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THE VICTORIAN FLY-FISHERS' ASSOCIATION INC.

JULY 2009

Organisation No. A0024750J

C/- The Kelvin Club, Melbourne Place, Melbourne 3000

PRESIDENT

Peter Boag
20 Bridport Street
South Melbourne 3205
Tel: 9389 8003 Bus
9690 1017 A/H

HONORARY TREASURER

Tony Mitchem
PO Box 7424
St Kilda Road VIC 8004
Tel: 9832 8405
0407 309 797 Mob

HONORARY EDITOR

Lyndon Webb
1 Coachmans Square
Wantirna 3152
Tel: 9801 6151
Email: lgwebb@bigpond.net.au

VICE-PRESIDENT

Rick Dugina
12 Middle Street
Ascot Vale 3032
Tel: 0401 963 601 Mob
9370 9328 A/H

HONORARY SECRETARY

Colin Morrison
Apt 706/701 Mt Alexander Rd
Moonee Ponds 3039
Tel: 9375 2298 A/H
0412 107 326 Mob
Email: colinmo@attglobal.net

ASSISTANT EDITOR

John Pilkington
112 Hodgkinson Street
Clifton Hill 3068
Tel: 9225 8616 Bus
9489 2186 A/H

**NEXT MEETING – THE JULY AUCTION
AT THE KELVIN CLUB, 8:00PM SHARP, THURSDAY 16 JULY 2009**

The Tasmanian Carp Management Program

How interested are trout anglers in carp? Very interested it would seem, as more than 40 members gathered for the June general meeting to hear Chris Wisniewski from the Tasmanian Inland Fisheries Service give a fascinating account of the work done over the past 12 or 13 years to eradicate carp from Lakes Sorell and Crescent in Tasmania.

It was obvious from the outset that the success Chris and his team achieved was the result of some incredibly hard work and long hours combined with a very solid understanding of the biology of the fish they were pursuing. Chris began with a tale of how he apprehended a couple of poachers by going out at dusk on a very cold night and wading waist deep around the shore of Lake Crescent for several hundred metres to catch the miscreants. They went to court and were fined \$1500 for their crimes.

When carp were first found in these two lakes measures were immediately taken to contain the problem. Both lakes were closed to fishing to stop the spread of carp into the Derwent system, and a program of education and dissemination of information was commenced in local schools and fishing clubs. These measures were successful -- sampling over a ten-year period found no carp downstream from the lakes.



A well-equipped team





Lake Crescent monster brown

One of the difficulties that emerged was that in the colder Tasmanian climate female carp were taking 5 to 7 years to mature, and thus the researchers had to wait up to 5 to 7 years to see the results of some of their initiatives. Seine nets were used to net the carp, and in the first year 200 to 300 carp were being netted on each run, but after a few years these numbers were quickly reduced to very low returns. By 2006 less than 10 females were found in Lake Crescent, and while the carp in Lake Sorrell were proving more difficult to eradicate, the numbers there were dropping significantly too. The challenge was to catch the last of the large females, as carp can live for up to 50 years, and a 3 or 4 kg female can lay over 1,000,000 eggs in one breeding cycle. The researchers discovered that a male carp will move up to 16 km in a 24-hour period to find a suitable female to breed with.

In 1997 radio transmitters were implanted in 6 male fish, which were then released back into Lake Crescent. These six males became invaluable in tracking the movement of the schools of carp around the lake. From this the researchers discovered that water temperature and water level were two critical factors in the movement and breeding habits of the carp. They also discovered that the carp seemed to react to the activities of Chris's team. When the carp were netted heavily those remaining immediately spread out and were much harder to catch for a time. In 2006, with the help of the CSIRO, pituitary phenoromes were injected into a number of females and these attracted males which were then netted.

How did carp originally find their way into these lakes? The most probable explanation is that they were used as bait to catch the huge trout in Lake Crescent. (Chris told how that in the early days of the program he had personally seen and handled brown trout over 25 lb in weight). So the irresponsible actions of a few resulted in an eradication program that has run for more than 13 years at great cost to the Tasmanian taxpayer.

The two lakes are now open to fishing again, but sadly because of the years of drought water levels are low and the fishing is just a shadow of what it was a generation ago.

Chris is very keen angler and not only fielded questions on the carp program, but was willing to answer questions on all aspects of the Tasmanian trout fishery. He was a very well-prepared, well-informed and entertaining speaker, and his presentation was given a thoroughly deserved and generous round of applause.

President's Message

The month of June has been particularly busy for the VFFA. In fact, the rest of the year will be busy. I think this is one of the great things about the VFFA, there is always plenty happening.

I would like to especially thank our June General Meeting speaker Chris Wisniewski, from the Tasmanian Inland Fisheries Service, for his very informative and interesting talk on the Tasmanian Carp Management Program. We had a very good attendance of more than forty members, thirty of whom had dinner at the Kelvin Club prior to the meeting. It is pleasing to see increasing numbers having dinner before our monthly meetings.

A special thank you to Colin Morrison for once again 'hosting' the Dinner with Partners. Although unable to be present, I heard from all reports it was a very happy evening.



I was also unable to attend Cane Day, but again I heard nothing but good reports, with upwards of seventy interested cane aficionados present during the course of the day. David Grisold merits a very special thank you for all the work he has put into this event over the years. From small beginnings, it has grown into something very special. From my observations, I think more and more anglers are enjoying casting with, and catching fish on, modern day cane rods. I count myself as one of them.

Joe Haslauer has put his own touch into Sunday Casting, and for this we thank him. I spoke to Malcolm Elms on the day of writing this report, and he indicated that he is feeling pretty good, putting on weight, and very much enjoying reading the newsletter, though still some way off being on deck for VFFA activities.

The July Auction is upon us, and Tony Brothers has again put in an enormous amount of work putting this together. We will need the inimitable Marty Rogers in good voice for the evening, as it will be a big one. Knowing Marty well, we know he will be up to it. Whilst on the auction night, could as many as possible come earlier than usual for dinner on the evening. This will facilitate the start of proceedings at 8:00pm sharp. I will arrange with the Kelvin to have dinner from 6:00pm, rather than the usual 6:30pm.

Vice President Rick Dugina, editor Lyndon Webb and myself recently attended the Australian Trout Foundation meeting. It continues to be plagued by the lack of information to its membership, but I hope by what VFFA member and ATF President Mick Hall had to say, this will be improved in the near future. I trust that is not a forlorn hope. We do give the ATF space to report in the newsletter, and would encourage those who are interested to read what is in the report.

Rick Dugina is proceeding apace with the website, and advises he will have something up on the site in the not too distant future. I think this will be of considerable benefit to the VFFA going forward.

