

# FLY LINES



DECEMBER 2015

## December – Christmas Dinner with Rick Wallace

The December meeting is our annual Christmas Dinner, with guest speaker Rick Wallace. Rick, a new member of our Association, is a journalist with *The Australian*. He grew up in north-east Victoria where he developed a passion as a teenager for fishing for trout. He has since fly fished in Australia, New Zealand, Patagonia and Japan. Rick is a gifted and very experienced presenter, and we can look forward to a fascinating and entertaining insight into his fly fishing life and experiences.

Again at this year's dinner some of our 50 and 25 year members will have their years of membership acknowledged.

All members are encouraged to attend the Dinner, so if you haven't yet made your booking you need to be prompt in completing the booking form included as an insert in this issue.

Thursday, December 17  
6:30 for 7:00 pm  
at the  
Celtic Club



# THE VICTORIAN FLY FISHERS' ASSOCIATION INC.

**VOL. 64 NO.3 – DECEMBER 2015**

Organisation No. A0024750J

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## February 2016 meeting



The first meeting in February next year will not be our customary 'Liars' Night'. Instead we will start the year with lunchtime meal in the Shamrock Restaurant at the Celtic Club. A number of features are being planned, one of these being a very special display of photos and videos taken by Ian Sambell. Ian regularly fishes Queensland (saltwater fly fishing), New Zealand, and Tasmania, and recently returned from a trip to Patagonia (Argentina). During his recent trips he has accumulated some spectacular photos and video footage.

Don't miss this entertaining and enjoyable start to our 2016 year.

Date and Time: Thursday, February 25, 2016, at 12 noon.

# President's Message

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I am delighted to announce that Tamie Fraser has joined the VFFA. Australian anglers have long known that Tamie is a keen and successful fly fisher. I have heard it said that she was just as an accomplished angler as her late husband, Malcolm. They were both foundation sponsors of the Australian Fly Fishing Museum in Tasmania. Tamie had the honour of opening the Museum in 2013. It is fitting that she is the first lady to join us. I know she will be very welcome and I hope that we will soon have more fly fishing ladies in the VFFA. Tamie will be one of my guests at the Christmas dinner. If you have partner or lady friend who shares our love of casting the fly please bring her along too.

I enjoyed seeing Malcolm Crosse's fly fishing exploits in Kashmir and India at our November meeting. The title of his talk 'The Adventure of Fly Fishing' was so fitting. Malcolm's videos, still photos and commentary gave us an insight into his

adventures. When I first started fly fishing some 20 years ago I had no idea of the trekking, bush bashing and travelling that would be involved. Today I am so grateful that I got the bug. Whilst I have not caught a lot of fish I have been excited every time I succeeded. And I have seen a lot more of the Australian bush than I ever imagined. I have been to New Zealand, Alaska, Christmas Island and Montana to fish. And next week I am off to fish in Patagonia with some Aussie colleagues and our sons. I agree Malcolm, fly fishing is an endless adventure.

The VFFA is in good shape entering 2016. However your Council has been examining where we are at now and what more we should offer members if we are to continue to be a vital organisation in the future. Jimmy Allen's October presentation about the successful VFFA activities in the past and its involvement in trout politics was very timely. And we totally agree with Jimmy that we should do all we can to recruit younger members. Next year we plan to circulate a paper 'VFFA: 2020 and beyond' to all members for your input and comment. We look forward to your contributions at the time.

In closing, I wish you all a happy Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year.

Tight lines,

## New Member

This month we give a very warm welcome to our first lady member. Tamie Fraser has joined our Association, and we trust that this brings her many years of fulfilling and enjoyable membership. Members who know Tamie personally tells us that she is a very competent fly fisher.



# Web Fish

Cast regularly at [vffa.org.au](http://vffa.org.au)

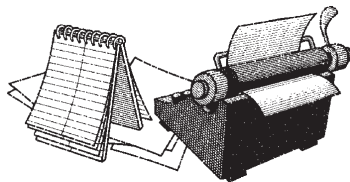
### About the VFFA web site:

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

### Features of VFFA web site:

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

# From the EDITOR'S DESK



"The fishermen know that the sea is dangerous and the storm terrible, but they have never found these dangers sufficient reason for remaining ashore."  
(Vincent van Gogh)

Is fly fishing dangerous? I thought it was on a couple of occasions some years ago when enraged and foul-tempered bulls evicted me from their dining rooms. Snakes can be a bit of a bother too, and of course are a given for us Australian fly fishers. We all have stories of our encounters with these slithery characters. I've been told that they're actually quite timid. Which reminds me of the tale I once heard of Louis Armstrong's upbringing. He was raised by his grandmother, who on one occasion asked a very young Louis to take a bucket down to the creek and fetch some water. He expressed great reluctance to comply on the grounds that he was terrified of the alligators that might be there. His grandmother assured him that those alligators were more scared of him than he was of them. In which case, he responded, "that water won't be fit to drink."

The rivers can be scary too. I still have vivid memories of inching my way across some New Zealand rivers that had very awkward rocky bottoms (like those infamous 'greased cannonballs' of the Tongariro) and strong currents that did everything possible to tip me on my ear. I think the camera hanging around my neck was almost as nervous and apprehensive as I was.

Fences are not so much dangerous as pestiferous. I encountered one year ago that was a very high and tightly strung barbed wire brute. There were no gates in sight but there was some very attractive water on the other side. I was wearing new waders at the time and was keen to keep them puncture free, so I chucked my rod over the fence (thus committing myself). Then followed my hat, vest, backpack, and waders. I then laid on my back where there was a half decent gap between the grass and the bottom strand of wire and carefully eased myself underneath. Mission accomplished. I had to repeat the performance on the way out, but it had been well worth it.

Fish hooks. I can recall only two occasions when I've got myself so badly hooked I needed to get medical help. The first was many years ago – August 1979 in fact. I was fishing the lower Merri at Warrnambool just on dusk. The river was in flood, and just upstream of the old knackery bridge a fairly decent sea run brown had risen three times. But the wind was gusting strongly and blowing onto my right shoulder, so I needed to be careful. Perhaps a vigorous 'chuck and duck' throw might get my fly out. It didn't – I had line wrapped around me and a size 6 Green Matuka firmly embedded in my neck. A local compatriot arrived just as this disaster happened and tried a bit of amateur surgery with a torch in his teeth and a pair of pliers, but all he drew was blood. So it was off to the local medical centre.

