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THE VICTORIAN FLY-FISHERS' ASSOCIATION INC.

FEBRUARY 2009

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**NEXT MEETING – THE TRADITIONAL 'LIARS' NIGHT' AT THE KELVIN CLUB,
8:00PM SHARP, THURSDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2009**

ASSOCIATED CLUBS: ALPINE (BRIGHT) • WANGARATTA • BAIRNSDALE • WARRNAMBOOL • LATROBE VALLEY

DECEMBER CHRISTMAS DINNER

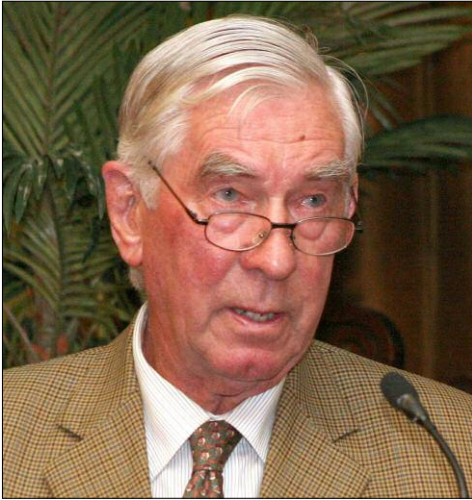
Some 50 members gathered at the Kelvin Club on December 18 to enjoy a convivial evening, a sumptuous meal, much absorbing discussion and reminiscing, and a fascinating talk by our invited guest, Michael Youl. Michael gave an enthralling account of the work of his great grandfather, Sir James Youl, who with enormous persistence and determination finally succeeded in transporting live salmon and trout ova to Australia. It's great story, and an accomplishment for which we trout anglers are truly grateful. The accompanying photos provide some glimpses of the evening. The text of Michael's talk is given on page 3.



The Christmas Dinner was clearly a very convivial and enjoyable evening.



Michael Youl's Presentation



Michael Youl

Good evening. My thanks to Peter Boag for his kind introduction. I feel very honoured to be invited to speak at this VFFA Christmas Dinner. Marty Rogers phoned in July to ask if I would attend as your guest speaker - it was 2am, and my wife and I were somewhere in Europe! How could I refuse! My talk this evening is mainly about James Youl, Atlantic Salmon, and some trout fishing experiences in the early 1970's.

James Youl was born in Sydney in 1810, and moved to London in 1852. In 1854 he became fascinated with the challenge of transporting Atlantic Salmon to Australia. It took him 10 years to succeed, so this talk may take me a little time.

I believe Youl was encouraged by Edward Wilson, who was one of his earliest supporters and who was involved with the Argus newspaper here in Melbourne. Wilson was very keen to establish Atlantic Salmon in Australia.

Youl needed to address three main issues. In order these were:

- a) what to ship – live fertilised ova, fingerlings or larger salmon;
- b) how to package them; and
- c) how to transport them.

Live salmon ova were his preference, provided he could retard the hatching for up to 140 days. Robert Ramsbottom, a leading pisciculturist, gave Youl no hope of success, suggesting he might as well 'fetch Australia back to England as try to carry spawn in moss to Australia'. The Tasmanian Government announced in 1857 a reward of £500 for the introduction of "live salmon" (not live ova). No support there either!

Youl's decision, in my view, placed him many years ahead of his time. The success of his experiments in retarding the hatching of ova are the forerunner of storing animal and human semen, storing animal and human female fertile eggs, using liquid nitrogen, IVF, and so on.

Packaging of the ova took a lot of sorting out, and there were three failed attempts, all with live salmon ova. These occurred in 1841, 1852, and again in 1860, when a shipment on the SS Carling was packed in 15 tons of ice from the Wenham Ice Company, Boston in the USA. This last voyage was funded mainly by the Acclimatisation Society of Victoria, headed by Edward Wilson.

Youl continued with his experiments at the Crystal Palace in London, using Wenham Ice, until he was satisfied that live ova could survive without light, air or freshwater for at least 140 days. This took many years of patient and painstaking investigation. Whilst showing some friends ova at 100 days, he said these 'little friends are alive and very healthy'. Youl also travelled to France, Ireland, Scotland and Belgium to study fish culture. In France he discovered that live moss was being used to pack ova for transport.

The Tasmania Fishing Commission, headed by Dr (later Sir Robert) Officer, was becoming increasingly excited about another attempt at establishing salmon in Tasmania. The Tasmanian Government put up £3000, Victoria added £500, and New Zealand sent £200 – vast sums in those days. A salmon hatchery was built at Plenty, Tasmania, in readiness. There was huge support and high expectation that Atlantic Salmon would soon be established in the Southern Hemisphere.

The next shipment, on the Beautiful Star, was probably arranged too soon. James Youl hadn't perfected his 'pine box' idea, and the voyage was ill-fated from the start. The ship cleared London on 4th March 1862, but was delayed by bad weather, then had to put back for repairs, and when finally underway

encountered rough seas for most of the journey. The 25 tons of ice (again from USA) had all melted by 17th May. It was then that William Ramsbottom (son of Robert) remembered and located the little pine box Youl had placed at the bottom of the ice stack. To his surprise he discovered that some of the ova were still alive 8 hours after the ice had all melted. But another failure had occurred. Youl was severely criticised by the print media in Hobart town and some of the Commissioners in Tasmania for such a huge waste of money.

Youl put his head down and continued to perfect his pine box idea. The boxes were approximately 12 x 8 x 5 inches, or for those who prefer metric measurement, 305 x 204 x 125 mm. Each box was packed first with charcoal, then crushed ice, live moss, ova (carefully poured onto the moss), then more live moss to support the little ova, then more crushed ice. The lid was screwed down and the whole box was perforated with holes. Youl was now confident he had discovered the best way to package the live ova for shipping to Australia.

After the dust settled in Hobart town Dr Officer began to appreciate how close to success the Beautiful Star shipment might have been had the pine box idea been used. He persuaded the Government to support another attempt to established Atlantic Salmon in Tasmania. James Youl was again asked to be involved. He accepted, provided he had supreme authority. This was agreed to.

Youl needed a fast sailing ship for transport, so he approached Messrs Money Wigram and Sons, who owned the super fast clipper 'Norfolk', and offered 100 guineas on his own account. Money Wigram (Money was his Christian name) refused the offer, but countered with an offer of 50 tons of space for ice in the centre of the ship, provided he gained the PR. The deal was done, and the sailing date was set for 20th January 1864.

However as the departure date approached, Robert Ramsbottom was unable to capture a female salmon that had not shed its ova. In desperation Youl appealed through the *Times* newspaper to readers who might be able help with unspawned salmon. Time was fast



running out when on 18th January, just two days before the scheduled departure, ova finally began to arrive at the London docks. Youl and young William Ramsbottom worked furiously to pack the ova using Wenham Company ice, and Money Wigram agreed to delay sailing by one day. At the last moment three boxes of brown trout ova arrived – a gift from Admiral Keppel. Two were provided by Francis Francis and came from the Wey River, and one by Frank Buckland from the Itchen. James Youl observed that these trout ova were some of the finest salmonid ova he had seen. He packed them the same way as the Atlantic Salmon ova, and consigned all boxes to Edward Wilson in Melbourne.

The Norfolk sailed on 21st of January. The Ice House was locked, with instructions that it be kept locked. The voyage went smoothly, though the Norfolk needed to hove to for a couple of days rounding the Cape. It finally arrived at Hobson's Bay, just 84 days out from London, and docked at Station Pier in Melbourne the next day. Edward Wilson and members of the Acclimatisation Society of Victoria went aboard, unlocked the Ice House, inspected the first box, and found all the ova to be alive and healthy.

Wilson retained 11 boxes of salmon ova, because salmon was what everyone wanted. If the salmon ova were allowed to hatch in both Tasmania and Victoria then this provided double insurance. However the trout ova were all dispatched to Hobart. This raises the question – why were all the trout ova dispatched to Tasmania?

