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THE VICTORIAN FLY-FISHERS' ASSOCIATION INC.

AUGUST 2013

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

www.vffa.org.au

August Annual Dinner - with Jim Allen
Friday, August 23, 6:30 for 7:00pm, at the Celtic Club

This year's Annual Dinner is our 81st Annual Dinner, and will again be held at the Celtic Club. Our guest speaker is our own Jim Allen, a very popular and esteemed Life Member, and well known to us all as a very knowledgeable and skilled angler. Jim has had a long involvement in all aspects of trout fishing and was awarded an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) last year for his significant contribution to the sport.

His topic for our Dinner is "The Disease of Angling - a modern and neanderthal view of why we do it." Be assured - we are in for a great night.

All members (and their guests) are invited, but PLEASE complete and return the invitation acceptance enclosed if you haven't already done so.



THE VICTORIAN FLY-FISHERS' ASSOCIATION INC.

(info@vffa.org.au)

PRESIDENT

Terry Rogers

Email:

president@vffa.org.au

HONORARY TREASURER

Tony Mitchem

Email:

treasurer@vffa.org.au

HONORARY SECRETARY

Richard Garvey

Email:

secretary@vffa.org.au

HONORARY EDITOR

Lyndon Webb

Email:

editor@vffa.org.au

VFFA WEBSITE ADMINISTRATOR

Kevin Finn

Email:

webadmin@vffa.org.au

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Advance Notice – The August Annual Dinner with Jim Allen

This year's Annual Dinner is scheduled for Friday, August 23. It is our 81st Annual Dinner, and will again be held at the Celtic Club in Queen Street, Melbourne. The cost is \$65 per person, and an invitation is included as an insert in this newsletter.

Our guest speaker for the evening is our own Jim Allen, a very popular and esteemed Life Member, and well known to us all as a very knowledgeable and skilled angler. Jim joined the VFFA in 1963 and so was awarded his 50 Year Membership Certificate earlier this year. He was President of the Association in the period 1972 – 1974.



Jim has fished all of his life and his fishing adventures have taken him all over the world. His passion for pursuing trout with a fly rod began in the early 1960s here in Victoria, where he initially spent a lot of time fishing the Goulburn River, honing his skills to a high level. Not too many years later he discovered the wonderful trout fishery in Tasmania. He is now recognised as an authority on Tasmanian trout fishing.

But Jim has contributed far more to our fishing than simply becoming very adept at catching them. He has devoted countless hours to promoting and advancing the cause, and was awarded an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) last year “for service to the sport of recreational fishing through a range of business, promotional and voluntary roles.”

The citation on his award continues – “Jim Allen has been an ambassador and promoter of recreational fishing in Australia as a businessman, film and radio presenter, and through voluntary roles with fishing associations for over 40 years. He is a former President of the Victorian Fly Fishers’ Association, former President of the Game Fishing Association of Victoria, former Vice-President of the Swordfish and Tunny Club of Australia, former Victorian Representative of the International Game Fishing Association, and Publicity Officer for the Victorian Fishing Tackle Association. Other positions held include Former President of the Australian Trout Foundation and Director of Trout Unlimited, a habitat sustainability organisation.

He was Co-Presenter with Greg Norman of the *Clear Water, Big Fish* television/DVD series, assisted with the *Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures*, and was a regular panelist with Rex Hunt and Clive Stark on Victorian Radio. He was also an appointed member on the Victorian Recreational Fisherman’s Advisory Council for the Department of Primary Industries.

Though now retired from work Jim continues to fish as often as he can, and clearly has an incredible background in fly fishing to draw upon in preparation for his talk at our Annual Dinner. His topic for the night is “The Disease of Angling - a modern and neanderthal view of why we do it.”

Jim is an accomplished and very entertaining speaker, his topic sounds most intriguing, and we are definitely in for a great night with him.

Notice of VFFA 2013 Warrnambool Trip – August 6, 2013

The Event - Two or three days for VFFA members at Warrnambool with the objective of angling in groups of two or more, guided by Warrnambool Club members. 16 - 20 positions are available.

Event Co-ordinator - Hugh Maltby, mobile 0423 283 079,
email address: reddtag@hotmail.com

However Hughie is away for a few weeks so Terry Rogers (mobile 0438 553 326) is taking the early applications.

The dates - Arrive Friday November 15, return Sunday November 17.

The address - Accommodation has been booked at the Surfside Holiday Park, Warrnambool

Travel - You are responsible for making your own travel arrangements to and from Warrnambool.

Cost - The cost is yet to be finalised, but those attending will need to pay for meals, accommodation at the Holiday Park, and for the BBQ at Jim Blakeslee's place on the Saturday evening. Guiding is by local club members, and there is no charge for their services.

Fishing locations - We will fish a number of local rivers including the Merri, Hopkins, Mt Emu and Moyne. These rivers offer a wonderful variety of fishing - both wet and dry styles, depending on the height and clarity of the water. Some lakes are also available - Gilleard and Winslow are stocked and carry good trout numbers.

Fishing license - A current Victorian license is required.

Mobile phone - Coverage should be fine in all areas we are likely to fish.

Strongly recommended personal equipment - Waders/wading boots, gaiters for wet waders, brimmed hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, wet weather gear, warm clothes, insect repellent, wading staff, torch at dusk onwards, and mobile phone in waterproof container. Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) and handheld UHF radio would be useful but are not necessary.

Essential equipment if intending to fish out of direct sight of partner/s - Mobile phone.

Essential equipment for Remote Locations - Compression bandage, mobile phone, water, and prescribed medicines for those with a medical condition that could re-occur. (City members will be in the company of Warrnambool club members, and it is unlikely anglers will be in remote areas. Good fishing is available relatively close to Warrnambool and most fishing venues can be accessed via bitumen roads).

Weather - Can vary from very hot to very cold, windy and wet. Be prepared.

Event Registration Form (ERF) - All participants must send Hugh Maltby, the Event Co-ordinator, a completed and signed copy of the ERF by email attachment or post as their registration. You can download a blank form from the VFFA website or pick one up at the next General Meeting. Early mailed applications should be sent to PO Box 18423, Melbourne Bourke Street, Melbourne 3001, and addressed to Terry Rogers.

Date of this Notice of Event - August 6, 2013

President's Message

As we now approach the end of winter and the soon to re-open trout fishing season for our favourite streams, it is a time for the checking of numerous things piscatorial.

Now is the time to get out all of our fly fishing gear that has been packed away, if you are anything like me, an apartment dweller, in too many tight and very difficult to access nooks and crannies that the "Controller of Apartment Storage Facilities" has allowed to be used for fishing gear because the particular locations/spaces have been deemed by "The Controller" to be totally unsuitable for the storage of any "useful possessions". Once retrieved, fly lines need to be checked and thoroughly cleaned, leaders and tippets checked and replaced where necessary, and boots and waders inspected to make sure that they are in top condition for the new season.



I find that this is also a very good time to completely empty my fly vest and give it a thorough clean and wash before carrying out an inspection of each piece of vest equipment before putting it all back together again. It is a good idea at this stage to make a list of each item that is being packed into your vest and even detailing in which specific location the item is being housed. The benefit of this is to familiarise yourself with where everything is without having to undo various zips in an attempt to locate an item that is not regularly used but needs to be carried just in case. The list is also helpful in deciding what does or does not need to be carried, depending on particular locations and conditions.

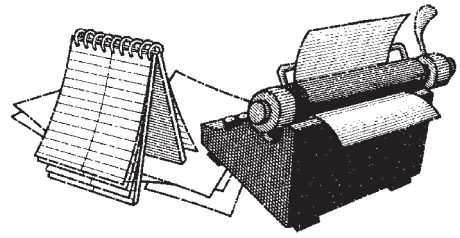
To complete the gear preparation, rods and reels need a thorough inspection and cleaning where necessary. Fly boxes need to be checked, and in many cases, emptied, cleaned and repacked in readiness for the season ahead.

Members who have not already booked their place at the Annual Dinner are urged to do so IMMEDIATELY. Our Guest Speaker for the Dinner is Jim Allen. The Dinner date is Friday, August 23, at the Celtic Club commencing at 6.30pm. The price is \$65.00 for the three course meal, with drinks at bar prices. Booking and Payment details are listed in this Newsletter. Don't forget that following the Annual Dinner, Saturday August 24 is President's Casting Day at the Red Tag Pool. I look forward to seeing you there in Competition Mode.