Our friendly family doctor removed the offending fly but was adamant that he had to cut the barb first. I was intensely irritated by the whole business – not only did I muck up a good fish, but the fly was one of my better ties and it was ruined.

My other hook-up occurred on the gorgeous little Rubicon several years later. I was in among the trees and had caught my line over a whippy branch. With the fly in my left hand I gave the line a good strong tug to free it. In response the branch sprung back and drove the hook deeply into my left index finger. I couldn't get it out so wandered back to the car and phoned our family doctor. The receptionist told me he had a full card, and the earliest I could see him was sometime Friday afternoon. So on the way home I called into a surgery at Healesville where the doctor was happy to do the removal.

It was this second mishap that convinced me there was a lot of merit in fishing with barbless hooks. In windy weather I seem to get flies hooked in my hat or vest or jumper quite regularly, and all too often in hard to reach corners. Barbless hooks are so much easier to get free.

Of course the popular argument for using barbless hooks is that they are much kinder to our fish. They're certainly a lot easier to remove from the dentures of our finny friends, which of course leads us to ask whether they make it just a bit too easy for the fish to release themselves.

My feeling is that possibly I lose a few more trout in transit than in the days when my hooks had barbs, but I don't think there's much in it. I don't get overly fussed anyway – the best part of fly fishing is in seeing the fish or seeing the rise, then deceiving the fish with a

fly, connecting and feeling the power of that first run. If they come off after a bit – well I was going to release them anyway. It's good to complete the process and examine the catch at close range, but the 'long distance release' is no disaster (unless it's a really big fish!).

What do the experts say? There are some who suggest that barbless hooks make a better connection. The barb on a hook can actually prevent it from going in as deeply as it should for a secure coupling. As to whether anglers lose more fish using barbless hooks – well the jury is out. Some experts argue that provided you maintain good contact and pressure the likelihood of a loss is no more than with barbed hooks. They all of course assert the obvious – that barbless hooks cause much less injury to the fish, and to anglers who make errant casts.

Barbless hooks are now freely available in most tackle shops. I have some boxes of them, but mostly tie with barbed hooks that I first crimp with a small pair of pliers. So there you go – join the fad and fish barbless. The trout will love you for it.

On another tack, in the November issue we printed the text of Jim Allen's talk at the October meeting. Jim mentioned that in it's early days the VFFA was involved in having a section of the Kiewa River preserved for 'fly only'. Jim's information on this came from a usually reliable source, but unfortunately not accurate on this occasion. It would appear that the decision for a section of the Kiewa to be 'fly only' was made because rainbow trout had been stocked there and in those days producing rainbow trout for stocking was much more expensive than producing browns. The authorities were concerned that these high cost rainbows would be ripped out all too quickly by uncouth >>>

worm-drowning locals. On the other hand there were only a couple of trout anglers in the district who were fly fishers and it was thought they probably wouldn't do too much damage to the prized rainbow fishery, so 'fly only'

became the rule. A very wise rule too; may it happen again.

Cheers and tight lines,

*Lyndon Webb*



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## This Month's Yarn

(from May 1961)

Choco pushed a couple of high denomination notes across the bar whilst asking McTaggart if he had ever been surprised by what he'd hooked.

McTaggart nodded approvingly at the replenishment of refreshments and pondered his response. "Yes indeed. Some years ago I had been reading about the nymph fishing methods of that master John Brooks, and had decided to give them a try when I was out west fishing at Wartoolondo. When I arrived at the lake I noticed straight away that nothing was rising or moving, so I tied on a large nymph with some strong leader material and cast it out near a weed bed. Then I left it there for a bit, just as Brooks recommended. I ate a sandwich and washed it down, then

checked my line. It felt heavy. It appeared that I had hooked some solid sort of obstruction, but when I applied a bit of pressure it started to move. So I wound the line in very carefully and dragged this heavy object towards the bank. When it got to the edge I discovered I'd pulled in a by no means motionless conglomeration. In fact I'd hooked a large freshwater crayfish under the tail. But in its claws the crayfish was holding a 12 inch trout, and in the trout's mouth there was a 4½ inch redfin. The redfin in turn was holding a 2 inch galaxiid in its teeth and in the mouth of the galaxiid there was a tiny shrimp. I looked hard, but couldn't quite work out what was in the shrimp's mouth."

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## Lindsay Haslem

Lindsay Haslem was a significant personality in the recent history of Australia's trout fishing. He was a close personal friend of and mentor to Mick Hall, and according to Mick, was well known to many others. He was very influential in Australian fly fishing.

Lana Wall has written a biography of his life, entitled "Lindsay Haslem: Fly Fisher, Teacher, Innovator." Copies can be purchased for \$25, plus \$5% p/p from Mrs Lana Wall, 276 Brumby Street, Longford, Tasmania, 7301. Phone: 03 6391 1086.

## The November Meeting with Malcolm Crosse

Good evening gentlemen. Some time ago Mike Stevens gave me a copy of *Geehi To Great Lake*, the anthology of VFFA articles. I found it an enthralling read. I read it from cover to cover and found stories there going back many years. One in particular was about an adventure into Penstock Lagoon in the early days, the 1920s I think. It brought home to me the fact that to be a good fly fisher you need to be something of an adventurer. You've got to be looking around the next corner of a stream or climbing over a mountain somewhere. I'm sure you've all had memorable adventures.

Tonight I'm going to take you on a journey that's been three years in the making. It is into the far north of India, to the area known as Kashmir. It all came about through a doctor friend of mine in Hobart who is a Kashmir lad by birth and a passionate fly fisher. He said to me, "You have to come and see my home state." It really was a case of East meeting West when the journey began. It is set in an Asian or Eastern culture, so nothing was quite like what you might imagine it ought to be in terms of the fly fishing.

Kashmir is on the borders of Pakistan, China and India, at the foot of the Himalayas. It has four seasons of weather, is at a high altitude, and abounds in fish. The introduction of trout into Kashmir was similar to the introduction of trout into Tasmania. The British were there in the early days and saw that the waters of Kashmir, and in some parts of the north of India, would be suitable for trout. So trout were brought in on boats, then taken on hazardous journeys over high mountains and stocked into streams and some small hatcheries. The British then built the trout fishing around the British system.



And this system still stands today. It's archaic and full of aristocracy and doesn't really work to the benefit of the sport of trout fishing in Kashmir.