Since 1841 the talk had always been about salmon. The Argus newspaper had readers eating salmon before and after the Norfolk docked in Melbourne. The Mercury and the Advertiser had also written long articles about the new Salmon Industry before and after the ova landed in Hobart. Edward Wilson arranged for the warship Victory to transport the rest of the salmon and trout boxes to Hobart, and from there they were taken to the hatchery at Plenty. On 4th and 5th of May, 1864, the first brown trout ova in Australia hatched. They were released in the local rivers and lakes, and over the next few years their numbers exploded.

I believe the unsung hero of our great brown trout fisheries in Tasmania, Victoria and New Zealand was Admiral Keppel, who, with help from Francis Francis and Frank Buckland, collected and fertilized those brown trout ova. Buckland claimed all the kudos, however, and was well toasted by the UK media. I also believe the 1864 shipment of brown trout, now living in the far Western Lakes of Tasmania's Highlands, are probably genetically the purest on this planet.

Now let me tell you a little about the fishing I enjoyed in 1973, 74 and 75. In April 1973 I went to Penstock Lagoon, arriving at 1pm on the western shore. The water level was extremely low, as the HEC had pulled the plug. There was 60 yards of dry mud from the old shore to the edge of the water. It was a bright day with a light westerly wind. The Jassid Hopper was on, and the fishing was just fantastic. Colin Bryant suggested it was like fishing to black-back salmon. It was on again the next morning too.

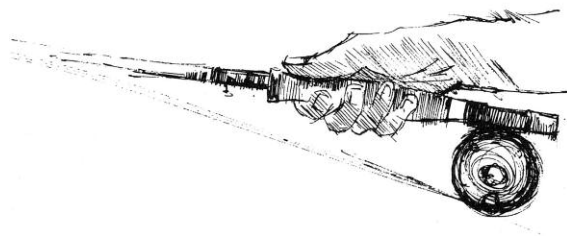
In November 1973, after a very wet winter, the Great Lake had filled to a new level, with the multiple-arch dam under water, and I was busting to see the new flooded shores in Lake Elizabeth (now known as Elizabeth Bay). I had an 11 ft boat with a 6 hp Mercury outboard motor, so I put it in at the headrace tunnel ramp and set off in calm seas. I took a shortcut through the trees and made for the south-east corner of Lake Elizabeth, a distance of some 10 km. The water was flowing through to Muddy Bay, which faces south towards Tod's

Corner, and I could see tails, fins and boils everywhere as I made for the shore. I grabbed three browns, but then noticed the wind in the treetops, so it was back into the little boat and full speed back to the boat ramp. I spent all that night wondering how I could finance a boat that would handle the seas on the Great Lake.

Our accountant suggested that I should sell the little boat and buy a larger one, which could then be depreciated. The next week I returned with an 18ft fiberglass boat with 100 horses on the back. The two main areas of the Great Lake we fished were Halfmoon Creek area (at the north end) and Lake Elizabeth. Bill Youl, Frank Bond, Jim McEwan, Peter Wallace and Peter Fay were my usual passengers. The top end had more frogs than I'd ever seen before, and I often took fish on a Cochybondhu with red tinsel on a size 14 hook. Lake Elizabeth and Muddy Bay were always reliable, and we could usually dodge the wind there.

One morning in February or March 1974 we got up very early - we being my elder brother Bill and a London banker - and went over to Lake Elizabeth. We were fishing before 6 am and fished through until about 9 am, taking some excellent trout. We then stopped to cook breakfast, which would have been sausages, eggs and bacon. While we were sitting there we noticed a falcon hawk land high up in a gum tree, on a large dead branch. He was perched out where all the bush could see him, and where he too could see what was going on. The birds started to chatter to say that there was a bit of danger on, so he just sat there watching. All of a sudden an old green parrot took off, flying in a westerly direction across a strip of water about 160 yards wide. As soon as the parrot came into view the bush went totally silent. The hawk immediately flew from his perch and swooped on the green parrot. As the hawk streaked downwards the parrot did a very quick turn - a sort of underhand loop - and quickly scrambled back into the trees. The other birds gave him a huge cheer because they had all been watching. The hawk returned to his perch, and we went on with our breakfast. The London banker, who had flown mosquitoes during the war, then explained to us the turn that the parrot had used. He said that the parrot had stood on one wing, driving his nose down and thus reducing drag so that he could drop very quickly and thus dodge the hawk.

No sooner had he finished his explanation when the parrot set off again, this time flying due south towards a small island. He must have had a row with his missus, or perhaps he was looking for her. This time the hawk sat on his perch and waited. He allowed the parrot time to get just beyond the point of no return, and then he left and swooped at enormous velocity. But he had left his run a little late. The parrot had flown across the stretch of water and had just reached some low gum trees as the hawk attacked. So the hawk had to abort at the last moment or he would have crashed into the branches of the trees. The birds in the bush went absolutely bananas. The parrot escaped and the noise rose until it was deafening. Everyone had been watching the event. The hawk in his fury flew round and round the little island - which was only about as big as two tennis courts - and then wandered back to his perch. The parrot didn't try his luck a third time, so after a few more minutes the bush returned to normal. And we fished on.



President's Message

Christmas is well and truly behind us and we are already well into the New Year. In December we enjoyed a well-attended Christmas Dinner with Michael Youl as the guest speaker. It was interesting to hear about the introduction of salmonidae into this country directly from a Youl, given the role Michael's great grandfather Sir James Youl played, and the special historical interest Michael maintains in the subject.

Michael finished his talk by recounting some of his wonderful fishing experiences in the Central Highlands of Tasmania, finishing with an extraordinary recounting of observations of a hawk hunting a parrot. I am a very keen bird observer, and knock around in birding circles, but have never heard a better description of the hunter and the hunted. It was absolutely gripping.



David Featherstone missed his first Christmas Dinner in forty-six years of membership. In late November he suffered a heart attack and had a triple bypass. He is recovering well, and in his own words, "he is coming good." He has not had a fishing rod in his hands since late November, and is tired of reading about fishing and would prefer to be fishing. He passes on his appreciation to all for the phone calls and cards received wishing him well, and hopes to be at the next meeting.

We are also sorry to hear that Malcolm Elms has been in hospital following major surgery in January. He is recovering slowly, but is looking forward to being up and about and catching up with everyone soon. He is already planning this year's winter casting, which of course will include more of Nancy's world famous cookies. So Malcolm – our very best wishes. Be assured that all of us wish you a speedy recovery to full health.

Speaking of the next meeting, the first meeting for the year is "Liars Night" on Thursday 19th February. This night always surprises with tales true and sometimes not so true. For members who have not previously attended, it is an entertaining night not to be missed. It may well be that for those who attend the Kelvin Club dining room beforehand, the unsuspecting may disclose that secret spot over a glass or two of red.

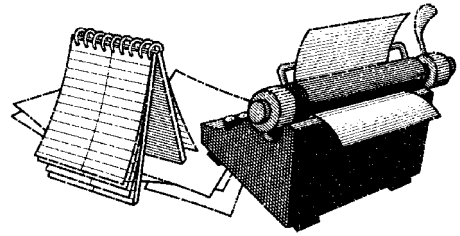
The coming year promises to be the usual busy one for the Association. On the fishing front, the Bairnsdale Donger Weekend in February is followed by Cressy, Tasmania, in March. Details appear elsewhere in the newsletter. It is always rewarding to see a new face or two on the trips.

We have interesting speakers for the monthly general meetings, in what should be a full program for the coming year. Former President and Editor John Philbrick will be speaking in March on his experiences on the Sen River in Poland, and the Test in England. In April, Julian Newton-Brown will be speaking on bone fishing.

On behalf of the council, I would like to wish all members tight lines, and hope that the VFFA can provide opportunities for members, whether it be angling experiences or companionship through our shared interests.

Peter Boag

From the EDITOR'S DESK



Welcome to 2009. The Christmas break, providing the transition from the old year to the new year, is always a time for reflection. What were the highlights of 2008? What will 2009 hold? Who knows? As one of the Beatles famously quipped, “Life is what happens to you while you’re planning other things”.