Best wishes,

Terry Rogers (President)

From the EDITOR'S DESK



“What is the best time of day for fishing? Any time after breakfast. Never go before, for trout are not early risers. I have known men to get out of bed at daylight, making much noise to the disgust of those who wished to sleep, and rush off with an empty stomach save perhaps for a drink of whiskey, and return several hours later to a cold breakfast, having captured nothing but a headache. Trout will bite just when they feel like it, and the best way to ascertain their biting time is to give them a frequent opportunity.” (Charles Barker Bradford, *The Brook Trout And The Determined Angler*, 1900).

It all sounds like very sensible advice to me, though I suspect that David Featherstone, one of our cherished Elder Statesmen (whose thoughts on fly fishing are included in this newsletter) would disagree. David is very keen on being on the water at the crack of dawn, because according to his observations over many years this is a prime time to find moving fish. As an aside, many of us would know that just a few weeks ago David had a serious car accident when heading off to one of his favourite spots. He hit a kangaroo and the subsequent loss of steering control caused him to crash through a fence and collide with a tree. David was badly shaken and bruised by the accident but fortunately the only serious breaks were to his two Sage rods. Our best wishes and sympathies are with him at this time. His accident was simply bad luck - and a salutary reminder then even with the best of care mishaps can occur.

I was reminded recently that it's just a few weeks to the opening of the new season on the rivers, and the lengthening days and warming temperatures promise us some fabulous times ahead. But the winter months have been productive too, with lots of great reports from the lakes and reservoirs, especially those in the west of our state. Toolondo and Tooliorook are just two of many that have provided some truly excellent fishing.

A few weeks ago I attended the Warrnambool Fly Fishers' Annual Dinner, and on motoring down I drove past the Hopkins River at Allansford. I couldn't help but recall the many pleasant hours I spent fishing that section of the river in the 1970s, when trout more often than not were rising in numbers, providing some delightful dry fly fishing just a few miles from where I lived. Yes, they were the good old days. Perhaps. Let's not lose sight of the benefits that have come with the years. Cars and road are now so much better, giving easier and more pleasant access to our venues. The gear we use has improved out of sight.

And now we have this wonderful tool called the Internet, offering seven-day weather forecasts, up to date river heights, and much else besides. Over recent years I've discovered the delights of fly fishing podcasts, with the weekly offerings by Tom Rosenbauer on the Orvis site being particularly useful. For those who are interested, try <http://orvisffguide.libsyn.com> and dip into the hundreds of informative chats on all manner of trouty issues. I download them to an iPhone and listen to some of Tom's advice whilst trotting down to the shops to pick up the milk or whatever else we've run out of.

And what about that huge, incredible, and rapidly expanding library of YouTube movies that are available. Do you want to improve your double hauling, or tie a parachute Adams, or learn about French Leader Nymphing, or try your hand at Spey casting, or see some of the fishing the Tasmanian Western Lakes offer? Take your pick. Choose almost any fly fishing topic you want to pursue and almost certainly there will be a short movie available, free to access, telling you all about it. Yes, some are rubbishy and of awful quality, but lots are quite good.

But it still doesn't beat the real thing. I'll tie some more flies this week and check my gear (rods, lines, reels, leaders, waders, etc) in readiness for this new season, as our President wisely suggests in his column. Hope springs eternal.

Tight lines, *Lyndon Webb*

Advance Notice - September AGM

The September general meeting is traditionally the Annual General Meeting. It's still a few weeks away, but our President is keen to remind us that all financial members are eligible for nomination and election to the Council. Notice papers relevant to the AGM are included with this newsletter, including the Nomination Form, Appointment of Proxy Form, and the Notice of Annual General Meeting.

Council meets regularly and all the management issues involved in running the Association are dealt with there. Thus the general meetings are given over totally to the advertised activities – guest speakers, auctions, fly tying demonstrations ...

So if you have some experience and talent in management, and a keen desire to see our Association remain strong and vibrant and responsive to the needs of members, please give some thought to nominating for Council. Be assured, meetings are lively and entertaining, and you will be enriched by your participation, as well as contributing your skills and knowledge to the benefit of our Association.

The date – Thursday, September 19, at the Celtic Club.



*Tichborne
watercolour*

The Take

July General Meeting – an evening with Fred Dunford

(This is the text of Fred’s talk. He described his session with the VFFA as one of the best and liveliest of the several he has attended. His presentation focused on the ‘Save the Eucumbene’ Campaign, which stopped developers from building houses and other constructions on the Lake shores and thus closing off access to large sections of the Lake. Fred was awarded the highly esteemed Jack Ritchie Medal for his efforts in this Campaign. His talk gave a fascinating and perhaps rather alarming account of his battle with the developers and agents of both local and State government.)

Gentleman, we have with us tonight a very special guest - my son George, esteemed editor and publisher without whom our book, *The Time of the Take*, would still be languishing in the ‘too hard’ bin. Since arriving in Melbourne George has racked up an imposing resume in writing and publishing. He was, and is, a multi-award winning short story writer and freelance journalist. He has had a stellar career, rising to an executive editorial position at the Lonely Planet’s headquarters in Melbourne, and as such has extensively updated and revised most of the current Lonely Planet Guidebooks.

Meanwhile, what about our little gem of a fishing book – the *Time of the Take*? The consensus among the three publishers, who effectively tied up the book for a grand total of six years, seemed to be unanimous: it was just all too hard! Especially considering such a small market, and the sheer volume of visuals - the author’s 40 drawings and graphics and the 86 photos. As I said – just too darned hard, or so you might think.

Then along came George, and lo and behold, in well under six weeks, let alone six years, back came the first proofs for the whole book. In due course half a truckload of freshly minted copies is backing its way down my convoluted driveway in Cooma. And all of this in George’s non-existent spare time, while in the throes of a difficult and demanding new job and the arrival of an absolutely adorable new baby daughter. And all on a shoestring budget! George - tonight you are among friends, so please stand and be counted with our great friends of the VFFA.



Fred Dunford –
well supplied with his *Time of the Take*

It might sound a bit like a cliché, but back in 2005 I also ‘had a dream’. Only it wasn’t a hallelujah sort of dream - this one was more of a troubled sort. So troubled in fact that I went back to the book with a scalpel and edited out everything that could conceivably have ended up in controversy, or worse still - back in court again. Indeed in looking back on my never ending campaign days, not only did I lose a good 10 to 15 years in publishing this book, but in the process I seem to have trodden on some mighty big toes. None more so than in the 23 year *Save the Eucumbene* Campaign, starting with Muzzlewood in 1986 – 87.

