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THE VICTORIAN FLY-FISHERS' ASSOCIATION INC.
Organisation No. A0024750J
C/- The Kelvin Club, Melbourne Place, Melbourne 3000

JULY 2008

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**NEXT MEETING – FLY TYING WITH THE MASTERS
AT THE KELVIN CLUB, 8.00PM THURSDAY 17 JULY 2008**

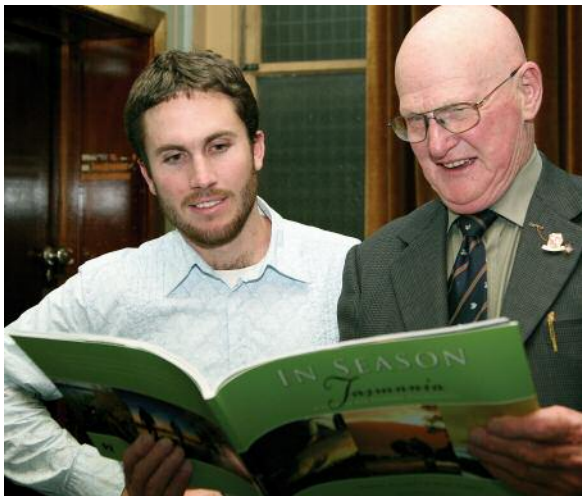
ASSOCIATED CLUBS: ALPINE (BRIGHT) • WANGARATTA • BAIRNSDALE • WARRNAMBOOL • LATROBE VALLEY

JUNE MEETING – DANIEL HACKETT

Members who attended the June meeting enjoyed an enthralling presentation by young Tasmanian guide, Daniel Hackett. Daniel is well qualified for his chosen profession, having graduated as a marine biologist, and his passion for the environment and his deep understanding of the Tasmanian bush were evident.

His presentation was based on a magnificent set of PowerPoint slides showing the rivers and creeks he fishes in Northern Tasmania, along with his trips into some of the more remote Highland lakes. Daniel is co-author of the recently published 'In Season Tasmania', with its superb collection of photos by Brad Harris (staff photographer for FlyLife magazine). Daniel's slides were mostly photos taken by Brad, and the quality was self-evident.

Daniel talked about the 'spring creek fishing' available in Northern Tasmania. While the fish in these creeks are generally small, they are there in numbers and are keen risers. There are similar types of streams up in the highlands which provide an excellent fall back when the lakes are not co-operating. Daniel showed photos of very narrow rivulets – perhaps a metre or two wide – from which he had taken browns to



Daniel discusses his Tasmanian Season with David Featherstone.

4lb which were shaped liked footballs.

A favourite fly of Daniel's was the 'Glister Brush'. However he would often plop large grasshopper patterns (the WMD Hopper)

into likely locations. Fish hidden under the undercuts would dash out and slash at the fly, thus disclosing their whereabouts. They would then be picked up with much smaller flies.

Daniel talked at length about the rivers around Launceston. The little St Pats has as many fish per kilometre as any river in Tasmania, and fish to 3 lb are taken from it each year. A typical day would see 6 – 12 fish caught, to 1 lb in size. And the St Pats fishes well from October through to April. Another hint - Tasmanian fish don't always sit in the obvious lies, so 'don't just fish the bubble lines and foam lines'.

The South Esk was another of Daniel's favourite haunts, with its prolific mayfly hatches. April was a great month to fish this and other rivers, with ant falls and size 18 baetids providing fabulous dry fly fishing. The best stretches are those with gravelly or weedy runs, which should be fished during the day. The broadwaters provided excellent fishing too. The bad news – early morning provides the best fishing and generally bigger fish on the broadwaters. (Daniel was asked, "How early is early?" He indicated that 7am was quite early enough).

Brumby's Creek was another target area. The higher the water, the better, as the bigger fish then sit along the edges. They take hopper patterns well, as Tasmanian rivers provide good hopper fishing from



David Grisold addressing the June meeting.

mid-January until nearly the end of March. Daniel's WMD (Weapon of Mass Destruction) hopper was as good as any for extracting these large browns.

Daniel suggested that Brumby's Creek fished better in sunny conditions. He also suggested that the Break O'Day is now not fishing well and the Macquarie is best fished in the months October to December.

For Tasmanian rivers the best sizes for nymphs are 14s and 16s, with Hare's Ear and Pheasant Tail Nymphs being popular choices. The black and peacock spider is another very effective fly. Daniel uses 2mm brass beads on his nymphs 'just to break the surface tension', and avoids heavy beads such as tungstens.

Daniel also had some fabulous photos and great tales of his exploits in the Western Lakes. He found the Fur Fly to be effective (provided it sinks), along with the Fuzzle Bugger.

Polaroiding is the way to go from December onwards, and Daniel's advice was to stand up high (on large rocks for example), to scan lots of water, and to keep moving until fish are found. He recommended Greg French's article entitled 'Rough and Ready' in issue 41 of FlyLife magazine (Spring 2005) as providing excellent advice on the way to tackle these waters.

Daniel concluded his presentation with photos and accounts of his trips into some of the wilderness rivers. These include the Weld, Mersey and Leven, which provide great pocket water and are full of nymphs and mayflies. Needless to say, the resident trout are well-fed and choosey.

We thank Daniel for a very informative and entertaining evening, along with some fabulous photos of the country he fishes – and obviously loves. His presentation confirmed that wonderful definition of fly fishing as “a glorious excuse to linger in beautiful places”.

Anglers can view his website 'blog' diary for ongoing weekly reports on Tasmanian fly fishing, at www.riverfly.com.au

JULY GENERAL MEETING – FLY TYING



Hubert Reichelt demonstrates his tying talents.

The winter months are upon us. The streams are closed. The stillwaters are available for those who are really keen, but it's cold and gloomy out there and the hours of daylight are short. Hopefully it will be raining (bucketing down in fact) and way too wet to venture out.

In other words it's a good time to stay indoors and replenish the fly box for the new season. The July meeting will be an ideal opportunity to watch some of the masters in action. Hubert Reichelt, Andrew Mossman and Peter Campbell have again agreed to demonstrate their expertise. Watch them tie some of their favourite patterns, learn some new techniques and skills, and take away ideas for flies that will undoubtedly prove irresistible to Mr Speckles in the new season.



Our Master Casters - Peter Hayes (10 times Australian Fly Casting Champion of Champions) discusses the finer points with the VFFA's own Casting Expert Malcolm Elms.

WINTER CASTING

Has Now Started

Please come and share a coffee and one of Nancy's famous cookies with the Master Caster.

Some people come from Tasmania!

Newer members should take this opportunity to meet other members and to improve their casting techniques.

It also provides a chance to try other members' gear.

