column, looking like an emerging insect, and trout like nothing more than to intercept a bit of food trying to escape.

Don't be afraid to use long droppers. I use droppers as long as one metre or more when fishing with heavily weighted nymphs like the Perdigon. A longer dropper and the thinnest practical fluorocarbon line will allow the nymph to sink quickly, thereby giving you a

longer drift with the nymph on or near the bottom.

As some of you have already worked out, I prefer to fish wets and nymphs – a throwback from learning my fly fishing on stillwaters. Most of the time I will use a dry fly as an indicator to hedge my bets, though at present, I'm fishing and trying to learn as much about Euro Nymphing as I possibly can. Here there is no dry fly as an indicator, just a sighter.

But having said that I prefer fishing wets and nymphs, there are times when I decide to fish a dry fly all day, knowing that I might not be as successful. (How screwed up is my fly fishing brain.)

Here's a thought – if you're not catching fish try something different. Don't get bogged down using the same confidence flies all the time - try a new fly, or a new type of rig, or a new style, or even a new species of fish. Carp, sometimes



*Fishing the Big River at Enoch's Point*

referred to as the poor man's bonefish, are fantastic fun on light gear.

I hope this presentation has given you something to think about and in turn helps you to catch more fish and enjoy your fly fishing a lot more. Thank you all for your interest and allowing me to share some of my thoughts and ideas with you.

I would like to finish with another quote, this one by John Foster Dallas, who said: "The measure of success is not whether you have a tough problem to deal with, but whether it's the same problem you had last year."



*A typical river brown, and a nice one too*

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## The Bruce Whitehead Challenge

This event is now a fixture in the VFFA calendar. For years VFFA members have travelled to Bairnsdale to compete against the Bairnsdale Fly Fishers for the famous Dudley Lee Donger trophy. Then a few years ago a second 'friendly competition' between the VFFA and the BFFC was established with some winter fishing in the lakes in Victoria's Western District. Again this year members of the two clubs will gather in Camperdown in Western Victoria on the last weekend in June to brave the elements and try to extract some sizeable trout from Lakes Purrumbete or Bullen Merri.

Details of the arrangements for this event are given in the NOE in this issue.



*Hughie Maltby and Trevor Stow holding up the Bruce Whitehead trophy*

# VFFA Notice of Major Event (NOE) - Western Lakes, 2019

**Date of this NOE – April 10, 2019**

**Event:** Weekend trip to Lakes Purrumbete and Bullen Merri on June 28 - 30.

**Event Co-ordinator (EC):** Hughie Maltby.

**Event date:** Check in Friday June 28, check out on Sunday June 30.

**Event location & address:** Lake Purrumbete Caravan Park, 540 Purrumbete Estate Road, Camperdown, VIC, 3260, Phone: 03 5594 5577. Also Lakes and Crater Lakes Holiday Park, 220 Park Road, Camperdown, VIC, 3260, Phone: 03 5593 1253.

**Accommodation:** Shared cabin, cost: TBC - cost based on the number sharing a cabin.

**Sleeping requirements:** Bring own bedding and towel.

**Catering/ food and drink requirements:** Breakfast/lunch: self-catering or in Camperdown, Friday night: One of the hotels in Camperdown, Saturday night: TBC.

**Description of fishing areas:** Lakes, fishing out of boats or from the shore.

**Mobile phone coverage:** Whether within mobile phone coverage areas, or otherwise within mobile phone range.

**How physically challenging:** Comfortable fishing around lake edges, though quite a walk if fishing from Quarry car park on Lake Purrumbete. Warrnambool fly fishers have offered to provide boats to transport anglers across to the quarry.

**Fishing license required:** Yes, if applicable.

**Strongly recommended personal equipment:** Waders, wading boots, wading staff, gaiters if wet wading; brimmed hat; glasses/sunglasses, sunscreen; wet weather gear, warm clothing; water and food for lunch, UHF/VHF radio, torch at dusk onwards, mobile phone.

**Optional but advisable equipment when fishing out of sight of other participants:** UHF radio

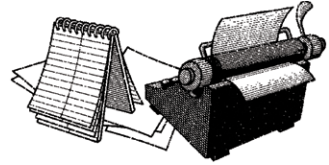
**Event Registration Form (ERF):** To be completed and returned to Hughie Maltby at reddtag@hotmail.com or posted to 14 Diane Crescent, Viewbank, Victoria, 3084, by June 15. Any inquiries - phone Hughie on 0423 283 079.

**Date of issue of this NOE:** April 10, 2019

**Event Registration closing date:** June 22, 2019

\*The Event Registration Form (ERF) can be downloaded from the VFFA website or obtained at the next meeting.

# From the EDITOR'S DESK



*"A fly fisherman is a guy standing in cold water up to his liver throwing the world's most expensive clothes line at trees." (P.J. O'Rourke: A Flyfishing Primer)*

*"There is no more graceful and healthful accomplishment for a lady than fly fishing, and there is no reason why a lady should not in every respect rival a gentleman in the gentle art." (W.C. Prime, writing in 1888)*

*"There don't have to be a thousand trout in a river; let me locate a good one and I'll get a thousand dreams out of him before I catch him— and, if I catch him, I'll turn him loose." (Jim Deren: Angler's Roost)*

*"I am almost certain most fishermen possess a peculiar bend to their makeup. Fishermen are optimists, and the fish in the future is always preferable to the fish at hand. Even the best fishermen catch fish only a small percentage of the time, which means we persevere in a sport that features failure as its main ingredient. Truly great days, when the fish hammer the fly as soon as it settles on the surface, are rare." (Joseph Monniger: Home Waters)*

Mr Monniger has a point. Anglers in Canada describe steelhead as 'the fish of a thousand casts'. I know I'm often guilty of making heaps of casts between the fish I catch, and my observation of other fly fishers confirm it's a common crime. Now I do know a couple of fly anglers, highly skilled operators they are too, who hunt for their trout and won't cast unless and until they actually see a fish rising. But these guys are very much the exception.