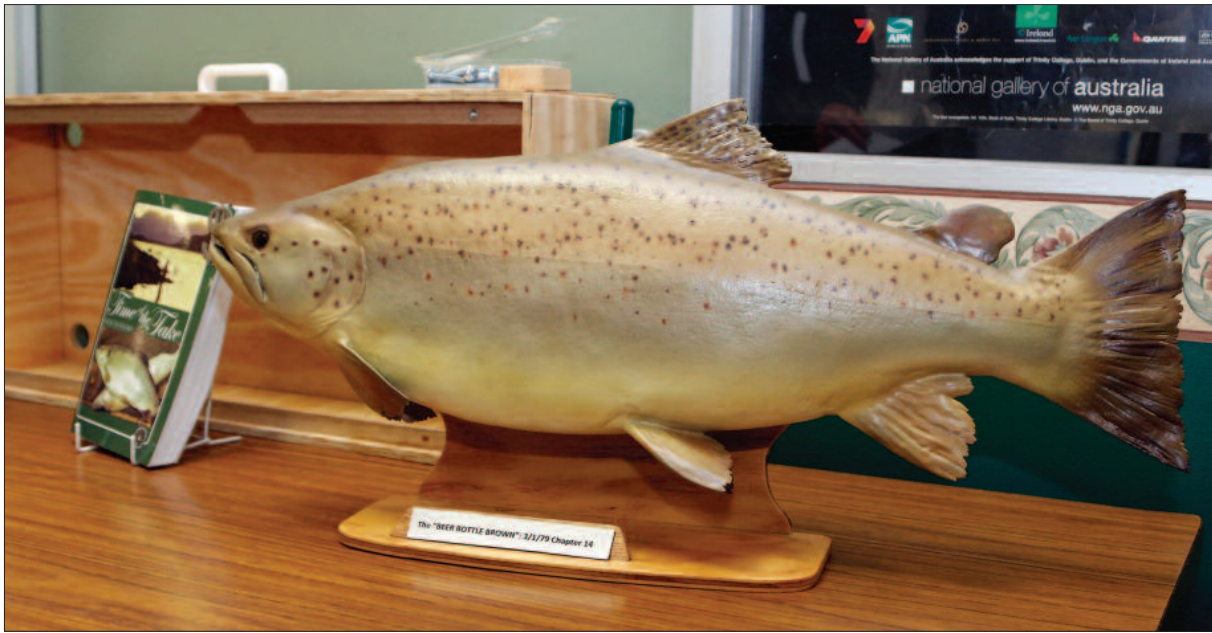


Fred's audience

Only ever advertised in the main daily newspaper in Tokyo, Japan, and featuring business-suited overseas executives prowling round the Lake in Avis rental cars, the first cab off the ranks in 1987 was a proposed \$150 million township of 1,200 people, with shops and houses down to the water's edge on the Frying Pan Arm, plus of course all the requisite infrastructure of boat marinas and the flying boat pontoons, etc. Mind you they already had six caravan parks and 2½ suburbs of lakeside development as it was. Indeed, as I often said at the time, had it not been for our 2,164 Letters of Objection that propelled us into the Land and Environment Court in Sydney, we would all be now “fishing under the street lights at the Lake”. And, by the way, we are not talking here about 2,000 form letters; it was 2,164 individual letters from as far afield as Littleton in Colorado to the Australian Embassy in Moscow, and ranging from High Court judges and South Australian Premier Don Dunstan to a 12-year-old Wagga schoolboy. And I should mention that other Save The Eucumbene stalwart - Tom Edwards, who was leading the charge for the VFFA.

At that time, according to the Dominion Consulting/Pepperell Research and Consulting survey on NSW fisheries, the Lake was generating the best part of \$70 million annually, of which \$46 million was coming back to the local district and creating 500 to 700 local jobs. We therefore took on the combined might of the local landholder, the Snowy River Shire, the (State Premier) Bob Carr's Department of the Environment (which had already gazetted the development), and the Overseas Development Consortium in a landmark week-long hearing on the 9th February 1989 which is now cited as a precedent in three Australian legal Tomes. At about this time a 7:30 Report on ABC TV was mysteriously canned – despite John Sautelle's amusing little homily about saddling up stray kangaroos to get into the more remote fishing venues and using the joey's pouch to pack his gear in (as reported on BBC TV).

As a delegation of concerned citizens we visited the State Premier Bob Carr. Bob rolled his eyes and made sympathetic noises but did absolutely nothing, despite kyboshing a



A magnificent Lake Eucumbene trout

development similar to ours only a month earlier. We found the reason much later - back in his school days apparently Bob was best classmates with the developer!

Anyway, come one, come all, we took them all on. Needless to say winning the Muzzlewood 1 court case on the first of two out of five points of claim was only the beginning, and not, unfortunately, the end. To their credit the Snowy River Shire did actually learn a few things about the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act - about hiding, or trying to hide, the Development Application all through the Public Exhibition period. "So all right", chortled the judge, "Are you telling me the Development Application was hanging on a rusty nail behind the town planner's door? Now this door, you say, was fronting onto the main corridor - right? And the corridor, you say, was leading to the front foyer - right? Surely you are not trying to tell me that's the same thing as being on 'Public Display' on the front noticeboard in the Public Foyer!"

As featured in the Snowman's "Top Ten of the Year Pick" in the Cooma Monaro Express it was amazing how many brand-new front noticeboards were springing up around the district following Judge Steine's ruling in the Land and Environment Court that year. To their credit, the Snowy River Shire did unanimously reject the Mark II and Mark III amended applications, but not the Mark IV. In fact if you take the disused laneway to the left just before the last ramp at O'Neill's Bay you can still see all that remains of the dream for a Japanese village of 1,200 people. In fact there used to be a large advertising hoarding there until the wags plastered it with *Save The Eucumbene* stickers. Of course, no prizes for guessing who got the blame for that lot.

Anyhow the Snowy River Shire was on our side for the infamous Unlosable / Unwinnable court case. Unlosable because the proposed houses that the developers wanted to build were in plain view from the Lake at the 'Top Water Level' - in blatant breach of the Shire's own Local Environmental Plan and the Regional Environmental Plan. And unwinnable because the eminent QC (just retired and therefore ineligible to practice under the 90 day rule) came up

from Sydney expressly to bully the Country Circuit Judge and discredit the witnesses. “So, all right Mr Save The Eucumbene Convenor,” said the leading city QC, like the spider to the fly, “Let’s get one thing straight from the start - you are representing yourself and no one else, aren’t you!” It was hard to believe he could be so poorly briefed! I just happened to have on me a wad of the 2,000 odd letters to wave around from the witness box. Needless to say after this elemental blunder, every time the good QC tried to lead the witness the answer came back in a flash: “Do you mean *my* opinion, or the opinion of the anglers of Australia?” Curiously the rest of the interrogation was cut almost obscenely short!

But it made no difference. As was to become patently obvious at the subsequent Site Inspection, we were always going to lose the unlosable court case, and the subsequent appeal in Sydney too, by the way. An example was the bizarre Subaru Brumby stunt: while the Circuit Judge was storming down the Lake from Adaminaby in a fast motorboat the opposition was desperately trying to hide a Subaru Brumby among the rocks. Make of it what you will, but I think the rationale was “if the good judge couldn’t see the Subaru Brumby behind the huge granite massifs then he wouldn’t be able to see the three proposed houses and their outbuildings either.” Then later, looking from the proposed house sites straight down over the rocky ledge and into the water, the judge says in all seriousness, “Couldn’t you chaps just close your eyes, or look the other way, when you’re walking past down there?”

The proposal for just three houses was put up because legally this was the maximum number that didn’t require advertising. And once the precedent was set there would be houses everywhere, and we would all have been ‘looking the other way’ whenever we went down to the Lake! Finally there was the absolute clincher: “Who said anything about houses,” declared the judge in his final summation a few weeks later. “It’s only just lines on a map,” he continued. “Who is to say whether there will be any houses are or not?” Two court cases about imaginary lines on a map? Pull the other one. Altogether a sorry day – or should I say another sorry day – in the history of the New South Wales justice system.

Months later there was the threatened Libel Action. Headed by a firm of Sydney solicitors, it was obviously calculated to rain on Mr Convenor’s 1996 Christmas cheer. But alas, once again apathy chipped in to lend a hand and the whole thing backfired. The intimidating Letter of Demand sat in the Cooma North mailbox, uncleared until well after Christmas and weeks after the deadline had expired. Curiously the demands for public retraction and apology were never forthcoming!

Meantime, what of our Save The Eucumbene car sticker sales around the Lake? Let’s revisit for a moment a couple of highlights from my 1997 address to the VFFA on this subject. Before I could even get a knock on the door this day at Buckenderra the voice from within roared, “Whatever you’re selling we don’t want it, so go away!” And with that a very large Boxer dog on steroids jumped up and started barking through the keyhole. Between barks I managed to chip in with, “I just thought you might like to help us stop the developers from taking over the Lake.” With that the door flew open, the Boxer dog was boxed around the ears, and the voice roared even louder, “Developers! Did you say developers mate? Come in! Come in! Have you got time for a beer? Or a cuppa? Is there anything else I can get you?” And finally, as I was trying to tear myself away, “Now, don’t forget, if ever you need a bed in Sydney...”

And I'd better not tell you about the day I stumbled on an outdoor session of the Anglers Reach Sunbathing Club in action. Only it wasn't just a Sunbathing Club, it was the Anglers Reach Topless Sunbathing Club. Thankfully I held my nerve, and most of those who scattered for the tents came back waving \$5 notes.

Much less, in such polite company, should I even dare mention the reluctant couple at Providence Portal Cabins. For all the world they seemed bedridden. I mean to say, it was 2 o'clock in the afternoon and the blinds were still drawn! I even had to feel my way round the room, in very bad light, to find his nib's trousers hanging over a chair. And you would never guess what fell out of the wallet before any money did. Anyhow, bedridden or not, they turned out to be dashed good sports all the same.

Now let's switch from fun with the developers to fun with the Greenies, though none of it felt much like fun at the time. But first of all – are there any Booroolong Frogs in Victoria? You are well rid of them, though of course we could always send down a few of ours if ever you need them.