Be at the Red Tag Pool,
Fairfield

SUNDAYS
BETWEEN
9AM AND 12 NOON

VFFA Meetings & Activities

JULY 2008

- 6 Sunday Casting
- 13 Sunday Casting
- 17 **General Meeting** – Fly Tying
- 20 Sunday Casting
- 25-27 Art Show
- 27 Sunday Casting

AUGUST 2008

- 3 Sunday Casting
- 10 Sunday Casting
- 17 Sunday Casting
- 17 Dedication of Alfred Ronalds' Memorial
- 24 Sunday Casting
- 29 **Annual Dinner** – Speaker Bob Hart
- 30 President's Casting Day

SEPTEMBER 2008

- 18 **Annual General Meeting**

OCTOBER 2008

- 16 **General Meeting**
- 25-26 Opening Weekend - Tranquil Rises, Flowerdale

NOVEMBER 2008

- 20 **General Meeting**
- 21-23 Fishing Trip – Big River
- 23 Nov-5 Dec – Fishing trip to NZ

DECEMBER 2008

- 18 Christmas Dinner



MARCH 2009

- 7-13 Fishing Trip - "Hayes on Brumbys", Tasmania

President's Message

July 2008 sees the VFFA hold its inaugural Art Show at the Victorian Artist Society Gallery, 430 Albert Street, East Melbourne. Twenty artists and 66 works will grace the walls. Opening night is Friday 25 July at 6.30pm. Jean Jacques is in charge of catering. A very special thank you to Paul Squires for organizing what promises to be a wonderful event. Your RSVP is essential for the opening night.

Our June guest speaker was Daniel Hackett. Daniel gave a very impressive talk which featured many slides of his favorite fishing spots in Tassie. His passion shone through and impressed all who attended. I would thank Daniel very much for the kind donation of his book *In Season Tasmania* to our library, and three boxes of his favourite flies, which will be raffled at our Annual Dinner in August.

Dick Goodall hosted 13 VFFA members and their guests to an action-packed weekend at Bullen Merri where a 6lb plus rainbow trout was caught! Dick has been running trips to Bullen Merri for many years – never seeing a fish let alone catching one! Our sympathies go to the unluckiest rainbow trout ever. A fish caught on a VFFA trip. Oh dear!

Our sincere best wishes go to Warryn Germon, who is currently battling lung cancer. Warryn has attended many VFFA opening and closing weekends at the Dobson property on the Goulburn River as a guest of Bob Roles. From all your mates at the VFFA – Get Well Soon.

Cane Day this year was well attended. I hope that all who came along had a great day. Congratulations to Hobart whisky distiller, Bill Lark, for his first attempt at making a cane rod. If Bill's whisky is as good as his cane rods then I can feel a headache or two coming on. Thank you to everyone who helped on the day.

The only thing missing was our good mate Peter McKean, who is recovering from a recent stroke. Peter, from all your mates at the VFFA, we wish you a successful and speedy recovery and look forward to seeing you soon.

Peter Hayes is off to America for three weeks. He will be fishing and spending time with Lefty Kreh. Righty Elms was seen giving Peter some tips at Cane Day. Lefty is in for a treat.

Fred Lewis and the boys at Latrobe Valley Fly Fishers have put an associate membership package together for VFFA members who want to fish their dams. Watch the newsletter for more details.

John Pilkington has been working for years researching Alfred Ronalds and his resting place at the Ballarat Cemetery. Painstaking follow up has led to Pilk's contacting members of the Ronalds' family. The restoration of the grave has now been completed. On 17 August we will hold a commemoration and unveiling of the new headstone, followed by a BBQ lunch. Please watch the newsletter for more details.

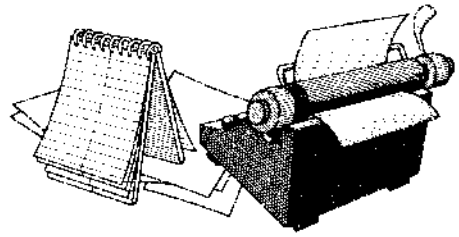
The Annual Dinner is fast approaching and I want to see members and guests fill the Kelvin Club to overflowing. This will be a great night. Don't miss it. Our guest speaker, Bob Hart, is a senior writer with Melbourne's Herald Sun who scribbles on any subject that tickles his fancy. Bob admits he is an enthusiastic consumer, being passionate about music, theatre, ballet, opera, literature, sport, travel, hunting and especially fly-fishing for trout. Bob never jogs, he says, unless it is to a buffet table or a very promising fishing spot.

At this month's General Meeting the three amigos will give us a fly tying demonstration at the Kelvin Club. Please come along for dinner before hand and then let Hubert Reichelt, Peter Campbell and Andrew Mossman teach you some new tricks.

David Grisold

'Never can we reach our final goal, for always before us lie further fields yet to explore.'
(excerpt from *Halcyon Days*)

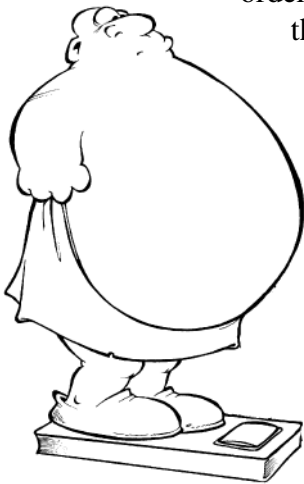
From the EDITOR'S DESK



They say that you know when it's time to go. If I did not know before the Cane Day I certainly did after it. It was at the Cane Day that one of our country members approached me and remarked that "the May newsletter was the best yet." Which it probably was. The only problem with this compliment was that it was directed to the wrong person, for my only contribution to the newsletter was the Editor's Desk! Also, what does that say about the quality of the newsletters which I did produce?

After almost thirteen years as editor I have decided that enough is enough. Lyndon Webb, who will take over as editor in September, produced the last newsletter. This newsletter stands as proof that Lyndon is the right man to replace me. There will not only be seamless transition from one editor to the other; if anything, the quality of the newsletter will improve.

Thus, having all but divested myself of my duties as editor, I am looking forward to spending more time on the trout stream. On the immediate horizon is my trip in late August to the San River in Poland. The fishing must be good on the San as it is the venue for the World Fly Fishing Championships in 2010. I have even bought a pair of Goretex waders to use there, as I understand that the San is a rather cool flowing stream, even in late Summer and early Autumn. My friends will tell you that this is a big concession as I usually wet wade in all conditions, even in snake infested streams. The only problem is that despite ordering jumbo-sized waders on the internet from a store in Montana, when the waders arrived and I donned them I found it was akin to wearing a chest to toes strait jacket, a circumstance that has forced me on to a starvation diet for the next eight weeks.



One of our members, Peter Dixon, who is the captain of the Australian Fly Fishing team, has asked me to give him a report on the fishing. Of course I will do this and can assure him that I will leave plenty of fish for him. Peter has been so kind as to organise some fishing for me on the hallowed Test River in Hampshire after my stint in Poland. I also plan to visit the premises of the Flyfishers' Club of London, where my assistant editor (John Pilkington) is a member. Thus, even though I will no longer be the editor on my return, I should have the makings of some good stories for the newsletter.

John Philbrick

LOST AND FOUND

Our hard-working secretary, Colin Morrison, was the recipient of the following message: "Found a Fly Box with flies on the bank of the Rubicon River up stream from the Eildon Road in March 2007. The Fly Box is distinctive. Contact Bob Munro on 03 94399431." We thought we should publish the message as it is remotely possible that one of our members was the once proud owner of the distinctive fly box.

BULLEN MERRI REPORT

Richard Goodall has provided the following report on the recent trip to Lake Bullen Merri, near Camperdown.

Some 13 intrepid souls braved the conditions, eight fishing on the Friday and another five arriving to complement the team on Saturday.

The weather on Friday was pleasant – a gentle breeze, lots of sunshine and the occasional light shower. There was no surface activity but plenty happening below, judging by the millions of snail shells which created yellow sandy beaches over the black volcanic ash. The lake is very deep, but has wadeable edges to a drop off about 4 metres out.