For me the angling highlight of 2008 was undoubtedly the VFFA trip to New Zealand. The scenery was superb, the rivers were magnificent and the fish were both large and plentiful. (That’s not to say they were easy to catch!) But the real bonus was the enjoyment of sharing a fabulous angling experience with a great group of VFFA members. A strong sense of camaraderie developed, and while the fishing was superb, the social life was equally memorable – the meals together, the instructional sessions when Bob Loch had us practising our ‘Penny Knots’, and of course the glorious and hilarious entertainment provided by the ‘professor with the ukulele’. All wonderful memories, some of which are captured by Rick Dugina’s excellent report on the trip in this newsletter. Rick’s initial report was lengthy, so we will hold some of it over. We look forward to the second instalment in the March newsletter.

The first meeting for the year, on February 19, is the traditional ‘Liar’s Night’, and as January is usually a hard month for fishing – high temperatures don’t help, and all the accessible lakes and streams are hammered by the holiday crowds – perhaps we need to stretch the truth a little to preserve our reputations. Not so Richard Kos, who enjoyed some great fishing on the streams in the Otways. If Richard is a little coy about revealing the exact location of the two 2lb browns he landed, we understand perfectly. However he has revealed to us the details of his highly effective damsel nymph in our Fly of the Month.

Michael Youl has kindly provided the notes for his Christmas Dinner address. It was a memorable address, and his notes nicely capture the very entertaining message that he brought.

Late last year I invited Philip Weigall to contribute an article to our newsletter. Philip of course needs no introduction, being the author of a number of very fine books and countless articles on trout fishing in Victoria and beyond. He is also a keen and supportive member of our Association.

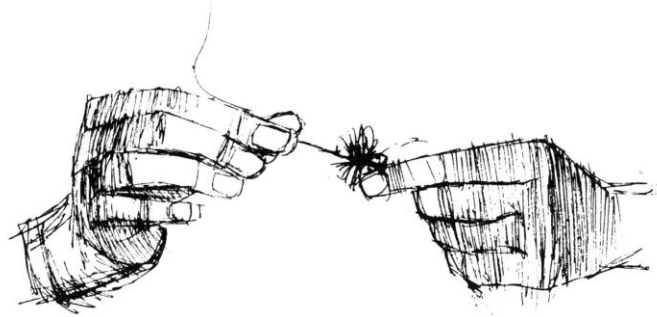
Just prior to Christmas he emailed to indicate that he hadn't forgotten my offer, and in early January it arrived. You will find it on page 10 - a delightfully written and very practical guide to successful stream fishing. Thank you Philip.

Of concern to all trout anglers are the recent media releases and proposals relating to the ‘Macquarie Perch National Recovery Plan’. It goes without saying that this species is an important native fish, and we all want to see it strongly established and thriving in our waterways. However studies and reports dating back to the 1970s suggest that the species is

in 'serious decline' and is endangered. The Recovery Plan lists a number of possible reasons for this decline, along with several proposed measures to re-establish healthy populations. Many of these, such as habitat improvement and the reduction of illegal fishing, we would endorse.

However, as ATF President Mick Hall was quick to note, trout were again identified as the 'villain'. To quote from the Recovery Plan: "The most direct and obvious impact of introduced fish on natives is through predation. Predation by redfin perch and brown trout is considered a contributing factor to the decline of Macquarie Perch. Redfin perch are known to eat the young of all native species with which it co-exists. Trout are also known to prey upon Macquarie perch juveniles."

As suggested, the Recovery Plan identifies a host of possible reasons for the decline of Macquarie Perch, and the extent to which trout have contributed to this decline, if at all, has never been accurately assessed. But surmise and speculation abound, so again our trout fishery appears to be under attack. Mick Hall recently attended a meeting of various government officials and angler groups to discuss the Plan and its potential impact on the trout fishery. It is pleasing to report that this first meeting went well and allayed many concerns that we may have held. Mick's report is on page 22. Suffice to say, the ATF deserves our whole-hearted support.



Bairnsdale Fly Fishers Club Inc.

DONGER TROPHY WEEKEND

The Bairnsdale Fly Fishers are holding their annual Donger Trophy weekend again this year in their new Lodge. All VFFA members are invited to attend and join with the Bairnsdale members on Saturday February 21 and Sunday February 22 at the Mitta Lodge. A barbecue tea will be provided on the Saturday night.

VFFA members are also welcome to attend the Bairnsdale Annual Dinner on the Friday evening (February 20) at the Bairnsdale Motor Inn, Pentagon Restaurant, commencing at 6.30 pm. VFFA members wishing to attend should contact Trevor Stow (at Bairnsdale) on 03 5152 4363, or Colin Morrison on 9375 2298, by February 12.

THOUGHTS ON STREAM SUCCESS

Phillip Weigall

(Philip has been pondering the little things that lead to success on fishing our mountain streams)

As I write, summer and early autumn 2009 are shaping up well for stream fishing in eastern Victoria and the Snowy Mountains. Good rain through November and December has offset a dry early spring. Flows are presently respectable, and following on from a gentle summer in 2007/08, trout stocks are respectable too. The potential really is there to enjoy some first-class flyfishing on numerous waters, but the question is (as always in our sport!) how to convert this potential to fish on the line?

Right Spot(s)

Most seasons, this one included, it's not so much a question of identifying the few productive streams, but rather avoiding the handful of poor options. The best intelligence you can get is a positive first-hand report. If a friend or trustworthy acquaintance (well, as near as you can tell trustworthy!) informs you they've enjoyed good fishing on a particular water recently, that's a powerful recommendation. Barring some catastrophe between their visit and yours, at least you know the trout are there, almost certainly in good numbers.

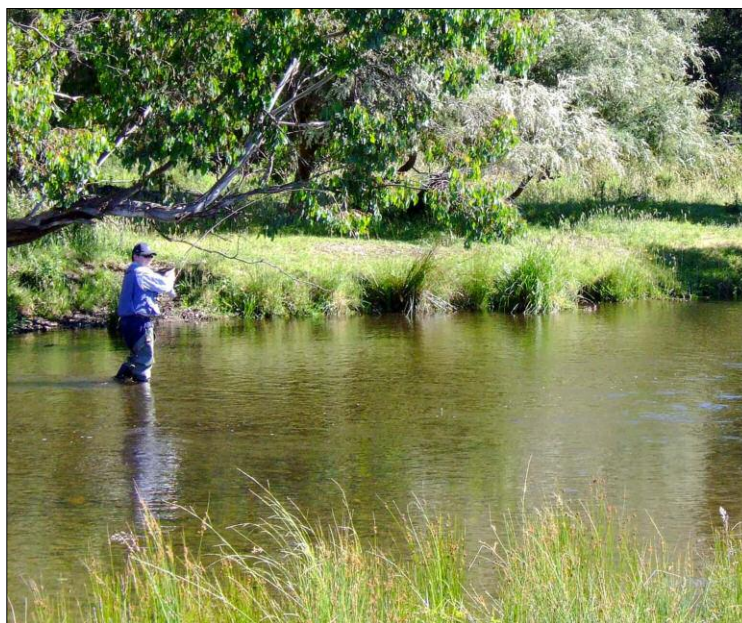
Negative reports are much less reliable, and in my experience can lead to anglers mistakenly avoiding rivers that are actually full of promise. The problem with a 'didn't see many' or 'didn't catch any' report is it doesn't mean anything if the angler or the water was having a bad day.

Of course even the best report is already history by the time you hear it. In other words it doesn't allow for what happened between receiving the news, and the days or weeks that elapse by the time you are there. So it always pays to have back-up streams within striking distance—streams you are prepared to use.

Which reminds me, blindly sticking to, say, a semi-flooded river because it was so productive last year, is no way to fish. By all means plan your trip to centre on a favoured stream, but if your tailwater drops too fast, or your river is discoloured by a localised thunderstorm, at least you'll have some fallbacks.