Of course if we're fishing one of those New Zealand streams or Tasmanian highland lakes that have large trout lingering in crystal clear water then of course the polaroids come out and we go sight fishing. But aside from the Goulburn at its best, most of our Victorian rivers have small fish in water that is just

too coloured to polaroid profitably. So most of the time it's my habit, and that of most others I see, to resort to throwing flies into all the fishy-looking places in the hope that eventually we'll win the lottery and find a willing taker.

Some days the blighters are there in numbers and cooperative, and you enjoy a top day. Sadly there are plenty of other times when you work hard all day for maybe a few. This has certainly been the case this year. A couple of anglers I know have had some productive days, but there have been lots of reports from experienced anglers who have fished hard over the past summer for meagre returns. No doubt this year's hot summer and lack of rain with consequent low water are part of the problem.

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When trout become a bit tougher to find a predictable response is to go looking for other species to throw flies at. Richard Kos, who spoke at our recent March meeting, and Peter Morse, the guest speaker at last year's Annual Dinner, both mentioned their enthusiasm for fishing for carp. Saltwater fly fishing is another option that has grown apace in recent years, as the contents of popular magazines such as *FlyLife* attest. Australian natives are also increasingly popular as targets for us fly fishers. You can now buy, or tie, monstrous flies for Murray cod, and down Warrnambool way estuary perch and bream are regularly fished for by club members when the local trout are quiet.

Bass seem to be flavour of the month as the VFA fish stocking guide for 2018/2019 reports that close to 500,000 of these iconic sportfish were stocked in Gippsland lakes and rivers this year. Blue Rock received 30,000, Glenmaggie got 35,000 and the Macalister River some 43,500. (These bass were stocked as tiny fingerlings and a few hardened cynics among the trouties suggested that they were fabulous nourishment for the resident trout.)



*A small redfin. They do come in larger sizes.*

A rarely mentioned alternative species for us fly floggers are the ubiquitous redfin (aka English Perch). In the years when I lived in Warrnambool I, along with lots of other locals, fished Lake Winslow (officially known as Cartcarrong Lake), a 15-minute drive north of Warrnambool. It's described in VFA literature as a shallow lake with a mud bottom, carrying brown trout to 1.5 kg (occasionally up to 4.4 kg) and redfin to 1 kg. The VFA fish stocking guide suggests that this year it will receive 1,500 browns and 2,000 rainbows.

When I lived in Warrnambool it was a tough place to fish if you didn't have a boat (and I didn't). The edges were surrounded by reeds interspersed with lots of soft gooey mud, and if you put your feet in the wrong place you rapidly sank knee deep in the mire. And it was then heavy work to get yourself free. So a lot of care was needed when you poked around the edges if you weren't to lose both your temper and your sanity. For those who have fished Penstock in Tassie from the soft edges of the Western shores be assured the gelatinous Winslow mud was much worse.

But the attraction of Winslow was its big populations of redfin. They were fun to catch, and cricket scores were possible. Once you got yourself perched along the edge near the old windmill at the southern end, standing carefully (or precariously) on the relatively solid roots of some obliging reeds, you could cast out and start your retrieve. The redfin cruised around the edges in schools and you'd catch three or four on consecutive casts. Then the school would move on. You'd flog away for another 15 minutes or so with nothing happening, then another school would move past and you'd connect again with every cast. Occasionally you'd hook a trout, and

these were often hefty specimens, but the reason for being there were the redfin. If you just wanted to feel a fish on the end of a cast, they were ever so obliging.

I haven't fished Winslow for years, and last time I called in it appeared that a boat was now essential. Access from the shores looked even harder and there were some fancy and well-equipped canoes cruising the edges.

In checking the contents of the VFA's Victoria Fish Stock 2018 Guide I couldn't help but notice the numbers of fish being released this year into Albert Park Lake, so close to the city. Can you believe – 5,000 estuary perch, 5,000 golden perch, 15,000 silver perch, and 3,000 rainbow trout. VFFA members who work in the CBD can now nip out in their coffee break and wet a line. The stocking guide indicates that lots of fish are being

stocked in other lakes and dams and reservoirs around Melbourne – perhaps many more than we realised. The small lake in the middle of Caulfield Race Track, as an example, is scheduled to receive 600 advanced rainbows this year. The imagination boggles at the idea of anglers in waders with fly rods aloft negotiating their way through the horses and jockeys and punters. I wonder what the odds would be? Would fly fishers be handicapped?

Perhaps on that increasingly bizarre thought I should call it quits.

Tight lines, and don't get saddled with any limits to your options,

*Lyndon*



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## This Month's Yarn ...

(... from February, 1962)

"You know, you've really got to be resourceful at times when you're fishing," said Hughie, putting a couple of notes on the counter to pay for McTaggart's third and fourth glasses of ale.

"Too right," agreed McTaggart, picking up a glass and taking a healthy swig.

"I remember once fishing right at the top end of the Yarra when I hooked a small but very lively rainbow. It took off across the pool and darted straight into a submerged hollow log lying against the far bank. Then it shot out the other end about 12 feet further upstream."