As fish are inclined to cruise along the drop off, the popular strategy is to intercept them in their travels with either a Woolly Bugger or Murray Wilson's BMS, fished on a sink tip line. Unfortunately, despite some hours of concentrated effort and endeavour, no-one caught anything, so the only alternative was to return to the cabins at the caravan park for 'secret men's business' prior to adjourning to the Laura Hotel for a lamb shank and comprehensive fishing report.

Saturday saw the team returning to the lake, where several bays were explored using a

variety of flies and rigs. Lunch interrupted the fishing for a short period, but then it was back to the water for a determined final session. And success was at hand, when our Latrobe Valley mate Ray landed a magnificent six and a half pound rainbow.

Then it was off to the "Cottage", part of John Menzies "Woorong" property overlooking the lake, where John piped us in in true Scottish style. Chef Wendy Gannon and staff provided a four-course traditional Scottish meal, with John piping in the haggis as the entree.

Our guest for the evening was the nationally acclaimed fly tyer Murray (Muzz) Wilson, who presented us with his latest dun creation. Murray spends a lot of his time fishing around the lakes in the area and developed his famous BMS fly in a range of colours. He also entertained us with some colourful verse from his shearing days.

The team wandered home on Sunday. We have booked the cabins for the same time next year, and to ensure we retain the chef, Ray presented with her the rainbow trout!



*Piping in the haggis.
Magnificent fare..
That very unlucky 6 lb rainbow trout.*





1932 - 2008

VICTORIAN FLY-FISHERS' ASSOCIATION 76TH ANNUAL DINNER

The President and Council of the VFFA
cordially invite you to join us
for our annual dinner.

DATE: Friday the 29th of August 2008

TIME: 6.30 for 7PM

VENUE: The Kelvin Club
Melbourne Place
Melbourne 3000

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER
Mr. Bob Hart

COST: \$50.00 per person
(plus drinks)

RSVP – Wednesday 20th of August 2008
Honorary Treasurer – Mr. Tony Mitchem
PO Box 7424
St Kilda Road Vic 8004
9832 8405 or 0407 309 797

VFFA 76th Annual Dinner

Friday 29 August, 2008

Please bring a guest and come along to the 76th Annual Dinner. Book early, and don't be disappointed. Our guest speaker for this year's dinner is Bob Hart.

BOB HART is a senior writer with Melbourne's Herald Sun who scribbles on any subject that tickles his fancy, but especially food. In fact, he is either a journalist who is obsessed with food, or a foodie who indulges in journalism, depending on your point of view.

He is also a regular broadcaster on food with Melbourne's top-rating radio station, 3AW. He appears each week with Ernie Sigley and, throughout the summer months, presents the popular Thrill of the Grill program, each Saturday, on the gentle art of barbecuing.

Bob is an improbable Queenslander who spent his formative and most fattening years abroad — thirteen of them in London, seven in Los Angeles — working first on Fleet St as a showbiz reporter, feature writer and columnist, and later in London and Los Angeles as a marketing executive in the music business.

He returned to Queensland with his family in the late 1980s, spent five years in Brisbane before settling in Victoria in the early 90s, and has been a devout Melburnian ever since.

It is no coincidence that the wine and food trade began to pick up, after a few very bleak years, soon after Bob arrived in Melbourne: he is, he admits, an enthusiastic consumer.

In addition to food, wine and cooking over charcoal, Bob is passionate about music, theatre, ballet, opera, literature, sport, travel, hunting and, especially, fly-fishing for trout and any other fish prepared to be similarly outwitted.

Bob has a Danish-born wife, Iris, who he took fishing on their honeymoon. Despite this, the marriage remains intact. They have two daughters, one of whom lives near good trout waters in Colorado, USA, and therefore has to be visited regularly. Their first grandchild, a boy, was born this year, and has already received his first Sage.

Bob never jogs, he says, unless it is to a buffet table, to a very promising fishing spot, or away from a gym.

It promises to be a very entertaining evening!



David Grisold enjoying a good story with Wayne Sanderson.



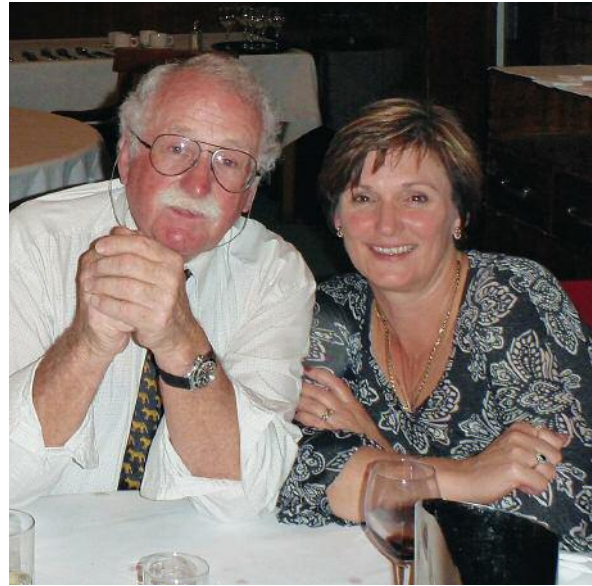
The soup was superb.

PARTNERS' DINNER

Fifteen couples attended the Partners' Dinner this year. The food and wine were excellent and the company was exceptional. On behalf of all the gents I would thank our long-suffering wives and partners for looking as gorgeous as ever and for putting up with all our bad habits. If you haven't been to a partners' dinner, don't miss next year's. As Molly Meldrum would say, "Do yourselves a favour".

A special thank you to Colin Morrison for organizing this very memorable event in our annual calendar.

David Grisold



Marty and Rhonda.



Richard with Judi, Terry and David.



Hubert and Herta sharing the evening with Peter and Jenny

NEW MEMBERS

The following persons have been admitted as members of this association: Christopher Long, Ben Pilkington, Bernard Holbery, and Brad Waggoner. We welcome these new members and trust that their membership will be both long and fulfilling.

ALFRED RONALDS MEMORIAL

The restored memorial to Alfred Ronalds has now been installed in the Old Cemetery at Ballarat. Members will be aware of his immense contribution to fly fishing and in particular his landmark book "The Flyfishers Entomology", first published in 1836 and running to eleven editions, the last of which was published in 1913. The cost of the restoration has been met by the VFFA and an anonymous benefactor.

A ceremony to mark the dedication of the restored memorial will be held at the Cemetery on 17 August next, and will be followed by an appropriate celebration at Ballarat. Full details will be provided in the August issue of the newsletter. All members are invited to attend and an invitation has also been extended to members of Alfred Ronalds' family and members of the Ballarat Flyfishers.

VFFA 2009 TASMANIAN TRIP

Having had a wonderful time in March 2008, the VFFA will return to Cressy from Saturday 7 March to Friday 13 March next year.

Hayes on Brumbys has been booked. Bed and breakfast will be provided, as will linen and towels. We will self cater for lunch and get together for a barbeque at dinner time. Peter Hayes and his guides will be available to take you to the streams or lakes of your choice.

Accommodation is limited so if you are interested in being part of the team please contact Hamish Hughes on 9822 6811 or hthughes@bigpond.net.au



Peter Hayes demonstrating the finer points of casting.