My fly fishing friend from Kashmir is an ultrasound medical specialist in Hobart, and he gets away as often as he can to play cricket for a multicultural team, or is out trout fishing with me. For our trip in 2015 the plan was to fish the regions close to the capital of Kashmir, which is called Srinagar and is located on Lake Dal. The lake is shallow and doesn't hold trout but it does hold several other species.

I based myself on Lake Dal, which was well-known in the early days for its houseboats and exotic Eastern food. The houseboats don't actually go anywhere. They are permanent structures fitted out with wooden floors and lounge rooms covered with Persian carpet and exotic carvings, and has dining rooms equipped with high backed chairs and decorative wooden panelling. The one I stayed in this year was five-star quality with



*Malcolm used a magnificent PowerPoint display of photos and videos to illustrate his presentation*

Jacuzzis and Spas and the whole lot on board. Lake Dal is about 2,500 metres above sea level, so we were up fairly high. The summer there is Tasmania-type summer weather, and in the winter time there is heavy snow and it's very cold.

Just by way of explanation Kashmir was a state and country in its own right, but around the time of the Second World War the British were getting out of India and they divided Kashmir up, with some parts going to Pakistan and China trying to get in on the edge. There was supposed to be a referendum to enable the Kashmir people to vote and decide which country they wanted to be in and governed by. But the referendum never happened and consequently 60% of the country is Kashmir and 40% is controlled by India. So there's lots of military on board, and when you are in this neck of the woods there are armed patrols everywhere.

But getting back to the fishing, the allocation of angling licences is interesting. You have to go to the Inland Fisheries Office and present your passport to the guy sitting behind the desk. He will then check out the available beats. There are over 200 beats for fishing

in the country, yet hardly any overseas anglers go there these days because of the turmoil. They would be lucky to have 20 foreign anglers a year visiting the country to fish.

However the British system still prevails and the man sits behind the desk with 200 beats to allocate. First you must purchase an angling licence which will cost you \$40 a day. This sounds expensive. However a guide will only cost you \$10 a day. You might hire Peter Hayes in Tasmania for \$800 or \$900 a day, so you can see the Kashmir deal is a lot cheaper.

The first river I fished was a two-hour drive from Srinagar. It was part of a hydro development scheme and trout had only been introduced into this river 10 years ago. It was virgin water that was only fished by the fittest of anglers. It was in very tough country. But before I could fish I had to present my documentation to the Inland Fisheries Officer located on the river. The paperwork was duly signed and then we were allowed to go fishing. But first we had to be allocated a guide, as you are not allowed to fish there without one. The river initially looked

fairly rough and unattractive but we kept driving and eventually came to a far more attractive section. Our beat for this particular day was 23 kilometres of river and only two anglers were allowed to fish it during the day. But to access the river we first had to climb down a very steep track and push our way through the heavy bush growing along the track.

It was glacial water, so quite milky in colour. The first thing I always do when I arrive at a new bit of water is to turn over some stones and see what's underneath them. We found caddis and large brown nymphs along with some stone fly nymphs, so I felt quite at home. I had hardly started fishing when my doctor friend from Hobart was into his first fish. We went on to catch perhaps another 80 fish during the day. They were all rainbows, and were fat healthy fish of 2 – 3 lb and great fun to catch. In this section of the river double-figure rainbows were apparently quite common, though we didn't encounter any. I did a bit of down and across fishing, then some upstream leader to hand type nymphing with three nymphs on my rig. It wasn't hard fishing at all.

When we returned to our base at Srinagar, the capital, we found the traffic there horrendous. There are no traffic lights and no rules, and the local word is that to get from one place to another you have to have a good heart, good brakes, and good luck.

Our next venue was a spring fed stream. Again we first had to visit the Fisheries man at his house. This stream was crystal clear and we could see some very large fish swimming around in the top sections in the clear water. The stream wound down through the valley. The water was less than a metre deep and the fish were out in the current or diving under the copious weed beds. I did my trick again

and turned over some rocks to discover that the water was loaded with food – caddis and scud being prevalent. Every rock I lifted up was covered with bugs. The fisheries inspector was a delightful young man who invited us in for a cup of tea before we began fishing. The tea was a variety of salt tea, which of course had quite a salty taste though is quite palatable.

In this river we caught both rainbows and browns, with both being plentiful. The fish were fat and well fed. There wasn't any fishing in solitude here though – at all times we had half a dozen bods trailing behind us, all very interested in what we were doing. They rarely see foreigners in this part of the world. It rained like mad and I had one bloke holding an umbrella over me while I was fishing.

Shah, my doctor friend, had a brother who was also a keen fly fisherman, but he was a 'down and across' specialist. We taught him how to fish a nymph upstream, and he changed his tactics a bit. We fished Copper John nymphs and some favourite brown nymphs and damsel flies, and they all seemed to work. The fly box you might take to New Zealand would certainly work in this place.

We then fished another spring fed stream. Again there were only two anglers allowed on the beat, which was perhaps 8 km long. It ran through a village near an ancient Persian structure that was built in the 12th century. The water was quite shallow but then dropped over a waterfall where the serious stuff started and marked the start of where we could fish. At this point we noted a disturbing aspect of the trout fishing in Kashmir. The population in general has little understanding of the quality of the fishing that they've got there, and they also have a serious lack of

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understanding of rubbish control. We saw a huge assortment of rubbish of all sorts everywhere. It was common to lose flies on the bottom of rivers in the accumulated junk. Just upstream you'd find a guy washing his motorbike and flushing all the grease and sludge back into the river, and downstream a lady would be doing her washing in the river. The sanitation problems are huge and uncontrollable. They've also got a lot of poaching, which is illegal but which goes on in broad daylight anyway. So here we were fishing a wonderful bit of water - except for all the rubbish in it.

There were heaps of fish up to 5 or 6 pounds here, and the water was fast flowing, crystal clear, and very cold. The guide I had on this day couldn't speak a word of English but he had been the resident head guide for this area in the days of the British. I must add that I didn't do very much dry fly fishing while I was there; it was mostly upstream nymphing or down and across, so nearly all wet fly fishing.

We moved to another river that I particularly wanted to fish, but when I got there it was in flood. It had been raining for days. I fished in the dirty water for half an hour and caught one fish, but then gave it away. I told the guide that I wanted to go for a walk up into the mountains as this area was known for its leopards and bears. He showed me some very isolated shepherd huts up in the hills that in winter time were under two feet of snow. We also found some bear tracks in the woods. It was summer going into autumn, so the maize crop around the villages was starting to come to a head. Apparently the bears come down and raid the maize crops, so the locals are quite apprehensive of them.