I have been meeting with Tony Brothers and Rick Keam regarding the proposed history, and can report we feel very confident of it being published in 2010. I will keep members informed as to its progress.

Moving on to August activities, please take the time to have a look at the Bullen Merri fishing weekend notice in the newsletter, and contact the convener, Richard Kos, if interested in going.

August of course is Annual Dinner time. We are very pleased to have Greg French as the guest speaker and the advertisement in the newsletter gives a good summary of what Greg will be speaking about on the night. It is worth reading. The Dinner is much looked forward to, and I recommend members to book early.

In finishing, let me remind the few of you who have not yet paid your subs. Would you please attend to this promptly.

I look forward to seeing a big turn up for the Auction. *Peter Boag*

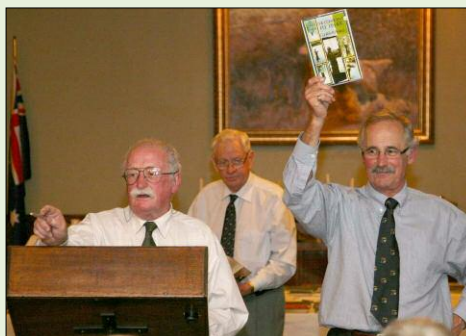
THE NEXT MEETING - THE JULY AUCTION



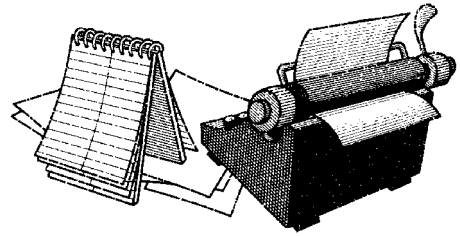
The July general meeting on Thursday, July 16, will be an auction of equipment and books. Tony Brothers has again accepted responsibility for the organisation, and has worked very hard over several weeks to finalise the catalogue and organise the various lots. A copy of the final catalogue is included with this newsletter. (Please note that there are a few changes from the catalogue distributed last month).

No reserves apply to items under \$200, and purchasers will need to pay by cash or cheque on the night.

Tony has spent countless hours preparing for the auction, and the catalogue lists some very interesting and tempting items. With such a large number of lots to be auctioned we will need a punctual start at 8 pm, and good roll up to make the auction a success. Undoubtedly there will be many bargains for those who come.



From the EDITOR'S DESK



Last month's issue of this newsletter carried a detailed description of Hubert Reichelt's method for tying a parachute hackle version of the Royal Wulff. Hubert is the member who provided the tying details, and his method of tying this fly includes some special measures that he uses to make the fly more robust and durable. Hence his contribution was headed: "Hubert Reichelt's Parachute Royal Wulff". The heading was all my doing, and I've come to regret it. When he saw it in print Hubert was horrified. And I received emails and phone calls pointing out that the heading implied that the Parachute Royal Wulff was all Hubert's idea. Of course it wasn't. The 2001 Millennium Edition (Volume 6) of the Flyfishers Annual carries an article by Jack Dennis describing in detail the original tying of a parachute version of the Royal Wulff. It all happened years ago in America. My sincere apologies for any angst caused.

This month's Fly of the Month is provided by Jim Blakeslee, our Warnambool correspondent, who gives a fascinating account of the history of his fly (the Cream Bug) and how he came to use it. Jim is a fine fisherman and skilled fly tier. I know – I have seen him in action. He has provided these fly tying details in place of his usual monthly report. He has also promised to provide some articles on his angling exploits both here and in the USA. I, for one, look forward very keenly to these future contributions. As an editor I have been well served by a number of helpful members who have provided many excellent contributions to our newsletter. And there is more to come - Andrew Braithwaite and Julian Newton Brown have submitted contributions for future issues, and John Kenfield, Kevin Hindle, Bill Classon, Andy Hodson, John Philbrick, Trevor Stow and Daniel Hackett are just some who have promised articles for us in the next few months. So we have some great reading to look forward to. But don't let this deter any other prospective contributors. I am constantly reminded that there is an enormous depth of trout fishing wisdom and experience among the almost 300 members of this Association, and when any of us share our knowledge and experience we are all helped.

A few weeks ago I received an early Christmas present -- an advance copy of Philip Weigall's latest book. It's an excellent read too, and I can thoroughly recommend it. Philip is a member of the VFFA, and a very popular writer on matters related to trout, so I'm sure that readers will be pleased to hear that his latest book is about to be released. More details are given later in this newsletter.

Another good friend of the VFFA is Peter Hayes, who is running a casting clinic for members later in the year. Members will no doubt be pleased to read that Peter is organising a Fly Fishing Conclave here in Victoria for the weekend of October 3 & 4 later this year. This event will be similar to the Conclave he has organised in Tasmania in recent years. Those who may be interested in attending, and I suspect there will be many, should check the details on Peter's website - <http://www.flyfishtasmania.com.au/main.asp>

Also found in this month's issue are a few of the delightful watercolours of Nancy Tichborne. Many will remember those magnificent calendars featuring her superb images of New Zealand rivers and streams. Nancy has very kindly given permission for us to use her water colours in our newsletters free of charge. Thank you Nancy - a very kind offer that we greatly appreciate.

This issue also includes a brief article by Fiona Gavine, a senior scientist at Snobs Creek who is assisting with an investigation into the impact of the 2003 and 2006/07 bushfires on the State's trout fishery. Her article includes a link to an online survey, and anglers are invited to complete the survey to provide anecdotal evidence of their experiences. This is an opportunity for us as anglers to provide helpful data that may well lead to an improvement in our trout fishery. I would encourage all members to participate

And finally, Paul Squires has a habit of passing on to me interesting flyfishing websites. Last week he provided this one: <http://www.catchmagazine.net/>. It is well worth a look if you want to see some stunning photos of fishing scenes.

(Postscript: John Pilkington has phoned to say that he has an overabundance of peacock feathers, and is happy to pass some on to interested fly tiers. We will bring them to the auction for members to replenish their supplies. Members who won't be at the auction are welcome to phone John at home (9489 2186) to arrange to pick some up.)

VFFA Meetings & Activities

JULY

5	Sunday Casting	9	Sunday Casting
11	Warrnambool Annual Dinner	16	Sunday Casting
12	Sunday Casting	19	Council Meeting
16	General Meeting – Auction	23	Sunday Casting
19	Sunday Casting	28	Annual Dinner (Guest Speaker: Greg French)
22	Council Meeting	29	President's Casting day
26	Sunday Casting		

AUGUST

2	Sunday Casting
7 – 9	Bullen Merri Trip

SEPTEMBER

9	Council
17	VFFA Annual General Meeting
23	The New Council

New Members

We are delighted to welcome two new members this month - Michael Youl, from Tasmania, and Ross Jordan from Malvern, Victoria. We trust that their membership will bring many years of fulfilling involvement with the Association.