"This took me quite by surprise. But I was even more surprised when the biggest

brown trout I've ever seen in the Yarra came from nowhere and swallowed my rainbow. It was a monster and must've gone at least 12 or 13 lb. That brown was so big that I couldn't see how I could possibly get it back down through that hollow log."

McTaggart took another mouthful. "What on earth did you do then?" asked Pilks.

McTaggart quietly finished his drink, then suddenly looked at his watch. "Well it's quite a long story," he said hastily, "and way too long to tell you now, as I've just remembered a really important appointment." At this point he dashed out the door.

# The Dudley Lee "Donger" Weekend

... from Trevor Stow, President of the BFFC

This annual weekend competition between members of the Bairnsdale Fly Fishers and the VFFA turned out to be a washout this year, despite strong support from members of both clubs. Following a month of beautiful autumn weather up on the Mitta, the heavens opened with a vengeance right on this weekend. Much needed rain pelted down on the Friday afternoon and continued bucketing down on the Saturday.

Mt Hotham received almost 100 mm of rain over the two days, with much of this rain pouring into the Mitta River system. The result was high and virtually

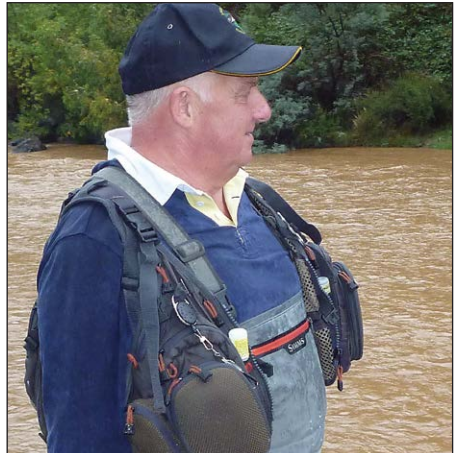


*Trevor Stow, President of Bairnsdale FFC is hoping for some heavenly intervention in clearing the water. None came. The river rose and became dirty in a very short period of time following the arrival of the rain.*

unfishable water, coupled with freezing daytime temperatures. The level of the Mitta rose 50 cm overnight on the Friday night.



*A rather coy black snake that Bruce Houghton almost trod on when fishing the Bundarra River*



*Daz from Bairnsdale is still smiling despite the weather.*

So after consulting the internet and weather maps and discussing the situation with members, it was decided to call the event off early on the Saturday morning.

This of course means that the Bairnsdale Club retains "The Donger" for another year.

(Bruce Houghton, who was one of the VFFA members who travelled to Bairnsdale to compete in the Donger, adds the following note:)

Hi Lyndon,

I think I needed to do at least some fishing, having arrived Friday night in Omeo after a long drive battling strong cross winds, horizontal rain and debris that stopped some cars. The fog over Mt Hotham finally cleared as I approached Omeo.

After the Donger was cancelled on Saturday morning I left the BFFC Lodge to fish the Livingstone Creek in light drizzle. Only some 200 metres of the Creek near Cassilis was affected by dirty water from road runoff and I later also

fished the quite clear Victoria River. Peter and Mike had fished one or two days earlier and thus caught fish before the wet weather arrived.

Matt Cole (BFFC), Peter Clayton and myself stayed at the Mitta Lodge until Sunday, and fished happily as the water cleared. Some streams were hardly affected. The rain had mostly cleared by Saturday afternoon, and that's when Matt caught some fish, including one that would have been a trophy winner.

Sunday was delightful and sunny, and we ended up on the Bundarra River. We all caught at least one fish there and missed others. I attempted to catch John Pilkington's fish from when he had been there earlier in the week. At one point Peter asked if I could retrieve a hook for him and it just so happened that in the process I met up with a snake - hence another photograph opportunity.



*The Bundarra River is small but productive and a delight to fish*

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# The Annual Big River Trip

(This year Judith Oliver and John Pilkington have put together their recollections of this year's trip to Enoch's Point on the Big River.)

## From Judith ...

My first impression on arrival at Enoch's was that I had stepped into an oil painting of early pioneering days like those by Tom Roberts, Fredrick McCubbin and Arthur Streeton that I have seen in the NSW Art Gallery. The way the light rays strike the bushland to reveal the colours and shades of the greens and greys of the Australian bush - this is Australia in all its natural beauty. And all perfectly framed by the room with a view.

The Big River is the heart of this little oasis, each meander opening into another painting. From the waterfall to the ripples and pools the beauty continues.



*The Big River is surrounded by heavy Australian bush in many places*



*The fishing can be quite relaxed*

The bird life was such a treat. Not too many get to see a Satin Bower Bird flying around happily with his bower so close to the huts.

I should mention the fishing: my flora and rock fish were still true to form. Big River was a place for me to spend time practising a little stream craft, an uncommon opportunity for me.

Thank you, John, for this invitation to break away from the rush of daily life and the opportunity to stop and enjoy a place of true natural beauty in all of its pioneering context. I do hope Enoch's can remain off the grid for your family and for all those lucky enough to visit.

## From John ...

Sixteen VFFA members travelled to the Enoch's Country Club for the annual trip. Most arrived in time for a BBQ on Friday evening. The Big River was low and gin clear, so the fishing consequently was very exacting. But we all caught fish. Fishers ranged up and down the river and a few were also successful at the Taponga on the way in.