I went into the one and only fly fishing shop in Srinagar and found that the proprietor was very passionate about the measures needed to bring back the overseas visitors to fish their trout fishery; to bring it back to what it used to be when the British were there. He stocked a limited amount of gear and the flies on sale were typical English flies, with very few dry flies among them.

I fished a river that flowed out of a lake that was some 5,000 metres above sea level. I didn't ever get to this lake but heard that it provides some wonderful lake fishing - so good in fact that three New Zealand anglers have gone there every year for the past five years. It struck me that if the New Zealanders were going there then there be something very special about the fishing in this lake. The river I was fishing had a lot of pocket water because it was quite rough - so rough that we had to use large indicators. Shah was fishing Copper John nymphs and Prince nymphs, and fished with three flies under his indicator.

I had two guides on this particular day, and gave them each \$10. They assured me they knew where the best fish were, then took me miles up the river. But I didn't catch any fish there, so they walked me back to where we'd started, telling me I would get fish in the afternoon. When you have a guide in Kashmir he does everything. If your fly gets caught on the bottom he will wade out and get it free, and if it gets caught up in a tree he will climb the tree and retrieve it. One of these guides was close to 80 years old yet was still happily climbing trees for errant flies. In the afternoon I caught a couple of nice browns in this river, the biggest about 3 pounds. The guides also offered to take me up into some high altitude lakes but the trip involved a three-day journey in a taxi, so I declined.



*Peter, Terry and Colin enjoyed Ron's yarn*

We left the houseboat in Srinagar and went on a camping trip with our cook and our house boy. You don't go camping on your own; you take a truck with all mod cons on board with you. So it really was an old-fashioned safari. The food we ate was Eastern food - various curries and lamb and chicken and rice of course. The boys ate with their hands. I tried it too, but managed to spill food all over the place so asked for a spoon. I fished this river with a dry fly and caught four browns in 20 minutes.

During this year's trip I wanted to get into a valley that was last fished by a British army officer in 1947. No other European had been in there to fish it since then. We were confident of getting there this year because there had been no floods or landslides. The journey in took us up over some very steep mountain roads and through a mountain pass that was just wide enough for two vehicles to pass. The road was very steep with no barrier fences, and the drivers had a habit of folding their mirrors in to gain a few extra centimetres on either side of the vehicle for passing. We eventually reached the summit and commenced the very long descent to our destination,

finally arriving at the stream. It was in fact a big river. The beat I was given was 300 km long, so I had 300 km of water to fish. The locals who had fished there told me that it had some very large fish, and as no-one had fished it seriously I was very hopeful of some great fishing. The people there don't see many outsiders so the whole village turned out to see me when I arrived.

We set up camp on the river bank. The road in had only been established in the last 10 years, so of course there was no power, no mobile phone coverage and hardly any medical services. So it really was very remote. On inspecting the river I again turned over a few stones and found heaps of nymphs. The water was in fact teeming with trout food. Despite my keen anticipation and fond visions of large fish we didn't find any big ones. It was glacial water, so milky in appearance. We fished along the edges of the river and caught fish all day. Shah and I were there for two days and we landed well over 150 fish. We almost got to the point of being sick of catching fish.

So after three consecutive years of fishing Kashmir I discovered that you can

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divide the fishing there into two types according to the water. The spring fed streams provide big fish, and the glacial rivers produced mainly smaller fish. There are some passionate fly fishers there among the locals, so I ran fly tying classes for a couple of days. While it is a Muslim country the people there are very open and friendly and so very pleased to welcome you there.

Let me say in conclusion that I would not make Kashmir a 'fly fishing only' destination. If all you're looking for is fly fishing then you are probably better off heading to New Zealand. Having said that I wouldn't talk anyone out of going there. It's another fly fishing place to visit and a fascinating fishing adventure. I was there this year for ten days and fished on six, catching over 150 fish. The cost was \$3,500 plus air fares. So Kashmir is really quite cheap.



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## Wild Trout Conference - Mansfield on November 21, 2015

The Conference was run by Fishing Victoria and was attended by about 200 delegates. The program ran from 9:30am until 5:00pm and covered a wide range of topics. These included "Wild Trout Secrets", Climate and Habitat, and Fisheries Management.

The Keynote Speaker was Dr Dan Dauwalter, from Trout Unlimited in the USA. Dan's topic was "Trout fisheries in a changing landscape". He sowed a lot of seeds for thought in term of how much can be achieved by generating community involvement in regional fishing areas.

Taylor Hunt from Fisheries Victoria detailed the work being done now gathering extremely useful information on specific waterways by outlining the generation of "Health cards for twelve of our best wild trout streams." This led to a discussion on summer trout movements in the Delatite River.

After lunch the discussion moved to looking at riparian vegetation effects at local and landscape levels, leading on to

how riparian vegetation supports aquatic insects and thus better trout fishing. Riparian vegetation management into the future was emphasised as vital to the health of our streams.

The final session of the conference covered stocking issues and the use of chemical markers for tracking released stock. Trout size and possible bag limit possibilities were also discussed. Philip Weigall, well known fly fishing writer and guide, summed up the day well in saying that he, along with all attendees, had learned a lot, as the conference had raised many issues that provoked the need for all of us to think and act on the areas that concerned us as individuals and as specialised groups.

All in all it was an enlightening day from the aspect of a dedicated fly fisher. Members who are interested in reading about the conference will find excellent summaries on the *FlyStream* site – [www.flystream.com](http://www.flystream.com) - then check the recent items in the Blog.

*Terry Rogers*

# Ballarat Flyfishers Club - Lake Wendouree Two Fly Competition

The competition will be held over two days (April 2 & 3, 2016). The cost of entering is \$50 per fly fisher, and this includes entry to the event, a two-course dinner at the Saturday Night Gala event and breakfast on the Sunday.

The winner will receive a miniature Jim Thomas Memorial trophy and a Stalker Glide Fly Rod, total value of \$650. This event has become extremely popular and is now regarded as the “not to be missed” event in Victoria’s fly fishing calendar.

Special Early Bird Registrations (by March 1) will be put in a draw and may win a pair of high quality waders or a wading jacket. Interested participants should contact Chris Doody on 0428 304 004 or via email on [chrisdoodo@bigpond.com](mailto:chrisdoodo@bigpond.com) for further information.