VFFA CANE DAY 2009

(The revenge of the luddites)

Some 70 members and guests were given the opportunity to enjoy the pleasures of some wonderful modern cane rods, along with some very old and much loved cane rods that, along with their handlers, enjoyed the rare opportunity to flex their muscles in the glorious sun at Yarra Bend park.

We were fortunate to have well-known cane rod builders Brad Waggoner, Nick and Mirri Taransky and Dr Peter McKean there, all travelling from interstate to be with us. They were joined by Ian Kearney, who travelled from New Zealand to be in attendance, and thus herald our now international status.



Cane Rod building - Nick Taransky explaining the process

All the modern cane rods are shorter, lighter and brisk in their action compared to the longer and heavier wet fly rods of the past.

Our first maker's day was also a great success, and next year we hope to have guests from South Africa and cane importer, Andy Royter, from Seattle, USA.

A very special thankyou to all who attended our first International Cane Day. Our thanks also to Andrew Connell for all his planning and hard work to make our Maker's Day the success it was. Some 40 interested anglers turned up for the Makers' Day, and were able to see at first hand the masters in action, demonstrating various stages of the construction process.

To my helpers on the day - Hugh Maltby, Joe Haslauer, and Peter Campbell for his fruit pies: thank you so very much.



Peter Campbell shows Mirri Taransky one of his landing nets

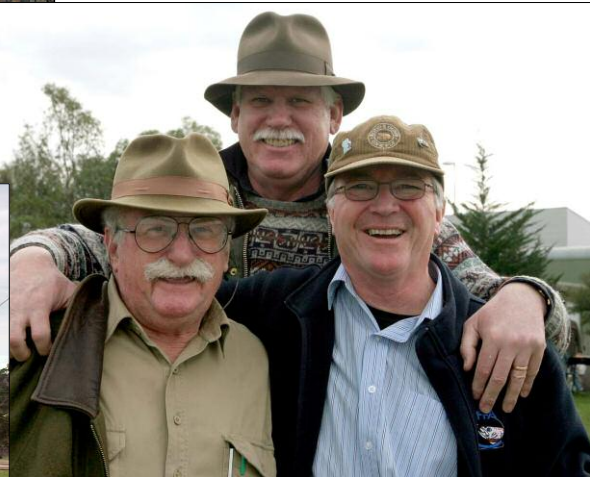
For members interested in building a cane rod, please contact Andrew Connell on 0418 530 073.

For those interested in purchasing a work of art, contact Brad Waggoner (0412 431 452), Nick Taransky (0428 366 879, and Peter McKean (0419 308 499).

David Grisold



Nice high back casts



Marty Rogers, Paul Squires, and David Grisold



The four rod makers - Ian Kearney, Brad Waggoner, Nick Taransky and Peter McKean



Cane rods appeal to young casters too

Bernard Holbery in the UK

Readers will recall that in our March issue Bernard Holbery gave a very grim and riveting account of his narrow escape from the February bushfires that destroyed his two properties at Buxton. On a much brighter note, Bernard is now holidaying in the United Kingdom and France, and recently sent a letter describing his exploits. The letter gave his temporary holiday address as: “Gingerbread Beat, River Test, Seven Days– 500 metres”. Here is his letter:



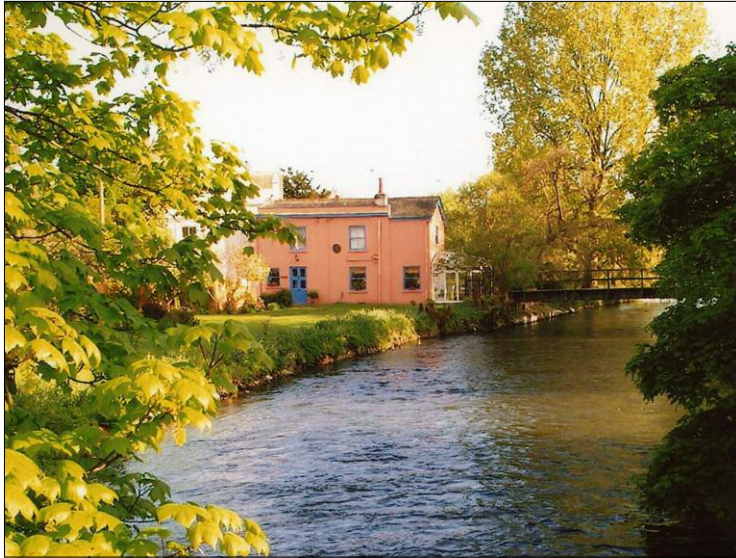
Bernard looks pleased and so does the salmon

“I have been in Ireland on the famous Blackwater River, and my beats have been superb so I have been catching some very nice trout. I have also enjoyed some fabulous fishing in Scotland, catching a salmon of 8 lb which took me right down to my backing, and a salmon of 12 lb which was caught after four hours of casting. A Blue Charm fly finally did the trick. Mind you, no true salmon

fishermen would use a Turville 9 foot, 6 weight cane rod – but mine is still in one piece. The 8 lb salmon was a grisle, which had probably spent two years at sea. I have been on the Gingerbread Beat of the River Test, and the fishing and weather have been sensational. My accommodation in Stockbridge is very pleasant.

I had the pleasure of being able to set up a small stand at the Angling Fair, with a couple of Peter Campbell’s landing nets and the *Fly Fishers’ Rod and Creel* DVD showing my work with the boys from Juvenile Justice. I decorated the table with some VFFA newsletters and received some very nice compliments from the fly fishing fraternity.

I have just arrived in France and have written this letter from there. I will be heading off to Normandy soon in search of trout, but also for some relaxation time. I will stay in France for the next three weeks. It has taken me some time to get over the flights, but I managed some regular snoozes on the river banks.



The beautiful Test River

I paid a visit to the London Fly Fishers Club, and was given entry straight away when I mentioned John Philbrick's name (just kidding!). (I did actually go past the doors, but didn't feel like trying my luck.)

Best wishes to all – hope to catch up with you at the August Dinner. In the meantime, take care and tight lines”.