Bring on the Clowns – the Great Australian Booroolong Frog Fiasco.

If you ever need to explain the meaning of hearsay evidence to your grandchildren then here we have a classic working example. The idea was that wherever you could find a Booroolong Frog anywhere near a designated trout stream, then goodbye trout stream! The New South Wales Scientific Committee would immediately slap on a trout-stocking ban. But wonder of wonders you didn't need to bring the frog in for identification, and you didn't need to photograph it on site either. In fact you didn't even need to see the frog in the first place - all you had to do was *hear* one away somewhere in the swamp at night. As I said, a beholden example of 'hearsay evidence'!

By the time the punitive bans had been hiked up from three to seven trout streams in a matter of months I decided to set aside a fortnight's book writing to see if anything could be done, though sadly the fortnight stretched out to 5½ months. The thing that turned it all around back in 2002 however was the famous Booroolong Frog Bombshell - born out of frustration and delivered in haste – at Parliament House Sydney on the 28th of February 2002. And I quote: “Booroolong Frogs are endemic to *west* flowing streams, and the only way you could find one in an *east* flowing stream, like Native Dog Creek, Bombala, would be if you put it there yourself.”

As a result? Stunned disbelief from the Director of Fisheries, more stunned disbelief from the Fisheries Minister, and stunned silence from their top-heavy team of general dogsbodies and minders as well. And the fallout? Firstly, before the New South Wales delegation of one could get back to Cooma all references to Booroolong Frogs had been systematically wiped from the Fisheries website. Secondly (also in double quick time) there was a very lame-duck apology from the Chairman of the New South Wales Scientific Committee. Ostensibly he had accidentally mixed up the grid references - the alleged frog findings, if you can believe it, should have been registered for Native Dog Creek in Oberon, not Bombala. This was much to the uproarious amusement of resident Oberon landowner, and one time Gaden Hatchery manager, David Stock. And no, he was quite sure Fisheries had never been out there. National Parks, by their own admission, had never been out there; and nor had the totally discredited NSW Scientific Committee.

Nonetheless the last mentioned group still managed to further discredit themselves with their totally subjective and biased views, as quoted in the Sydney Morning Herald of 25th of May, 2002. The Deputy Chairman and Research Fellow of the Australian Museum, John Paxton, said trout are a ‘scourge on the environment’. “I have always thought they are one of the most noxious species in Australia,” he said. The Executive Officer of the Nature Conservation Council, Kathryn Ridge, said trout were ‘not natural’. “We should be conducting a trout eradication program”, she said. The so-called Nature Conservation Council was already rotenoning trout in the ACT and should have been put in jail for it. And according to the Shadow Minister Jenny Gardiner, Kathryn Ridge had written the Threatened Species legislation to start with. So what were the chances, if any, of ever getting a fair crack of the whip with ‘scientists’ like that?

Finally at a Monaro Acclimatisation Society meeting in Cooma, Fisheries’ own Liaison Officer Alistair McBurnie was to deliver the coup de grace. As a direct consequence of the Native Dog Creek fiasco, an important trout stream in the New England region had also been magically exonerated overnight. Secondly, a whole raft of Macquarie University studies commissioned by Fisheries to settle the matter once and for all had also backfired spectacularly. In Alistair’s own words, “The graduates found that everything they had been taught about trout/frog interrelations at university was wrong, and contrary to conventional wisdom, the frogs were actually doing much better in mixed trout/frog streams than in frog only streams” - much to the horror, one would imagine, of the egregious New South Wales Scientific Committee. Indeed, given the way the Booroolong Frogs were virtually coming out of the woodwork, one could only wonder how they ever got onto the alleged Threatened Species list to start with! How could they possibly be threatened when the place was lousy with them? Meanwhile everyone else in the world was busy blaming Global Warming and the spread of the rampant Chytrid Fungus Disease for their demise. Nowhere else in the world were trout even mentioned, except that is for the iconic David Attenborough, who reported frogs disappearing from Linsley Park Ponds at an alarming rate since his early boyhood days. And you guessed it – not a trout within cooee!

And I could go on. But you may well ask was it really necessary to expunge all this from the record, and take all the fun out of the book? Well, as if in answer to that very question, a funny thing happened only the other day on the rocky road to redemption. Guess who was one of the first to write a wondrously contrite, ‘please come home all is forgiven’ type of letter, requesting a signed copy of the book: none other than one of our worst sworn enemies from the campaign days. So for all you other nasty types out there like me, if you are thinking the solicitors could be combing through it page by page as we speak, then you have my complete understanding. And of course you are probably right! Much like it was in my troubled dreams way back in 2005.

The question was asked: “Is there any anecdote in the book which symbolises what the rest of the book is about?” The answer: “Yes - the learning/discovery experience with the Pedagogue Trout at Lake Pedder in Chapter 8. It was the night of 9th of January 1979 and the canny double-figure brown was the last one out there on mopping up duties. Generally once or twice is more than enough, but the super confident Pedagogue Trout had already used up three aborted short rises to the Corduliid before he finally learned his lesson and warned himself off for the night.

But suddenly he made a side diversion, rising three times along a clear laneway between snag beds – once at the open end, once at the blind end, and once in the middle. Hoping he might have forgotten his hard-won lessons in the interim out went the Corduliid to precisely the same place as before – there and waiting for him when he came back. But no, he had learned his lessons all too well from the time before. So the second time he detoured the Corduliid was there and waiting - but this time in the middle of the blind laneway. Would he be able to extrapolate his lessons away from the original classroom situation or not? And either way, what was there to be learned for future generations? Fortunately you can easily find out in Chapter 8 of the trusty *Time of the Take*. This, and a whole lot more!

An Elder Statesman – David Featherstone

Dermot O'Brien continues our series on the VFFA's Elder Statesmen. This month he interviews David Featherstone, a man who has devoted his life to fly fishing for trout. Dermot found David absolutely effervesces when he talks about trout and his life as an elite fly-fisherman.

When did you become interested in fly fishing?

At the age of four and half my father Robert would tie a black beetle fly to gut and attach it to a piece of rod. I could not cast it, but I could drop the fly over the bank of Stony Creek - and that's how I caught my first trout.

With a life devoted to fly fishing, is there one memorable moment?

I think this would be the Eucumbene opening, because when dad, who had failing health, arrived on the scene and drove down through the snow to meet me, he said: "Feathery how did you go?" I said: "All right dad." "What did you get?" he asked.

I told him to look behind that rock over there and he did. He stood there with tears in his eyes, and I had tears in my eyes too. He was looking at a bag of browns averaging over 6 lb with fish up to 9¼ lb, all taken on a Black Matuka. I picked that Black Matuka because as I walked down to the lake I looked around and I saw something glistening in the bush ahead of me and I couldn't understand what it was at first. I had never seen anything like it! It was mudeye husks. The Black Matuka tricked 'em.

Are you a river or a lake man?

I am both. You cannot be a good fly fisherman unless you do both. When I was fishing in Tasmania a couple of years ago I was sent off on my own. I headed up the Lake River and I was fishing dry flies and it was the best time of the year. I spotted grasshoppers along the banks and I had several hopper patterns with me, including my own pattern, the DRF Hopper, which was also called the Feathery Hopper. I eventually came back to the camp and after being pushed by the boys I was able to tell them the best fish I got was 3½ pounds and a bag of 52. Now that is river fishing at its very best.

All my early years were on rivers like the Howqua, the King, the Delatite, the Rose and many others. The dry fly fishing then was amazing and the English flies we used were incredible. You could go all day using a Red Tag.



David with one of his many Trophy Trout

Do you tie your own flies?

I used to tie a few dry flies but I was not that good at it. You need the experts to tie dry flies, but I tie my wet flies. I have tied one of my own patterns that I think is fantastic. The DF Special is the best fly I ever tied and I have taken five double figure fish on it. There are also some special nymphs that I tie. I recently took eight fish on one of my patterns. [Editor – David’s ‘DF Special’, a fine stick caddis pattern, was featured as our Fly of the Month in the October 2012 newsletter]

Are you a student of entomology?

Yes, I did a 12 month course on entomology and had a wonderful time. We went out on streams and looked at the insect life. You can go all around the world and get basically the same insect life that we have here. The mayfly is something special and caddis are found right across the world. The caddis, of course, is one third of a trout’s diet anyway.

What are your thoughts on tackle?