*The mornings at Enoch's point are very relaxed affairs*



*They were queuing up to fish this section of the river*

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*The kitchen at Chez Pilkington is a busy place and the morning teas are fabulous*



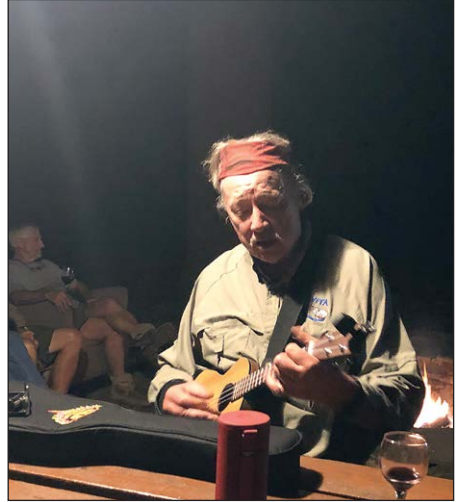
No fish of any large size were taken and the best fly was the Cinnamon Parachute Dun. David Wark managed to catch seven fish on the one fly on the Friday evening using this pattern and fishing a secret location some distance from the huts. It really is a fantastic fly on this water. Smaller sizes, #14 and #16, are best. Adams, Red Tags and Royal Wulffs were good too.

On the Saturday anglers generally split into small groups and fortunately there weren't any other fishermen in the vicinity of the huts. Those returning from the river were treated to hot sausage rolls and pizzas from the wood-fired oven, and the warmish weather gave ample excuse to attend to any thirst that had been generated by the fishing. And so the camp buzzed along. Some went out again in the afternoon, some snoozed.

By evening we had all regrouped for the now traditional roast lamb and veggies followed by sticky date pudding. All was well with the world and the evening was capped off by some ukulele playing and renditions of his own material by "The

Professor", Kevin Hindle, around the camp fire.

Sunday saw the group reluctantly break up, some for more fishing and others to return to the delights of city life. Thanks to the sous chef David Wark for his efforts and the legions of washers-up who kept the kitchen clean.



*Professor Hindle entertained the team in great style with his ukulele*



*Waiting for the Saturday night roast to start outside under the moon*

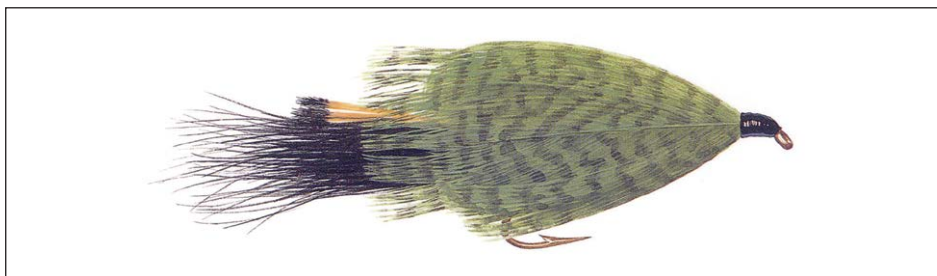


## The Ovens River Challenge

Many VFFA members would have received a recent email from Terry Rogers advertising the Ovens River Challenge, a fishing event organised by the Australian Trout Foundation and Native Fish Australia. This event was held over the weekend April 6 and 7 and was based at Myrtleford on the Ovens River in north-east Victoria. It was advertised as a 'fishing and social event' rather than a competition, and involved 'catching, measuring and then releasing' fish. To encourage participation there were some quite substantial prizes and awards in both open age and junior sections for 'the longest trout', 'the longest Murray cod' and 'the longest redfin' caught and released. The Victorian Fisheries Authority supported this event as part of the Target One Million program. The main

purpose of the Challenge was simply to encourage more people to enjoy fishing. A report on this event will be given in the May issue of *Fly Lines*.

Terry George, president of the ATF and a VFFA member, is to be congratulated on the hours of hard work he has put into organising this event. He was well supported by a small but very active group who are members of the ATF committee. It was pleasing to hear earlier this year that the Victorian Fisheries Authority had recognized the value of the countless hours of work put in by the ATF in promoting trout fishing in the state, so was allocating significant funding to cover some of the costs associated with the ongoing work of the Foundation.



*The Hamill's Killer - a Nancy Tichborne watercolour*

## Web Fish

Cast regularly at [vffa.org.au](http://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 can be read & saved on iPad / tablets like eBooks
- Calendar of all activities can sync with all you digital device calendars
- Gallery of events - Photos & Event reports
- Where to fish directories: Victoria, Tasmania, NSW, New Zealand

## The State Of Our Rivers

This article first appeared in the very popular UK magazine *Fly Fishing & Fly Tying* in November 2018. It is reprinted here with the kind permission of Mark Bowler, editor of FF&FT. Malcolm Greenhalgh, the writer of the article, has studied fly fishing around the world and regularly demonstrates at angling shows in Britain and Europe. He is author of several books, and is a keen ornithologist and ardent conservationist. While written about rivers in the UK it is quite relevant to our Victorian state fishery. So much has been said in recent years about the value of stocking trout in our rivers. This article undoubtedly brings some very useful insights.

**A**n Angling Trust north-west forum held at Bolton in June included three very important presentations. Professor Jon Grey, Research & Conservation Officer with the Wild Trout Trust, presented a summary of recently published research into the issues of introducing hatchery fish into rivers.

He told us that a nine-year (1989-97) study on the River Dove had shown that about 50% of stocked takeable brown trout are caught soon after stocking and that only 1-2% survive the winter. A more recent study confirmed the low survival rate for stocked trout, one factor being that farmed trout use five times as much energy as wild trout in fighting and seeking food.

A 1984 study showed that when large numbers of big hatchery trout are put in a river they disrupt the wild trout and this results in a reduction of the total fish biomass. A more recent study on Girnock Burn into stocking with trout eggs and fry did not result in an increase of the parr population, indicating that if the river is healthy all parr territories will be full.

