

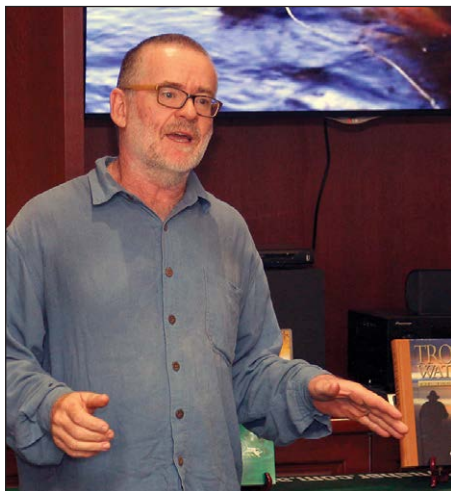
FLY LINES



AUGUST 2017

The August Annual Dinner - with Greg French

Our guest speaker for this year's Annual Dinner is Greg French, an exceptional fly fisher and guide, and a very popular author, speaker, and authority on the Tasmanian Trout Fishery.



Greg spends most of his time in Australia and New Zealand, but has fished extensively in South America, North America, the British Isles, Iceland, Eastern Europe, Japan and Mongolia.

Friday, August 25,
6:30 for 7:00pm start

Celtic Club

He has written a number of very popular books, with his best-known work being his definitive guide: *Trout Waters of Tasmania*. His last two books, published in 2016, are *The Imperiled Cutthroat* (Patagonia Books) and *The Last Wild Trout* (Affirm Press). Both have received high praise.

Greg has indicated that at this year's dinner he plans to talk about how we can maintain our youthful enthusiasm for fly fishing over the years, focusing on the importance of travel and embracing new techniques. He will illustrate his theme with anecdotes and photos from his recent travels to Europe and Greenland.

An invitation to the dinner is included as an insert in this issue.

THE VICTORIAN FLY-FISHERS' ASSOCIATION INC.

VOL. 65 NO.10 - August 2017

Organisation No. A0024750J

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September AGM

Members are reminded that our September meeting will be our 2017 AGM. It’s still a few weeks away, but President Mike Jarvis 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, so that our monthly general meetings can

be given over totally to the advertised activities – guest speakers, dinners, auctions, ...

So if you have some experience in management and a keen desire to see our Association remain 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 enjoy your participation as well as contributing your skills and expertise for the benefit of our Association.

The date – Thursday, September 21, 8:00pm at the Celtic Club.

President's Message

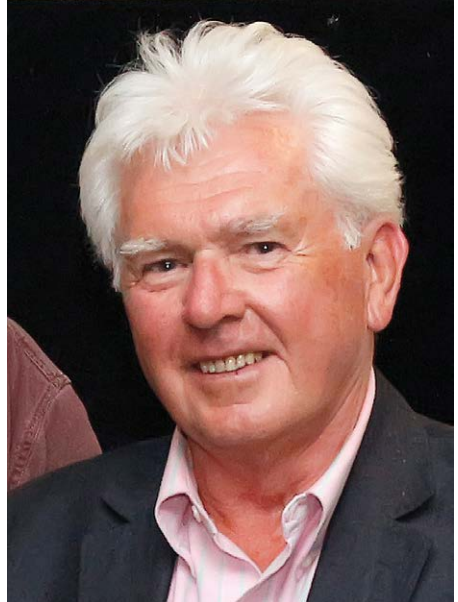
By the time you read this, time may have overtaken some of this month's message, but certainly not the implications of it.

First up, at a recent Council meeting it was decided that the closing date for entries for the Australian Fly Fishing Art and Craft Show would be extended to August 31. The Show is being staged by the VFFA from September 13 – 16 at Steps Gallery in Carlton.

The last time I checked there was renewed interest among the art community about getting involved and competing for the \$5,000 prize for the best entry. We have been fortunate to attract an eminent art world authority, Robert Ingpen, to judge the entries, which cover a wide variety of art and craft disciplines. "There has been a good flow of entries already, and the event promises to be a great success. Members and their families are invited to the opening night preview on September 13, so make a note in your diaries (and please see more information about this on page 12). Special thanks are due to Paul Squires for helping to plan this event and other Council members who are supporting the organisation."

People have asked me why the VFFA needs to get involved in an Art and Craft Show? Well, I guess it really doesn't, but I have to say it does show that we have a wide-ranging interest in all things related to fly fishing, not just getting on the water and catching fish. And surely that can't be bad.

Another event that will have taken place is the tree planting project on the Little River. I was delighted to hear from Dermot O'Brien who is organising the VFFA team to undertake the project that so many members have volunteered. And what a worthwhile project this is.



Streamside vegetation provides critical temperature relief for trout. Drought, bushfires and land clearing practices have left some of our favourite streams exposed, and temperatures can vary drastically from water exposed to the sun compared to shaded water. I am told that research shows a variance of up to 11 degrees is possible; a life or death difference for trout. So well done everyone who went along, and thank you to the Goulburn Broken Catchment Authority for organising the event and the trees to plant. A truly important activity for the VFFA. A full report on this project will be given in the next issue of *Fly Lines*.

I did enjoy listening to our July speaker, Daniel Hackett, telling a very appreciative and engaged lunch-time audience about some of the recent happenings on the Tasmanian fly fishing scene. It was great to have so many members along for the lunch event, and

also to see quite a few people who just can't make it to the night-time meetings any more. Our experiment with midday sessions certainly seems to have been popular and we will continue to look for opportunities to hold more of them in the future.

Talking about the future, there are several important events coming up quite soon. First of all we have a casting session at the Red Tag Pool on August 20, when our own Ian Sambell, a highly-qualified casting instructor, will be holding casting lessons for members. It is fantastic that Ian has offered his time for this event and I really hope it is well-attended. I saw him in action during Cane Day recently and I can't wait to hear and see what he has to offer. This is a great opportunity for casters of all levels to improve their techniques, and coming just a couple of weeks before the opening of the river trout season, it is perfectly timed as a refresher course before things get serious again.

Another one for the diary is the Annual Dinner on August 25 with well-known Tasmanian guide and author Greg French as our guest speaker. Greg is known to us all as an exceptional fly fisher and guide and his presentation with anecdotes and photos from his recent travels to Europe

and Greenland should provide something for everyone. The Annual Dinner is always a very popular event and this year's promises to be just as popular. I look forward to seeing you there for a night of good food and wine and great company. And you never know, you just might go home with one of the night's fabulous raffle prizes too.

That's just about it from me this month. One more reminder, though. Last month I made mention of the Annual General Meeting coming up in September and the opportunity this presented members to nominate for the VFFA Council and become involved in the administrative side of the Association. I said then that we really needed to attract some new faces to Council ranks to ensure the organisation's successful future. Well, the good news is that since that appeal I have had several members contact me to say they are interested. It's nice to know there are people keen to lend a hand and put a little back into the VFFA. It's also pleasing to know that some people actually read my messages from time to time!

Until next issue,



Fly Fishing Art – Lyn Smith

Last month we featured the first of Lyn's sketches of popular flies. This month she has provided us with this delightful sketch of the wet fly called the Dunkeld:

L.C. Smith,

www.artofthetrouthfly.com



The July Meeting with Daniel Hackett ...