When I started off I was using greenheart and then I got into the Hardy gear. I had a lot of success with the Hardy “Tourney,” which you never hear of today. With that rod I took the Hardy Hall of Fame and a few other records around the world. It was an 8-weight and an incredible rod. It was built for tournament casting and it was a powerful rod. With river fishing I have always gone to about a 5-weight. For Tasmania and New Zealand the modern day rods are incredible and quite often I will use a 5-weight on both lakes and rivers. But in the early days we had to use a heavier rod because they were so floppy, and with the heavier weight rods you could beat the wind. And if you can’t beat the wind you can’t catch big fish. You get only one chance to cover a big fish. For years, especially on lakes, I used an 8-weight rod exclusively.

Do you prefer double taper or weight forward lines?

In earlier days it was always a double taper because you were short of cash and a double taper really gave you two lines. But nowadays I use a weight forward.

Fly line colour generates a lot of discussion. Any thoughts?

For many years I used green lines, but in recent years I have been using blue. If you think about it, the sky is blue. If you are a good caster it doesn't matter. I have fished with champions and they were using orange lines, but because they were good fishermen it didn't make any difference.

I believe you tie your own leaders?

I do tie my own leaders - I use camouflage leaders. I call them that because they have four different colours in them and I think this is a great help, especially on crystal clear rivers. One section, the third section, is orange in colour and thus I know where the fly is if I can't see it on the water. They have eight sections in total. There is quite a demand for these leaders and people who use them tell me they love them. They are tied with a tippet of around 45 cms (18 inches) and this tippet is tied with a line I get from France called Gold Drennan. And I always scrub my leaders with a bit of mud from the river or lake bank to dull them down a bit.

In any case you must have that tippet sinking. It does not matter whether you are fishing wet or dry, that tippet must sink a little below the surface. A fish will see the tippet before it sees the fly. A sunken tippet is a must!

What is your policy on false casting?

The less false casting the better. In fact I will go up a river roll casting dry flies. Not too many do that. If you can roll cast the dry fly you won't frighten the fish. Every false cast puts a fish down. They see the line.

What advice do you have for the novice?

Learn to cast first, but don't try to teach yourself; get somebody with experience to help you. Learn how to cast correctly and that will be with you for the rest of your life. Many self-taught fly fishermen get into bad habits and they stay with them for their whole fishing career. And, never, never take your eye off the fly.

What is your advice to an experienced fly-fisherman?

Remember movement - vibration is the number one curse of the fly fisherman. The next one is false casting, so limit your false casting. And always remember the place you least expect to find a fish - make sure you fish it, because that's where he'll be.

You have fished all over the world. Is there one destination you would like to return to and fish?

Nova Scotia. I had wonderful fishing in Nova Scotia that Jim Hardy organised for me. I will never forget that experience and the water was some of the best water I have seen anywhere in the world. The other place would be Ireland. The Irish people were wonderful, and so helpful. I went to Lock Coruisk and Loch Mask and the fishing was magnificent.

Alive or dead who would you like to spend a day fishing with?

My dad. All his life he was a fly fisherman. He fished with a lot of legendary fishermen, and in my view he was one of them. He started off fishing in Tasmania and the first time I went there

with him we went to the Shannon Rise. To see him fishing with those blokes was wonderful.

Did you fish the Shannon Rise?

I fished the Shannon Rise three times. It was an amazing experience.

Do you have one memorable character?

My most memorable character was Bill McLay. In my opinion Bill was the greatest fisherman I ever encountered. I guided with him in New Zealand for five years. He was a Scot and he moved from South Australia to New Zealand and when he died he was written up as the “greatest fly fisherman, the greatest caster, the greatest fly tier and the greatest hatchery-man.” He would walk along the river and tie flies as he saw the insects on the water.

Perhaps a local character that stood out?

J.M. Gillies. And I would not forget Harold Darby. However, there were many other great characters down the years - people like Geoff Youl, David Scholes, Noel Jetson, Dick Wigram, John Brookes, Max Christensen, Dr Terence Butler, Colin Gibson, Don Gilmour, Jim Ferrier and Jim Hardy.

Cane rods have made a comeback?

They are wonderful. But I prefer to go with the modern day rods. Today's graphite rods are light and powerful. I like to fish in heavy winds and you cannot do that with a lot of the cane rods. But on a lovely little stream a cane rod is delightful.

What is wrong with fly fishing for trout in Australia today?

Insecticides have caused a lot of problems. Heartbreaking! Years ago when I walked up the King River with Norm Gibb, who was a wonderful dry fly fisherman, we spoke to all the farmers and told them that if they continued to leave empty insecticide drums on the side of the river then they would kill fish. The next week there was a major fish kill from just one empty drum.

How important is the VFFA to you?

I have been in the VFFA for 52 years and it is the greatest organisation of all.

In your study at home you have memorabilia from 50 years. I also see several awards.

I am twice named in the Hardy Hall of Fame – in 1971 and 1995. And I am a member of the Sage Hall of Fame for 2008.

What does stand out in your study are the mounts of big fish.

I am a big fish fisherman. I love big fish and I have caught 45 double figure fish. They are all recorded and I look forward to catching more. One fish I am particularly proud of is the 12 lb brown which still holds the record at Eildon. I caught that fish in 1956 on a Reg Lyne Minnow.

What are the challenges ahead, the new frontiers of fly fishing?

Private waters. If you want class fishing in Victoria you will have to access private water. There is already a lot of private water. Fifty years ago dad and I hired a plane and we flew around Victoria looking for good water. We then went to the farmers and asked if we could stock their private dams, and over the years that's what I have done. I have made great friends

Warrnambool Annual Dinner

There was a hare in my soup. Yes, that's right ... and a number of other quite delectable ingredients too. In fact the soup was superb, as was the rest of the menu.

Saturday July 27 was the date for this year's Warrnambool Fly Fishers' Annual Game Dinner – a truly unique event. Most fishing clubs and associations have an annual dinner but I'm not aware of too many others where the fare provided and served consists of local fish and game carefully gathered by members in the months prior.

Nearly 70 people – club members and partners and friends and invited guests – gathered in the Members Lounge of the Warrnambool Racing Club Pavilion. Not a jockey in sight but there was plenty of Hors D'Oeuvres (sorry!) - trays piled high with deep-fried crumbed abalone. President Adrian Jacobs finally got the crowd seated and set the tone with a rollicking and hilarious welcome.

There were four entrees – game soup, salt and pepper squid, smoked trout with smoked eel, and finally a hare and duck terrine served with Woodford Crabapple sauce. The main course was grilled kangaroo sirloin with roasted veggies, and the festivities were completed with a fine selection of cheeses and Woodford Quince Paste served with coffee or tea.

During the evening the Geoff O'Brien Memorial Trophy for the best selection of flies tied by a WFFC member was awarded to Peter Hussey, and the Arthur Hogan Memorial Trophy for the largest trout caught in the district in the past 12 months went to Jim Blakeslee, whose name was already listed several times on the trophy among the previous winners. Jim's winning fish was a 6 pound brown trout caught just a few weeks' prior to the dinner.

The evening finally wound to a close and after copious farewells and lingering discussions on the local fishing and prospective trips to Tasmania and New Zealand we all headed home.

Congratulations to Chef Robert King and his team, and to Adrian Jacobs (President), Hafey Rock (secretary) and the other very industrious members of the Warrnambool Fly Fishers for another wonderful event and a superb meal.



Magnificent fried abalone



Jim Blakeslee won the Arthur Hogan Memorial Trophy



Fine food and great company

Bairnsdale Donger Weekend

(an invitation from Peter Campbell)

This is an open invitation to all members to enjoy a great weekend of fishing and fun.

Our hosts will be the Bairnsdale Fly Fishers, and the date is Friday October 25 for their Annual Dinner, followed by fishing on the Saturday and Sunday for the Dudley Lee Donger. You can then stay on if you wish for the Sunday night and fish again on the Monday, leaving after lunch.

The Bairnsdale Fly Fishers' Mitta Lodge is five-star accommodation. It sleeps 12 and is very well appointed. I have been attending this weekend for about 30 years and can assure you of a truly great time.

The main meal on the Saturday evening is roast beef with all the trimmings, followed by desert consisting of my renowned apple pie with lavish helpings of cream. There is a barbecue lunch on the Sunday at 1 PM, following the official weigh in.