Rules of the Lake Wendouree Two Fly competition:

1. Each participant will provide two flies of their choice to the Registration Desk.
2. The two flies will then be:-
  - a) reviewed to ensure their suitability for trout fishing in Lake Wendouree,
  - b) placed in an envelope, and numbered
  - c) placed into a draw, where each registered fly fisher will randomly draw out an envelope containing two flies.
3. The fly fisher can then only use those two flies during the competition.
  - a) Fly fishers can choose to use either or both of the flies at the one time on their fly line, over the two days.
  - b) Each fly fisher must record the length of each and every trout they catch on the official fish catch card using a commercially available ruler. This data goes towards developing future stocking proposals for Lake Wendouree.
  - c) If the fly-fisher loses one of the flies they can use the second single fly for the rest of the competition.
  - d) If the fly fisher loses both flies they can still continue to fish, but any fish caught will not be counted towards winning the trophy.
4. The Jim Thomas Memorial trophy will be awarded to the fly fisher who has caught the longest trout during competition times based on length (rounded up to the next centimetre from tip of nose to the centre of the tail fork), using an approved ruler (and verified by a second registered fly fisher). If two fish are registered having the same winning length, each fly fisher’s second longest fish will be used to determine the winner.
5. Registration will be from 8:00 am to 9:00 am, flies will handed out at 9:15 am, then a Rules Briefing at 9:30am.
6. Fishing Sessions – Saturday – 10 am to 4 pm, and Sunday - to 12 noon
7. Trophies to be presented at 12:45 pm.
8. Fishing will be allowed from either a boat or from the shore.



*David Lambroughton is a professional photographer who specializes in fly fishing. His 'Fly Fishing Dreams 2016' calendar is currently available online.*



*high quality fly fishing photos, some of which are used in Calendars.  
from the FlyLife magazine site. David provided us with this photo.*

# Tasmanian Angling Prospects for the Holidays

Our October issue carried a very comprehensive outline of the Tassie fishing season, a month by month description provided by Chris Bassano. This month we have two further updates on the likely fishing in Tasmania over the holiday period.

The first is from John Diggle, Director of Inland Fisheries for Tasmania:

## **The Tasmanian Trout Fishery Outlook - November 2015**

The autumn/winter period in Tasmania saw average rainfalls across the State, but since spring it has been sporadic and the countryside has really dried out. As a consequence of the dry conditions most rivers are low for this time of year, although fishing reports have been good from the Tyenna, Mersey and even the Leven, which has until now struggled after the plague of cormorants that swept the State in 2011 -2013. The Major Hydro storages are under 30% full and it feels more like the end of February rather than the middle of December. Climate change?

The 'go to' fisheries at the moment are Arthurs Lake, Woods Lake and Great Lake. Penstock Lagoon has performed well since the start of the season if you don't mind a crowd, but nearby Little Pine Lagoon has been quiet. However I expect it to fire any day. If you are travelling to Tassie this summer then Arthurs Lake is now back to more normal levels, after several years of frustratingly high levels that made fishing difficult. Again I expect this fishery to produce some great fishing this season.

The eastern fisheries of Lake Leake and Tooms Lake produced good fish early in

the season but I don't think they will be worth a visit during the rest of the season. Lake Crescent has produced some monster browns, with a recent unconfirmed report of a 27 pounder. The action has slowed now but if you are over in March or April it will again produce trophy fish as the water temperature cools and the fish target galaxia.

If you want to try something different then the West Coast lakes are worth a look, with Lake Burbury being the standout in terms of catch rate. It will be held low for most of the summer for maintenance purposes, but should still fish well. Other lakes to try are Lake Mackintosh and Lake Rosebery, or even Lake Rowallan. All have good wild trout populations and on their day can provide awesome fishing. If you are travelling to the West Coast from the south then on the way Lake St Clair is worth a look. It has good wild browns and rainbows and is often overlooked. The lake is in a National Park so a Parks Pass is required.

If you are coming over then keep an eye on the IFS website at [www.ifs.tas.gov.au](http://www.ifs.tas.gov.au). The IFS posts regular stories of interest to anglers.

Happy Fishing,

*John Diggle, Director of Inland Fisheries*

## **The Tasmanian Trout Fishery Outlook – Josh Bradshaw's Perspective**

Members will remember the talk given at a meeting earlier this year by Josh Bradshaw on his revised technique for fishing the Highland Lakes. Josh is an experienced Tasmanian guide and has provided these insights into the current season:



*Josh caught this magnificent brown in Tassie's Macquarie River*

Early reports are that this season is shaping up as one of the best for a few years - plenty of good catches to date, with fish quality up on the past few years. The duns have started at Little Pine and Penstock, although sporadic. The quality and size of the fish in Little Pine is good, and there are some big buggers in Penstock if you can get past the smaller triploids they've recently put in there.

Woods Lake and Tooms are also producing some better-than-average specimens, although the catch rates are lower (which goes hand in hand really). I have seen fish to 7 lb from both of these waters in the past few weeks.

The Bronte system has been fishing really well, with the fish size in Bronte also up. The water in these lakes tends to get warmer earlier, so the duns, caenids and spinners are all on the go. This system has produced an average of five fish per day for 15 days of fishing over the past month, with fish being caught on beetle patterns, Red Tags and the Shaving Brush. Most of them have been chock full of stick caddis or beetles on the warmer days.

The Macquarie River has been slow, with low water levels due to minimal rainfall

and lack of outflow from the Poatina power station. The red spinners have been about on calm days, but we've had a ton of easterly weather lately that has put the brakes on things a bit. The fish are still there and looking up, and will take a Shaving Brush drifted down the faster runs, so good sport can be found on slow days if you're prepared to persevere.

Overall, the season has started really well and I think this will be maintained into the New Year. I look forward to seeing some of the VFFA crew when you're about.

Cheers, *Josh*

(By the way, reports from New Zealand's South Island by Trevor Stow and Hubert Reichelt indicate that while the weather was the pits, at least for the first few days of their two-week trip, they were still pushing close to 90 trout caught and released in their two weeks, with the largest a brown of just on 6 lb. They have just been joined by Andrew Mossman, Wayne Sanderson, Dermot O'Brien and Robert Roles, so those South Island fish will be lining up soon for serious dental work.)