Thank you for the introduction and the opportunity to talk today about what we do. I have been guiding now for some 16 seasons. I think I was the youngest guide when I started, and I think I probably still am.



Daniel addressing the meeting

Our business is a little different from others in that we don't guide using boats on the hydro lakes such as Arthurs or the Great Lake. We focused originally on the rivers, but then about ten years ago, with growing concerns over global warming and climate change, we looked for a second venue, so moved into the Western Lakes as a drought-proof location. The Western Lakes are unlike any fishery in the world. It's a fishery that we treasure, and look after, and enjoy taking people in to see.

My talk today will be in three parts – fishing creeks, fishing rivers, and fishing the Western Lakes. But let's first mention how Tassie has changed. Fifteen or twenty years ago you could go to the

Macquarie River in spring and catch 3 - 5 pound trout on red spinners. You might still do that now, but it would be pure luck. It's simply not dependable. Irrigation and climate change have changed the face of what we call the 'Scholes rivers' - those famous rivers that everyone knows and has read about. The Break O'Day has gone, the Macquarie in my opinion has all but gone, and even Brumbys Creek is on the way out. And all of this is due to the same factors – usage patterns and climate change.

I know a lot of you go to Tassie every year to fish, and I think that in recent years it would be fair to say that you have found it hard going. Perhaps you can overlay your experiences on the things that I've mentioned already – about how things have changed and how you should approach the fishery now in order to do a bit better.



Casting a line on a Tassie river

The Creeks

Let's first talk about creeks, and I'm talking here basically about the south-west catchment in the state's north-east, which includes the South Esk and North Esk rivers and the St Patrick's River. These all start in granite country, and all have sandy bottoms and lots of beautiful small wild brown trout. Then there are the Western Tiers creeks – not so much

granite as sand, more freestone-type waters, and again lots of small wild fish. The creeks are important because they are drought resistant, and if you go high enough up these creeks there are no irrigators and very little forestry these days, so they are reasonably sustainable going forward.

These creeks are beautiful fisheries with heaps of hatches. The PowerPoint pictures now up on the screen are of creeks from the Western Tiers catchment. Most of these are public waters, so you can pull your maps out and do some exploring. One of these is the very popular Liffey River. It has clear water and the trout are beautifully marked with lovely red dots, as you can see from the photos. Yes, they are small fish, but they love a dry fly.

This next photo shows another headwater with a gravelly bottom and tons of fish. You can go to this creek and have a fun day fishing dry flies all day, right up until the last week of April when the season closes. We fished there on this season's last day using hoppers and caught over 40 fish. And that's something that anyone could do, so go exploring and knock on some farmers' doors. These little creeks are not so good in the hottest days of mid-summer, but for the rest of the year they are excellent and provide reliable and first-rate fishing.

Switching now to the north-east streams, here is a photo of my wife Simone releasing a typical fish from water that is crystal clear. Because the bed is granite sand the fish stick out and are very easy to spot.

These days we use 5-weight rods for just about everything. I used to use short rods, but found that I couldn't reach over those grassy tussocks or lay a mend in a cast, so we now stick to 8'6" or 9' rods.

The photo on the screen now is of a creek in the next catchment over. It, too, runs off the Ben Nevis/Ben Lomond area. We were fishing there in late November when the spring waters were starting to diminish, and while there is a hint of tannin in the colour the water is still very clear.

Probably the main problem for the creeks over the past 15 years has been the cormorants. Everyone saw the cormorants and blamed them for everything for about six years. I personally think they made an impact for only about two years on the Meander River, which they hammered. But I think this was partly because it was stocked twice during those two years and this kept the cormorants there. There were a couple of other small creeks also affected by the cormorants, but for all intents and



Those Tassie rivers can be productive

>>>

purposes these creeks are ok again, and in a good year will see records. We have twice caught more than 50 fish in a day on one of these creeks, and last year our best day was more than 30.

This next photo epitomises creek fishing for me - two fish racing each other to get to the fly. A good problem to have! The photo also shows the Blue Damsel fly pattern that we developed a few years ago, and which has now become one of our best patterns. It has been a great general terrestrial dry fly.

The Rivers

By 'rivers' I mean rivers that you need to wade to fish, such as the South Esk, the Mersey, the Meander, and bits of the North Esk. These are bread and butter fisheries, and places that change the most from year to year. We have been fishing the Mersey since 2006. It now has a great angler access scheme in place, so is open to fishing in lots of sections. It is very stable, and I think is probably now the most popular river to fish in Tasmania.

I also include in our selection of rivers places like the South Esk and Brumbys Creek, which have become a bit hit and miss. I used to fish Brumbys about 60 times a year, but last year I fished it just six times. These days I'll only go there after I have checked the water levels in the morning. Then I know it's going to have clear water and is going to be high. Unfortunately, the fish numbers aren't there like they used to be. We still catch maybe 6 - 12 fish a day, but you don't see a 100 fish a day like we used to. Now we might see just 40 in a day, and it's been like that for a number of years.

The next photo on the screen is of a new fishery on the north-west coast. Well, it's new to the general public, because the coasters have kept it secret for years and are rather dark now that others are hearing about it. It's a lagoon and a great

mayfly water. It's massive in size, and only rowboats or wading are permitted. You don't need a boat though, because you can catch all the fish you want by wading. There are big fish there too, so if you are looking to try somewhere new in Tassie then this is a ripper place to go. The hard part is working out what food item the trout are feeding on because there is so much choice for them.



A black spinner leaper caught in the act

We've got five guides in our business and one of our guides, Peter Broomhall, lives on the Mersey. So we do a lot of work on this river searching out hatches that matter. One of the hatches that we have worked on are the whitebait feeders up in the river. The whitebait (galaxiids) move from the estuary up into the river in schools, and the river trout then predate on them. When the fish are on the whitebait we cast wet flies right at the fish. They smash the flies and it's very exciting fishing.

Let's have a look now at some black spinner leapers. The photo here shows a fish leaping into the air for a black spinner. Seasons are drier now, so instead of worrying about emergers and duns so much we are fishing more with spinner patterns. In dry hot conditions the duns are only on the water for about 10 seconds and then they are gone. But



The magnificent South Esk

the spinners come back, so we do a lot of work now trying to catch those spinner leapers.



One from the willows

Willow grub patterns are also increasingly important now on the Mersey. Everyone knows about the New Zealand willow grubs, but Tassie has them on the South Esk, the North Esk, and the Mersey. Every good willow tree has a trout under it, and often it's the best fish in the section. The photo here shows a typical result – a 5½ lb brown taken on

a willow grub. However the little green foam willow grub patterns that are so successful in Victoria and New Zealand aren't consistent - they only work some of the time in our rivers.

On the screen now is a photo taken in February this year on the South Esk. Anywhere from Nile up to Fingal you will find water like this, and it is easy fishing either wading or floating around in the raft. The water is clear. It gets a bit low for about four weeks in the year, so it's more a spring and autumn fishery, but it consistently produces quality fish. We might see only 30 in a day, but they stick to beats, so once we find one we know that he will stay there. Then we can set the trap.