Right Conditions

When it comes to variation in conditions, use these to your advantage. To paraphrase a well-known saying, there are no bad conditions, just wrong spots. Heatwaves favour cool headwaters, gales favour grasshopper fishing and so on. On a trip just before Christmas to a north-east stream, high flows meant the gorge sections I usually favour were too fast and inaccessible for good fishing (although I had to get wet to the chest and scarred by blackberries before I accepted this!) However it turned out that the same flow 'problems' advantaged the broad, shallow 'B-grade' water downstream—a reminder that I need



Fighting a lively Nariel rainbow that was rising in the bubble-line

to be careful when grading stream sections, even subconsciously. Dozens of trout were holding in the riffles down there, smashing Stimulators.

Finding Fish

It's important to keep a keen eye out for rises on mainland mountain streams, and a keen eye will polaroid some trout too. However on most of these waters most of the time, you can't rely on sighting more than a fraction of the trout present, and so searching the water becomes essential.

Feeding trout (the only ones we have much chance of catching!) prefer a combination of shelter from the main force of the current, cover from predators, and of course food. It's true that trout feeding really hard can occupy some pretty exposed spots, but during daylight at least, the odds favour structure producing the most fish. You're looking hardest for places where significant current lines will carry food close to bouldery areas, overhanging or partially submerged branches, depressions in riffles, drop-offs below rapids, and that oldie but goody, the undercut bank! Bubble-lines that drift through otherwise uninteresting pools are always worth a few searching casts too, although be aware that blind fishing flat water often spooks many more fish than it catches.



A Nariel Creek brown

Fly Choice

I'm working on perfect fly choice for the mountain streams, confident that some time in the next 50 years I'll come up with a foolproof system! Meanwhile I have a few ideas to go on with. First and foremost, use a dry fly you can see easily. It is essential to be able to fish the roughest, shadiest, most confused or mottled water without losing sight of your fly. Go for a pattern with a fluorescent pink or chartreuse mast if you have to, or add a splash of a similarly visible colour to the wing of conventional flies. Whatever the liabilities of tinkering with the natural colours, these are outweighed by having a clear view of the drift of your fly, and whether or not it is taken. Critically, visible flies provide the visual confidence to search some good water—often the broken water—which you might otherwise avoid.

Dry flies work well through much of summer and autumn on the mountain streams, but they're not infallible. There will be times when a nymph takes fish that simply won't come to a dry. A nymph 'dropper' (either brass or tungsten beaded depending on the flow and depth) goes some way toward covering the subsurface bases. Bead-head Pheasant Tails, Hares Ears and Copper Johns are usually effective. Vary fly size and flash (e.g. gold or black bead) before changing to another pattern.

Some days the dry attracts few if any trout, and it's time to try some dedicated nymphing. While I admit I'm always reluctant to remove the dry, there are times (especially when flows are high) when concentrating on the nymph alone is the only way to fish effectively.

Drifts

I don't know how to emphasise the importance of good drifts without sounding like an evangelist. Salvation lies with a perfect drift, brother, and drag leads to damnation! Granted, there are occasions when we want our dries and nymphs to move contrary to the current, but often dead-drift is essential. And not merely dead drifts, but drifts via currents that travel relatively slowly within snapping distance of good trout lies (see above). Trout will always take an easy meal over a hard (read fast) one. Current seams provide one classic means of producing a slow-ish drift in otherwise quick water, but there are plenty of others. Look for where the bubbles and leaves travel more slowly, and drift your fly along the same line.

The number one enemy of a good drift is long casts. Unless you are a master mender, cast short, and physically position yourself and your rod tip to minimise drag. For example, it is much better to cross the stream to fish that right bank undercut, rather than taking the lazy, drag-doomed option of casting across to it from the left.

Persistence

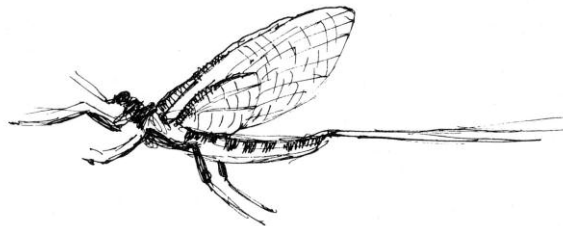
One of the hardest things to define in flyfishing is how long to persist—with a fly, a river, a spot—and this is emphasised when ‘blind’ searching likely water. All I can suggest is that if you find yourself fishing a piece of stream that looks like it has all the attributes a feeding trout could want, make lots of thoughtful presentations before moving on. I am continually amazed how a promising drop-off or boulder bed can produce no response from several casts, only to then deliver a succession of takes. On such occasions, I like to imagine I’ve almost willed the trout into eating the fly. The more plausible explanation is that each cast results in subtly different drifts (particularly with a nymph) until one finds the sweet spot; and/or the repetition creates the illusion of hatch.

Evening

For some anglers, sunset is the time to enjoy a drink, a good meal and companionship, rather than to battle with fly changes and deceptive wading in the fading light. Fair enough. But if your eyesight, rumbling tummy and enthusiasm will permit, the hour *after* sunset is usually the most productive time on the mountain streams. The biggest trout are most likely to be feeding, an evening rise is a very good chance, and small mistakes like bow-waves or a bit of drag are mostly forgiven by the fish.

So, if you can stand to wait another hour for dinner and a glass of red, find a stretch of stream of variable character that faces the western sky, and stay on. Arrive before sunset, change up a weight in tippet, put your headlamp and two or three most likely flies in easy reach, and wander slowly back and forth until you see a rise. The plan doesn’t always come off (a vindication for those who departed early!) but more often than not it does, and the result will be remembered long after what was on the menu.

(Please note that Philip has asked that we respect his copyright on this article. It cannot be reprinted without his permission).



February General Meeting – Liars’ Night

The next general meeting will be held at the Kelvin Club on Thursday 19 February, commencing at 8 pm sharp. This is our traditional “Liars Night” when members will recount their tall tales and true of their angling exploits over the summer break. It has been said that “All fishermen are liars unless they are calling other fishermen liars”. This would not be true of VFFA members, so join with the gathered experts and get the very latest intelligence on the local fishing.

Members and their guests are encouraged to have dinner at the Kelvin Club prior to the commencement of the meeting. Please be seated in the dining room by around 6:30 pm so that we can commence the meeting on time.

A MONTANA RIVER GUIDE IN AUSTRALIA

What's life like as river guide in Montana? After 30 years rafting and guiding on the streams around Red Lodge in the state's centre, Marek Rosin can tell us. Marek met a girl from Barwon Heads (of all places) while skiing in Sun Valley Idaho, and to cut a long story short, he now spends the long Montana winter in Australia, guiding at Millbrook Lakes and on the Swampy Plains River, working out of the lodge of the same name near Khancoban.

Most flyfishers know Montana as perhaps one of the most revered places in the USA for trout fishing, and certainly one of the top trout destinations worldwide. Gary LaFontaine called Montana home, along with many other influential anglers past and present. So what's it like to guide there? "Fantastic of course," says Marek, himself a keen flyfisher. "The rivers I concentrate on are the Yellowstone and Stillwater. Trout populations are high, and consist of rainbows and browns. Fish are typically 15 - 20 inches".

Marek describes the fishing through the season as not lacking in variety. "In April (mid spring) the rivers are still fairly low and cold so we fish wets," says Marek. "Come May and June, the snowmelt is usually in full swing and flows are high—you need to know what you're doing if you're rafting, and we mainly fish big streamers on sink tip lines." The prime fishing occurs in July through to September, with big hatches and surprisingly warm temperatures for somewhere that's snowbound half the year. "This is dry fly time," explains Marek. Come September autumn is rapidly approaching and the focus turns to big, aggressive pre-spawners in low-ish water. By October, the first snowfalls have arrived and it's back on the plane to Australia to raft the Swampy Plains River.

And what's the best part about being a guide in two hemispheres? "No winter," Marek answers without hesitation. "The Montana winters are especially harsh. The only thing I miss out on is the skiing—and that's not so bad when I get several months of hatches instead."

A Swampy Plains Lodge trip has been made available for VFFA members only (limited to 6) from 9th March – 12th March. For further information about Marek, Millbrook and the Swampy Plains, visit www.millbrooklakes.com.au <<http://www.millbrooklakes.com.au/>> or email Marek on marek@millbrooklakes.com.au or mobile 0432284743.