The fishing in this area can be quite challenging. However you will be given plenty of advice and guidance and possibly even guided by one of the Bairnsdale club members on some delightful stretches of the justifiably famous Mitta Mitta River. You can also fish some of the many other surrounding streams. They should all be flowing well and running clear by this time.

We need to know numbers at least two weeks prior to the date. If you would like to be part of this great weekend then please contact either Peter Campbell on 9744 3308 (after 8 pm) or Mike Jarvis on 9822 4017.

The Australian Team – Fishing near the Arctic Circle

(The Australian team is currently in Mosjøen, in Northern Norway, preparing for the World Championships. This year's FIPS-Mouche World Fly Fishing Championship will involve national teams from all continents, with anglers competing for three days. Jason Garrett is the Australian Team Captain, and the following notes are extracts from emails he has written to team supporters. We thank Paul Squires for passing them on.)

Monday July 29

To friends of Fly Fish Australia,

This email is the first in a series of communications to keep you informed on the progress of the Australian Fly Fishing Team as we battle with some thirty other countries to win medals at the 33rd World Fly fishing Championships in Mosjøen, Norway.

Australia competes each year, and along with South Africa and Chile are the only three nations from the Southern Hemisphere competing this year. Other countries to compete this year include England, Ireland, Scotland, USA, Canada, Japan, Mongolia, Spain, France, Portugal, Italy, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Belgium, Hungary, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands and Rumania.

We have five competing anglers, a reserve angler, a Captain and a Manager. Tasmania is well represented with four of the anglers - Joe Riley, a policeman; Jonathon Stagg, a construction supervisor; Craig Carey, a crash repair owner-operator; and Christopher Bassano, a professional fishing guide - all from the north of the State, plus myself as Captain and Glenn Eggleton, a retired lawyer from Sydney, as Manager. Chris Dawson, a schoolteacher, and Mark Bulley, a building contractor (our reserve angler) are both from the ACT.

I have captained the team on four previous occasions, and this is the ninth occasion on which I have been included in an Australian team. This year every member of the team believes we can win both team and individual gold medals. We are working well together as a team and training for both fishing and fitness has been exceptional.

Mosjøen is only 120 km south of the Arctic Circle and is situated on a Fiord where the Vefsna River enters the Fiord. This year's competition will be held on three rivers and two lakes. The river Vefsna is a wide and powerful river perhaps 200 metres wide and subject to changing water levels, so we may be limited to only fishing the edges of it. The Austervefsna river may not be so powerful but from the information we have it seems a challenging river for the fly fisher. The Fiplingdalselva is the third river, a smaller stream. These waters would seem to offer a broad range of fishing techniques with dry fly fishing with caddis patterns a distinct possibility. On Lake Storvatnet anglers will compete from boats whereas on Lake Svartvatnet anglers will have individual beats marked out along the shoreline.



Chris Bassano with a 47 cm grayling



Team members busily tying flies

The Championship officially commences on Sunday August 11, with registration of the teams, and the actual competition starts on Wednesday, August 14. Best wishes and I look forward to keeping in contact with you all.

Jason Garrett, Captain of the Australian Fly Fishing World Team, Norway 2013

Friday August 2:

Here we are in Mosjøen, just south of the Arctic Circle. The hotel is very old, and on the banks of the Vefsna River. Five overly-tired Aussie fly fishers are sprawled on their beds, totally exhausted from forty-three hours of flights and waiting in airports. Are we glad to be here? You bet we are!

Yes, we have five of the team here and our sixth, Christopher Bassano, has been hospitalised for a week in Wales with a gastro attack. We are hoping to get him over here on Sunday. Our other bad news is that Chris Dawson opened his bag upon arrival to find most of his fly tying equipment had been removed, thus losing all his hooks. Glenn also donated his hooks to Customs on the way here. So maybe we won't be fishing with barbless flies - maybe hookless flies instead! Mosjøen is not a place with stores selling barbless hooks.

It is a fine day here today with the temperature about 17°C, with another 23 hours of daylight on it's way. You will find some wonderful pictures on our Facebook page at FFA.Inc. [Check this site for photos: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Fly-Fish-Australia-Inc/567635949937324>, and <http://www.wffc2013.com/fips-mouche-world-fly-fishing-championship-2013> for the Championship].

Jason Garrett, Captain

Saturday August 3:

Hi all friends of FFA,

These fish of Mosjøen (pronounced 'Mooshen'), are mean little critters. Today we fished the Vefsna some twenty kilometres upstream from Mosjøen. We clambered down very steep

overgrown banks to reach the water, and once there had about two metres of wadeable water before it became too deep. The day was warm and sunny, and the water clear and flowing steadily. In the shallows close to the bank small browns and grayling rose sporadically to tiny flies. Yes it was chocolate box fishing and all the team caught fish, the best of which was Mark Bulley's 34 cm brown.

After lunch we found more accessible water on the far side of the river where we found rising grayling. Again they were casual feeders and only Jonathon had measurable success with them, using nymphs and small dries.

After day one we are beginning to think that these Norwegian fish like eating the same imitations as their Tasmanian counterparts. We are very conscious however of our need to match the expertise of the Eastern European anglers when it comes to locating and catching large numbers of grayling from a pod of fish. We have good grayling fishermen in our team and we will concentrate on finding such pods and sharing the techniques in taking them one by one from the pod. This lower section of the Vefsna is the only competition water to hold grayling and the team that can master grayling fishing is sure to win this sector and maybe the Championship. With that in mind we intend to return to this limited access water to maximise our opportunities before the Poms get a crack at them. Yes, it's tactics, tactics and more tactics - and I've only mentioned the clean ones!!

Best wishes,

Jason Garrett, Captain

Monday August 5:

Today we have been mastering a new technique for catching very small fish. Most championships have a minimum length of 20 cm for eligible fish, but here in Norway it has been reduced to 18 cm. These small trout and grayling inhabit the shallow edges of the big fast flowing rivers. The water is crystal clear and the majority of the fish caught are less than 18 cm and do not score. If you have ever seen a mosquito skating across the water's surface then that will give you some idea of the size of our flies. Of course this is not the only method of fishing here, but we are quickly learning it is a very important in waters not producing fish by the more traditional methods of Czech and French nymphing.



Joe Riley fishing the Vefsna River

I am so proud of this team and their dedication. Only minutes after arriving at a new venue they become just distant figures, all trying pre-determined techniques, all totally committed to the task in hand, sometimes filling their waders to cross a channel, and often appearing totally oblivious of downstream raging rapids.

Christopher arrived late today, a much thinner man, but we aim to correct that and have him catching fish in the morning.

Best wishes, Jason Garrett



Jonathon Stagg with a typical lake trout

Tuesday August 6:

Hi all,

We set out this morning on a bright hot sunny day temperature 20°C, not bad seeing that we are almost on the Arctic circle. Upon arriving at our special lake we were not too optimistic, being greeted by a flat calm surface and a few tiny rising fish.

After some deliberation Mark, Christopher and I set forth on a glorious morning, without much hope of catching a trout but with plenty of cheerful banter. I

rowed passed two ladies dragging a bright orange paravane (?) attached to which was some thirty feet of strong line and a dozen flies on droppers. Of course they caught a trout right under our noses. I wondered for a moment if they might be available to join our team.

Our team total for the morning was just one fish, so we lunched and talked about what to with the rest of the day. I asked Roy, the local guide - a dairy farmer by day and gaol security man by night - if we might fish a lovely river we had passed earlier in the day. "Of course," he replied, "I know the owner and you won't have to buy a licence." So we set forth on what was to be our best fishing day.

We left our big black coach in a farmer's field just off the highway and headed to the stream. This was no ordinary river - it was the classic trout river as one might expect to find in New Zealand. Within minutes the excited team had disappeared upstream and downstream. Five hours later the first to return was a somewhat drowned rat looking Craig who had gone under as he had stepped out of the river to return to the coach.

Scouts were sent out to retrieve Christopher who was obviously enjoying his first day fishing in Norway. An impatient farmer's wife turned up driving a large tractor, somewhat frustrated as we had blocked access to her silage bundles. We all cried out "Australia!" Immediately the farmer's wife turned on a smile to melt the lot of us. Yes it was her private river and yes we were exempted from punishment, and yes we could return for practice whenever we wished. Clambering back on board her tractor she turned and said, "Oh by the way, you didn't happen to see the bears did you? Come, I'll show you their footprints in the river sand". Sure enough we inspected the bear prints which were frighteningly large.