## The Warrnambool Trip

In mid-November 14 VFFA members made the annual trek west to the friendly coastal city of Warrnambool. A few headed down the highway on the Thursday to give the local rivers an early workout, but most drove down on the Friday in good time to gather at Bojangles Pizza Restaurant for what has become a traditional start to the Warrnambool event. The VFFA members were joined by Bob Loch and Jim Blakeslee for a fine evening of eating and planning.

On the Saturday morning the team gathered at Jim's house at Woodford to plan the assault. VFFA members were to be guided by local club members. The rivers to be fished were the Merri, Hopkins and Mt Emu Creek.

Unfortunately the Western District had very little rain over the winter, so the usual floods that clear away all the weed and accumulated junk had not occurred. So the local rivers were already quite low and displaying extensive weed growth in many places that covered the surface and restricted access.

Despite this some good fish were encountered. Hughie Maltby caught a magnificent brown behind the quarry on the Mt Emu, and Alex Evans, fishing with Peter Boag on the upper Merri with David Coutts as guide, landed a brown of 3½ lb and another of 2½ lb, both taken on nymphs under a dry fly indicator. David was the fully-equipped guide – even pulling out the machinery and ingredients to brew up a cappuccino coffee topped with frothed milk on the riverbank. Peter and Alex were greatly impressed.

The special feature of every Warrnambool trip is undoubtedly the magnificent barbecue at Jim Blakeslee's property on



*Mick Crewes needed a cuppa*

the Saturday evening. The fishing might have been challenging, but the evening meal is always a superb finish to the day. Jim is a master chef and invariably excels. During the evening Adrian Jacobs, president of the Warrnambool fly fishers, spoke warmly of the link that has been established between the VFFA and the members of the Warrnambool club.

On the Sunday morning David Coutts picked up Alex along with Bruce and Corey Houghton at 5:30am, and took them out to the Hopkins River to a pool where they saw a family of three or four platypuses busily working one of the pools. Again, the three VFFA members were enormously impressed with another example of the keen hospitality demonstrated by their Warrnambool hosts.

So ended another fine weekend at Warrnambool, even though fish were a bit harder to find. But it will rain next year and the fishing will again be fabulous.



*Saturday night at the Blakeslee's*



*Hughie connected with a fine trout in the Mt Emu*



*Jim Blakeslee and Hughie Maltby are compatriots of many years*



*... and this was Hughie's Mt Emu trout*



# How I was Introduced to Fly Fishing

(... from Julian Newton-Brown)

The vicissitudes of life can lead to many unforeseen directions that a person might embark on. My life had been one such.

As a child growing up in a small town called Balingup in West Australia I learned how to catch gilgies (yabbies) and their larger relatives marons in Balingup Brook. We moved to Hobart in 1941, where I turned 10 and mucked about on the Cattle Jetty trying to catch fish, but with little gear in frugal wartime.

In the years 1951 to 1955 I was studying to be a pharmacist and had little opportunity to fish. On graduating I found a job at Mount Beauty, and this allowed me to ski every weekend. While I was a student one of my mates talked me into skiing, which I learned to love. At ball sports I was hopeless; couldn't catch or throw or bat or bowl.

Having decided to stay in Falls Creek I started to build a ski lodge. It was partly built during the summer of 1957-58, so I leased an empty building called the Galleon Ski Club for the winter of 1958. Prior to this I had contacted the Pharmacy Board, and they allowed me to start a small operation within the building. I carried a range of emergency supplies such as morphine, plaster bandages for broken legs, sutures for cuts and other common products.

One morning two ladies came into the Galleon and one of them asked if I had any Aspros. I told her that I had only Disprin, and that Disprin was a little kinder to the stomach than plain aspirin anyway. She took the Disprin but replied that she would have preferred Aspros as her husband made them. So it became clear she was the wife of George Nicholas

who had built his company into a huge pharmaceutical manufacturer. I offered some coffee which she accepted, introducing herself as Shirley Nicholas and her friend as Kath Galbally. They were very pleasant customers, but I thought no more of it.

A few days later they came back to get something else. Over coffee again, Shirley said she had noticed my stone basement and I replied that I'd started to build a lodge. She then asked what I was doing for finance. I said, "Not much, as I don't have much money." She then volunteered to lend me some money. I was flabbergasted and said I couldn't accept such an offer. But she assured me that she was serious and would happily provide finance should I reconsider. So I agreed that if I was unable to get funding from the normal avenues I might contact her.

My search for a loan indeed proved fruitless as I had no assets, so I finally rang Shirley Nicholas. She was pleased to hear from me and reiterated her offer of a loan, asking how much I needed. I had no idea but thought £1,000 sounded like a lot of money, so this is what I asked for. We discussed the terms and I felt that five years would be enough time for me to repay the loan. A solicitor drew up the contract with interest of 2½% per annum, payable quarterly, and full repayment in five years. That done, I left for Falls Creek.

When the three months from Shirley's loan came around I posted a cheque to her. She wrote back saying she didn't want the interest, but asked if she sent her son Michael up to Falls Creek would I look after him and give him a job. I agreed to do so. Mike Nicholas duly

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arrived. He had just turned 18 and turned up in a brand new Land Rover. He was a fly fisher and the Land Rover was his choice of vehicle, but he wasn't much good at manual labour. Despite this we really hit it off and became firm friends, and remained so until he died in 2009.

One day I went with him to Pretty Valley stream (no dam there then) and watched him cast. I was fascinated at the poetry of his movements, but had no time to fish and no gear either. It occurred to me that Shirley had engineered the loan to secure the opportunity for Michael to be able to fish. I suspected she thought that Mike and I would become friendly and he perhaps might take up skiing. This is exactly what happened and Mike became a frequent visitor, though he didn't demonstrate the same degree of excellence in skiing as in his fly casting.

Some time later while visiting Albury I saw a three piece fibre glass fly rod selling for 30 shillings (three dollars) so I bought it. When I showed it to Mike he waived it about a bit and proclaimed it a 'lovely stick'. However it remained unused for a few years while I was

getting married and moving to Sydney to buy a pharmacy in Chatswood. After just one winter in the lodge I thus had to employ a bloke to manage it. He was dishonest and incompetent, so I reasoned a qualified chemist was a better choice than an unqualified bloke trying to manage a ski lodge.