But the stocking issue goes deeper. Large rivers, with several tributaries, can have genetically separate populations of wild brown trout, each with its own tributary. On the Dart, for instance, there are at least eight genetically discrete trout populations, each presumably adapted to its own stream. This trait has been known

to occur in the salmon, for it has been long known that an adult salmon does not just return to its natal river, but to the stretch of river in which it grew as a parr.

One adaptation, as demonstrated in a study of a river in mainland Europe, is seen in subtle but measurable differences in the shape of the fish (i.e. its skeleton-muscular build and its strength and streamlining). This means that trout, parr or smolts released from a hatchery are less fit for purpose and at a physical disadvantage compared with the wild fish.

### Sceptical

The problem in convincing sceptical anglers is that without careful monitoring of tagged fish (which these studies did), stocking is the only straw for them to grasp if populations are low. Try this one! Denmark's river Funen needed some stocking with sea trout, so the Danes put into the river 350,000 smolts and 78,000 fry. Of the smolts, 13,000 were tagged. 9,000 were tagged and released into the river system and only one was recovered. The other 4,000 tagged fish were released just above the limit of the tide over two years, and only 15-30% made it to the sea, showing that most hatchery raised smolts couldn't make it through the estuary.

The conclusion is that, if the river is at its best, the river will have its optimal population of fish - salmon, sea trout, brown trout and grayling - and this >>>

has been accepted by the Environment Agency, who now agree that the run of salmon now being enjoyed by Tyne anglers has nothing whatsoever to do with the Kielder hatchery. That run is about the river quality above Hexham.

It is now clear that the use of salmonid hatcheries to stock any river that has, or ought to have, a wild breeding population is a complete and utter waste of money, which would be better used to improve the river as a salmonid habitat - if movement through the river for fish is unhindered by obstructions, and the habitat is at its best. In other words, we can do no more but let the wild fish get on with it.

### **Soiled water**

Mark Lloyd, Chief Executive of the Trust, gave an update on the state of the UK's rivers, which is generally pretty dire. 86% are unhealthy mainly because of agricultural pollution.

Slurry, spread at times when regulations say it shouldn't be or in excessive volumes and too close to watercourses, is a major and increasing pollutant originating from factory dairy and poultry farms, for it has a high BOD (biochemical oxygen demand) and, from poultry, ammonia content. In arable country bare fields, and especially those growing maize for biofuels, are losing soil at ten times the rate soil is formed and much of it ends up in rivers as silt.

The result is that wildlife that lives below the river surface and is unseen by most people and therefore ignored by politicians, is in decline. As river quality declines, so do the species diversity (13% of river species are threatened with extinction) and populations of those species demanding clean water. A decline in the number of people fishing rivers may in part be linked with a decline in fish stocks, and mandatory catch-and-

release of salmon in some regions is likely to see the numbers of salmon anglers fall further. Which means fewer eyes watching the river.

"The Angling Trust, WWF and The Rivers Trust recently launched a report called *Saving the Earth* which was presented to ministers and the secretary of state Michael Gove to try and make the case for better protection of rivers. They are applying for funding to support this advocacy and campaigning, but they need the support of far more anglers if they are to persuade politicians to take difficult decisions," Mark Lloyd said.

### **Urban Turnaround**

Mike Duddy, who chaired the forum, gave a brief outline of a study taking place on the water quality of streams, most of them grossly polluted until recently (and including the Mersey and Douglas catchments) in Greater Manchester.

I have a little involvement in this and the results, when they all come together, will be staggering. On June 6, Geoff Haslam and I surveyed the River Croal after it had flowed through Bolton and Farnworth and just before its confluence with the Irwell in the heart of the conurbation. The river-bed was clear, with nice beds of water buttercup, and we collected large numbers of six species of upwinged flies, including lots of blue-winged olive nymphs, one species of stonefly, and many Rhyacophila and Hydropsyche caseless caddis larvae.

On June 10, we visited the Prince Albert AS's Open Day by the Ribble upstream of Ribchester. Unlike the Croal, the river-bed was covered with dense blanketweed, indicating a very high nutrient level in the water. Our sampling revealed low densities of nymphs and larvae, with no blue-winged olive nymphs. That rural rivers like the Ribble should have a

poorer insect life than urban streams is a consequence of the agricultural damage and pollution noted earlier by Mark Lloyd.

Mike and team hope to get this survey finished this year. Perhaps we can then get DEFRA and the Minister of the Environment to take note.



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## Short Line Nymphing

... by Philip Bailey

(This is the fourth article by Phil on modern nymphing techniques.)

**M**y style for this technique has developed from two sources. The first was my desire to build upon the skills I had developed from my interest in the Italian Casting Style. I wanted to expand this from the use of just dry flies to using small nymphs, endeavouring to cast weighted flies into the same places I would normally place a dry. The second was the discovery of a small video of the former World Champion Jiri Klima demonstrating an upstream technique using a light line, short rod and multiple flies. (It needs to be said that this was the original Czech Nymph style.)

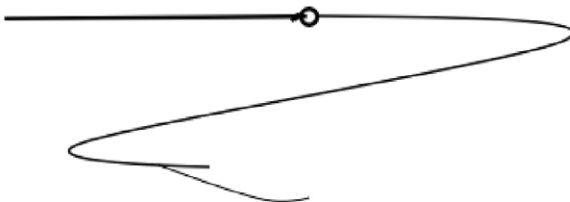
There have been some great nymph fishermen. The likes of Gary Borger and Joe Humphries were heroes of mine years ago. I had the honour of spending an hour with Joe some three years ago,

just talking fishing and nymphing. He is perhaps one of the greatest exponents of short line nymphing. However he doesn't use any weight in his flies. Instead, he uses split shot at various distances above the fly and delivers his nymphs with a 'tuck cast'. Every short line nymph fishermen also needs to master Joe's 'bow and arrow' cast. (There is plenty of footage of this on YouTube – have a look, for example, at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uv45vyAC3f0>.)