This photo shows a typical fish from Brumbys. We've developed some great spinner patterns, and on Brumbys we use a Red Spinner or a Black Spinner or a dry damsel pattern. I've brought along samples of our patterns for you to see. If I had used the Red Spinner and Blue Damsel patterns 15 years ago when we were fishing Brumbys I would have been a very happy angler because they really work well. These same spinner patterns are the ones we now use in the Western Lakes, where 80% of the fish we catch are



Brumbys at its best

caught on our Black Spinner pattern. If you fish places like Penstock, however, the Red Spinner works best. >>>

The Western Lakes

The photo here is of the Nineteen Lagoons, and nearly all of you who go to Tasmania have fished here. But this is where we don't fish. When we originally started our wilderness trips we used to backpack people into the Nineteen Lagoons area for three days, and we did this for three years. It was good fishing on occasions, but if there was anything less than ideal weather it was bleak. I've even sheltered behind rocks because there was nothing else to shelter behind. As a fishery it's a bit one-dimensional. Ideal if you have those blue sky days that everyone knows about, but otherwise it's just really hard work.

So we have set up camp way down at the southern end, five or ten kilometres north of Lake St Clair. The main lake close by is Lake Ina. This was originally an area that the trappers and fur trade people went into, and then the shepherds followed with bushrangers in between. Then Gunns purchased most of the area, and when they went bankrupt the conservationists purchased it at auction, outbidding the loggers.

So now there is a 30 kilometre buffer owned by conservation groups, and we go in through Crown Land and the National Park World Heritage Area to fish. The pictures here show our wilderness huts, which were built six years ago. Greg French showed us how to build them, and we spent 35 days in winter putting them together. Believe me, it wasn't a great place to be in the middle of a Tasmanian winter. They are very comfortable, with two clients per hut and a communal kitchen hut.

We walk out from there to fish and might hike 5 to 10 km a day around Ina and other nearby lakes. We have some trophy waters a bit further on, and some small fish waters too where the fish are a little

easier to catch. However, we do most of our fishing in Lake Ina.

There is more than just fishing out there. There is plenty of wildlife, and lots of beautiful rocky gravel beaches with snow gums in the background. If we get a big hot northerly creating two or three foot waves, the fish will follow gum beetles up the wave and pick them off the top, then slide back down again. It is an incredible thing to watch.

It's interesting that lots of people come in to fish the area but they never seem to find our camp area. This is good because one of our aims was to set up our camp without any impact on anybody else. A proportion of the fees paid by our trip clients goes to the Tasmanian Land Conservancy to help manage the area, which is now world heritage listed. So it's been great to tie the conservation back to our fly fishing.

Usually in Lake Ina we catch fish from two year classes, and you can see from this photo that these fish are fat and fit. This fish was a galaxiid feeder, and we find that at various times of the year the juvenile galaxiids school up on the gravel edges and the fish will then work in twos or threes to push them right up to the edge. Then the trout come in and smash them. We actually use dry flies to catch these fish, with many falling to our Black Spinner.

Our trophy waters are a bit deeper and have a bit more tannin colour, but are still very clear. Fish from these waters are typically around 6 lb. We often use large terrestrial fly patterns there, jokingly called Ina Duns.

This photo shows the lake with some chop, and this often seems to put anglers off when they arrive and see it. But in fact the chop opens up your vision – you can see right through the face of the waves,

similar to what anglers do when fishing for those Great Lake ‘sharks’ they talk about. So you can see the fish coming and they don’t worry or spook, so they’re so much easier to fish to. We love these rough conditions because they are the best days for catching fish.

This photo shows a large rock in Lake Ina. We were fishing to a fish of about 5 lb that was in under this rock, because mayfly nymphs were crawling up the rock to hatch, and every time a wave came in it washed the nymphs or the duns off, and the fish was picking them off. The hardest part of this was getting the fly into the wave under the rock. It was all about exact timing - getting the fly in there precisely when the fish was moving in to take the nymphs and duns.

When you wake up in the morning you often have a frost and mist coming off the lake. All that’s fine, as we then start the day fishing to tailers.

Finally, a photo showing stuff that dreams are made of. I caught this fish in April a year ago. We didn’t weigh him, but he was 74 cm in length, so was well into double figures. I caught him on a new rod that I was trying out – a 7’ 5-weight, so was seriously under-gunned. And he took a dry fly.

I’ll finish off my presentation with a short video that was filmed last February by a guy who runs an online magazine called Catch Magazine. The complete video goes for about 17 minutes, but I will show just five minutes to give you an idea of what the fishing is like at our camp.

(Editor: This short video, which is quite stunning and well worth a look, can be seen at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5LMRAmZ_nCo. The full 17 minutes is even better still, but you need to subscribe to Catch Magazine to see it at <https://catchmagazine.net/Magazine/cmfeb2017#section=7&page=0>)



Some of Daniel’s very interested audience

There is another style of fishing that we rely on. Along the lake edge there are heaps of sheltered nooks and crannies in among boulders where it’s easy wading because the water is flat. The boulders give off heat, and the spinners hang around the rocks for the warm air in order to lay their eggs. So the fish set up territories nearby in the afternoons, and when you walk a shoreline you might find up to ten fish along 400 metres of shoreline setting up their beats. And you will at least get a refusal from every one of them. This is really fun fishing.



And now a final comment



Invitation to all VFFA members and families

Opening night preview of Australian Fly Fishers' Art & Craft Show
(sponsored and organised by the VFFA)

Wednesday September 13, 6:00pm – 9:00pm

Steps Gallery,
62 Lygon Street,
Carlton 3053, Melbourne

\$5,000 prize to be judged by renowned Australian artist and illustrator:
Robert Ingpen, AM

In order to assist with our catering requirements,
please RSVP by 6 September to the VFFA hotline T: 0498 254 497

For more information on the show please see recent coverage in The Weekly Times:

<http://www.weeklytimesnow.com.au/news/national/victorian-fly-fishers-association-staging-art-and-craft-show/news-story/eb2cbae0be53fb9cdd7ba329c0f50082>

Vale – Harry Robertson

Harry W. Robertson, August 21, 1936 - May 8, 2017 (aka “Gitano”)

Harry Robertson was a charming, very obliging and generous man. He was an exceptional fly fisher too. He lived in Virginia, USA, and owned and ran a company, Hanover Fly Fishers, which organised fly fishing trips for anglers to many parts of the globe. Harry was not actually a member of the VFFA, but he was a very keen supporter. He was a proud wearer of a shirt with a VFFA logo on the pocket, and he received a pdf copy of our newsletter each month, read it from cover to cover, and then invariably dropped your editor a kind and encouraging note.

Harry also contributed many articles to *Fly Lines* over the years, and whenever your editor was short of material for an issue Harry would soon provide something on his recent travels that was both interesting and informative. He was very keen to speak at a VFFA meeting, if ever the opportunity arose. Sadly it didn't. He was also a highly qualified and experienced casting instructor, and indicated he would love to have given casting lessons to VFFA members if he was ever in Melbourne. But this didn't ever happen, even though the possibility was often in his travel plans.