Bernard Holbery

Dr Nobuyuki Kawano

The Council has recently received a kind donation from Dr Nobuyuki Kawano, who is a neuro-surgeon / flyfisher who practices in Japan. The donation has been applied to the Alfred Ronalds Memorial Appeal, as directed. The doctor has a particular interest in Alfred Ronalds and is currently translating the fifth edition of “*The Fly-Fisher's Entomology*” from English to Japanese for publication. He is the author of a voluminous work entitled “*Fly Fishing Dictionary*” (684 Pages, 208 color pictures, 153 illustrations) - clearly a work for the serious Japanese angler.

Members may be interested to visit his homepage on the internet:
<http://www.kawanobooks.com/>

The doctor is now in his sixties and he describes his love of fishing and his enlightening moment when adrift on a lake in Japan in 1981 with trout leaping all around and equipped only with useless spinning tackle. He saw the light and became a convert to fly fishing. It would appear that he has never looked back, and that whilst he is currently Brain Tumor Pathologist, President of Isobe Clinic, and Guest Professor of Neurosurgery at Kitasato University School of Medicine in Japan, he claims that his primary occupation is that of a fly fisherman.

The doctor has been thanked for his gesture and invited to visit Victoria to see the Alfred Ronalds memorial and to wet a line here. He hopes to take up the offer one day.

John Pilkington

Tasmania With Noel Jetson

(Julian Newton-Brown)

I came to know John Hayes when he first worked at the Compleat Angler. He gave me a good deal on a sinking line and Hardy reel when I hesitated because of the cost. Later I remarked to Jim Allen that the young bloke working for him who resembled Marty Feldman was a top salesman in not letting me leave without making a sale. I got to know him well and some years later he, Jim Gomerski and Peter Calder had booked Noel Jetson for a week of fishing in Tasmania. The snow season had just finished and I had time to go too, so I joined them. I knew Noel, having stayed with my wife and two very young kids in his bunk house years earlier.

Noel towed a caravan and drove us to Lake Sorell, where we camped close to Robinson's Marsh. There are, or were then, a lot of fish in that marsh, but to separate them from the small windows of open water in the prolific weed was taxing to say the least. First you had to find a fish working in such a window, then deliver your fly quickly and accurately without spooking it. If a take resulted it was a mammoth effort to get the fish out of the weed. So after a day or two we moved on, but while there Noel showed us a remarkable sight. Some Currawongs (Blue Jays in Tasmania) were having a chorus, as often happens. Noel was able to mimic their distress call and the whole assembly of birds descended on Noel in a most spectacular fashion.

John Hayes was quite scathing about Noel's catering. Years before Noel had bought a bullock calf and had fattened it in his large back yard. He had it slaughtered and had frozen all the various cuts. From these he cut very thin 'steaks', which were tough to say the least. Still we didn't starve, and Noel's company and freely given knowledge overcame any culinary criticisms the others of us may have had.

Our next stop was the Lagoon of Islands. Hanging from a veranda at a shack beside the road in was a 7 lb brown trout. We stopped and gaped at it, and the shack owner came out to tell us it fell to a Yeti after numerous refusals. Very early the next morning Jim Gomerski and I walked to the far side of the lagoon, where supposedly there was more open water. It was very cold and blustery, but despite the conditions I managed to hook and lose a big fish. Soon after a boat arrived with yesterday's shack owner aboard. He had come to say hello and said that he was returning to his shack, as it was too cold. I was frozen stiff too, so asked if I could go with him. He was a catholic priest whose name I had forgotten but who I clearly remembered. I had been brought up a catholic and was educated as such in Hobart, having arrived at age 9 from a small town in West Australia. I recalled that he had heard my first confession and I told him so, and then produced a hip flask of whisky which I offered to him. "God bless you my son," he replied as he took a good swig. He was well known as a fly fisher in Tasmania.

Lagoon of Islands was a very good fishery at this time and remained so into the 1980's. The water was clear but with lots of weed, and the fish large and well conditioned. During the 80's we sometimes got up early to fish the 'dawn patrol' as it became known, with fish in double figures sometimes caught.

Next day was fine and sunny, so Noel suggested he would take us further up the lake to more open water and set up a barbecue for lunch. I elected to walk there, as I wanted to polaroid the shore on the way, so off I went. Little did I know that Noel's son-in-law Ern had arrived. I spotted a fish fairly soon, but as I watched it Ern barged through the bush and said, "There's a fish!" Whereupon he rushed to the water, cast and caught the fish. I was dumbstruck at his brash and rude performance. So I left and continued on my way. After a while I saw another good fish of the 7 lb variety, and as I calculated its path Ern came charging up again and repeated the same crass intrusion, catching the fish I was about to present to.

When I reached Noel I related the events and asked him, "Who let Ern out?" He understood, and replied, "He's as rough as a ploughed paddock but he catches fish!"

We left Lagoon of Islands as the weather had deteriorated and travelled to Little Pine Lagoon. There we had the dubious advantage of the use of an unfinished shack. Its internal lining had not been installed, and with no insulating film the wind penetrated incessantly. Still, the fishing was good, even though the water level was very low. We fished near the river entrance and a Mrs Simpson proved very effective on the frog feeders. We also caught fish from the shore using mainly wet flies, as it was too cold for much in the way of insect hatches or rising fish.

We slept in the caravan and the wind at night rocked the van so violently that it woke us up at times. I had a front tooth missing and had one false tooth attached to a metal plate. At night I took it out, and put it on the very narrow window ledge - obviously not a particularly secure place with all the rocking and rolling going on. Next morning I couldn't find my denture so asked the others if they'd seen it. John Hayes said, "Hang on a bit. I felt something biting me during the night". There it was in his sleeping bag. After such an excursion and with the fetid aromas escaping from his sleeping bag it was given a very thorough cleaning before I was prepared to insert it again.

The week came to an end all too soon and we returned to Melbourne, very glad to have had the experience.

Dinner With Partners

What an excellent way to show the ladies the Kelvin Club where VFFA members meet, talk, listen and have fine dining. June 11 was a pleasant exception to the 'all male rule', as twenty-eight members and their partners attended an excellent dinner. This was a wonderful opportunity to catch up with the 'better halves' of members, or to simply meet those understanding spouses who grant those leave passes frequently and without question. A great time was had by all.

John Pilkington

OF KNIVES AND FISH

In these politically correct days some would say neither of these should meet. Fiddlesticks! Whilst I can see 'catch and release' as a legitimate strategy for hard-fished waters with low recruitment I do wonder as to its effectiveness. Maybe it just makes us feel good and takes pressure off solving the real issue of catchment degradation. It could also play into the hands of the trout eradicationists / animal cruelty folk - we are just big bullies playing with little creatures, then releasing them all stressed out. Taking away the justification of obtaining 'a feed' somehow blunts that inner hunter. Fishing like it really counts – your next meal depending on your success - seems to sharpen the instincts and brings you more in tune with being on the water. Not like flogging away and then using the credit card as a back-up! Any way - you can make your own mind up on this.