So let's get started and the best place to do that is with flies and weight. I mostly use very basic nymphs – baetis, tied with a small bead, tapered body and a thorax of ice dubbing to create a hot spot. I use these because the rivers I fish have vast numbers of these nymphs. I also use cased and caseless caddis nymphs.

So here it is:

50 – 75 cm of 15 lb line nail-knotted to the fly line. This could be Amnesia Yellow or Orange. But increasingly I am coming to the conclusion that Stren Original (White fluorescent line with Neon Wax wiped onto it would be better. To the end of this I attach a 1mm ring.



This is simpler – 1.5 metre of 5X fluorocarbon

Add 50 cm of 6X line using a three turn surgeon's knot to create a dropper. The dropper needs to be about 7 cm long.

>>>

These rivers have a lot of small stoneflies too, but I don't try to imitate these as the baetis nymphs are close enough. Sometimes I add a soft hackle to create something different.

What differs is the size of the beads that I use – 2.0 mm to 2.5 mm generally. I don't use anything heavier, as heavier flies tend to overpower the leader and create a hinge, thus reducing accuracy. I am not too fussed about hook style, as small jig hooks, grub hooks or even simple dry fly hooks all work. But what I do want is for the hook to turn upside down when

I fish it to reduce snagging. The fish don't care, as they will see nymphs in all different orientations. Think small slim flies with little weight. But they need to sink quickly.

Now to the leader. This is specially built and deviously simple. And it is short – just 2 metres. I incorporate a 'sighter' into the butt section. In other words the butt is coloured line, though there is an alternative I may use this season – white Neon Wax, which can be wiped off if it needs to be with a cloth.



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## The Jim Thomas Lake Wendouree Two Fly Competition

This event, organized by the Ballarat Fly Fishers' Club and held every year at Lake Wendouree, has just been completed. A report on the competition is featured in the April issue of the Ballarat Club's monthly newsletter, the Claret & Mallard Journal, and the article below is an edited version of this report, reprinted with permission. The competition was again sponsored by Hurley's Fly Fishing - <https://www.hurleyflyfishing.com.au/>

Lake Wendouree is located in the middle of Ballarat and is surrounded by suburban housing and all the trappings of a large, vibrant and growing municipality. Could anglers actually hope to catch fish there, among all that pedestrian traffic and kids riding bikes and dogs being walked? Well – read on.

**T**he 2019 Jim Thomas Lake Wendouree Two Fly competition was held on the weekend of March 30 and 31. Some 43 fly fishermen from all over the state participated in the event, including 33 members of the Ballarat Fly Fishers Club.

The competition hours were Saturday 9:00 am till 12 noon, lunch from 12:00 – 1:00 pm, then more fishing from 1:00 – 5:00 pm. On Sunday competitors could fish from 6:00 am - 12 noon. The weather forecast for the weekend was perfect - overcast skies, the possibility of rain, and a good stiff breeze (sometimes a bit too much) of 25 – 35 km / hr.

Competition flies were submitted and checked by our expert panel, and once deemed suitable for the competition were

then placed in a numbered bag and drawn out by each competitor. The flies drawn out were the only flies individual anglers were allowed to use in the competition, unless they were lost or fell apart. Anglers could then purchase replacement flies with a maximum of just two flies, as per the competition rules. Competitors were then briefed on the rules and reminded to observe the Marine Safe Victoria Boating Rules and Regulations, with Lake Wendouree having a speed limit of 5 knots.

Once the competition began it didn't take long for Vern Barby and Craig Coltman to register the first captures with fish of 49 cm and 50 cm respectively. This continued as the pattern for the day, with competitors measuring their fish, taking photos, and

then sending the details through to Mick McKay, who was the official contact point for the competition.

At the lunchtime break Vern Barby was leading the field with a 50 cm brown, one of three that Vern had landed. Competitors enjoyed a barbecue lunch prepared by Gerry Watt, and swapped stories of the fish missed during the morning.

The afternoon session provided plenty of opportunities for anglers to catch fish. The weather deteriorated with wind speeds increasing and intermittent rain showers crossing the lake. But someone forgot to tell the fish about the weather. It was game on for them, and they were 'on the chew' with mayfly duns hatching. The fish were not feeding on them from the surface though - they were eating them mid-water.

At the end of the day competitors headed to the warmth of the clubrooms, milling around the Davenport Bar and swapping stories of the ones that were landed and hooked or lost during the day's fishing.

At the end of the first day's competition a total of 25 brown trout had been caught, measured, photographed and released. Ballarat Fly Fishers' Club member Kevin Pearce was heading the leader board with a 53.5 cm brown.

The Two Fly Dinner was held on Saturday night with 38 in attendance. Our normal Ballarat 'Swindle' was underway with prizes donated by Hurley's Fly Fishing. Gavin Hurley has sponsored this event for many years, something greatly appreciated by the club. Competitors sat down to a magnificently prepared meal of lamb shanks prepared by Kate Shirley. The discussion went long into the night with countless tall stories and fish scales lying around the bar on Sunday morning.