Paul Squires was a close friend of Harry's, and has provided the following tribute:



Harry was a great friend of the VFFA

I first met Harry Robertson in Buenos Aires, when I was on my way home in February 2008 after a week on the Rio Grande River in Patagonia, Argentina. Yale Sacks, another American friend, and myself had stayed at Estanche Maria Behety fishing for sea run brown trout. Harry and his clients had just spent a week at a lodge further up the Rio Grande.

We were introduced by Peter Bidovec, who runs a transit company in Buenos Aires. He and Harry were long time business associates and friends. During dinner Harry asked me if I knew anything about fishing in the Gulf of Carpentaria, which I didn't, as I had not fly fished there. He was keen on organising a trip there with his clients and casting students. I offered to do the research on a possible trip and pass the organization on to him. My research led me to recommend Greg Bethune of Carpentaria Seafaris, and accordingly Harry set up a booking for late April to early May, 2010.

The trip was very successful, with Harry, seven of his clients, Scott and Lisa (friends of ours) and my wife Jenny and myself booking out the mothership.

Harry and I became firm friends, communicating regularly and offering each other advice regarding fishing locations. Harry also gave advice on fly fishing gear, as he was an agent for many of the American-based firms. He made me a guide within his group so I could access gear at guides' rates, as I needed another rod.

Harry was very keen to catch a black bass in Papua New Guinea. I tried over the years to deter him from travelling to PNG. I offered all the horror stories I could find, but he still went. He and Neal, his fishing buddy, went to Lake Murray and blanked out catching black bass on the fly. Jenny and I then travelled up to Brisbane to have dinner with them as they transited on their way back home. It was great to catch up, and he was a true gentleman. They were planning to back again if he could nail down the right guide.



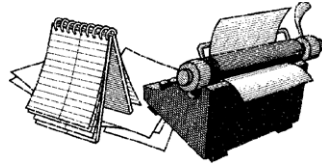
A fine redfish

I had a standing offer with him to go after redfish in the USA, chase trout in Argentina, or join any of the other trips he did regularly with his clients. Not to be.

Harry died with his boots on fly fishing in Costa Rica on May 8, earlier this year.

Vale the "Gypsy".

From the EDITOR'S DESK



"One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors." (Plato)

"Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it whether it exists or not, diagnosing it incorrectly, and applying the wrong remedy." (Ernest Benn)

"All of us are neck deep in politics everyday of our lives. Every organization on earth that involves human beings has its politics. Politics does not have to be a bad thing. Actually politics can be a good thing when we bring people to the table to sit down, work together, compromise and get things done for the common good." (Bill Gindlesperger)

Does local or state politics relate in any way to our fishing? You bet!

Some years ago Mick Hall talked me into joining the Australian Trout Foundation (ATF), and then into joining him on the ATF Committee. At that time the Victorian trout fishery was under a determined attack by a number of well-placed bureaucrats who regarded trout as a noxious introduced feral species that needed to be eradicated from our streams. Mick was ATF president at the time, and, supported by the committee, fought the good fight. Mick personally put in countless hours writing letters, lobbying politicians, attending meetings, speaking with the enemy ... and eventually won. Our state government policy finally officially recognised Victoria's salmonid fishery as a valuable state asset.

Many VFFA members are also ATF members; others might wonder what it's all about. The ATF is not just another fishing club, though most ATF members belong to angling clubs. It's not limited

to fly fishers either, though most of the committee members are in fact fly fishers. The current president is Terry George, a very hard-working and deeply committed leader who is also a VFFA member.

The ATF website (<http://www.atfonline.com.au/home/page/home>) lists the organisation's goals. These include, among others: "To ensure the sustainability of Australia's recreational trout fishery and habitat; to identify and undertake specific environmental projects to enhance or repair recreational trout fisheries; and to secure permanent classified trout waters using a river-basin-by-river-basin Fisheries Management Plan in all trout holding regions." So the ATF is a ginger group that works behind the scenes to preserve and promote our trout fishing, and thus invariably gets involved in 'trout politics' and politics in general.

The website provides a lengthy list of achievements over the past decade. It recently participated in the battle to keep two Western District trout rivers (the Merri and the Hopkins) closed to fishing through the winter months. Sadly we lost that one, an issue that saw plenty of vigorous political wrangling. Those in favour of opening these rivers to fishing during the winter (spawning) months were given an hour to argue their case before the deciding body, but when the ATF rep rose to outline good reasons why the rivers should be kept closed in these months he was given a mere 5 minutes, then told to sit down again. Yep, politics.

Another current hot issue the ATF is involved in is the proposal by a land

owner near the Rubicon River to build a dam beside the river and divert water from the river to run a small hydroelectric scheme. The water will then flow back into the river. A major concern here, among others, is that in hot summers the water in the shallow dam will heat up, and when diverted back into the river will heat the water downstream to levels that could well be harmful to the trout. The Rubicon is a treasured and vitally important trout stream in our state, and its potential destruction would be a tragedy.

And what about those Jordan Scotty Incubators? What are they? Fish stocking in our streams remains a controversial issue. Anglers fish a favourite stream that was productive in past years and catch nothing. The obvious conclusion – the fish are gone; they’ve all been caught or the recent bushfire or drought has killed them. The obvious remedy – put some more in. Do some stocking. After all, that’s what we pay our licence money for.

The trouble is that there is good scientific evidence to show that stocking rivers is often the wrong response, and the best solution is to let the trout do it themselves. There’s not space here to outline all the arguments again, but the King River is an enlightening example. Some years ago it was fishing poorly, so trout were stocked to replenish the population. A couple of years later it was fishing well again – clearly the stocking had fixed things. Or had it? The stocked trout were all marked, and it was then discovered that very few of the fish being caught after the stocking had actually come from the hatchery. The vast majority were wild fish from natural spawning. Conditions after the drought had improved, and the fish then did it for us.

So we have these opposing views – those who want stocking versus those who argue against it. The ATF came up with a very clever solution that satisfies both

camp. They imported some Jordan Scotty Incubators from Canada. These are similar in purpose to the old Vibert boxes used years ago but are vastly superior in design. Fertilised trout eggs are put in the boxes, which are then buried in streams. After a few weeks the tiny hatched fingerlings make their way out into the stream to add to the trout numbers.

Last year a small team of ATF members put some of these incubators in the Hopkins River near Warrnambool, and this year, in partnership with some clubs and the Victorian Fishing Authority, incubators were installed in several sites on the Jamieson River, Traralgon Creek, and tributaries of the King River. So ATF members continue to put in the hours and work to enhance of our trout fishery.

The VFFA was very active in trout politics in the 1980s and 90s, and people such as Jack Ritchie were heavily involved in trout politics and issues at all levels. In recent days the VFFA has shown renewed interest in this area, with Dermot O’Brien taking leadership on Council. His organisation of the recent tree planting on the Little River is just one example of this.

In Mick Hall’s time as president the ATF membership numbers nudged just over 1,000, but it has since dropped away for a number of reasons. Membership is cheap - \$20 per year. My final thought is that many VFFA members are busy people, and finding time to get out for a bit of fishing is a challenge, let alone racing off to some far-flung corner of the state to spend a day burying incubators in a river. So, as well as supporting VFFA fishery enhancement projects such as Dermot’s tree planting, a \$20 investment in an ATF membership is an easy way to make a positive contribution to our state’s trout fishery.

Tight lines,

Lyndon

This Month's Yarn ...