Marek in action on the Swampy

New Zealand TRIP 2008 REPORT – A PICTORIAL STUDY

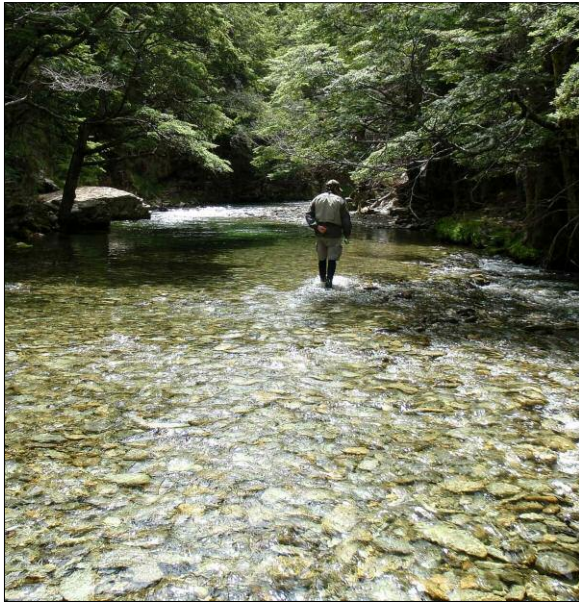


Hamish is successful again with a lovely Mataura brown trout.

The Professor and the Earl return from a session on the Brightwater. Notice in the background that the monument tree is gone.



Rick has the gillie earning his wage with a 4lb brown in the net. Nigel had spent quite some energy clambering along the bank, jumping the rocks to make sure of the capture, while Rick gave directions from above. This is the smaller of 2 fish spotted in the first pool at the start of the Roberts River by Nigel, who spotted them from the car. Not many anglers fish this area as the next pool is as far as you can see in the distance. Fortunately you can drive along the bottom of the ridge to within walking distance.



Rick checks around for a suitable casting position. This pool is about 15 metres long and 2 – 3 metres deep. Nigel is scouting ahead as spotter while Hamish drops back to take the photo. These pictures do not do justice to the wonder of walking through these gullies in the beech forest and coming across some beautiful pools, most of which contained a single “bug fush”. I moved slightly forward and to the left. Just under (see next photo) the branch being highlighted by the shaft of sunlight. Several times I caught the branch, behind and to the right. I had to cast under the branch behind me and also under the branch in front, whilst landing a tiny Parachute Adams gently 50 ft away.

From about 15 casts I managed to hook the branch at the rear several times and twice had to be rescued by Nigel. All to no avail as the fish did a disappearing act and we moved on. The lesson learnt was that you need to practice your side casting over reasonable distances.

Another shot of the same pool with Nigel changing flies. Note the sudden change in colour indicating the change in depth. I could not move forward with any safety and was casting from under that overhanging branch. This is the Roberts River, and true to form in the beech forests, the sandflies were ferocious.



Lyndon is into a good fish on Hamilton Burn. Nigel takes his usual stance as he waits with net in hand in expectation.



Again with the editor on another section of Hamilton Burn. A nice stream when the silt has settled.

Finally the capture. Check the head and tail. This fish would have weighed well had it been in better condition. Well done Lyndon, but I don't think the Elvis glasses go with the Sherlock hat.



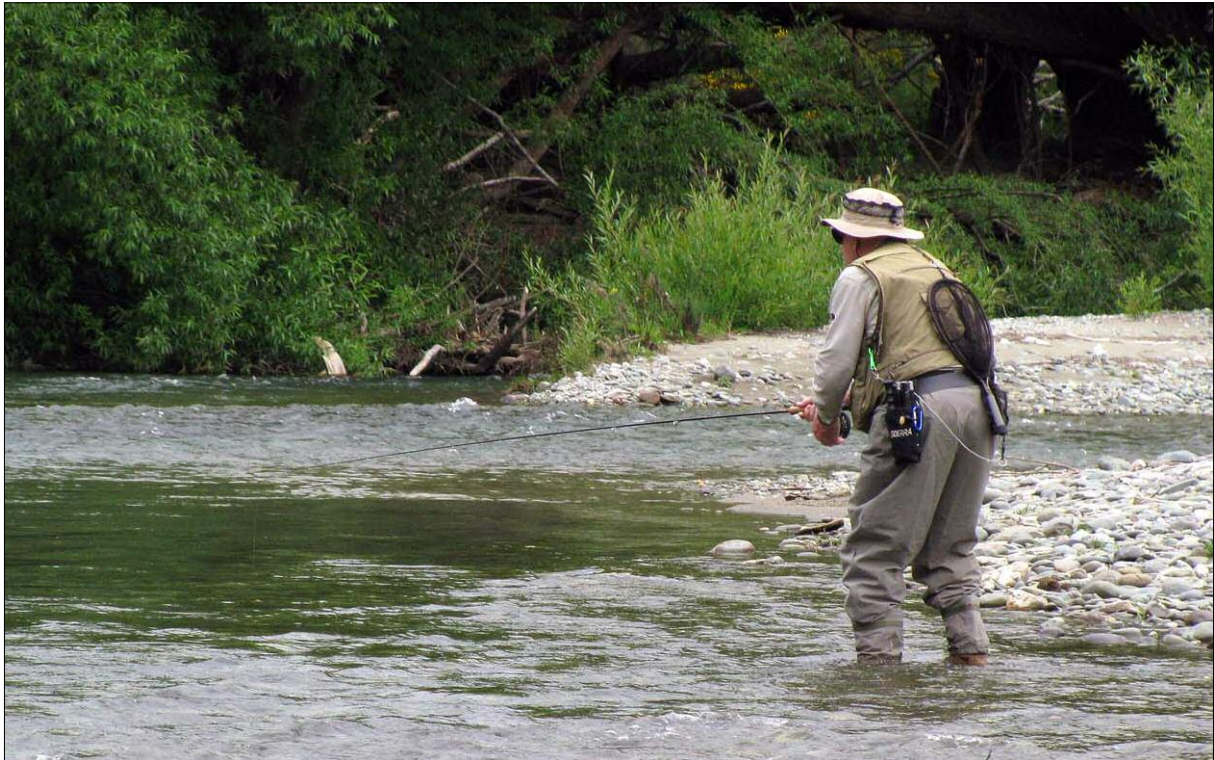
Back at Athol. "Richard, that tippet is far too light for these fish".



Generally known as “the gathering”, it can be quite a frightening event as the members devour their barbecue offerings and discuss the day’s happenings.



Richard and Colin tramping to the next likely location.



Colin casting into a likely run on the Mataura.

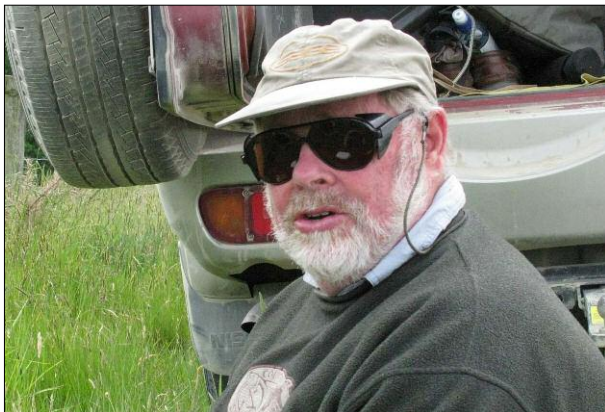
Sometimes you have to watch and wait. Patience.



The Parawa Creek doesn't look much and most fishers pass by without a second glance, but Rick has been known to do some mighty damage armed with a few "gold beadhead hare's ear flash-back nymphs under a flouro indicator." This trip accounted for several nice fish but in particular a 4½ lb brown in magnificent condition.



After dinner at Nokomai Station. The VFFA team and three other guests. Yes, there is a lot of cheer. Note the beautiful carvings of trophy browns on the back wall.