SNIPPETS FROM RECENT MEDIA RELEASES

■ ***Anglers Help Review Recreational Fishing Licence***

Prominent recreational fishing stakeholders and fisheries managers from the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) have made 18 recommendations to improve Victoria's recreational fishing licence. Fisheries Victoria Executive Director Dr Peter Appleford said a forum had been assembled to hear the views of anglers, angling clubs, the recreational fishing industry and the Victorian recreational fishing peak body, VRFish.

The overwhelming theme of the recommendations was improved communication with the recreational fishing community. Dr Appleford said anglers and industry experts agreed unanimously that more could be done to keep regular anglers informed on fishing licence related issues, particularly how licence fees were spent to improve fishing opportunities, but also changes to regulations and the outcomes of research projects.

For more information about Victoria's recreational fishing licence and 'Your Licence Fees at Work' visit www.dpi.vic.gov.au/fishing/feesatwork or ring the DPI Customer Service Centre on 136 186.

■ ***Study Reveals Murray Cod Survive Well After Release***

A Department of Primary Industries study has indicated that a very high percentage of Murray cod released by recreational anglers survive the experience. Fisheries Victoria Executive Director Dr Peter Appleford said the results were significant because large numbers of undersize cod are released back into the water each year. The study, undertaken by the Fisheries Victoria Research Branch at Snobs Creek, looked at 66 Murray cod caught by volunteer recreational anglers from the Donald Angling Club in February. All but one of the 66 Murray cod survived after being released.

MEDIA RELEASE – AUSTRALIAN TROUT FOUNDATION

The Australian Trout Foundation is delighted to announce the re-opening of the Howqua River Miner's Track, commonly known as the Lower Howqua Track. The track follows the Howqua River from the Running Creek Camping Reserve for 14 km upstream to Tobacco Flat. "There are now 38 river crossings giving anglers access to a previously remote stretch of this wonderful Victorian trout river" ATF Secretary, Geoff Churcher said today.

Project Manager and Australian Trout Foundation Vice President Merv McGuire, and Secretary Geoff Churcher, have spent the last six months working closely with DSE personnel and local identities to re-open the heavily blackberry overgrown and weed infested track. "This is a wonderful example of putting RFL revenue funds to great use for the benefits of all recreational anglers", McGuire said.

Local identities and Australian Trout Foundation members, Graeme Stoney and Charlie Lovick commenced the project by re-surveying the old 'Miner' track on horseback. This was followed up by detailed track design by Dave Hurley, the DSE Forrest Management Officer based in Mansfield.

Volunteers from the Mansfield and District Flyfishers Club and Melbourne-based Southern Fly Fishers also spent a cold and wet weekend doing "hands on" maintenance work.

"The re-opening of this track is going to be the first of many such projects that the members of the Australian Trout Foundation will lead to protect and improve our Australian trout fisheries" said Geoff Churcher. "If we anglers want to enjoy high quality trout fishing we need to put down our rods occasionally, roll up our sleeves, and do whatever is needed to help our speckled friends prosper" Churcher concluded.

The Australian Trout Foundation thanks the Fisheries Revenue Allocation Committee for their support of this project and looks forward to future similar projects. For further information contact Geoff Churcher on 0412 307 289 or Merv McGuire on 0417 887 815.



VFFA COLUMBIA SHIRTS

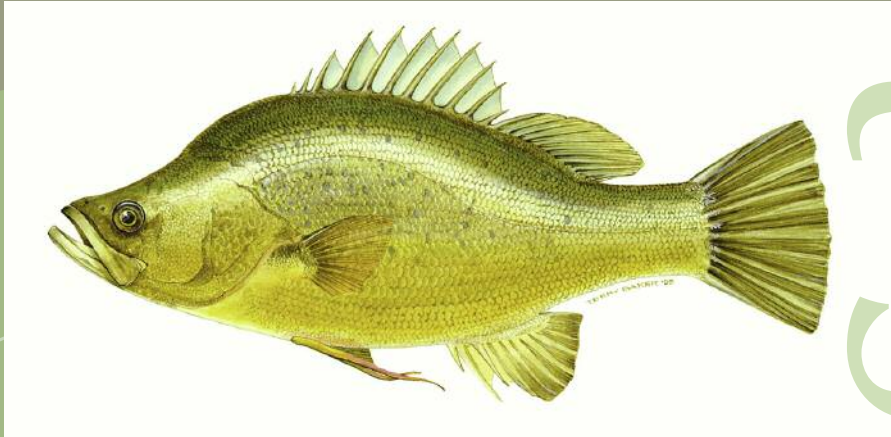
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MOBILE: 0400887065

(you too could look this good in a Columbia shirt)

VFFA Art Show 2008

Catalogue



art
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o
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Terry Baker Watercolour

1	Australian Bass 2001 30cm X 49cm	\$1350
2	Brown Trout 2001 30cm X 49cm	\$1350
3	Golden Perch 2005 30cm x 49cm	\$1350
4	Murray Cod 2005 30cm X 49cm	\$1400
5	English Perch 2005 (Redfin) 30cm X 49cm	\$1400
6	Snapper 2005 30cm X 49 cm	\$1400

Kevin Brown Photography

9	Cruising brown trout, Fish River NSW 42cm X 57cm	\$250
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Lily Day Acrylic on canvas

11	Riverbank Stalker 2008 75cm X 75cm	\$325
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Mandy Howard Mixed media

13	Schools out 2007 100cm X 30cm	\$250
14	You can't catch me 2007 90cm X 30cm	\$210
15	Red Sea 2007 60cm x 75cm	\$145
16	Gulp! 2007 20cm X 20cm	\$85

Tyrone Jaspers Sculpture recycled steel wire

18	Klinkhammer 2008 120cm X 60 cm, freestanding	\$1100
19	Royal Wulff 2008 120cm X 60 cm, freestanding	\$1100

Noel Jetson Photography limited edition of 20 signed prints

22	The Strike St. Patricks River 1965 D. Scholes 54cm x 48cm	
23	Playing St. Patricks River 1965 D.Scholes 54cm x 48 cm, sold as a pair	\$1200

Nicholas Jooste

26	Trevally 2007 70cm X 100cm Sculpture	\$2200
27	Sail 2008 30cm X 40cm Watercolour	\$200
28	Sail 2008 30cm X 40cm Watercolour	\$200
29	Sailfish 2008 100cm x 280cm Wallhanging	\$8000

Jean Jaques Lale-Demoz Mixed Media

67	Fish on window sill 2006 60cm x 60cm	\$600
68	Bouillabaise Fishes 2006 50cm x 60cm	\$1000
69	Three fishes on a plinth 2006 60cm x 60cm	\$600
70	Waiting for Jules 2006 92cm x 71cm	\$1500
71-74	Squid and sea urchins 2005 33.5cm x 33.5cm can be purchased separately \$150ea.	\$600
75-76	Fishes 2006 66.8 x 29.3cm	\$500

Robert MacLaurin Etching

79	Great Rock 2007 55cm X 57cm	\$570
80	The Dark Headwater 2007 55cm X 57cm	\$570
81	Tasmanian Lagoon 2007 55cm X 57cm	\$570
82	The Secret River 2008 55cm X 57cm	\$570

Mali Moir Mixed media on paper

30	Brown Trout. Not for sale exhibited for commission work	\$8000
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Ian Moule Acrylic on canvas

33	Mid stream venture 2008 63cm X 108cm	\$1700
34	Lesson time 2008 69cm X 130cm	\$2300
34	Leaping Black 2008 90cm X 100cm	\$2200
35	Billabong Boys 2008 75cm X 100cm	\$2500