(... from April 1958)

McTaggart fingered his nearly empty glass, and whilst peering around expectantly, offered this comment: "You know, there are often some subtle differences in the appearance of individual flies, and these are not always apparent to the human eye."

Gordon quickly refilled the glass and, suitably refurbished, McTaggart continued:

"I remember some years ago fishing the Buckovens River and mayflies were particularly numerous that year, so I tied up a couple of what I thought were pretty good imitations of the adult male. In fact, they were so good I reckon a champion tier like Mick Hall would have been proud of them."

"Anyway, I started out the next morning with one of these flies on my tippet, and when I arrived at the stream I straightaway saw a fine trout sitting in the current, waiting in keen anticipation at the head of the pool. I moved into position just downstream of him and cast confidently, aiming my fly a bit off to the side and just past his nose. But before the fly landed something deflected it

about three feet to the left. And as soon as it touched the water there was a huge disturbance on the surface. My fly was being savagely attacked from several directions by hordes of hostile male mayflies."

"The disturbance was such that it actually put the trout down. So I proceeded upstream. But every time I cast my imitation it was subject to these same ferocious attacks, both in the air and on the water. It was quite bewildering, and frustrating too, as I just couldn't get my fly to a fish. Then it occurred to me that perhaps I should try the other fly I had tied. So I tied the second one on - and all my troubles were over. From that point on it was only the fish that paid attention to the fly, and I finished the day with a heavy bag."

"When I arrived home I finally realised the explanation for this bizarre behaviour. That first fly that I tried to fish with just happened to be a particularly good replica of the sort of macho male that female mayflies loved to mate with, so all the males there, feeling threatened and possibly a bit jealous, were doing their darnedest to scare it out of the district."

Web Fish

Cast regularly at vffa.org.au

About the VFFA web site:

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

Features of VFFA web site:

- Monthly Newsletter delivered to members in full colour.
- Live access to more than five years of past Newsletters
- Newsletter in PDF format for easy reading on computers / iPads / tablets & smart phones
- Newsletter in PDF format 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

Casting with Ian Sambell:

Members are again reminded that on Sunday, August 20, a half-day of casting tuition has been organised at the Red Tag Pool, Fairfield, for those who would like some free casting tuition by VFFA member and highly qualified casting instructor, Ian Sambell.

Ian, who is a superb caster, has completed the qualifications necessary to be recognized as an International Federation of Fly Fishers Certified Casting Instructor (IFFF CCI).



Ian lets one rip

So if you would like to come along for some casting instruction by Ian, a very useful tune-up for the new season, then here are the three sessions Ian will be running:

- 1) Seven good reasons to roll cast;
- 2) Slack-line presentations to ensure drag free drifts;
- 3) Going for distance – tweaking your cast for greater distance.

The tuition will commence at 10:00 am, and each session will run for 30 minutes. There will be breaks between sessions so that members will have time to practice and ample opportunity to receive individual help and guidance from Ian.

This will be a very relaxed (no pressure) and enjoyable opportunity to gather with some VFFA friends and receive some top tips on sharpening up your casting skills.



LIBRARY NEWS

... a note from Rick Dugina

As all members are aware the VFFA library is about to be packed away for storage, as the Celtic Club is about to be refurbished. An audit has been carried out and it was discovered that a number of books or publications are missing.

These are:

- "A Book Of Trout Flies", by P. J. Jennings
- "Australia's Best Trout Flies", by Cross-Sloane
- "Fishing The Midge", by E. Koch
- "A River Never Sleeps", by R. Haig-Brown
- "Ripples, Runs and Rises", by David Scholes
- "Where The Bright Waters Meet", by H. P. Greene
- "Australian Society of Limnology" Newsletter

Members, please check your shelves and return these to me or to the library as soon as possible, so they can be packed away in the correct order.

Thank you, *Rick Dugina*

Those Important Events:

Last month we advertised two events that were being organized by Alex Evans. The first of these was a possible group booking for VFFA members to attend the **RISE Fly Fishing Film Festival** in September. Unfortunately there was little interest in Alex's offer, so efforts to organize a group booking were abandoned.

However the Film Festival is still happening, and will be held at the Elsternwick Cinema (9 Gordon St, Elsternwick) on Monday, September 4, 7:15 – 9:15pm. Information is available at <http://www.gin-clear.com/filmfest/>

Produced by Gin Clear Media, this year's show will feature the premier of Nick Reygaert's new TV series "PureFly NZ series 2", along with other short fly fishing films from around the world. Tickets cost \$32.

VFFA trip to the Goulburn River

Following discussion at Council, Alex has also been making enquiries about a possible weekend at Thornton later this year. The initial proposal was for the weekend November 25 & 26, but unfortunately this coincided with other major events there, and accommodation was not available. Alex is checking some alternative dates and hopefully we'll have more information next issue.

The proposed weekend was to include guided fishing on the Goulburn River for up to 12 people. The team from the Goulburn Valley Fly Fishing Centre at Thornton were providing the guiding, and the fishing would include a mixture of guided drift boat fishing and guided bankside fishing.

Update Your Email Details:

Email is becoming an increasingly important and useful method of communication with our members. While not everyone has an internet connection and email address, the number is growing and most members are now connected.

Our Website Administrator Kevin Finn is very anxious to have correct email addresses for all members who have an email connection. So here is his notice:

The VFFA would like to have the option of contacting its members by email more often so we can keep you abreast of the latest and future Association activities.

Would you please email us with the following information as soon as possible:

Member Name and Member email address.

If you do not have an email address but have access to one near you or a relative who would accept an email on your behalf, then please give these details, as the economics of email make it a very attractive (i.e. cost-free) way of contacting people with information.

Please email your reply to:
secretary@vffa.org.au

Warrnambool Fly Fishers' Annual Game Dinner

... The 50th Anniversary of the Club.

(Report by Gordon Baker)



Adrian Jacobs kept things moving smoothly

This event was held in the Warrnambool Racing Club pavilion on Saturday night, July 22. There were about 80 people present, and Lyndon Webb, Hugh Maltby, Peter Clayton, Bruce and Anne Houghton, and I were VFFA members attending who were not joint WFFC members.

Adrian Jacobs, President of the WFFC, was Master of Ceremonies and moved proceedings along smoothly and humorously amongst the hors d'oeuvre, entrées, main course and finale. He thanked the providers of the game,



The smoked trout and smoked eel were magnificent

attendees and donors, awarded the WFFC annual prizes and life memberships, and managed the raffles which are locally called 'swindles'!

On behalf of the VFFA president Hugh Maltby presented a framed certificate from the VFFA recognising the WFFC 50 Year Anniversary. During the presentations Jim Blakeslee and Dr Chris Beaton were awarded WFFC life memberships.

The food was superb: abalone, game soup, bream, smoked trout and eel, hare and duck terrine, grilled kangaroo and roast vegetables, and cheese and fruit platter. There were groans of delight reaching huge crescendos with the terrine and kangaroo with red wine gravy. Overall a magnificent evening!