Len Prentice pitched in with the guiding and led some of the boys a merry dance. They also got some fabulous fish. Here he is having a well-earned break for lunch. Below is a still pool on a stretch of the Waimia River.





Hamish is testing the comms on another feature of Nokomai Station, the helicopter service. You can arrange for a joy flight, or some sightseeing, or get a lift to the airport or get dropped off at a secret location in the hills where very few fishers have been before. This is a recon flight so some of the group could get the lie of the land around the station.



An aerial view of our accommodation at Nokomai Station.



Colin trying to work out how to cast from the helicopter. Note how tight the safety strap is.



“Yes we can land anywhere”. Somewhere back of beyond. Also in frame are Brian (Nokomai station owner) and James (son and pilot).



All the crew back on the ground for dinner. Some very dodgy entertainment.



In conclusion it must be said that this type of trip improves your skills to amazing levels. This can easily be seen by the number of fish caught (and returned). The attitude to issues such as didymo are being addressed in a positive way by all fishers who go across the ditch and who we meet when there. The availability of new types of boot soles and the techniques for cleaning gear have enabled us to travel with confidence in the knowledge that we are not contributing to the distribution of that problem.

The main issue that still causes some level of annoyance is the airline schedules, in as much as we need to travel via various ports to reach the Southland. It is about time that the flights available to skiers were extended through the summer season. Fishing is one of the main reasons why people visit New Zealand in the summer and considering the amount of money we spend it is about time the tourism industry made an effort to look after us.

That said we had a fantastic trip Rick Dugina

(NB – next month’s newsletter will carry more photos and reports on this fabulous trip)

Australian Trout Foundation

Anglers Save Gaden Trout Hatchery

NSW anglers have achieved an agreement with the NSW government to reverse the decision to close the Gaden Trout Hatchery at Jindabyne. “The future of the Snowy Mountains trout fishery is now secure with this agreement,” NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers President Steve Samuels said.

The NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers (NSWCFA) took the lead in negotiating with the Government and other stakeholders to keep the hatchery open. On 16 December 2008 Steve Samuels and Bruce Schumacher, (Chair of the ACORF) met with the Hon Ian Macdonald, Minister for Primary Industries, and the Minister agreed to the plan proposed to use fishing licence fee monies to partly support the operation of Gaden Trout Hatchery. The Minister welcomed the proposal and also agreed to a number of conditions put forward which provide long term certainty for the hatchery and significant angler representation in its management.

ATF Special Meeting

Mick Hall, President of the Australian Trout Foundation, has scheduled a special meeting of the ATF for Tuesday February 24, starting at 6:00 pm, at the Yarra Valley Fly Fishers’ Club Rooms on Lillydale Lake (Melway Map 38, G7).

There will be a barbecue tea, followed by the meeting from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm. For catering purposes those wishing to attend are asked to notify Merv McGuire. There are a number of very important issues to discuss and resolve, and the ATF needs the input of all concerned anglers. Mick has stressed the importance of this meeting, as it will affect the future of the ATF and our trout fishery, so is most anxious for a good attendance. *All VFFA members are invited to attend.*

Merv can be contacted by email (merv.mcguire@bigpond.com) or phone 9561 7815 or 0417 887 815.

Macquarie Perch National Recovery Plan

Drafts of this document have been circulating and causing some concern. Trout are again being identified as an ‘alien species’ and hence ‘part of the problem’ – brown trout supposedly eat juvenile Macquarie Perch. Accordingly, rumours have been floating around that one of the recommendations being advocated was the removal of trout from a number of established trout streams and the re-establishment of Macquarie Perch in these waters. (It is interesting to note that Melbourne’s Yarra has healthy populations of both trout and Macquarie Perch, and they have happily co-existed in this river for many years).

Mick Hall, as ATF President, recently attended a round-table discussion which included representatives of VRFish, Native Fish Australia, DPI Fisheries, and DSE Flora and Fauna. He reports that the meeting was very amicable and positive, and that a good working relationship has been established between all interested parties. He is confident that that this will lead to a Recovery Plan for Macquarie Perch in Victorian rivers and streams that will be effective and which will satisfy all interest groups, without impacting on the trout fishery.

Most pleasing was an expression among all present of 'goodwill towards our trout fishery'. It would appear that loss of habitat is being identified as a major reason for the decline of Macquarie Perch, along with a fish disease spread by Redfin Perch.

This meeting will be the first of many, and we look forward to future reports from Mick on this issue. In the meantime, the following letters reflect some of the feeling and emotion that this issue has generated:

From: Rod Clarkson
Sent: Wednesday, 14 January 2009
Subject: RE: Trout Versus Natives

I'm in full support of the management and stocking of our Natives, but having said that it should not be at the demise of our trout fishery... Trout should not be placed in the same category as Redfin Perch!!!!!! Our premium trout streams should be managed as trout streams and Native streams as Native. We all know that our Natives exist better in the warmer water streams and trout in the colder streams, which is more reason why we should be able to have trout streams recognized.

Rod Clarkson, Managing Director, Clarkson Imports & Dist. Pty Ltd

From: Geoff Wilson, Fishing Writer, Whittington, Victoria, 16/01/09

Subject: Proposed measures to protect Macquarie Perch

Dear Sir:

In relation to the above I make the following points:

- Macquarie Perch, while targeted by a relatively small percentage of the angling population, are not a mainstream sportfish, nor are they considered an especially important table fish.
- Trout, both brown and rainbow, on the other hand, while not native to this country, represent one of the great success stories of an introduced species. Trout have such a dedicated following in this country any attempt to undo the work of those intrepid souls who established the trout fishery in this country would be nothing short of a national disgrace and an exercise in ideology and ignorance.
- While Macquarie Perch populations probably require monitoring they are definitely not as endangered as we are being told. This is because they are not especially vulnerable to netting surveys and not always easy to catch on a baited hook or lure, therefore populations are very likely to be higher than what might show in angler's catches and netting surveys.
- Therefore, any attempt to reduce angling pressure on recognized trout streams, or even close trout streams, in an attempt to preserve Macquarie Perch populations is an ill-conceived strategy that will alienate anglers and have no effect, none at all, on Macquarie Perch populations.

Yours faithfully
Geoff Wilson

From: Rex Hunt
Sent: Wednesday, 14 January 2009
Subject: RE: Trout Versus Natives

Hello all.

I have yet to witness such hype with Natives as I did in my younger days for trout opening. I can remember gazing at the trout in the window at Hartley's and ordering my scrubbies from Jack Carolin at the MSD or from a very young Robert Turville at Mentone Disposals. I personally reject any reference to trout as pests and vermin.

My two major trout trips every year are to Tasmania, because they take their trout seriously as a multi-million dollar tourism Industry. I have been travelling lately to the north-east of Victoria and have seen serious declines in trout stocks. I have been informed that they, the Fisheries, are monitoring the situation. That's comforting. It would be good if the Fisheries returned trout fishing to what it was many many years ago.

It is always mysterious to me that the three major salmonid fisheries in the world are in the southern hemisphere. Argentina, Tasmania and New Zealand are world-class fisheries. And yet trout are not native to any of them.

I am well and truly out of the bickering and fighting that we have today. I think it is sad to see anglers who have benefited so much from the hard work of a few for many years, show no respect at all to these people. Personally I will not put up with it, and I have retired. Thankyou for reading this and many of you were there for the first night of Futurefish. I thank you for your support and at least we had a go, didn't we.

Cheers
Rex Hunt

Gerard Dridan - 60 Years a Member



Gerard Dridan joined the VFFA in 1948. Last September he celebrated his 80th birthday and 60 years of membership of the VFFA. He is still a keen and active angler, though the waters that he most loves and has fished for years – the Campaspe River and the Malmsbury, Upper Coliban and Lauriston Reservoirs - are now in a pitiable state because of the continuing drought. Gerard recalls his largest fish – a 6 lb brown taken from Lauriston on a Black Matuka, his favourite fly. He is still tying his own flies, having recently acquired a new rotary vice.