Katherine Nolan Watercolour

37	Christmas beetle and mini Christmas beetle fly 2008 401cm X 30cm	\$690
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Kristine Peter Watercolour

38	Cold waters New Zealand 2007 50cm X 60cm	\$390
39	Arthur's fishing tackle 2008 35cm X 45cm	\$150
40	Arthur's homemade lures 2008 34cm X 26cm	\$65
41	Fishing Rendevous 2008 36cm X 42cm size	\$150

Clare Ross Acrylic on board

44	Bring it on 2008 80cm X 71cm	\$300
45	On the prowl ready to spawn 2007 76cm X 61cm	\$200

Michael Scheele Watercolour

47	The Twelve 2008 103cm X 73cm	\$3500
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Bintoro Tedjosiswoyo Oil on canvas

49	Rubico strike 2008 61cm X 76.2cm	\$1300
50	Strip, strip, strip STRIKE ! 2008 61cm X 122cm	\$1600
51	Me, my guide and bonefish strike 2008 50.8cm X 101.6cm	\$1000

Patricia Turner Watercolour

52	Apollo Bay 45cm x 50cm	\$350
46	A River Idyll 39cm X2cm	\$275

Julia Wilson Watercolour

53	Fishing with Grandfather 2008 31cm X 42cm	\$175
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Rick Williams Linocut

55	Dr. Wark 2006 44cm X 47cm	\$250
56	Mayfly dun #1 2007 35cm X 48cm	\$250
57	Mrs. Simpson 2007 48cm X 39cm	\$350
58	River trout X 2 2007 50.5cm X 55cm	\$340
62	Red Tag 2007 51cm x 42cm	\$325
63	Brown Trout #1 2007 51cm x 38cm	\$300
64	Brown trout #2 2007 44cm x 45cm	\$250

Pieter Zaadstra Oil on canvas

60	Trout in the weed, Jonah bay 2008 71cm X 101.5cm	\$2750
61	Rise from the weed cover, Jonah bay 2008 53cm X 101.5cm	\$2500

Terms of purchase. All works must be paid for in full on pick up by either cash or cheque. Pick up is from 4.00pm till 4.30pm on Sunday 27th, or on Monday 28th from 10.00am till 4.00pm.



Venue

Victorian Artists Society
430 Albert Street, East Melbourne

Opening Night

Friday 25 July - 6.30pm until 9.00pm
Open Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 July
- 1.30pm until 4.30pm

Catering by Jean Jaques on Opening Night only

OUR CANE DAY

Four years ago, David Grisold, our current president, came up with the idea of having a day exclusively for showing the cane rods we fished with in past years. At this first Cane Day members dug deep into their collections, and managed to resurrect a range of treasures, including a few of those ancient and heavy and very slow wet fly rods, along with a couple of highly prized Pezon Michels.

This year some sixty-two keen aficionados attended, including members and other devotees who had heard about the occasion.

Since that first Cane Day we have been fortunate in having skilled rod builders such as Dr Peter McKean, Nick and Miri

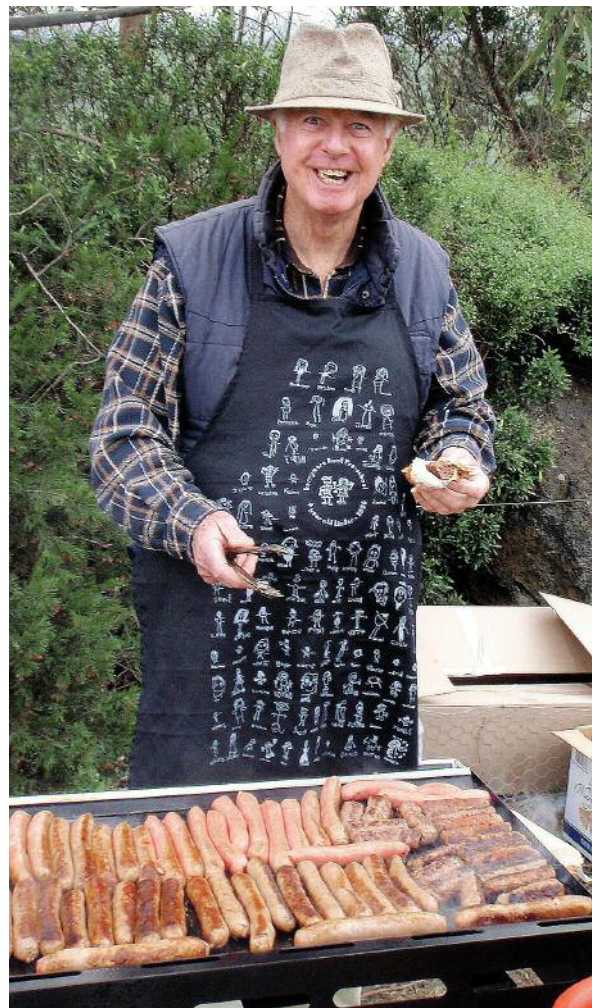
Taransky, and Brad Waggoner travelling from interstate and bringing with them their modern hand-crafted cane rods for all to experience. These modern cane rods are generally shorter, lighter and faster in their action compared to their older relatives.

Member Peter Hayes, renowned caster and casting instructor, demonstrated the quality and exceptional casting power of these rods in a breath-taking exhibition of casting. In several instances he used just two or three false casts to throw a full fly line plus twenty or thirty feet of backing.

We were well catered for by our President who operated the BBQ, Peter Campbell who provided his apple pie and cream, Joe



Just some of the cane rods.



Master chef – Peter Campbell.



Trying those glorious cane rods.



Rick fires out a long cast.



*Brad Waggoner (builder of fine cane rods) with
Richard Salvado and Fred Lewis*

Hasler who provided a smorgasbord of cold smoked meats, and Bill Thomas who supplied the marinated venison steaks. And all of this magnificent fare was followed by drinks, coffee and nibbles.

Our thanks must go to our many helpers on the day, and of course all who attended and contributed to an exceptional day.

For members interested in purchasing a cane rod, please contact:

Peter McKean, 0419 308 499

Nick Taransky, 0428 366 879

Brad Waggoner, 0412 431 452

Malcom Elms (MC)



Nick Taransky – professional rod builder – displays some of his magnificent handiwork.



Peter Campbell and David Grisold relaxing. Casting is thirsty work.



'The four amigos'.



Laurie Holland comparing notes with Richard Goodall.



Andrew with Andrew and Wayne.

THRIFT OR THE FLY-FISHING BUDGET

© Kevin Hindle, 2008

Don't you long for the days when Marty Rogers still worked in the tackle trade. I remember them fondly. Great days indeed. Hot days mostly. When the crack of noon on a boiling day in mid-city whips you like a cat-o-nine-tails, your mind naturally turns to rivers. This can be harmless to a certain extent. But when the silver glint of a Melbourne tramline starts to look like the flash off the back of ten-pound rainbow, you know you're a danger to traffic and would be wise to seek a bit of lunch-time asylum. And what a great asylum the old tackle shop was when Marty ruled the counter. He had everything you needed in new gear and old wisdom and among the best of his many sage phrases was this little gem:

'The poor man always pays twice.'

Down Queen Street you would float like a Red Tag on a good drift. We've all done it. A little swirl of the invisible, magnetic, tackle-shop current swung you right into Flinders Lane. In through the shop door you'd float, right into the strike zone. Then, snap! Marty had you. It was the voice that did it. With a crescendo that graced the airwaves like a buzz saw cutting jarrah, Marty would be closing a sale.