Hugh Maltby, Peter Clayton and I had travelled down a few days earlier and stayed at the Purrumbete Caravan Park. It was mostly cold, wet and windy, but we had one pleasant day and one calm evening and managed to catch some small rainbows and redbin on wet flies or nymphs. A nice 1 kg Atlantic salmon took an indicator spectacularly off the surface at one point. All in all, a delightful weekend.



... and so too was the abalone

>>>



More than 80 guests in attendance this year



Bob Loch and Gordon Baker in serious discussion



Bob Loch presenting Jim Blakeslee with his life membership certificate



Hughie about to attack the next course



Jim Blakeslee and Hughie Maltby are friends from way back



Anne Houghton and Peter Clayton checking their raffle tickets



Hughie Maltby represented the VFFA in presenting to the members of the Warrnambool Fly Fishers a framed certificate recognising the club's 50 year anniversary



Adrian Jacobs presenting the trophy for the largest trout caught in local waters

Time to Replenish Your Wardrobe:

Council member Jason Platts has been very busy organising a new range of clothing with VFFA logo attached, and these very practical fishing items will be on sale at the August Annual Dinner:

- VFFA Cap (new style).....\$20
- VFFA Tee Shirt\$25
- VFFA Fishing Shirt\$65
- Polar Fleece\$50
- Spray Jacket (foldable rain jacket)\$50



There is a range of sizes to suit all heights and shapes, and all items are attractive in appearance and of good quality.

Unfortunately the VFFA doesn't have EFTPOS/bankcard facilities, so bring some cash (or a cheque book) to the Dinner and get fitted out with the latest VFFA fashion gear.



Choosing a Rod

(... some thoughts on a very important topic by Nick Taransky)

The answer to the question of how many fly rods you need in your collection is simple - just one more than you currently have now. Choosing which rod to buy, however, is a little more difficult. There are probably several reasons for buying a new rod. Perhaps, most important of all is to keep starving bamboo rod-makers above the poverty line. But there may be other reasons too, and some might possibly even have something to do with catching fish. Whatever the motive, I'm never going to talk anyone out of foregoing food for the family or other trivial indulgences so they can add that tenth 5-weight to the bulging wardrobe.



Rods and more rods – lots of good weaponry here

Fishing and Casting...

Seriously, whatever pleasure comes from owning nice gear, I personally put all of my efforts into making rods that fish really well in Australian waters, especially for the sort of fishing I am passionate about – dry fly fishing in streams. I've made around 350 rods, and spent many hours with people casting a range of rods, helping them decide which was the best match for them. Often, for convenience, the casting has been done on the grass at the local park. Regardless of the rods we're trying, an almost

universal phenomenon occurs. We might start out talking about fishing scenarios – small streams, or accurate, controlled presentations, as we set up the rods. Then we start casting. Before you can blink, more and more line is pulled off the reel, until the maximum casting distance is reached. And then cast after cast is made, always at that maximum length whilst straining and hauling for yet more. This isn't a criticism of people – I find myself doing exactly the same myself.

When I first started making rods I took this as a bit of a compliment, and more generally, a positive thing for the image of bamboo. Many people seemed genuinely amazed and impressed that bamboo rods could cast so far. But then I began to realise that the tendency was often to choose the rod that would cast the longest, rather than the rod that might suit actual fishing scenarios. This issue is independent of the material – cane, glass, or graphite. I've seen it over and over again. Great "long park casting" ability sells rods.

While it's true that most rods will have an ability to cover a fairly wide range of distances, they will invariably operate better in a narrower part of that range. It may well be that a particular fishery requires really long casts as the norm. If so, then the "long park casting" rod might be a good choice. But in many fisheries, a rod that will make a shorter accurate presentation with comfort and feel, with the ability to make longer casts once in a while, might be a better option.

The Cart before the Horse (or the "Rod before the Fish") ...

When standing in a featureless park with no back cast impediments and no fish in sight, it's natural to just belt out cast after

cast. It's a bit like the golf driving range, where the temptation is to just tee up the driver and swing away, usually with little if any improvement to the golf handicap. You "drive for show and putt for dough", as they say.

So, what's the answer? It's worth taking a step back and asking the question: "what does the fish think of that", as Matthew Howell says. I think a lot of fish would like being cast to from far away, with the line crashing around or over them, warning them of the angler's presence. Putting the fish first, and working back from there might seem like a pretty basic idea, but I think it can be useful as a reality check to deliberately go through the process for your own fishing scenarios. Leave the rod out of the thinking until you have considered everything else.

To start with, we want the fish to see the right fly. This might be a tiny, specific mayfly to match a hatch, or a big hopper, for example. Then the presentation needs to be right. This might mean a long, fine tippet and leader in a braided Spring Creek requiring a drag free drift. Or it might require a short leader, say for wade polaroiding, to get the fly out quickly

with no fuss. These requirements – fly and leader – plus others, like wind, will lead you to a suitable line weight. Other factors like whether you are wading, or on the bank, or in a boat, and your level of skill also go into the equation to finally determine what rod is best for the job. A rod's casting attributes are a significant part of this, but there may be more to it than just being able to throw a long line.

Back at the park...

Even when armed with a mental image of what we want out of a rod (our eleventh 5-weight?), it can still take a little mental discipline down at the park to resist the "long cast" syndrome. I've actually considered tying the fly line on my demo reels so that only 40 - 50 feet can be pulled out, though that seems a bit extreme (and people would start asking "What! Can't your rods cast any further than this!!).

A better approach is to "stage" a fishing layout. For a stream, you can pull out a spare fly line to mark out the bank of the stream. Put some "fish" targets (I use orange cones, but you can use anything that you can see) to represent fish along the "bubble line". With the same configuration leader that you would use when actually fishing, and a yarn fly, try



Try before you buy and remember to cast for your favourite distance

>>>



A variety of fishing scenarios, all requiring a different cast

to cover the fish with a good presentation. Walk over after you've cast and see if your leader and tippet landed where you wanted. Yes, it's not easy! Sometimes I wonder how I catch any fish at all.

Similarly, to simulate "wade polaroiding" you can walk along in the park with your yarn fly in your left hand, picking out random targets (tufts of grass, sprinkler heads, etc), and making fast presentations at them. Whatever you need to do to replicate your actual fishing situation...

I'm not suggesting that you need a separate rod for every different fishing situation. In fact it can be a lot of fun to "choose your weapon", then work out how to work with it in different fishing situations. Seeing what Lee Wulff achieved when fishing for Atlantic salmon with a 5'10" cane rod is an impressive example of that. And what's the saying - "Beware the man with only

one gun, because he probably knows how to use it".

But at least working back from the fish to a realistic scenario at the park gives you a framework for meaningful analysis of rod performance, as well as being a good way of practising in general.

And yes, you do need one more rod!



Looking for new directions? Try the Snap T – a Clever Cast

Last autumn I was fishing one of those little streams up near Thornton and was doing reasonably well with a hopper pattern. I was fishing up the left bank (looking downstream), so the current was flowing from right to left, and I'd arrived at a point where there was an attractive run on the far side. Overhung by some scraggy bushes and with a bubble line bobbing along the edge, it looked really fishy. I'd already cast across once and my hopper had drifted down unmolested, but it was too good to leave. It was worth a second shot.