Do not fret though, gentle reader, if you feel trout stocks are in peril from this scribe. Being one of the 80% who catch 20% of the fish means that bringing a fish home to the little darlings is still a surprise to them! When said fish is duly landed it is time for the despatch. The aptly named 'priest' is called upon to do duty. Mine is a lovely reminder of past days, being a small wooden club turned from an apple limb off a property in the Snowy Mountains. Its use reminds one of pleasant past days. A simple lanyard through a drill hole in the base keeps it attached to the fish bag and ready for action. Other fine priests have done service over the years, such as the magnificent deer antler section mounted on a piece of old cane rod - all the better if self-made from one's own old broken gear, etc. So before reaching for the rock on the river's edge or the credit card at the tackle shop, have a look around and see if there is something you can use that will also provide some fond memories.

With the fish duly despatched, it is time for the knife! If not immediately because the duns are still coming off, then at least before leaving the water's edge. The entrails will provide a feed for some member of the ecosystem and not stink the trash can at home. When it comes to a knife my preference is for that French peasant's implement - the Opinel. A 7cm will suffice and is small enough for pocket, vest or belt pocket. The relatively soft steel of the blade is easily sharpened and the wooden handle pleasant to hold. The simple locking ring gives a secure hold on the blade for the various manoeuvres. The light weight precludes its use as a priest - a common argument for those who favour larger, heavier knives - but does make it easier to find if dropped in the water. Being relatively cheap its loss at the water, or airport security check when you overlook packing it in your cabin luggage, will not make you an enemy of the household budget. About the only thing it won't do well is fillet but for that a special knife at home or the shack is duly reserved - heaven help the person who uses the filleting knife to chop the pumpkin!

Now for manoeuvres. I know I am writing for a knowledgeable audience but it surprises me to see some of the botched fish cleaning, even by experts. Do not think I know all - give me a flathead to clean and I'll run a mile. However I'll pass on a trick with trout I rarely see others employ. Run the knife from anal vent to gills. If the fish is small - say under a pound - it will probably run easily to the front attachment of the gills. For larger fish it will get a bit tough as one approaches the rear attachment so I 'cut my losses' and make a transverse cut behind the gills and then again at the forward end. A sweep up inside the rear of the gills on

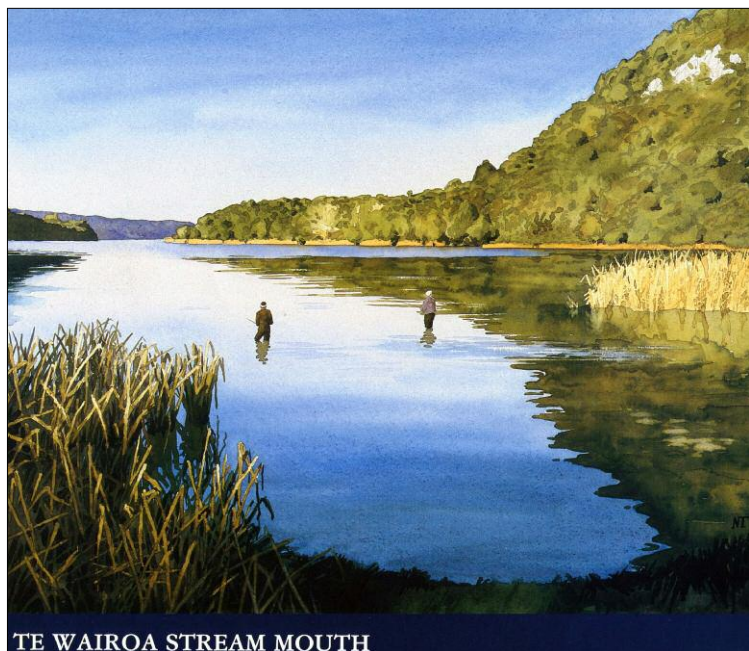
each side may also be needed. On even larger fish it may be necessary after folding back the flaps to cut the gill cartilage where it is attached to the spine.

Now for the elegant part. Put one thumb forward from the gills towards the mouth. The other thumb is then placed in the gills / gullet in the other direction. Hold the mouth section firmly whilst pulling down on the gills - the guts etc will follow cleanly. So what you say - isn't that what everyone does. Yes - but then they throw the whole collection away! Instead, keep your thumb in the gullet / gut section and use your knife to 'run the guts' with the back of the knife blade running along your thumb. As you work down the stomach the trout's feeding history will be revealed. You will then marvel at how your size10 Royal Wulff was taken for a chironomid, and will have a new puzzle to solve. For those really into it the white enamel dish could be bought in to play (or an empty camembert metal tin) to sort out the various bugs. Autopsy completed, a few cleaning strokes with the knife to run the dorsal blood, a quick wash, and you're all done. When being taught I was instructed to scrub out the dorsal blood with a penny. It worked well for those showing me, but I didn't regret losing mine (sorry Dud) and the decimal coins just don't seem right. A further clean and wash at home, then a quiet contemplation of how to best prepare the fish. What else could one ask for?

Andy Hodson

Angling and Outdoors Books For Sale

Many members will recall those magnificent Annual Calendars produced by Bryan and Nancy Tichborne, featuring Nancy's wonderful watercolour images of New Zealand lakes and rivers, and the flies that were used to catch trout at these lakes and rivers.



TE WAIROA STREAM MOUTH

Nancy and Bryan have very kindly given permission for the VFFA to use these watercolour images free of charge in our newsletter, and some of these image are included in this issue.

In return, Bryan has asked if we would carry the following notice on the sale of some of his books:

Angling & outdoors books for sale - range of titles including some first & signed editions. Can quote including postage to Australia. Contact Bryan Tichborne (New Zealand) by email for details & prices: tichborne@watercolours.co.nz

ATF Report

In his recent President's report, Mick Hall indicated that an old friend, Greg Naylor, had posted a rather disturbing report on his website in December last year. It tells the story of a young teenage girl, Kayla, who was camping in the Mount Buffalo area. Kayla and her friends were walking beside a small stream when they spotted a large brown trout in the water. They netted the fish out, took a photo of it, and then returned it to the water.