He talks fondly of the early days – heading off to fish with his good mate Len Jesser, who taught him to fly fish. Len has since passed on. In those early days their usual transport was Gerard's motorbike. Len travelled as the pillion passenger, hanging on grimly to their rods and other gear as they raced off to Glenlyon Dam, which Gerard thinks was stocked by the Daylesford boys. He once saw a 9½ pound brown taken there.

Gerard and wife Elaine have been married for 55 years. Elaine doesn't fish but has been a very loyal supporter of Gerard's angling pursuits. He recalls how many years ago he changed jobs at a time when they were raising their family, building a house, and generally finding the family finances tight. Gerard asked Elaine whether they could still afford his VFFA membership. She refused to even countenance the thought that he might give up the membership that he so valued. So his membership continued, and now totals 60 years.

EILDON REPORT

Just a brief report this month on the fishing around the Eildon area. Mick Hall tells us that Willow Grubs are the main game – both on the Goulburn and the Rubicon. Mick has also developed a willow grub fly which is very easy to tie, the details of which can be found on his website at <http://www.kossiedun.com.au/Willow%20Grubs.htm>

This site also gives details on the grub, and on how to fish the Willow Grub pattern.

At the time of writing this report the Goulburn was running at 10,000 ML per day and the fishing was difficult. Water temperatures were already around 20°C and won't be helped by the January heatwave. Fish were holding tight in along the edges.

VFFA Meetings & Activities

FEBRUARY 2009

- 19 **General Meeting** - Liar's Night
- 20–22 Bairnsdale Annual Dinner and 'Donger' Weekend
Dinner – Friday 20, 6:30pm for 7:00pm Pentagon Restaurant
598 Princes Hwy Bairnsdale
- 21, 22 Donger Weekend at Mitta Lodge, Omeo
- 25 Council Meeting

MARCH

- 7 - 13 Tasmanian Trip – “Hayes on Brumby's”
(Convenor - Hamish Hughes)
- 19 **General Meeting** – Speaker: John Philbrick
(Visit to U.K. and Poland)
- 25 Council Meeting

APRIL

- 16 **General Meeting** - Speaker: Julian Newton-Brown
(Bone Fishing)
- 22 Council Meeting

MEL KREIGER

The February 2009 issue of the US magazine 'Fly Fisherman' reported the sad passing of Mel Kreiger on October 7 last year, at the age of 80. Mel was ill in the last months of his life and died of a brain lymphoma. He was a passionate casting instructor and mentor to thousands of fly fishers. He was also an entertainer with an infectious enthusiasm for fishing and casting. His book, *The Essence of Flycasting*, and his many instructional DVDs became standards in fly casting instruction all over the world.

His calling as a teacher became apparent when he began tutoring a 10-year-old named Steve Rajeff, who later went on to win the All-Around World Casting Championship at the age of 16 and has since become the greatest competitive caster in history.

ODD SPOT

Even Mayflies Need Medicating...

A recent edition of the UK *Trout* magazine reports that a study of pharmaceuticals found in America's Tennessee River revealed that a typical baby mayfly is consuming the equivalent of 27 cups of coffee a day. The University of Tennessee study found caffeine in over 93 per cent of 160 test samples, along with a cocktail of antibiotics, antidepressants and medication for lowering cholesterol levels. Oh dear!

Flies with names like “the caffeinated caddis” could become top sellers, one US magazine predicted, and debates would erupt over whether a coffee bean glued to a hook constituted bait or a viable fly tied with ‘natural’ materials...

VFFA 2009 TASMANIAN TRIP



2009 Tasmanian Trip Nearly Full

The VFFA will be returning to 'Hayes on Brumbys' at Cressy from Saturday March 7 to Friday March 13 this year. The shared accommodation is very comfortable indeed. Bed and breakfast will be provided, as will linen and towels. We will self-cater for lunch and get together for a barbecue or something similar at dinner time. The cost is \$500 for the week. A \$250 deposit is due now and the remaining \$250 by the end of February.

Peter Hayes and his guides will be available to take you to the streams or lakes of your choice. Peter is giving us a discounted rate of \$400 each per day for two anglers. Based on last year's activity most of us will probably wish to spend a day with a partner in a drift boat on the Macquarie River and maybe another day on Brumbys itself. Others may choose to share a guide in a larger boat on a lake such as Arthurs.

Members will be responsible for their travel arrangements to and from Cressy. Some will take their cars over on the Spirit of Tasmania; others will fly and hire vehicles from Launceston airport. Accommodation is limited and there are only a few vacancies left so if you are interested in being part of the team please contact Hamish Hughes on 9822 6811 or hthughes@bigpond.net.au



SPECIAL OFFER

COLUMBIA SHIRTS/LOGO

\$70.00 each

POLARFLEECE JACKETS/LOGO

\$40.00 each

POLARFLEECE SLEEVELESS VEST/LOGO

\$35.00 each

To order a shirt or two contact
Hugh Maltby on Work: 9455 9000
Mobile: 0400 887 065

The Victorian Fly-Fisher's Association Art Exhibition

Entry form for 17th to 19th July 2009

Registration details (Please complete in BLOCK LETTERS)

Surname _____ First name _____

Nationality _____ DOB ____/____/____ (circle) Male

Female

Postal Address _____

State _____ Postcode _____ Country _____

Artists ABN if applicable _____ (Australia only)

Email _____ Fax _____

Telephone 1 _____ Telephone 2 _____

Art Work Details

1. Title _____

Medium _____

Size (cm) H _____ W _____ Dated _____

Sculpture – approx weight & preferred display requirements

Sale price of work in Aust \$

2. Title _____

Medium _____

Size (cm) H _____ W _____ Dated _____

Sculpture – approx weight & preferred display requirements

Sale price of work in Aust \$

3. If 3 or more entries, please copy form and attach tick if you have attached 2nd page

Number exhibits entered.....x AU \$10.00 fee per exhibit = total cost enclosed \$ _____

All entry fees include GST. Tax Invoice Receipt will be sent upon receipt of entry

Delivery and pickup arrangements indicate your method of delivery, and pickup if unsold

Personal(tick) OR Australia Post OR courier

or

Agent's NameAgent's ph.....

Payment details (Australian dollars only)

Chq enclosed for VFFA Art Show for \$.....(Aust only) or debit my **MasterCard / VISA** card
(circle applicable)

Card number _____ Cardholder's name _____

Card expiry ____/____ Cardholder's signature _____ Date ____/____/____

Competition declaration :I have read and understand the rules of the competition & agree to abide by them.

Signed _____ Date ____ / ____ / ____

Mail your entries to : OR **email to:** squires@eftel.net.au

VFFA Art Show 2009

5 Netley Rise

Doncaster 3108 Australia

Enquiries: Ph 0427.047.926 or squires@eftel.net.au

The Victorian Fly-Fishers' Association Art Show

17th to 19th July 2009

Location: Victorian Artists Society Gallery
430 Albert Street, East Melbourne, Victoria Melway 2G A1

VFFA: 5 Netley Rise Doncaster 3108 Email squires@eftel.net.au ph enquiries 0427.047.926