The mountains are covered with forests of fir trees and silver birch. Norway is indeed a beautiful country.

Best wishes, Jason Garrett

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

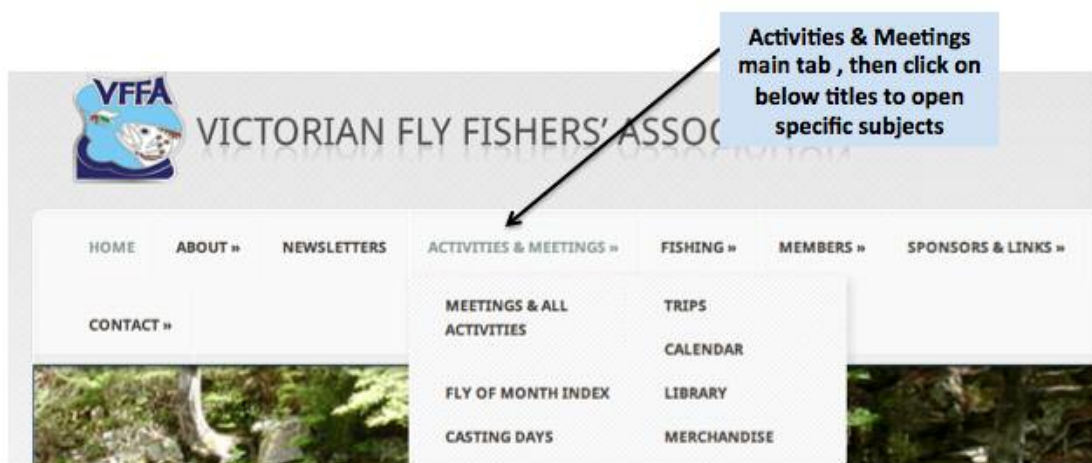
Features of vffa web site:

- Monthly Newsletter delivered to members in full colour
- Live access to more than 5 years of past Newsletters
- Newsletter in PDF format for easy reading on computers / iPad / tablets & smart phones
- Newsletter in PDF format can be read & saved in iPad / tablets like eBook's
- Calendar of all activities can sync with all you digital device calendars
- Gallery of events - Photos - Event reports
- Where to fish directories , Vic, Tas, NSW, NZ

The Web tab Contents:

This article is the third in a series, this one concentrates on the ACTIVITIES & MEETINGS tab and their content, a guide is shown below with the features highlighted by arrows and directions.

This is the most comprehensive segment of the web site, focusing on the activities of the association and popular club subjects.



Meetings & All Activities

June 2013

- 2 Sunday Casting commences at the Red Tag Casting Pools (9:00 am – 1:00pm)
- 6 Dinner with Partners – at the Celtic Club (Convenor – Peter Boag)
- 9 Sunday Casting – at the Red Tag Casting Pools (9:00 am – 1:00pm)
- 15 Annual Cane Makers' Day – Northern Suburbs Fly Fishing Club
- 16 Annual Cane Day – at the Red Tag Casting Pools (Organised by Bernard Holbery)
- **20 General Meeting – 8:00 pm at the Celtic Club: Speaker – Bill Classon**
- 23 Sunday Casting – at the Red Tag Casting Pools (9:00 am – 1:00pm)
- 26 Council Meeting – 7:30 pm at the Celtic Club
- 30 Sunday Casting – at the Red Tag Casting Pools (9:00 am – 1:00pm)

July 2013

- 7 Sunday Casting – at the Red Tag Casting Pools (9:00 am – 1:00pm)
- 14 Sunday Casting – at the Red Tag Casting Pools (9:00 am – 1:00pm)
- **18 General Meeting – 8:00 pm at the Celtic Club: Speaker – Fred Dunford**
- 21 Sunday Casting – at the Red Tag Casting Pools (9:00 am – 1:00pm)
- 27 Warrnambool Annual Game Dinner
- 28 Sunday Casting – at the Red Tag Casting Pools (9:00 am – 1:00pm)

August 2013

- 2/3/4 Annual Bullen Merri trip (Convenor – Richard Kos)
- 4 Sunday Casting – at the Red Tag Casting Pools (9:00 am – 1:00pm)
- 11 Sunday Casting – at the Red Tag Casting Pools (9:00 am – 1:00pm)
- 14 Council Meeting – 7:30 pm at the Celtic Club
- 18 Sunday Casting – at the Red Tag Casting Pools (9:00 am – 1:00pm)
- **23 Annual Dinner – Guest Speaker: Jim Allen**
- 24 President's Casting Day – 10am to 3pm at the Red Tag Casting Pools

Trips tab: This tab, also provides a one-stop list of planned fishing trips over the next 6 to 9 months, see below example.

Trips

2013 & 2014 Trips

April 2013

- 12-14 Big River trip – staying at Enochs Point

July 2013

- 27 Warrnambool Annual Game Dinner

August 2013

- 2/3/4 Annual Bullen Merri trip (Convenor – Richard Kos)

October 2013

- 25 – 27 Re-scheduled Donger Challenge at the Bairnsdale Fishing Lodge (To be confirmed)

February 2014


- 15 – 21 Annual Trip to Tasmania, staying at Hayes on Brumby's

Fly of the month (FOTM): This tab takes you to a list of FOTM by Title and date, and by clicking on the light blue “view fly of the month blog index” as shown below, you can view current and past FOTM detail accumulating in our web history, starting December 2012.

Fly of Month Index

The Fly of the Month has been a feature of the newsletter for many years, and thus provides a very useful resource for members who are keen tiers. But if you needed to find the details of a particular pattern, then a long hunt through piles of old newsletters might be required. To facilitate the process, an index of all flies since February 1999 has been prepared (in Month order - but note that not every month had a 'Fly of the Month');

[View Fly Of The Month Blog index](#) ←



Some original flies tied for David Scholes by Dick Wigram.

Fly Index for Issues since 1999

007 Nymph	April 2003
Adams - Parachute Adams	February 2003
Adams & Parachute Adams	April 2000
Alexandra	July 1999
Alf's Geehi Beetle	May 2005
Andelle Fly	April 2006

Click to view full details of FOTM, accumulating from February 2013

Casting Days: This tab takes you to a calendar of dates and locations for Victorian Closed season months June/July/August, mostly held at the Red Tag Casting Pool in Fairfield.

Casting Days

June 2013

- 2 - Sunday Casting commences - at the Red Tag Casting Pools
- 16 - Annual Cane Day - at the Red Tag Casting Pools
- 23 - Sunday Casting - at the Red Tag Casting Pools
- 30 - Sunday Casting - at the Red Tag Casting Pools

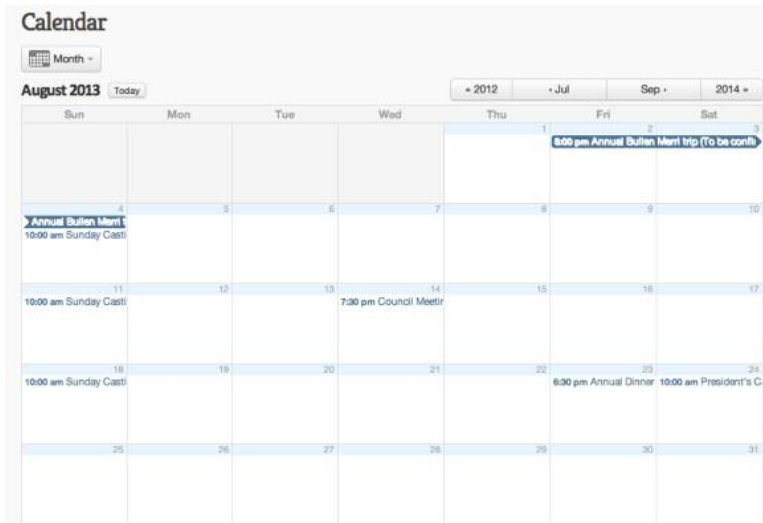
July 2013

- 7 - Sunday Casting - at the Red Tag Casting Pools
- 14 - Sunday Casting - at the Red Tag Casting Pools
- 21 - Sunday Casting - at the Red Tag Casting Pools

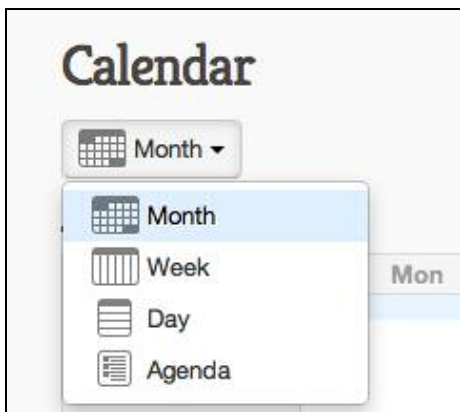
August 2013

- 4 Sunday Casting - 10am to 2pm at the Red Tag Pools
- 11 Sunday Casting - 10am to 2pm at the Red Tag Pools
- 18 Sunday Casting - 10am to 2pm at the Red Tag Pool
- 24 President's Casting Day - 10am to 3pm at the Red Tag Pools

Calendar Tab: The calendar tab takes you to a regular computer style calendar as shown below; the view can be changed to various views as shown below. The calendar dates can be synchronized to your own computer.