However there were trees behind that looked very keen to gather my backcast, and I'd already lost a couple of good hoppers in earlier shrubbery, so ... what to do? With my fly now anchored in the current downstream on my left I lifted my rod and flicked it upstream, then whipped the tip back to the left underneath the airborne flying line so that some line and the leader and my hopper all landed out in the current upstream from where I stood. Then as it all drifted back I made an easy roll cast to flip the hopper across into the bubble line.

All straight forward and no big deal. I had used a simple spey cast called the 'Snap T' which was ideal for the situation – fly downstream, river flowing from right to left, and the need to land the fly back on the far side of the stream using a roll cast to avoid any hassles on the back cast.

My crude effort worked fine because the distances involved were small, but with good technique the Snap T can be used to achieve prodigious lengths. It is a popular cast with the two-handed spey casting brigade, but can also be very handy for single-handed rod users.

Simon Gawesworth has written a fabulous book called *Single Handed Spey Casting*, and in describing the Snap T, says "it provides a quick change of direction to get you fly out into a likely fishing spot without the hassle of threading your cast through the bushes behind". He describes the cast in detail, and all the material that follows is pinched from this book, used of course with his kind permission. To summarise Simon's description:

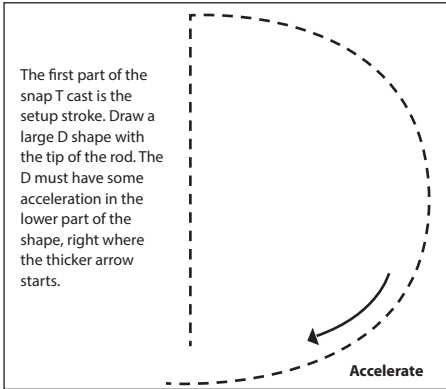
When might you use this cast: for a change of direction, with obstructions behind, and either no wind or wind blowing upstream. You use your right hand for a direction change to the right, and your left hand (or backhand) for a direction change to your left.

In technical terms the Snap T is part of what are called the 'waterborne anchor casts', and is very efficient at throwing big flies, weight, and (if you need to) sink tips. Waterborne anchor casts will always give smoother and more efficient casts with unbalanced outfits.

The Snap T has a number of subtle variations and names. It is also called the Snap C, the Circle C, the Snap Z, the C Spey, and the Circle Spey. The names are different, and the initial setup stroke of each cast is slightly different, but after the setup stroke all of these variations are principally the same. So, to avoid confusion let's describe one version and one name.

The Snap T consists of three strokes: a setup stroke, a D-loop stroke, and a forward stroke. The fastest way to learn the cast is to master it step by step. Just work on the setup stroke alone, and don't worry about the D-loop stroke until you can competently and confidently snap the line into the correct position for the D-loop stroke. >>>

As in all setup strokes, the object is to position the line in the correct place to enable an efficient D-loop. This is achieved by ensuring that the tip of the fly line lands either in line with or just upstream of the line to your target.



The forward stroke is a roll cast, and the most effective roll cast requires the forward stroke to be made as close to, and parallel to, the line that is lying on the water in front. Imagine two rail tracks going on toward the horizon, always parallel and always close. This is how your forward stroke should be. Call the fly line lying on the water in front of you one rail track. The other rail track is where you should aim your forward cast – close and parallel to the first.



Let's describe the cast for a right-handed caster on a river with the current flowing from right to left. The cast starts with the line washed straight and directly downstream of the caster, with the rod tip low and pointing along the fly line.

The Setup:

Begin the setup stroke with a slow, steady vertical lift of the rod up to about 11 o'clock, and then make a wide, clockwise curve of the rod tip back to the starting point, thus drawing in the air a large 'D' shape. The lift does need to be vertical. There is no pause in the D; once you have started the lift, continue to draw the D shape with the rod tip until the tip of the rod is back to where it started.

What you are trying to do here is pick up the line, leader, and fly and snap it into a position that is upstream of you and your target. To do this you need a slight acceleration in the bottom part of the D.

There must be a very short pause between the end of the setup stroke and the start of the D-loop stroke. Use this pause to find where the tip of the fly line has landed, as this will indicate where the most efficient forward cast should be aimed.

This photo shows Simon's rod coming back down to the starting position after

completing the D shape. At this point the line has momentum and is all lifted out of the water.

D-Loop Stroke:

If you have done the setup stroke correctly, the rod tip should finish in a low position close to the water (about a foot from the surface is fine) on your left and pointing downstream. The fly line should be in an upstream/downstream plane, and the fly and leader just upstream of you.

(This photo shows Simon sweeping his rod around from left to right and then up behind him into position for the forward stroke.)

The ideal D-loop stroke repositions the line from an upstream/downstream position (where it has landed after the set-up stroke) to a perfect 'rail track' to your target. For this to succeed, you need enough speed in the rod sweep to put the right amount of momentum into the fly



The photo above shows this. Simon is now about to sweep the rod around to his right to set up the D-Loop.

The rod tip should now make the roll cast D-loop stroke, sweeping around to the right with a steady incline at constant speed and finishing with the rod tip at about 1 o'clock behind your right shoulder and directly opposite your intended target. The sweep speed should just be enough to pirouette the whole line around the line tip and align perfectly with your target. Too slow a sweep will result in only part of the line swivelling, and too fast a sweep (or too steep), and the line will lift out of the water and land in the nearest tree.

line to break the water surface tension and allow it to line up with your target.

Forward Stroke:

A D-loop has three stages of movement: the travel, the stop, and the drop. When the rod has made a D-loop stroke it imparts momentum into the line that makes the D loop travel backwards, behind you (the travel). At some stage the D loop will run out of momentum, stop travelling (the stop) and then drop down onto the water (the drop).

The perfect timing of the forward cast here is when the D-loop reaches the stop. If you go forward when there is still >>>





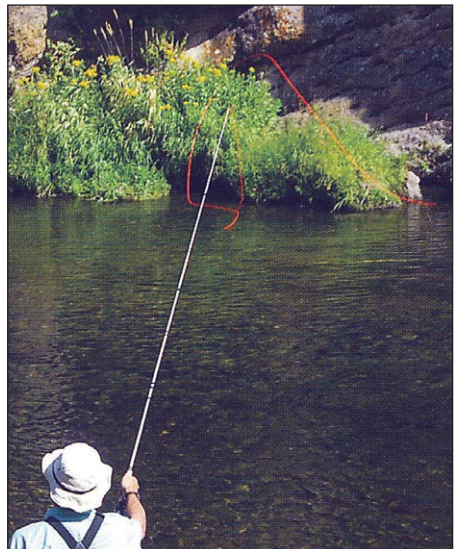
momentum in the D-loop, this will make the line rip out of the water, losing the anchor and ensuring that the line falls in a heap in front. If you wait marginally too long and allow the D-loop to drop to the water, there will be too much line stick and drag and all the energy of the cast will be sucked out by the water tension.

This photo shows the D-loop stroke. The stroke finishes with the rod rising to the key position and directly opposite where the target is. You must wait until the entire D-loop has stopped moving before commencing the forward stroke.

Some people find it helpful to stand at a sideways angle and watch their D-loop travel backwards, waiting it until it stops and then timing the forward cast perfectly.