To quote Kayla: *"We had caught the extremely large fish in the afternoon between 3-5pm. The next morning we were having breakfast when the parks officer on duty turned up and asked how our trip was going and we told him about the fish and showed him photos of the trout that we had taken. He then asked what we had done with the fish and we had told him that we thought it deserved to go back because it was so large.*

He then told us that we should have not put it back because they are a pest in the park, that they have been eating a form of frog that is no longer in the park. He also said that if they had found the fish they would have killed it and we were to take as many of the trout as we would like because they wanted them gone. We let all the fish we caught go except one. But the parks officer wanted them gone."

Mick indicated that the ATF would follow this up, because if the report is correct, and he believes it is, then Parks need to answer a number of questions. He said, "We will keep you informed via the ATF website on how this serious accusation is handled by the department. We hope that a policy statement giving direction according to Government policy to its field officers on their attitude toward our Australian Trout is implemented and enforced."



Serious discussion at the recent ATF committee meeting

Since then a pleasing resolution has been achieved. Mick tells us: "We are pleased to report that this problem is being addressed thanks to the help of Dr Peter Appleford, who is now working with DSE Victoria." Dr Appleford's response:

“Mick

I have spoken to the relevant general manager within Parks Victoria and made him aware of the issue. He indicated that Parks Victoria support recreational fishing in line with government policy, including trout fishing. He indicated he will ensure staff are advised through line management.

The Parks Victoria General manager thanked you for the feedback and is always eager to hear when there may be misalignment between the actions/operations of staff/Parks Victoria and government policy. He thanked you for the professionalism with which the ATF through yourself addressed the issue. Let me know if there is anything I can assist in any other way.

Regards

Peter A.”

I would like to thank Peter and the General Manager Parks Victoria for assisting in correcting this situation

Mick Hall

VRFish Meeting Notice – North-East Catchment

Recreational Fishing Open House on the North East Catchment

When: Saturday 1st August 2009, 10:30am – 4:00pm

At the Blazing Stump Motel, Embers Room

4327 Anzac Parade, Wodonga

VRFish is committed to representing and advocating the interests of the Victorian recreational fishing community. To ensure this, VRFish will consult broadly with the recreational fishing community to represent the views of recreational fishers in an accurate and timely manner to Government and their agencies, as well as communicate effectively with the recreational fishers of Victoria.

VRFish has been charged with the responsibility of implementing key elements of the fishery management plans, such as maintaining or improving fishing access, facilities & opportunities and promoting protection of important fish habitats. The North East Open House will assist by giving the recreational fishing community an opportunity to identify key projects for the North East Catchment. VRFish is also keen to discuss fish stocking proposals for the North East Catchment, and will endeavour to introduce three-year programs with Fisheries Victoria. Fisheries Victoria will report on status of fish stocks and habitat management of the North East Catchment.

So come along and have your input into the management of recreational fishing in your region!

To assist us in planning for the North East Open House please RSVP your name, contact details and number of people attending by emailing infovrfish.com.au or calling Samantha SnowdenFinch on 9686 7077 by Friday 24 July 2009.



BULLEN MERRI FISHING WEEKEND & DINNER

August 7 – 9, 2009

Richard Goodall and Richard Kos are again organizing two days of fishing in the Camperdown area and a dinner at the property of Caroline and John Menzies.

The Saturday evening dinner commences at 6:30 pm for drinks,
BYO (please bring your favourite).

Cost for the Dinner - \$45. Dress - sports casual.

Please don't miss this wonderful weekend.

For all enquiries please contact: Kossy on 0430 091 300

Opening Weekend "Omeo Region" November 6 - 9

You will recall that last year we ventured to the King River for our opening weekend.

Whilst we all had an extremely enjoyable time the fishing left a little to be desired. After many consultations we have settled on the "Omeo Region" for this years opening.

At this time of year those wily trout should be looking up and feeding freely.

The trip committee will be visiting the area to seek out an appropriate base and will provide further information over the coming months.

In the interim pencil this weekend into your diary, and if you have any thoughts on where we should establish our base do not hesitate to contact

Hugh Maltby on 9455 9017 or mobile 0400 887 065.

This Month's Yarn – The Downfall of Mitchell's Bride

(Those who thought McTaggart had passed away back in the 1960's are wrong. Though a year or two older, he's still with us and in fine form. The ATF report in the June newsletter describing the Jamieson River project tweaked his interest and brought some fascinating history to mind.)

I was having a quiet one in the Courthouse Hotel and catching up with the latest VFFA newsletter, when I nearly choked. "I keep warnin' yer about them peanuts," said old Alf. Alf 's family history went back to the earliest days of Jamieson. He was a dinkum true-blue Aussie and deeply suspicious of American influences, which in his view included peanuts.

"I haven't eaten any, mate. It's this!" I exclaimed, showing him the report in question.

It declared that the ATF and DSE were to work together to establish access points and camping areas along the Jamieson River. And a good thing, too. More than that, a great thing. But they were to be established along what the report called 'Mitchell's Bridal Trail'!

"Get a load of this, Alf—it'll turn you pink and purple," I said. As a veteran of the New Guinea campaign, Alf has fought long and hard against those who would Americanise the Kokoda Track into the Kokoda Trail. Now the battle had moved onto his own doorstep. And if the official 'trailisation' of Mitchell's Bridle Track wasn't insult enough, it apparently now had something to do with wedding parties.

I thought he'd be outraged. Instead, it was his turn to laugh. A dry, rolling, old bushman's cackle.

"I reckoned those city trout fellers and that DS-whatever mob'd swallow a good story, and by gee haven't they taken the bait, eh? They come in 'ere one day and was askin' about the history of the track and all that, and was it rightly called a track or a trail, an' I couldn't help meself. I told 'em the facts of the matter is this. It was old Freddy Mitchell back in the old days who married the widow Bertha Dockendorf and was taking her back up the Jamieson, with all her stuff on packhorses, and every so often some other bit of her bridal kit—you know, her truso or whatever—was comin' adrift on the scrub and leavin' a trail of bits 'n pieces behind. And of course she was ridin' side-saddle up ahead in all her skirts an' bustles an' everything, an' she was a heavy woman. And when they got to a steep bit up towards where the Quicksilver comes in, well, her horse must've got a bit unbalanced and put a hoof down in the wrong place, an' over she went, the whole kit an' caboodle, horse an' rider tumblin' down inter the Jamieson. An' it left a trail of destruction. An' that, I said, is why ever since then it's always been known as Mitchell's Bridal Trail."

A look of triumph lit Alf's face as he savoured his glass of lunch. "Mind you, I wasn't really expectin' they'd *believe it!*"

'RUSTIC'





WINTER CASTING

Has Now Started

Please come and share a coffee and some entertaining and instructive time. Malcolm is well on the way to recovery, and may well make an appearance in coming weeks. In the meantime, Joe

Haslauer has stepped in and has everything organized. So come along, and enjoy casting a line or two.