Conditions of Entry

- 1 The Victorian Fly-Fishers' Art Show (VFFA AS) is open to the public and all art work must relate to angling.
- 2 Entry forms, photographs of artwork and entry fees of **\$10 per item** must be received by **VFFA by 31st May 2009**. Late or incorrectly completed forms will not be accepted. Artists whose work is accepted for exhibition will be **notified in writing by June 14th 2009** – no correspondence will be entered into.
- 3 Mediums of **painting, photography, mixed media and sculpture** will be considered.
- 4 All works must be new and owned by the artist. No artwork which has previously won an award at a major competition may be entered.
- 5 All works must be original and the concept of the artist. The finished work must not exceed 180cm x 180cm
- 6 In the case of photography the work must be framed and no smaller than 30cm x 30cm. Photographs may be created by conventional light exposure or with digital control. Images taken with film cameras must not be adjusted beyond a level that would be applied in conventional optical printing techniques. Digital images are only acceptable if adjustment is limited to levels, curves, colour, saturation, contrast and minor cleaning work. Sharpening and cropping is permitted.
- 7 Entry into the VFFA AS will be **by preselection**. Each entry **form must be accompanied by a photograph** of each of the items listed, to a maximum of 4 items. The submitted photograph must be labelled with the artists name, title, size and medium and price.
- 8 Any freight and freight insurance costs to and from the VFFA AS must be born by the artist
- 9 All artists will allow their artwork to be reproduced for promotional and other purposes by VFFA AS
- 10 The artist agrees that all works submitted and selected are for sale. The sale price will not be discounted.
- 11 Art works selected for exhibition must **be received at the Victorian Artist Society 430 Albert St. East Melbourne 3002 on Thurs 16th July 2009 between the hours of 10am and 3pm.**
- 12 Judges appointed by the VFF AS will choose the prize winners. The judges' decision on all competition matters will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- 13 If delivering artwork by courier or Australia Post, prepaid return freight vouchers and return address label must accompany the work. If your artwork is sold the freight voucher will be returned to you. Unsold returning artworks will be packed back in your original packaging.
- 14 The VFFA will retain a **commission of 20% on all artworks sold**. Net sale proceeds in the form of a cheque will be forwarded to the artist within 45 days of the show.
- 15 The VFFA and VAS will exercise all responsible care in handling the work, but will not be responsible for loss or damage to any work while in their custody. Artists are advised to provide their own insurance for their work.
- 16 After the close of exhibition on Sunday 19th July all **unsold works can be collected from the VAS at 430 Albert St East Melbourne between 5 and 6.15pm**. If unable to meet this time, prior discussion with Paul Squires on 0427.047.926 may be able to offer a solution and assistance with later pick-up.
Any shipped artworks will be returned in their original packaging , therefore it's the artist responsibility to provide adequate packaging and labelling for return shipment.
If any artwork is not collected by Tuesday 21th July 2009 4.00pm the VFFA reserves the right to sell the artwork.
- 17 Submission to the VFFA AS automatically accepts the terms and condition of this entry form. The VVFA reserves the right to vary or change the conditions of entry at any time.

FLY OF THE MONTH

Kossy's Damsel Nymph

This month we feature another of Richard Kos's flies – this time his Damsel Nymph, a fly that has been particularly successful for him. It is a little more complicated to tie than the more pedestrian damsel nymph patterns found in the books and magazines, but we think it's worth the extra effort because of its huge appeal to the trout. Richard has provided these notes and tying instructions:



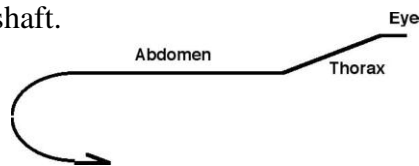
For fishing the lakes in the Daylesford and Kyneton areas, I needed a good Damsel Nymph imitation, as this was one of the major food items available to trout throughout the year. I started by tying a very basic pattern, which produced only mediocre results. The need for a more effective pattern started an evolutionary process, culminating in the Kossy Damsel. The fly in its current form has proven to be highly successful, consistently taking trout, redfin, yellowbelly and carp in still waters, backwaters and the edges of slow-moving rivers and creeks. One limitation in the design, however, is the poor quality of the commercially available eyes, as they are not very durable in the jaws of a hungry trout. Must find someone to teach me how to make eyes from nylon line.

Materials:

Hook:	Daiichi 1770 #10 (Available from J. M. Turville's in North Melbourne. Tiemco make a similar-shaped hook – model TMC400T – which might do if the Daiichi model 1770 can't be obtained).
Thread:	Olive Dun Uni thread 8/0
Tail:	Olive marabou
Upper Tail & Body:	Dark brown marabou
Body:	Olive possum fur
Legs:	Partridge dyed olive
Ribbing:	Fine green wire
Eyes:	Mono eyes - small black (WAPSI)
Wingcase:	Dark brown pheasant tail feather
Thorax:	Olive possum fur

Tying Instructions:

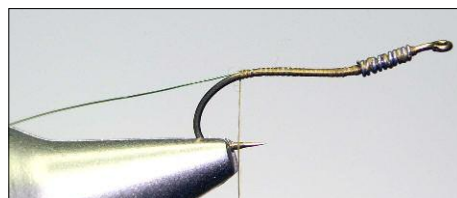
Step 1 Bend the hook eye parallel to the hook shaft.



The hook should now look similar to the shape above.

Step 2 Wind on the thread, starting about one third of the way along the Thorax section (leaving enough room to tie in eyes and wing case later) and winding down to the Abdomen section.

Step 3 Tie about ten turns of 0.010 lead wire along the Thorax section. Wind the thread back over the lead wire, then back down to the bend of the hook at the end of the Abdomen section. Tie in some fine green wire at this point. (Fig 1)



Step 4 Tie in some olive marabou for the tail, then dub a thin body of olive possum fur - just enough to cover the thread. The dubbing should cover the abdomen section, making it uniform in thickness all along. (Fig 2)



Step 5 Add a narrow piece of dark brown marabou so that it lies on the top of the tail and along the top of the abdomen. Tie it in by winding the fine green ribbing wire forward, about nine turns. Richard recommends wetting the dark brown marabou before tying it in, as this makes it much easier to manage. (Fig 3)



Step 6 Bring the thread forward to the front of the lead and tie in the eyes with some figure of eight turns to hold the eyes horizontal and firmly in place. (Richard also recommends a drop of super glue at this point to keep the eyes securely locked in place). (Fig 4)

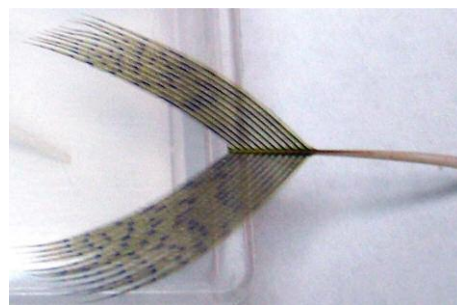


Step 7 Prepare the wingcase – a strip of dark brown pheasant tail feather just wide enough to fit between the two black eyes. The strip should be treated on the underside with clear nail polish (Manicare All-In-One) or fly tying Vinyl cement or Flexcement to strengthen it and stop it splitting or falling apart when it is tied in.

Step 8 Tie in the wingcase at the bottom of the Thorax section so that about 3 mm covers the start of the abdomen and the rest is standing up ready to be tied in later. See Fig 5.



Step 9 Apply a small amount of dubbing to the Thorax area, then prepare the legs by taking an olive-dyed partridge feather and removing the tip and upper fibres so that the feather looks like this:



Step 10 Tie in the legs on the top of the thorax area. (Fig 6)



Step 11 Finish dubbing the Thorax by adding more dubbing on top to produce a pronounced wing case. Fold the wingcase over and tie it off at the eye. Finish with a drop of All-In-One or other head cement. (Fig 7)



Step 11 Prune the tail by pinching out some marabou with your thumb and forefinger for a more natural look. Do not use scissors.

Step 12 Take your Damsel fishing! Good luck!



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 Marty Rogers 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.

OVERDUE BOOKS

Our librarian reports that a number of members have failed to return library books on time. Could all those book loving members who have failed to return books promptly do so.

V.F.F.A. ITEMS FOR SALE

The Association has the following quality items for sale:

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
Cloth badges	\$7.00 each
Diaries	\$2.00 each
<i>The Australian Trout by Jack Ritchie</i>	\$20.00
<i>(Special offer – buy one, get one free!)</i>	
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 9455 9017.

VALUED DONORS

The following made donations for the raffle at the 2008 Annual Dinner:

- Armadale Angler • Aussie Angler • Australian Fishing Network • Compleat Angler Box Hill • Compleat Fly Fisher Melbourne • Daniel Hackett, RiverFly, Tasmania • Fly Life Publications • J M Gillies • Lowes Furniture • Mayfly Tackle • Mick Hall www.kossiedun.com.au • Michael Steven's Publishing • Millbrook Lakes Lodge • Nick Taransky - Bamboo Rod Maker • Pro Angler Fishing Tackle • Ray Brown, Onkaparinga Flies & Cane Rods