'Righto Tom', (or Dick or Harry – he knew us all), 'that'll be twelve hundred and forty two bananas. Cash or plastic?'

It was a semi-religious moment to observe the rapt joy on the serenely happy face of Tom (or Dick or Harry or, less frequently, Jane – the angler might change but the look remained the same) as he or she exchanged his or her wallet and two month's mortgage payments for a thin graphite stick or a strangely shaped circle of bar-stock

aluminium or a mysterious bag of the Right Stuff or whatever it was he or she had just starved to buy.

'You'll give this to your grandson', Marty would say, 'it's no good getting rubbish. The poor man always pays twice.'

And so – at the risk of leaving out many a blissful reminiscence of the old shop, the old days and old Marty at his rhetorical best – we must come to our theme: fly-fishing thrift (or the economics of the sport, if you prefer a more academic approach).

Whatever. The vital point here, as we all know, is that there must be a rational budget applied to this great activity of ours. There are limits of prudence, commonsense and restraint. There are parameters of financial planning. There are sound investment guidelines. And as rational, responsible citizens, we all need to follow them because – let's face it – most of us don't race in the same heavy-wallet division as that well-heeled fly-fisherman, the famous Ted Turner.

Oh, ah, sorry. Just excuse me a minute, for an ever-so-slight digression. I'll be back 'on message' quicker than a politician in an interview. I promise. But I must tell you what John Davies told me about what happened when he went to this Grand Lodge in Patagonia, or Tierra Del Fuego or somewhere pretty South. (A long cast gets you an iceberg down there: but that's another story). It was John's first day in this pretty flash Lodge, owned by the great Ted Turner (and let's face it, if you don't own a trout lodge in a nice exotic location, you're being a fool to yourself and a burden to others: but that's another story). Anyway, the guide was taking recently arrived guests down a long, impressive hallway whose

walls were decorated with a seemingly endless supply of rods. They were beautifully presented in glass cases. They were from zero weights to fourteen weights, inclusive, the most expensive brands, and at least three of each. By way of small talk, as you do, John asked the guide (was it Pedro or Maria? – but that’s another story):

‘So, you’ve got a tackle shop at the Lodge?’

Scarcely forbearing a disdainful note the guide replied:

‘No. Those are Mister Turner’s *personal* rods.’

Silly John: he should have spotted the obvious. Ted is both a serious fly-fisherman and a very busy man. He travels to and fishes in many rivers. So, naturally, he likes both to travel light and to be able to cope with all contingencies. In this he is – setting aside the odd trillion dollars or so – no different to you or me. We all know that tackle is important and the angler who is both truly committed and truly wise will seek to obtain and deploy a suitable array of appropriate equipment. This costs money. And so we return to our theme: the fly-fishing budget.

Is it really true that ‘the poor man always pays twice’? There’s a good theory here so let’s put the blowtorch right on it.

Straight away, there seem to be a couple of superficially obvious philosophical problems with this proposition and they can be spotted by even the least philosophical of anglers (say, someone who thinks ‘Aristotle’ is rhyming slang for ‘a glass container with beer in it’; or someone named ‘Pilkington’: but that’s another story).

The key implication in the proposition is that you (the angler) are better off to buy a really good (code for ‘expensive’) piece of equipment straight away because it will last a great deal of time and give a great deal of satisfaction whereas a cheap piece of equipment will fall to bits in a stiff breeze and you will eventually have to come back

and buy the good gear in any case. That’s the theory expressed so pithily by good old Marty. Well, it’s not hard to imagine Aristotle or Immanuel Kant – or even some people who are not even Greeks or Germans with enormous brains and no need to earn a real living – possibly thinking that this theory has more holes in it than a sieve used for target practice on a shotgun range. They’d be wrong: but you couldn’t blame them for a bit of skepticism (this is the technical term for thinking an argument you don’t agree with is rubbish). So, let’s tackle the two key philosophical issues in a systematic fashion.

First, you – or Plato – may well suspect that the expensive item is not always necessarily better in quality than the cheaper item. You – or Karl Bloody Marx – may ask: Is price truly a yardstick of quality? You may well ask that. But just don’t let me, or any other right-thinking, free-enterprise-supporting, democracy-loving citizen with half a brain catch you asking it if you don’t want to be laughed off the water. It can be easily demonstrated that this is the worst kind of really stupid, pinko-inspired, retrogressive, anti-social skepticism. Of course expensive gear is better! It looks shinier. It feels nicer. It impresses people more. So, get a life. Communism went out with crumbling Berlin masonry. Face facts. Expensive is better. QED.

Second, you – or Immanuel Kant – may well think that the word ‘always’ features a bit too prominently in the proposition. For instance, if any ‘poor man’ (or woman) doesn’t *want* to pay twice, surely he or she does not *have* to pay twice? Worse, you – or Ludwig Wittgenstein – may even think she or he may not *need* to pay twice. Suppose, you – or Friedrich Nietzsche – might postulate, that our putative angler just bought a ‘basic starter kit’ to find out whether she likes ‘this fly fishing thing’ and actually does *not* like it. Isn’t she better off?

She hasn't wasted big money on gear she'll never use and can re-wrap the el cheapo starter kit and give it to her least-favorite nephew as a Christmas present. You – or Socrates – may well be tempted to think: This is a sensible strategy isn't it?

Of course it's not! Get a grip! Fly-fishing is the greatest thing there is. Anyone who fails to fall in love with it on first acquaintance can be shown to need careful counseling and a re-habilitation program. The only thing capable of preventing love at first sight is the use of the kind of cheap and crappy gear guaranteed to undermine performance. Would even the rankest amateur play tennis with a warped wooden racquet? Who plays soccer with a square ball? So, whatever you do as a philosopher or as an angler – and most good philosophers are anglers and vice versa – don't base an alleged 'sensible strategy' on a circular argument. If you hit the river in a pair of breathable waders, shod in beautiful boots carrying a name-brand rod laced with a premium fly-line spinning from a Swedish engineering, you know as well as I do that you will cast your Rick Keam or A.K.Best limited-edition, designer fly with far more confidence, accuracy and joy than the scruffy reprobate who turns up wearing old sandals, lugging a cheap outfit and chucking a bit of moth-eaten yarn on the end of a rusty hook. It's no contest. To think any other way is ridiculous. Clothes maketh the man. Gear maketh the fisherman. QED. Tell that to John Stuart Mill.

So, the time has come to get back to the originator of the theory under discussion: good old Marty. For, while we all love him dearly, and respect his judgment and the essence of his theory has been proved sound, it still must be conceded that Marty is somewhat unrenowned for political correctness. For a start, these days you can't assume an angler to be a man. Next, even if you could assume this, it is no longer

appropriate to classify as 'a poor man' any angler who (often through no fault of his or her own) is merely lulled into a sense of false economy as the hapless victim of either bad judgment or bad advice or bad luck. Would you be insensitive enough to call a 'developing nation' a 'poor country'? Not if you wanted to keep your United Nations pension you wouldn't. So, on a smaller scale, let us modernize Marty's maxim by classifying all blameless victims of inferior fly-fishing purchasing policies not as 'Poor Men' but as 'False Economists'. The proposition under the microscope now becomes: *'With respect to fly-fishing equipment purchases, the false economist fails to realize economies of scale and thereby may have to pay twice (or in even larger multiples) to achieve equipment parity status'.*

We are now on solid scientific ground and the robustness of the thesis can be clearly demonstrated. See Table One, below.