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 2010 Tasmanian Trip Bookings

The VFFA crew will be going back to Tasmania in February next year.

Hamish Hughes has booked Hayes on Brumbies in Cressy from Saturday February 20 to Friday February 26.

Already Hamish has many acceptances, so if you wish to join in send him an email at hthughes@bigpond.net.au or contact him on 0418 108 686.

Please note Hamish will driving through outback Queensland over June and July so he may take some time to acknowledge your message.



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

Philip Weigall's New Book

Philip needs no introduction to members of the VFFA. He is a member of the Association, and has contributed in countless ways in recent years, often behind the scenes. He was the guest speaker at the Annual Dinner some years ago, and has contributed articles to our newsletter.

He is also a very well-known fishing guide, is an authority on trouting matters (especially our Victorian trout fishery), and has been writing regularly on all things fly-fishing for twenty years. He is presently a columnist and feature writer for Freshwater Fishing magazine and is the editor of Flyfisher magazine. He has written six fishing books, and his new book – “*Fishing Season*” - will be officially on sale on July 28.

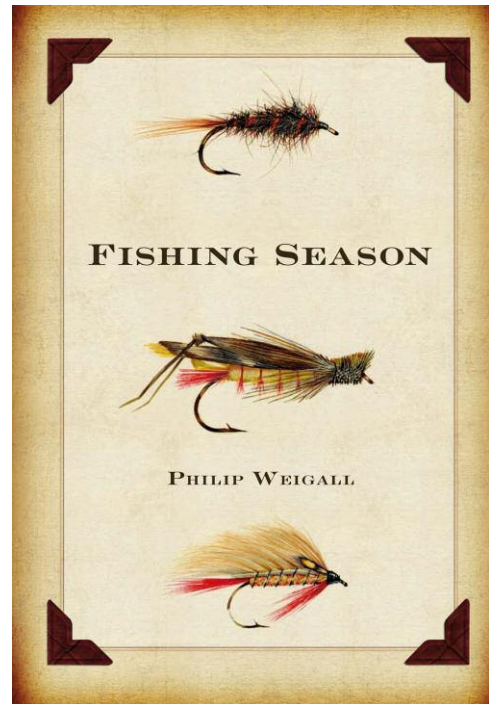
Philip knows his fishing and writes about it superbly. To quote the release notes: “Take a journey through a Fishing Season, a year full of challenges and victories, disappointments and frustrations, but most of all, quiet happiness. Philip’s prose is lucid, and his reflection on the sport he loves is engaging.”

Yes, the book is written in four sections, corresponding to the four seasons. Each section is a collection of stories associated with a particular season, where Philip recounts his angling experiences both here in Victoria and overseas. It is a delightful book, and a very welcome addition to the flyfisher’s library.

Fishing Season will be on sale for \$34.99 and a limited release leather bound edition, signed by the author, is available for \$125.00.

If members have difficulty tracking down copies, Tahnee McCrossin at Exilse Publishing tahnee@exilsepublishing.com, ph. (02) 4998 3327 is happy to point them in the direction of a local retailer who has copies in stock.

Lyndon Webb



Angling Art

This year's VFFA Art Show was cancelled, but Paul Squires was keen to let us know that there is another exhibition of art associated with angling pursuits coming up in August. Commencing on August 5 through to August 24 there will be an exhibition of art associated with fishing and hunting at the Adam Galleries, level 1, 105 Queen Street (Corner Queen & Little Collins Streets).

More than 50 works will be on display, including paintings by Pieter Zaadstra, who is well known to VFFA members. Some early cane rods and signed books will also be included in the exhibition. For those seeking further information, please contact Noel Scott on Ph: 9642 8677



Fly Fishing Has Generated Many A Fine Quote ...

“Fly Fishing: A delightful excuse to linger in beautiful places.”

Writing in the UK “Fly Fishing & Fly Tying” magazine (February 2009), Stan Headley describes the “disparate series of events that has to come together to produce a truly memorable day out – angling skill, weather conditions, location selection, tactics and techniques. Get them all correct and they will provide the angler with a memory he will treasure forever.”

Robert Hughes suggests that: “Fishing largely consists of not catching fish; failure is as much a part of the sport as knee injuries are in football”. (He has a point - in a day's fishing the fly fisher will make several hundred casts. If even half a dozen of these connect to a fish it would probably be seen as a good day out).

Sam Snead confessed that: “The only reason I ever played golf in the first place was so that I could afford to hunt and fish.”

Paul Scullery: “Calling fly fishing a hobby is like calling brain surgery a job”.

Paul O'Neil, 1965: "There he stands, draped in more equipment than a telephone lineman, trying to outwit an organism with a brain no bigger than a breadcrumb, and getting licked in the process."

VFFA OPENING WEEKEND

Saturday 24th & Sunday 25th October, 2009

Ray Butterworth's 'Tranquil Rises'

65 Collins Road, Flowerdale

(RACV VicRoads Country Street Directory – Map 61 F7)

Collins Road is just past Long Gully Road (marked on the map), and is the last road on the right before the main road makes a right turn into the Whittlesea – Yea Road.

Ray's mobile number is 0418 525 445 for those who find themselves lost.



\$25 per night

Convenor: Richard Kos

Please contact Richard on

Home: 9744 2375 or Mob: 0430 091 300

Don't miss this magnificent weekend

WARRNAMBOOL FLY FISHERS CLUB

ANNUAL GAME DINNER INVITATION

(Although it is late notice, the Warrnambool Dinner is something of an institution and is being held on Saturday, July 11. Details are given in the invitation below).

VFFA members are invited to attend the Warrnambool Fly Fishers' Club annual Game Dinner.

This will be held on Saturday, July 11, at the Warrnambool Club, 57 Kepler Street, Warrnambool.

It is a BYO wine night. Beer and other beverages can be purchased at the bar. The cost of the dinner has been set at \$60. The Chef is Robert King. Before dinner drinks with canapes will commence at 6:00pm and guests will sit for the first course at 7:00pm for what will be another night of fine food and company.

Members who would like to attend should contact Jim Blakeslee, the club secretary, on phone: 03 55625168



VFFA 77th Annual Dinner

Friday, August 28, 2009

At the Kelvin Club

Cost - \$55 per head

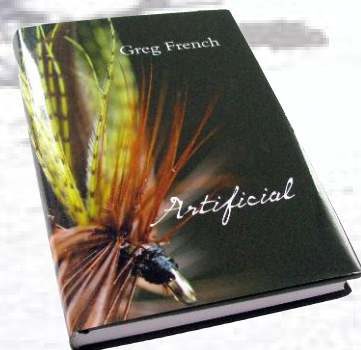
Please bring a guest and come along to the 77th Annual Dinner. Book early, and don't be disappointed.