The next year I put a locum in to manage the pharmacy during winter months while I ran the lodge. The lodge was a great success, but Sydney life and the girl I married were not for me. I put up with it for three years, but it was a disaster so I quit the pharmacy and the marriage and made Falls Creek my home. I then had time to myself so I tried to sort out this fly casting, but without much success until I had a lesson from the renowned caster John Brooks. From that time on I never looked back. I have since been fortunate to have fly fished in many of the most exotic places on the planet - New Zealand, Mexico, Christmas Island, Argentina, Canada, USA, and Africa. Plus game fishing galore.



*Tichborne watercolour – Lake Pearson*

# The River Itchen

... Bill Jeans

Three or four years ago I read an article in *Fly Lines* by a VFFA member who had organised with a guide in the UK to fish the River Itchen near Winchester in Hampshire, as this was where some of the original brown trout eggs were collected and sent to London for the first successful shipment of brown trout ova to Australia in 1864.

The idea appealed to me too, and as the guide's contact details were mentioned in this earlier article, I managed to book the same bloke for a day on the Itchen in between the riverweed harvesting procedures. So on a rather cloudy day we travelled by train from London to Winchester (which had been the capital of England at one stage) and booked into the Wykeham Arms Inn.

My guide was Dave Martin, from GoFlyfishUK, and he remembered his previous VFFA client. We fished the Kanara beat at Brambridge, which is administered by the proprietor of the local tackle shop in Kingsworthy. A very pleasant chap, too. I tried to buy some locally tied flies to bring home, but they are all imported these days. So I settled for some small brass and wooden reels - better than a cap or a postcard.

The day I fished was coolish with occasional sunshine. It was a glorious little stream to fish, with a wooden hut where we changed and later had lunch. I asked why they were called chalk streams, whereupon Dave kicked away some earth at the water's edge and exposed the white chalk base.

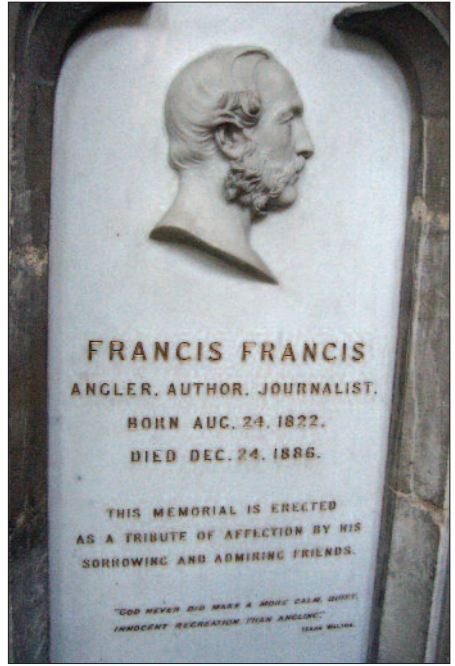
Fish rose as the day warmed up and I managed to catch browns to 2 plus pounds. Dave assured me some of them

were wild(???), though they didn't seem to spook nearly as easily as their relatives back home. Standard flies were Parachute Adams, black Klinkhammers, and various nymphs. I also caught my first grayling. We fished through a very pleasant day, finishing at 5:30pm.

At one stage Dave advised me to watch my footing as the river bed was quite rough! The largest obstacle I came across was the size of an apple, so I suggested he not try fishing the Thredbo or upper Swampy. My guide had no idea that the Aussie-bound eggs had been gathered locally. In fact nobody in Winchester knew, so to my wife's utter dismay, I took it upon myself to inform everyone we met. Dave rang me the following day to say he'd checked some of his fishing books, and sure enough, I was correct (doubting pom!).

Next day we toured Winchester Cathedral, one of the oldest in England, being consecrated in 1093. In the south transept there is a 'fisherman's chapel' which is the burial place of Isaac Walton (1593-1683), the father of English anglers. The stained glass windows above featured Isaac, with Charles Cotton at the bottom left, and on the bottom right was Isaac with his motto, 'study to be quiet'. The top four panels describe previous bishops, and Isaac wrote a biography on each of them, but they weren't the best sellers his later tome became.

The wooden lectern features carved fish and the pews have wave-shaped back rests for effect. Interestingly, in the *Compleat Angler* book the author is given as Izaak Walton, whereas his birth, marriage and death certificates, and his tombstone, all spell his name as Isaac.



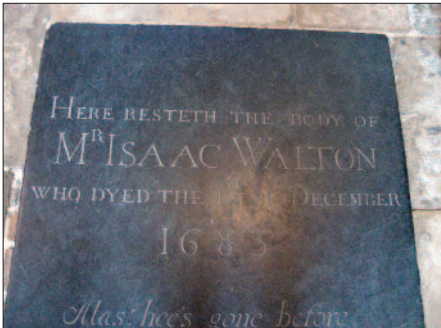
*Burial plaque for Francis Francis*

Murray Cod into UK waters. There is also a monument to Francis in Twickenham cemetery featuring a fisherman's creel, hat and case of flies. Unfortunately his original rod has disappeared.

Francis Francis is important to us Aussie trout anglers because he gathered about 1500 (the number varies in different books) fertilised brown trout eggs from an Itchen tributary and sent them to London for James Youl. They became our trout.

My wife had endured an hour of chat in the tackle shop and I thought that all this fishing connection in the cathedral could be the last straw. But then I discovered that Jane Austen (1775-1817) was there as well, with a special exhibition about her on at that time.

What a blessing; we were both able to complete a pilgrimage.



*Isaac Walton burial plaque*

On a wall in the cathedral there is a burial plaque for Francis Francis (1822-1886), whose parents obviously lacked imagination. There is a photo of this memorial plaque on page 49 of *The Australian Trout* by Jack Ritchie. Francis Francis trained as a surgeon but in fact became a well-known naturalist and author. His books include *Fish Culture* (1865) and *A Book on Angling* (1867), both of which I have. In *Fish Culture* he even mentions failed attempts to introduce



*Bill fished the famed Itchen River at Brambridge ...*



*...and caught some grayling as well as trout'*



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# FLY OF THE MONTH

## *Fly of the Month – the Royal Stimulator*



The Royal Stimulator is a very popular example of a whole family of Stimulator-style patterns. They come in all sizes, colours and models, some of which are excellent caddis patterns and others do very well as hopper flies. The references tells us that Randall Kaufmann designed and developed the Stimulators, originally as stone fly imitations for the USA western streams. But they also work well as simple attractor flies – something attractive and buggy looking; alive, plump and edible.