All that remains now is to finish off with a good forward stroke, driving a tight loop through the air, close to, and parallel to, the 'rail track'. By stopping the rod tip high with a positive stop you form a tight loop that will keep the cast effortless and efficient.

The correct length of pause between the completion of the D-loop stroke and the start of the forward stroke depends on many factors (line length, fly size, rod length, and wading depth, to name a few), but the precise time to start the forward stroke is when the D loop stops traveling backwards.



Leaders – a Suggestion from Geoff Bloch

Most experienced fly fishers would agree that the most important item of fishing equipment is the leader. It is perhaps even more important than the fly.

The typical commercial knotless tapered leader begins life nail-knotted onto the fly line and, as flies are changed or lost, eventually a new tippet is tied on and the leader ceases to be a knotless leader. Progressively, as more tippets are tied on, the standing length of the leader reduces in size until the point is reached whereupon a new leader must be nail-knotted onto the fly line.

A good quality knotless tapered leader is reasonably expensive, and this tackle tip I heard years ago has not only saved money but, more importantly, has preserved my quality knotless leaders for as long as I wish and it has obviated the progressive deterioration in the quality and performance of the leader.

If the tippet is, say, 3x or 4x, then buy a knotless tapered leader of 2x, cut off around half or more of the tippet section to reduce the length of the leader from the usual 9 feet to around 6-7 feet, and then tie a perfection loop at the end of the leader. Now tie a perfection loop on one end of the preferred 3x or 4x tippet and join it to the standing leader with a loop to loop connection by first passing the loop of the standing leader through the loop of the tippet, and then passing the tip of the tippet through the loop of the standing leader.

The perfection loop in the standing leader will NEVER break because of its heavier breaking strain. Any break in the leader will occur either at the fly or in the perfection loop of the lighter tippet.

This tip has the following advantages:

- (1) A good quality knotless tapered leader will last for years;
- (2) you know exactly how long your leader is at any given time;
- (3) different lengths and diameter of tippet material can be added depending on the fishing conditions; and
- (4) tying a perfection loop only takes a moment. It is much easier to tie than a barrel or blood knot which are the conventional knots for tying a new tippet onto a standing leader

(Instructions for tying a perfection loop are available on YouTube).

For those members who fish very different waters and might fish a very short leader on one day but a much longer leader on another day, the concept of changing tippets by a loop to loop connection can also be applied to changing whole leaders. In that case, a perfection loop can be tied in the butt section close to the fly line and different length leaders looped on and off as desired.

Tight lines!

Geoff

FLY OF THE MONTH

Daniel Hackett's Pheasant Tail Red Spinner



At the end of his presentation at the July meeting Daniel Hackett passed around a collection of flies he had developed and used for his work as a guide in Tasmania. Photos of the other flies are shown at the bottom of this page, and President Mike Jarvis has suggested that we might auction this fine selection of Daniel's flies at our annual dinner in August. They are certainly beautifully tied, as well as being proven fish catchers.

One of these flies, mentioned in his talk, was his Red Spinner – a fly that has proved particularly successful on the Western Lakes. In his notes on this pattern Daniel says this: "I spent my teenage years living in Ireland, where I learned to fly fish. One of the most popular patterns on the West Coast Rivers was the Pheasant Tail Dry. My adaptation of this fly as a red spinner pattern for Tasmanian lakes and rivers replaces the traditional hackle with a low riding 'porcupine' hackle. I developed the use of the peacock herl post so that I didn't have to use a gallows tool, making the whole process of tying the hackle quicker and easier. This is a great fly to use during any red spinner activity."



Materials:

- Hook: Tiemco 100 size 12, or Kamasan B401, in sizes 12 and 14.
- Thread: Brown 8/0 UNI-thread.
- Tail: A few cock pheasant tail fibres.
- Rib: Fine copper wire.
- Body: Cock pheasant tail fibres.
- Thorax: Chocolate brown seals fur.
- Hackle: Brown cock hackle.
- Post: Three strands of peacock herl.

Tying Procedure:

1. Run some thread along the hook shank to just before the bend of the hook, then tie in a short length of fine copper wire for the rib. Then tie in the tail with the tips pointing backwards. The length of the tail should be a touch longer than the length of the hook.
2. Use the rest of the pheasant tail fibres to form the body by winding them forward. The body should occupy the rear two-thirds of the hook. Then rib the body with the copper wire. Tie off and cut away the waste pheasant tail fibres and copper wire.
3. Tie in a post of three strands of peacock herl so that they are standing up at the end of the body. Also tie in the hackle feather at this point so that it lies along the shank toward the tail of the fly.
4. Dub some seals fur on the tying thread and wind it on to form an egg-shaped thorax. Leave a small gap behind the eye.
5. Here is the interesting part. It requires both hands working together. Hold the three-strand peacock herl post vertically up with one hand whilst winding the hackle feather around the post with the other. To do this you will need to swap the hackle feather back and forth between the fingers of both hands.
6. Run the hackle turns up the post for a distance equal to the thorax length (probably about four or five turns), and then fold the strands of peacock herl forward over the thorax and tie off the hackle and post behind the eye. Trim the waste away and finish the fly by tying off the thread.

CALL FOR ENTRIES AUSTRALIAN FLY FISHERS' ART & CRAFT SHOW

Closing date 31 August 2017



Organised by the
Victorian Fly Fishers'
Association (VFFA)

\$5,000 first prize

Entry information:

www.vffa.org.au/vffa-art-craft-show

Show date: 13-16 September 2017

Steps Gallery, 62 Lygon Street, Carlton Vic

VFFA Meetings at the Celtic Club & other activities.

August 2017

- 6 Sunday Tree Planting on Rubicon River,
Convener-Dermot O'Brien
- 14 Monday Council Meeting - 7:30 PM
- 20 Sunday VFFA casting tuition day with Ian Sambell at the Red Tag Pool – 10 AM
- 25 Friday Annual Dinner, with Guest Speaker Greg French
(Well known Tasmanian fishing guide and author)
- 31 Thursday Closing date for entries for the Australian Fly Fishing Art and Craft Show

September 2017

- 2 Saturday Rivers again open to trout fishing
- 4 Monday Council Meeting - 7:30 PM
- 13 - 16 Australian Fly Fishers' Art & Craft Show, Steps Gallery, Carlton
- 21 Thursday Annual General Meeting – 8:00 PM

October 2017

- 1 Sunday Annual Dam Day at Thorpdale with Latrobe Valley Flyfishers
- 6 – 8 Annual Trip to Purrumbete (TBC)
- 19 Thursday General Meeting - 8:00 PM: Speaker (TBC)
- 23 Monday Council Meeting - 7:30 PM

November 2017

- 11 – 13 Annual Trip to Warrnambool (TBC)
- 16 Thursday General Meeting - 8:00 PM: Speaker - Jim Blakeslee, highly skilled angler and regular *Fly Lines* contributor living in Warrnambool.
- 20 Monday Council Meeting - 7:30 PM
- 25 – 27 Proposed trip to Goulburn Valley Fly Fishing Centre at Thornton (TBC)

December 2017

- 4 Monday Council Meeting - 7:30 PM
- 14 Thursday Christmas Dinner – 6:30 for 7:00 PM
Speaker: Travis Dowling – Executive Director of Fisheries Victoria