Day two of the competition began at 6:00 am for those who managed to get up early. The weather conditions were similar to those on the Saturday, though the wind

had abated. Breakfast of bacon and eggs was available to competitors between 8:00 am and 9:00 am as master chef Gerry Watt was back on the job. The conversation around the breakfast table was again about the quality of the fish caught and the many that got away.

Midday arrived with the end of the competition and another 11 trout caught, measured and photographed. There was a new leader and winner - Jayden Ormrod, with a 55 cm brown. Congratulations to Jayden as this was the first trout he had caught on a fly.



*Jayden Ormrod with his winning brown – a magnificent achievement*

Senior Vice-president Geoff Cramer thanked all anglers for participating in the Two Fly event, and also acknowledged the hard work of the many members who worked behind the scenes to make the competition a success. Mick McKay was especially thanked for his tireless work in organising and running the event.

Gavin Hurley from Hurley's Fly Fishing congratulated Jayden and presented him with the Jim Thomas Trophy for the longest trout caught and a Stalker fly rod as first prize.

Jeff Willey from the Bendigo Fly Fishers Club presented Matty Mitchell with a handcrafted pen. For a number of years now Jeff has made handcrafted pens >>>

and presented them to the competitor whose flies caught the winning fish. This year the winning fly was tied by Matty.

The Two Fly Competition Summary:  
43 competitors, 36 brown trout caught,

measured and released. Average size of fish caught - 43.5 cm.

Members of the Ballarat Fly Fishers' Club would thank Gavin Hurley from Hurley's Fly Fishing for his ongoing support of the club and the event.



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## The Beverages

... by Dennis Carter

It was when the three of us had Jeeps. Ex-military left-hand-drive Willys or Fords. Fords were easier because they could be registered with plates from an old Prefect or Anglia and a left hand drive notice attached to the spare on the rear.

The Buckland Valley was where Chris and I were camped, living off trout and blackberries and out of cans. We'd heard of the mythical Beveridge brothers, a pair of hermits said to live way up in the mountains. Said to be unwelcoming to visitors and to show so with shotguns. It piqued our interest, until one morning we agreed that we should go for an explore – find out for ourselves.

So we left camp, turned left and headed for the hills. Way beyond our highest fishing reaches, above the last timber mill we climbed deep into forest, the track narrowing, crossing spring-water creeks into the cloud where the air grew cold and we wondered where we were headed. We kept going eyes only on the wheel marks, cliffs brushing one side, near vertical descents too close to the other. Scrub brushing the jeep sides and tough old trees overhanging.

I must have been driving; I felt proud of my skills changing up to second and double clutching back to first whilst winding steadily upward. This went on for some time, accompanied by an increasing sense of eerie isolation until we

arrived at cleared land and we guessed, our destination.

We stopped, and a few aged horses wandered nonchalantly over to inspect these strange interlopers. In the background, between the trees and away from the track sat starkly a shack that may or may not have been inhabited. One of us spotted an elderly bearded, be-hatted figure.

We had no option. Over the fence and onward. A doored opened and a second figure emerged, yep, shotgun in hand. "Exploring" we were. Stupid I know, but I like these would be, could be meetings. Suffice to say that in short time we were inside their home learning not much, because they didn't have much to say. Their modest grunts were their conversation. They had no need to speak.

But our imaginations on our descent told us the stories of these two brothers' lives lived; high up and lonely, but content with their lot.

The bees are buzzing around the pumpkin flowers outside my window. My two-piece rod is waiting in the back store. So is the four-piece four weight. One reel, Dad's LRH, is on my chest of drawers. The over-heavy vest hangs with the rain jackets. Which is the one that leaks least?

Autumn. I must visit the secret spot that two people have spoken of.

## How Big Is Big?

VFFA member Steve Webb's father Graeme Webb recently sent us some information on a truly huge trout caught in the Pukaki-Ohau A Canal in New Zealand South Island's Mackenzie Country.

Graeme tells us that he fished these canals before the fish farms went in. The road went right alongside the canal and it was possible then to drive quietly along and watch for rising fish. He says, "Lynne and I also stayed a couple of nights free camping, our only company being lots of rabbits. We almost lived off the land for three months of wonderful fishing. I shot only half-grown rabbits which we fried in egg and breadcrumbs.

The driving and spotting rising fish did not really feel like proper fishing. I feel like this is also the case with these monster fish that get big and fat feeding on left over fish food pellets. Are they wild fish? Well, yes I suppose so, but give me a boisterous smaller high country fish any time, particularly if you have had to climb into difficult areas to catch one.

I have often wondered what those overweight under-exercised fish taste like.

My best fish on that trip was a 14 lb brown taken in the evening at the mouth of the Lindis River. The area is now underwater, flooded by Lake Dunstan."

### **The report:**

On January 18, 2019, we are told that New Zealand Fish & Game is investigating reports of a 24.9 kg (= 54.9 lb) brown trout being caught up in the

Mackenzie Country. They are calling for any information about the giant catch, which they say would be a new world record. Fish & Game spokesperson Richard Cosgrove said witnesses saw the fish being caught in the Pukaki-Ohau A canal. It was landed after a two-and-a-half-hour fight.

"Once he had the fish landed, the angler wrapped it in his shirt to keep it cool before getting ice from a nearby salmon farm and rushing it to a taxidermist," Mr Cosgrove said.

"He also got it weighed on certified scales to confirm that this was the fish of a lifetime. We have been told the whole story along with photos will emerge once the trout has been mounted."

According to the International Game Fish Association website, the present record is a 19.1 kg brown trout caught in the same canals in 2013. Fish & Game field officer for the Central South Island, Rhys Adams, hopes the new record can be confirmed.