Antony Boliiancu, on the Goulburn Valley site, says this:

“The Royal Stimulator is one of the most well used fly patterns in the USA today. It is fantastic as an attractor pattern but works equally well when Caddis, Grannoms and Stoneflies are about. In smaller sizes it can be used during most Caddis hatches and has excelled on the Rubicon and Goulburn Rivers. It has also been very successful on the Mitta and Swampy, with many outsized fish rising through a lot of fast water to nab it. It has such great attractor quality it can be used in moving water the year round from opening until closing and still take fish. Recent trips to New Zealand also proved its value whatever the situation and location. This is truly a great pattern.

The main problem with this fly is the tying. It is complicated and as far as normal trout flies go it has a high degree of difficulty.”

## Materials for the Royal Stimulator:

- Hook:** A dry fly hook, preferably a 2X long shank. Antony recommends the Tiemco 200R hook in sizes 8 – 18.
- Thread:** 6/0 (or 8/0 for smaller sizes) Uni Thread in colours dark brown or black or hot orange.
- Tail:** Deer hair - Texas whitetail or body hair.
- Body:** Peacock herl and red floss.
- Rib:** Fine copper wire. (This seems optional – many references don't list it as a component. Adding a rib complicates the tying and makes the body heavier, but also more durable.)
- Palmer (Body) Hackle:** Brown cock - a good quality saddle hackle would work well.
- Wing:** Again - deer hair: Texas whitetail or body hair.
- Thorax:** Bright orange dubbing (synthetic or natural fur).
- Front Hackle:** Good quality cock hackle feather – grizzle.

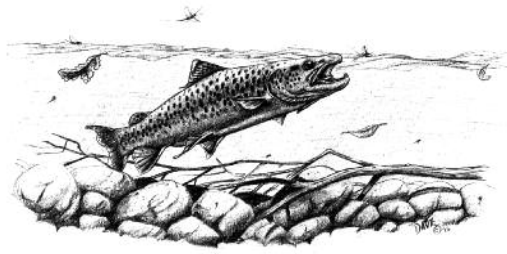
## Tying Procedure (mostly taken from Antony's notes on the Goulburn Valley site, and used with permission):

1. Wrap an even base of thread starting from near the eye of the hook and extending to the point where you are going to tie in the tail. This point should be roughly level with the barb on the hook.
2. Take a small clump of deer hair. You can either use Texas Whitetail (which is less prone to flaring) or ordinary deer body hair for those who can confidently tie it in without spinning it. The latter is preferable as it has better floating qualities. The length of the tail should be roughly equal to the hook gape.
3. For those choosing to tie in a rib take a piece of copper wire and secure it to the hook at the rear of the fly. Trim the excess wire and cover it with a few turns of thread.
4. Also tie in a short length of the body hackle and leave it hanging out the back of the fly.
5. Now find a bushy piece of peacock herl. This will be used to construct much of the abdomen and the better the herl the better the quality of the finished fly. Tie this in so that the thick part of the herl will be on the outside when wrapping it on later.
6. Wind the herl forward for a distance equal to the hook gape. Now tie it off and trim the excess.
7. Take some red floss and wrap a band of red that is say equal to about half the width of the previous body section. Bulk it up to fatten the body a bit here.

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8. Select another piece of herl and tie it in again with the fat side of the herl outwards. Wrap the second body section making it equal in size to the first. Trim off the excess peacock herl.
9. Wind the body hackle forward over the body in open turns and tie it off. If you had decided to include the copper rib, then wind this forward to at this stage and tie it off.
10. This completes the body section, which should be about two thirds the length of the hook shank.
11. With most of the fly completed, we now take a clump of deer hair and measure it off against the fly. The wing should come back to a point roughly level with the rear of the fly. Make sure the deer hair tips are even; use a stacker if need be.
12. Next tie in the wing. Pinch the measured clump of deer hair in between your thumb and first two fingers of your left hand (for right hand tier). Make two or three loops of thread around the hair but not the hook. Then pinching very tightly to stop it from spinning, attach the hair to the top of the hook shank, starting with looser turns to the rear and getting progressively tighter as you move forward. Don't let it flair. Trim the stubs of deer hair off as close to the hook as possible. This wing will float the fly in the worst of water.
13. Now take a grizzle hackle feather and tie it in so that it extends towards the rear of the fly and the shiny side of the feather is facing you, the tier. Trim the excess.
14. Find some hot orange dubbing and add it to the thread to form a dubbing rope. Wind the thorax, starting with a thick end nearer the wing and tapering to thin as you reach the hook eye. Orange is definitely an attractor colour and the combination of peacock herl and red floss, two of the all time great attractor materials, make this a very appealing fly. When completed tie off.
15. The last step is to simply wind the hackle forward through the thorax to the hook eye. Use four or five turns to make the fly float well and give it the required bulk to finish off such a pattern. Tie off the hackle and trim the excess. Add a couple of half hitches and you're finished.

It's a complicated fly to tie, and, as with all flies, getting the proportions correct is critical. It might take a couple of attempts to get it looking good, and it takes a bit of time to complete this fly. But it's worth it. This fly will catch you a lot of trout, especially in rough and broken water. It's also an excellent choice as the dry fly indicator when fishing a nymph under indicator rig.





# LIBRARY NEWS

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

The library is divided into three parts.

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

## V.F.F.A. ITEMS FOR SALE

The Association has the following quality items for sale:

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

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

VALUED DONORS

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

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

## VFFA Meetings at the Celtic Club & other activities.

### December

- 17 Christmas Dinner – 6:30 for 7:00 pm  
Speaker: Rick Wallace – Journalist with *The Australian* and keen fly fisher

### February 2016

- 8 Council - 7:30 pm  
13 – 19 Tasmanian Trip to Hayes on Brumbys  
Event co-ordinator - Hamish Hughes  
25 General Meeting – A Lunch Gathering - 12 noon  
A special video and photo display by Ian Sambell

### March 2016

- 17 General Meeting - 8:00 pm  
Speaker: Clinton Isaac – Hinchinbrook Island fly fishing guide  
25 – 27 Easter

### April 2016

- 8 – 10 Big River Trip - “Chateau Pilkington”, Enoch’s Point  
Event co-ordinator - John Pilkington  
21 General Meeting - 8:00 pm  
Auction of Fly Fishing books and equipment  
25 Anzac Day  
26 Tuesday Council Meeting - 7:30 pm

### May 2016

- 19 General Meeting – time to be advised