Table 1.
Basic Kit: Budget Comparison Estimates

	PRUDENT ANGLER	FALSE ECONOMIST	PAY-TWICE SAVING
Rod	\$2,400.00	\$40.00	\$2,360.00
Reel	\$1,250.00	\$25.00	\$1,225.00
Flyline	\$270.00	\$30.00	\$240.00
Boots	\$480.00	\$50.00	\$430.00
Waders	\$850.00	\$0.85	\$849.15
Vest	\$472.00	\$1.00	\$471.00
Tools & Sundries	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00
Fly Selection	\$500.00	\$10.00	\$490.00
Flybox	\$185.00	\$0.15	\$184.85
Interim Sub-Total	<u>\$6,657.00</u>	<u>\$157.00</u>	<u>\$6,500.00</u>

Sources: various catalogues, retail outlets and depth interviews.

The table shows the madness of an improperly allocated budget. Let's make an ever so quick, item-by-item comparison. The Prudent Angler recognizes the need for a quality rod that need not cost anything like \$2,500. How many polo ponies could

you feed for two and a half grand! It's a snip. For the modernist this rod will be a big-brand, high-technology, high-modulus, graphite, four-piece made of material refined in the space program and computationally tested to make any weak-wristed person with a broken arm cast a six-weight line a minimum of 120 feet every time it is waved. Of course, if you have normal-strength wrists and an unbroken arm, no guarantees for either distance or accuracy can be vouchsafed but you'll just *know* it's a bloody good rod. *You can tell.* You'd be crazy to consider a lesser instrument unless you aren't a modernist, but a traditionalist. In this case, you will want a cane rod, custom built to your specifications by a sublime craftsman whose every gesture recreates the great days and ways of the old split-cane masters such as Hiram Leonard and Everett Garret. You'll wait two years for it to arrive but, at the price, it's an obvious bargain. And you sure won't be doing this twice. Meanwhile, the False Economist will get an old IMX-6 rod from E-Bay for forty bucks and delude herself (or himself) that, just because it catches a lot of fish, the thing is acceptable.

The Prudent Angler will select a decent reel and a brand-name fly line while the False Economist rushes to judgment on inferior gear. Instead of a branded quality line, the False Economist will be tossing a \$30 heap of extruded plastic out of a cheap reel and humming the words 'it all works quite well' for the two years spent fishing while the Prudent Angler waits for the rod builder to finish the masterpiece. Meanwhile, the Prudent Angler knows the value of Gore-Tex treated, Kevlar supported, carbon-fibre reinforced, breathable, waders and comfortable, all-terrain, purpose-built fly boots. The False Economist generally selects a pair of medium quality sandshoes reinforced with cheap metal cleats and a pair of tracksuit pants acquired on the bargain table at a

garage sale. The Prudent Angler recognizes the timeless virtues of quality tools and accessories, carries no less than 200 flies (costing a very reasonable average of \$2.50 each) in a purpose-built, premium-brand fly-box and packs the lot neatly in a custom-tailored fly vest. False Economists use tools like nail clippers from the bathroom cabinet and line-straighteners fashioned from old bits of inner tube. They tie their own flies using stuff thrown out by the local sewing shop and feathers from the neighbors' chooks. These monstrosities get stowed in old film canisters and sauce containers from last night's Chinese takeaway. Finally, the whole catastrophe gets shoved in a 'vest', which is nothing more than a flannel shirt with the arms cut off. How long could a garment like that last in wilderness conditions? You'd be lucky to get any more than ten years out of it. Then you'd have to get another flannel shirt and do that entire tedious sleeve cutting exercise all over again. Madness.

No doubt about it. Table 1 tells the story and figures don't lie. If you are silly enough not to get yourself appropriately fitted up, right from the start, you are not only going to have to pay twice, you are going to have to pay over *forty* times (just divide \$6,500 by 157 and if you don't get pretty close to 41.4 you need a new calculator) just to achieve equipment parity with the prudent angler. How much valuable life-time can you afford to waste?

So, there it is. Marty may have retired, but the principles of fly-fishing thrift last forever. Budgeting may not be sexy, but it is necessary. Once you learn the value of prudent financial management of your fly-fishing investments, you'll find that the more fly-fishing tackle you buy, the happier you will be that you had the good sense not to sacrifice your commitment to quality on the tainted altar of false economy. There are no poor anglers, only poor judgment. Thank you, Marty.

OUR SENTIMENTS TOO?

(The following is an edited version of a letter sent to VRFish by Glen Cox, on behalf of the Northern Suburbs Fly Fishing Club, in an attempt to bring about some changes to the current management practices of our trout fishery. It is reprinted with Glen's permission).

*Mr Christopher Collins
Executive Officer
VRFish*

RE: Victorian Trout fishery in crisis.

Dear Sir,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the committee and members of Northern Suburbs Fly Fishing Club Inc. Our Club was established in 1971 and since that time has produced some of Australia's best fly anglers, including a World Fly Fishing Champion in 1999.

Since 1971 the Victorian trout fishery has been in slow decline. However in recent years the decline has been more rapid, exacerbated by successive droughts and bushfires and made worse by dismally poor stocking rates in both our rivers and impoundments.

We are starting to notice a significant decline in retention of members in our Club, mainly due to the fact that members are having trouble finding a fish to catch.

We hold regular beginners fly fishing courses, on the final day of which we take the participants to a stream. Again, finding a fish for them to catch is nearly impossible.

At the recent Victorian fly fishing championship 2008 on Eildon Pondage, 40 fly anglers, including some of the best in the state, could only manage 14 fish amongst them in 12 hours of fishing. That equates to 1 fish per 34 fishing hours. And we are supposed to believe this is good fishing?

That is pathetic fishing by anyone's standards. The Media release from DPI on 25 January this year starts with the celebratory headline... 'ALMOST 200,000 TROUT STOCKED IN 2007 DESPITE THE DROUGHT.'

This is at a time when N.S.W. fisheries stocked their waters with over 3,000,000 trout (brown, rainbow and brook), whilst experiencing the same drought as Victoria. What's to celebrate?

As you know, there are some organisations, Government Departments, groups and individuals who are taking the opportunity of current low trout populations to actively push for eradication of trout from Victorian waters.

Emotive terms such as 'feral', 'noxious' and 'alien' are used in relation to trout to gain support from the uninformed in the general population.

The anti-trout brigade think that trout anglers faced with no trout to fish for will start fishing for natives (or carp), but this is just not the case. Trout anglers will spend their recreational dollar in N.S.W., Tasmania or New Zealand. This is already happening on a regular basis.

Enemies of trout take no regard for those who enjoy pursuing their recreation in Victoria's streams and lakes, and regard the livelihood of the people of rural Victoria as unimportant. Thousands of jobs depend on the trout fishery - tackle shops, motels, caravan parks, petrol stations, cafes, restaurants, boat rental, fishing guides, grocery and butcher shops, to name a few.

The trout fishery in Victoria is said to be worth \$170 million to the economy each year. Rural communities desperately need this revenue and the associated jobs it helps sustain.

Both brown and rainbow trout, in our view, should be embraced by fisheries as 'desirable recreational species'. After more than 100 years of residence in this country with overall a benign affect on the Australian environment they deserve this status.