"The size of these trout just reinforces how good New Zealand's trout fishing is. If we can confirm this brown trout record, then the next thing is setting a new world record for rainbow trout," he said.

"The present record is 21.77 kg for a rainbow trout caught in Canada in 2009."

# FLY OF THE MONTH

## *Ted Dawkin's Clipped Hackle Beetle*



Here is another classic fly from the VFFA's rich collection. Page 200 of the Association's official history, *The Country For An Angler*, tells us that from 1948 onwards the Association conducted fly tying classes to enable members to expand their knowledge of trout diet and the tying of flies. For some time roneoed sheets were provided to participants, but then in 1971 Ted Dawkins produced a little booklet entitled *How To Tie Trout Flies*. The booklet was reprinted in 1982.

This fly, the Clipped Hackle Beetle, was one of the flies described in Ted's book. The tying notes tell us that clipped hackle bodies are excellent for imitating the heavy bodies of beetles, giving the appearance of bulk yet possessing very little weight. In addition flies with this type of body are excellent floaters. The sketches here, from Ted's booklet, illustrate the tying procedure.

### **Materials:**

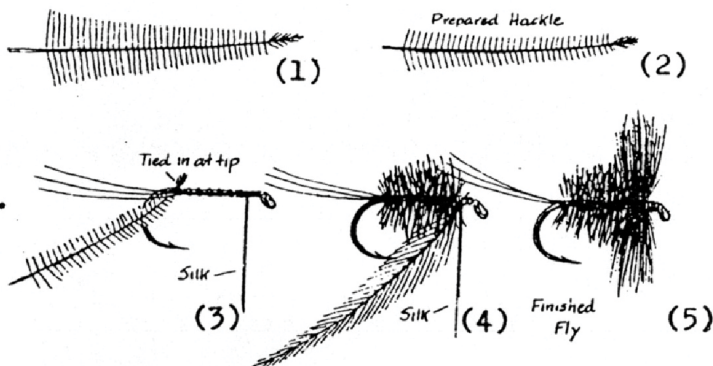
- Hook:** Dry Fly in sizes 10 - 16.
- Thread:** Black 8/0.
- Tail:** Black or brown cock hackle fibres
- Body:** Clipped black hackle.
- Hackle:** Brown cock hackle.

## Tying Instructions:

1. Prepare the body hackle as shown in the diagram above. Stroke the body hackle fibres so that they stand out at right angles to the stem, then trim them by cutting the fibres on each side of the stem in half.
2. With the hook in the vice run some thread from the eye to the end of the shank and tie in a small bunch of brown or black cock hackle fibres as the tail. The tail should be about two thirds the length of the hook shank.
3. Also tie in the clipped body hackle by the tip at this point, and then run the thread back along the shank to a point about 2 mm from the eye, thus leaving room to tie in the front hackle later on.
4. Wind the body hackle along the shank to this point and then tie it off.
5. Now tie in the front hackle, wind four or five turns, and tie it off.
6. Build up a small head with tying thread and then complete the fly with several half hitches or by using a whip finish tool. Finally add a drop of tying cement to the head.

(Editor: I must confess I made several attempts at trimming and tying in the body hackle, but most of my efforts looked a bit too rough and unattractive. So I delved into my tub of hackles and discovered a small black saddle hackle, and it proved ideal for the palmered body hackle.)

The body hackle should be prepared by stroking the fibres to make them stand at right angles to the stem. Then the fibres are clipped to the correct length, making a tapered hackle.



The same fly tied with a badger hackle dyed orange in place of the head hackle shows up well on the water and will take fish. (from *How To Tie Trout Flies*)

## VFFA 2019 meetings & other activities

### April 2019

- 11 Thursday General Meeting - 8:00 PM at the Kelvin Club  
Speaker – Geoff Hall from Goulburn Valley Fly Fishing Centre
- 19 – 21 Easter weekend
- 29 Monday Council Meeting – 6:30 pm

### May

- 16 Thursday General Meeting – 8:00 PM at the Kelvin Club: Annual Auction of books and equipment
- 27 Monday Council Meeting – 6:30 pm

### June

- 20 Thursday General Meeting – 8:00 PM at the Kelvin Club:  
Speaker – Taylor Hunt, VFA Manager of “Freshwater Fisheries in Victoria”
- 24 Monday Council Meeting – 6:30 pm
- 28 – 30 Bruce Whitehead Western Lakes Challenge – VFFA vs Bairnsdale, with accommodation at Camperdown

### July

- 18 Thursday General Meeting – 8:00 PM at the Kelvin Club:  
Speaker – Rene Vaz from Manic Tackle (New Zealand) – TBC
- 20 Saturday Warrnambool Fly Fishing Club Dinner
- 29 Monday Council Meeting – 6:30 pm

### August

- 23 Friday Annual Dinner – 6:30 for 7:00 pm at the Kelvin Club:  
Guest Speaker – Tamie Fraser
- 25 Sunday President’s Casting Day at the Red Tag Casting Pool, commencing at 10:00 am
- 26 Monday Council Meeting – 6:30 pm

#### VALUED DONORS

#### The following made donations for the raffle at the 2018 Annual Dinner:

- Aussie Angler Tackle Outfitters
- Armadale Angling
- Australian Fishing Network
- Essential Fly Fisher Launceston
- *FlyLife* Publishing
- FlyFinz Fishing Tackle and Books
- Gavin Hurley’s Fly Fishing & Pro-Angler
- J.M. Gillies Pty Ltd
- Mayfly Tackle Pty Ltd
- Peter Hayes
- Ray Brown Onkaparinga Flies
- The Flyfisher Tackle Store Melbourne