View in drop down menu below;



Calendar dates can be synchronized to your own computer, by clicking on Subscribe (once only) at the lower left corner of the calendar are invited to connect.



Library Tab: The library tab takes you to the below opening page.

At the bottom of this page there are links- light blue that take you to lists of the library books by author or by title, they are in a PDF format, so can be saved or printed.

Library

[Click here to order the VFFA Angler Book](#)

The "Mick Martin Memorial Library" is one of the most extensive collections of flyfishing 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 vicariously enjoying the exploits of others. In addition, the library boasts a number of videos on fly-fishing.

The library is divided into three parts.

Part 1. Books available for loan to members.

Part 2. Books available for reference and not taken from the library.

Part 3. Books bequeathed to the Association and not to be taken from the cabinet.

The association also holds occasional auctions of donations and surplus book stock. These auctions are advertised through the newsletter to members. The advantages to members are numerous and highly regarded.

Click on the links below to download:

[VFFA Books by Author](#)

[VFFA Books by Title](#)

Links to library books listed by author or title

Merchandise Tab: This takes you to a list of merchandise that are available at monthly meetings, see below screen from this tab.

Merchandise

Book "The Country For An Angler" (the History of the VFFA) \$45.00 each
Book "Geehi to Great Lake" \$70.00 each
Columbia Shirts \$70.00 each
Polarfleece jacket with VFFA logo \$40.00 each
Association ties (blue or maroon) \$35.00 each
Cloth badges \$7.00 each
Diaries \$2.00 each
V.F.F.A. car stickers \$2.00 each

Book "The Australian Trout" by Jack Ritchie.....\$20.00

(Special offer - buy one, get one free!)

Members wishing to purchase any of these items should contact Hugh Maltby prior to the monthly General Meeting on t- 9455 9017 or email your order to merchandise@vffa.org.au

FLY OF THE MONTH

Frank Sawyer's 'Killer Bug'



Frank Sawyer, who died in 1980, was an English river manager, writer, and inventor of a fly that is possibly the best known and most widely used nymph ever created – the famous Pheasant Tail Nymph. Sawyer advocated a method of nymphing where the nymph was allowed to sink and then made to ‘swim’ towards the surface by slowly lifting the rod tip. The Pheasant Tail Nymph was the first and still most widely used of his weighted nymphs. It is tied with fine copper wire and the tail feathers of a cock pheasant, and is designed as a generic nymph pattern that imitates any of the dark coloured swimming nymphs.

But Sawyer created some other great patterns too, one being the ‘Killer Bug’. This fly was developed as a means of controlling grayling numbers on the River Avon where at the time it was considered vermin. The Killer Bug is designed to imitate the freshwater shrimp but also looks similar to a hatching sedge. It was named by Sawyer’s friend Lee Wulff. It is tied with large amounts of copper wire and light beige wool. It was originally tied with a wool called ‘Chadwick’s 477’. When production of this wool ceased in 1965 Sawyer switched to a specially produced copy. In fly fishing circles the original Chadwick’s 477 wool is considered to have mythical fish-catching properties and lengths of the wool still sell for hundreds of pounds. Samples are still sold on eBay for huge prices.

*Samples of Chadwick 477 –
some very expensive wool*



Interested readers can go to this website -

<http://thelimpcobra.com/2013/03/17/oliver-edwards-frank-sawyers-killer-bug-and-pheasant-tail-nymph-and-putting-all-that-old-stuff-to-good-use>. Here you will a YouTube video of famous British fly fisher Oliver Edwards fishing Sawyer's river, the Avon, using the Killer Bug and the Pheasant Tail Nymph. He also demonstrates the tying of the Killer Bug.

So how do we tie this fly, and what about that wool that is now almost impossible to obtain? Chadwick's 477 was a fawn colour but had red fibres running through it. When the yarn was wet, the red fibres gave it a pinkish-tan hue. One modern fly tier suggests that any good medium to dark grey yarn will work, but use 100% wool for its translucency and 'bugginess'.

Frank Sawyer's Killer Bug:

Hook: Nymph hook, sizes 10 - 16
Thread: Very fine copper wire
Body: Greyish or beige yarn, 100% wool.
Head (Optional): Some tiers add a red head to the fly.

Tying Procedure:

(This is a very simple fly to tie, and experienced fly tiers will soon develop their own tying sequence. The steps given here are just one way of constructing the fly.)

- 1 Start by wrapping a wire base along the hook shank. A drop of superglue on the wire after you've got it started will keep it from spinning around the hook, if that troubles you.
- 2 Cut a piece of yarn about 15 cm long for the fly. Separate the yarn into its individual plies. One ply is more than enough to tie any fly because you are going to make the body three layers thick.
- 3 Tie in the ply of yarn at about the one-third point on the hook and continue to wrap the wire to the end of the shank. Stop the wire above the hook barb and wrap the yarn back to the wire. Hold the yarn there and then take the wire back to the hook eye in open spirals.
- 4 Now wrap the yarn forward to the hook eye and then back to the end of the shank again. You want to make a symmetrical, cigar-shaped body with the wire at the hook eye.
- 5 Spiral the wire back over the body to make a wire ribbing. Tie off the yarn with three or four tight turns of wire. Add a small drop of superglue and make three tight turns to finish the fly at the tail.



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 Peter Boag 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 2012 Annual Dinner:

Aussie Angler Pty Ltd • Armadale Angling • Australian Fishing Network • Flyfisher Magazine • FlyLife Magazine • Hayes on Brumbys • Hookup Bait and Tackle • J. M. Gillies Pty Ltd • Mayfly Tackle, Mick Hall Flies • Millbrook Lakes Lodge • Nick Taransky Bamboo Rod Maker • Pro-Angler Tackle • Ray Brown Onkaparinga Flies • Stevens Publishing Pty Ltd • The Compleat Angler Box Hill • The Flyfisher Tackle Store • The Fly Fishers Rod and Creel in Thornbury • Vision and Pisces Fly-Fishing Tackle

VFFA Meetings & Activities

August 2013

- 4 Sunday Casting - at the Red Tag Casting Pools (9:00 am – 1:00pm)
- 9 - 11 Annual Bullen Merri trip (Convenor – Richard Kos)
- 11 Sunday Casting - at the Red Tag Casting Pools (9:00 am – 1:00pm)
- 14 Council Meeting – 7:30 pm at the Celtic Club
- 18 Sunday Casting - at the Red Tag Casting Pools (9:00 am – 1:00pm)
- 23 Annual Dinner – Guest Speaker: Jim Allen**
- 24 President's Casting Day - 10am to 3pm at the Red Tag Casting Pools

September 2013

- 11 Council Meeting – 7:30 pm at the Celtic Club: preparation for the AGM
- 19 Annual General Meeting - 8:00 pm at the Celtic Club.**

October 2013

- 17 General Meeting - 8:00 pm at the Celtic Club: Speaker – Rick Dugina**
- 23 Council Meeting – 7:30 pm at the Celtic Club
- 25 – 27 Re-scheduled Donger Challenge at the Bairnsdale Fishing Lodge

November 2013

- 15 - 17 Annual Warrnambool Trip – Convenor Hugh Maltby
- 21 General Meeting - 8:00 pm at the Celtic Club – Book Auction**
- 27 Council Meeting – 7:30 pm at the Celtic Club

December 2013

- 12 Christmas Dinner at the Celtic Club - Guest Speaker: John Diggle (CEO Tasmanian IFS)**

February 2014

- 15 – 21 Annual Trip to Tasmania, staying at Hayes on Brumby's