Trout have been erroneously blamed for declining frog, galaxias and other native fish populations, yet no Galaxias species have become extinct in Australia since the introduction of trout more than 130 years ago. Our trout have happily co-existed with native species in many parts of the state. The main threats to frogs are climate change, pollution and diseases such as chytrid virus. Our native fish (and trout) are in far more danger from the sheer biomass of carp in our waters, with carp now accounting for up to 99% of the fish in some of our rivers.

Farming practices, especially the use of phosphate chemicals, stock intrusion and the over-extraction of water have caused far more damage to the native fish fishery than the introduction of trout.

We believe that the Victorian fishery as a whole has the potential to be a world class mixed species fishery (native and salmonid) if Fisheries were left to manage it without other departmental influence.

The N.S.W. trout fishery was going into a similar decline as Victoria's trout fishery. However they began restocking their rivers (nearly 5 million trout stocked in 2001/2002), resulting in a much improved trout fishery in the past couple of years, despite experiencing the same drought as occurred in Victoria.

Back in the 1960's and early 70's approximately 2,000,000 trout were stocked in our rivers and lakes on an annual basis, compared with the dismal 200,000 to 400,000 that we have been receiving over the past few years, almost all of which have been put into impoundments.

The current management regime is not working. We are told that most of our streams are 'self sustaining'. But at what levels? They are only self sustaining at what could be called a remnant population. Our rivers are not self sustaining in sufficient numbers to provide a satisfactory angling experience. If ever there was a case for resuming the stocking of rivers in Victoria, that time is NOW.

The level of stocking of our lakes is another issue of concern. It is patently obvious that the current rate of stocking is way too low. In Tasmania you can expect to see some sign of a fish at regular intervals, whereas in Victoria you could spend a week on the shores of many of our lakes and not see a fish. Lakes should be stocked at sufficient levels to force fish into the shallows.

We believe that the regular stocking of Victorian rivers and increased stocking of our lakes will produce a world class mixed fishery, and that any extra cost in this stocking would be more than compensated by the resulting boost in tourism to regional areas and general economy of Victoria.

We believe that trout fishing has historical and social importance in our community which should be recognised, preserved and encouraged. It's time that a radical overhaul of the Victorian trout fishery management was undertaken.

As our Peak body we are asking you to make a strong stand to defend our trout fishery or else we risk losing it completely. We need VRFish to take up the fight in a much more forthright manner than it has in the past, and this should be reflected in the VRFish trout policy.

*Yours sincerely
For Northern Suburbs Fly Fishing Club Inc.*

*Glen Cox
President N.S.F.F.C.*

FLY OF THE MONTH

Hubert's Mataura River Nymph

Hubert Reichelt is a regular visitor to New Zealand's South Island rivers, and is an experienced campaigner on the Mataura. A few years ago, whilst fishing the very clear waters of this renowned river in autumn, he found that fish were turning away from his nymphs, and in some cases were spooked by his offerings. He was fishing the usual suspects – beadhead hare and copper nymphs and pheasant tails, and they clearly weren't working. So he did some careful research, turning over rocks and running a small seine net in the flow, and discovered that the predominant nymph was the nymphal form of the Mataura Red mayfly – a small dark nymph matched best by a fly tied on a size 16 hook.

Hubert managed to save a few samples of the real thing and set about creating a realistic copy. As we know, he is a skilled and meticulous fly tier, and the end result of his efforts proved extremely effective. A number of professional South Island guides now use this particular tie, and have found it productive in many South Island rivers. For those fishing these rivers, this fly is a 'must have'.

Here is the tie, along with tying notes and some photos showing the various stages:

- Hook:** Kamasan B175 Heavy Trout hook – size 16
(Hubert also ties them in size 14 – a size that can be used earlier in the season when the rivers are running higher and are a bit coloured. The heavy gauge hook and tungsten beadhead are needed to get the fly down quickly in the strong currents in these rivers).
- Bead:** Black tungsten – very small. (Tiewell sell these in a pack labelled 'Extra Small'. The size is 2 mm or 5/64 inch).
- Thread:** Dark brown Uni-thread, 8/0
- Tail:** 5-6 fibres of Mink or Beaver guard hair, either dark brown or black.
- Body:** Stripped peacock herl.
- Thorax:** Black beadhead covered with a wing case of dark brown Wapsi scud back (1/8 inch width) tied over the bead.
- Legs:** Half a dozen dark brown guard hairs – rabbit, muskrat, beaver or other suitable fibres, tied in underneath the eye.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

Tying sequence:

- Slide the black bead onto the hook so that the curved side of the bead is closest to the eye.
- Fix the hook in the vise and wind on a layer of tying thread along the hook shank behind the bead.
- Take a small tuft of Mink or Beaver fibres, hold them by the tips to remove the fluff and soft underfur, level up the tips and then tie them in to form the tail – about 5 or 6 fibres, with the tail being about the same length as the hook shank. (Fig 1)
- Wind thread up and down the hook shank, building up a base of thread which is slightly thicker closer to the bead. Then tie off the thread behind the bead.
- Push the bead down the hook shank to about the halfway point, and re-tie the thread behind the eye. Build up a base of thread between the bead and the eye that will stop the bead 1 mm back from the eye. Then add enough thread to take up the clearance between the hole in the bead and the hook shank.
- The bead is now moved back up the shank and should fit tightly over the thread, and is stopped so that there is a gap of 1 mm between the bead and the eye of the hook. This space is needed to tie off the thorax later and to build up a small head.
- The thread is now taken over the bead and wound behind the bead to stop it moving down the shank.
- Wind the thread down to the tail.
- Take a section of peacock herl and strip off the flue – Hubert uses a soft rubber to do this, but there are various other methods.
- Place the stripped herl above the bend of the hook and catch the end under the tying thread. The herl will be wound along the hook shank to form the body. In order to avoid an unsightly lump at this point, try to catch the herl right at the tip. (Fig 2).
- Wind the herl along the shank up to the bead with the curved side of the herl facing out – thus creating an attractive segmented effect. Peacock herl is fragile and tends to break and unwind after a fish or two. To overcome this problem Hubert recommends tying thread over each turn of herl as it is wound on. This is somewhat tedious but creates a far more robust fly.
- Tie off the herl. (Fig 3).
- Take a short length of scud back material and trim the end to make a point.
- Tie this pointy end in behind the bead, and then take the tying thread over the top of the bead to the front, adding one or two loops.
- Now take the piece of scud back, stretch it over the bead, pull it tight and tie it down in front of the bead. Trim off the excess material. (Fig 4).
- Take a small quantity of leg fibres, even them up, and tie them in front of the bead, below the eye. (Fig 5).
- Build up a small head between the bead and the eye of the hook.

(Next month Hubert has agreed to give the tying of the companion fly to this nymph – the mayfly known as the Mataura red spinner).



Figure 4



Figure 5



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:

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 2007 Annual Dinner:

• Armadale Angler • Aussie Angler • Australian Fishing Network • Balwyn Newsagency • Compleat Flyfisher • Fly Life Publications • J M Gillies • Mayfly Tackle • Michael Steven's Publishing • Millbrook Lakes Lodge • Neil Grose - Guided Fishing • Nick Taransky - Bamboo Rod Maker • Pro Angler Fishing Tackle • Ray Brown, Onkaparinga Flies & Cane Rods • Shakespeare Australia • Small Stream Fly Fishing