Our guest speaker for this year's dinner is Greg French. Greg is one of Australia's best known fly fishers. Based in Tasmania, he has fished and walked extensively in New Zealand, Canada, South America, Europe and mainland Australia. His Tasmanian fishing guide books are legendary, and his two collections of short stories, *Frog Call* and *Artificial*, have received wide recognition. He is a regular contributor to premier trout fishing magazines, including *FlyLife* and *Freshwater Fishing*.

Greg's talk will stress the importance of travel and fishing guides in furthering an angler's enjoyment of his sport.

Given the negative impacts of climate change on the local fishing scene, travel is more relevant to Victorians than ever before. Wherever we go in the world, there are people who object to 'interlopers' and guides 'ruining things for the locals', so Greg hopes to demonstrate how important tourism is for the long-term future of fly fishing, and how easy it is for visitors to get the locals onside. His talk will be laced with lots of amusing anecdotes and some stunning photos from Tassie, New Zealand, Ireland, British Columbia and Slovenia.

Greg is much sought after as a very lively, engaging and accomplished speaker. Our Dinner promises to be another very entertaining evening!



Trout fisheries in alpine Victoria after bushfires in 2006/07

Fiona Gavine, Fisheries Victoria, DPI Snobs Creek Centre.

With the tragic human consequences of the 2009 bushfires in central and eastern Victoria still fresh in our minds, the ecological effects of two other major bushfires in north-east and alpine areas of Victoria in the last decade have been largely overshadowed. In 2003 and 2006/07 vast tracts of upland bushland were burnt (2.5 million hectares in total) in areas that host Victoria's most important recreational trout fisheries. In order to investigate the impact of the 2006/07 bushfires on those fisheries, a project was commissioned by the Victorian Government's "Bushfire Recovery Initiative". This project was implemented in 2007/08 by the Fisheries Research Branch of Fisheries Victoria based at DPI Snobs Creek Centre near Eildon.

As a first step, a broadscale presence/absence survey of fish was undertaken in the bushfire area in October-November 2007. Surveys were conducted using a single pass with an electro-fishing backpack unit over a measured area of stream. The fish caught were identified to species level, counted, weighed, measured and subsequently released back into the source water.

This type of survey provided an overview of the status of fish populations in the six catchments affected by the 2006/07 bushfire, and has assisted with the design of more rigorous assessments of recovery that were conducted in 2008.



Staff from DPI Snobs Creek electrofishing in the Barkly River at the top of the Thomson-Macalister catchment in November 2007.

In the presence/absence survey, seventy-four sites across Gippsland and alpine areas were surveyed. The results showed that the diversity and abundance of both recreational and other fish species varied between and within catchments.

Brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) and/or rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) were found at 43 of the 74 sites (58%) surveyed in the area burnt by the 2006/07 bushfire. North of the Great Dividing Range (GDR), 28 sites of 34 sites (82%) had trout present, whereas south of the GDR, only 15 sites of 40 sites (37.5%) had trout present. South of the GDR, trout populations appeared to have retreated to the upper reaches of catchments, which has been observed in previous years when the weather is hot and dry.

Figure 1 shows relative abundance of rainbow and/or brown trout at each site. The abundance classification is based on one proposed for bushfire-affected streams by DPI after

the 2003 bushfire (Pomorin 2004) shown in Table 1. Brown trout were found at 38 of the 74 sites, represented by triangles in Figure 1, and rainbow trout were found at 23 of the 74 sites, represented by circles. There were 18 sites that had both rainbow and brown trout present.

Table 1: Classification of trout abundance in bushfire-affected streams.

Classification	Definition
Good	More than 250 trout/ha
Average	50 to 250 trout/ha
Poor	Less than 50 trout/ha

This classification system was used in this survey to give a guide to the relative “health” of the trout populations in the bushfire-affected area, bearing in mind the limitations of the survey methods employed.

Figure 1 shows that there were clear differences between sites surveyed south of the GDR compared with north of the GDR. South of the GDR, for example, no brown trout were found in the Tambo catchment, and brown trout were found at 35% and 64% of the sites surveyed in the Thomson and Mitchell catchments, respectively. Where brown trout were found, relative abundances were usually poor or average. This contrasts with catchments north of the GDR where rainbow and brown trout were found at far more sites: Ovens (72%), Upper Goulburn (93%) and Kiewa (100%). “Good” populations of trout were found at 9 of 15 sites in the Upper Goulburn catchment and at the sole site monitored in the Kiewa catchment.

As there appeared to be no systematic differences in either abundance or occurrence of trout species as a result of fire intensity, climatic conditions and notable extreme events in the catchments before and after the 2006/07 bushfire were considered, including drought conditions prior to the fires, and the 2007 Gippsland floods following the fires. Data analysis that included these climatic variables showed that significant effects were evident for the impacts of floods that occurred in June 2007. This suggests that the major flood

Key findings

- A broadscale assessment of fish populations was conducted after the 2006/07 bushfire in Alpine and Gippsland Victoria.
- Clear differences were found between trout populations in bushfire-affected catchments that could not be explained by the bushfire alone.
- When the long-term drought and Gippsland floods in June 2007 were factored into the analysis, the major flood event that followed the bushfire appeared to cause more concern for recreational fisheries than the bushfire itself.

• Your assistance is required with a survey that aims to quantify the importance of recreational fishing in Alpine and Gippsland areas.
You can fill in the survey at www.new.dpi.vic.gov.au/fisheries. Follow the “Bushfires and Recreational Fisheries” link.

events that followed the bushfire was of more concern for sustainable recreational fisheries than the bushfire itself.

This survey was the first step in a larger project that aims to assess the impact of the 2006/07 bushfire on recreational fisheries. Other parts of the project include:

- Detailed assessments of fish populations at selected sites to determine recovery of fish populations compared with previous data (completed April-May 2008).
- Angler behaviour survey: to determine drivers of behaviour of recreational anglers with respect to the bushfire affected area (completed June 2008).
- Socio-economic assessment of recreational fishing in the bushfire-affected area to find out how important angling is to communities in Alpine areas and Gippsland (underway). We would be very grateful if you can assist with this assessment and complete the survey, which can be found online at www.dpi.vic.gov.au/fisheries. The survey will be easiest to fill in if you can think back to the last fishing trip you had in the 2006/07 bushfire area and base your answers on that trip.

Results of the presence/absence survey for rainbow trout and brown trout following the 2006/07 bushfire.

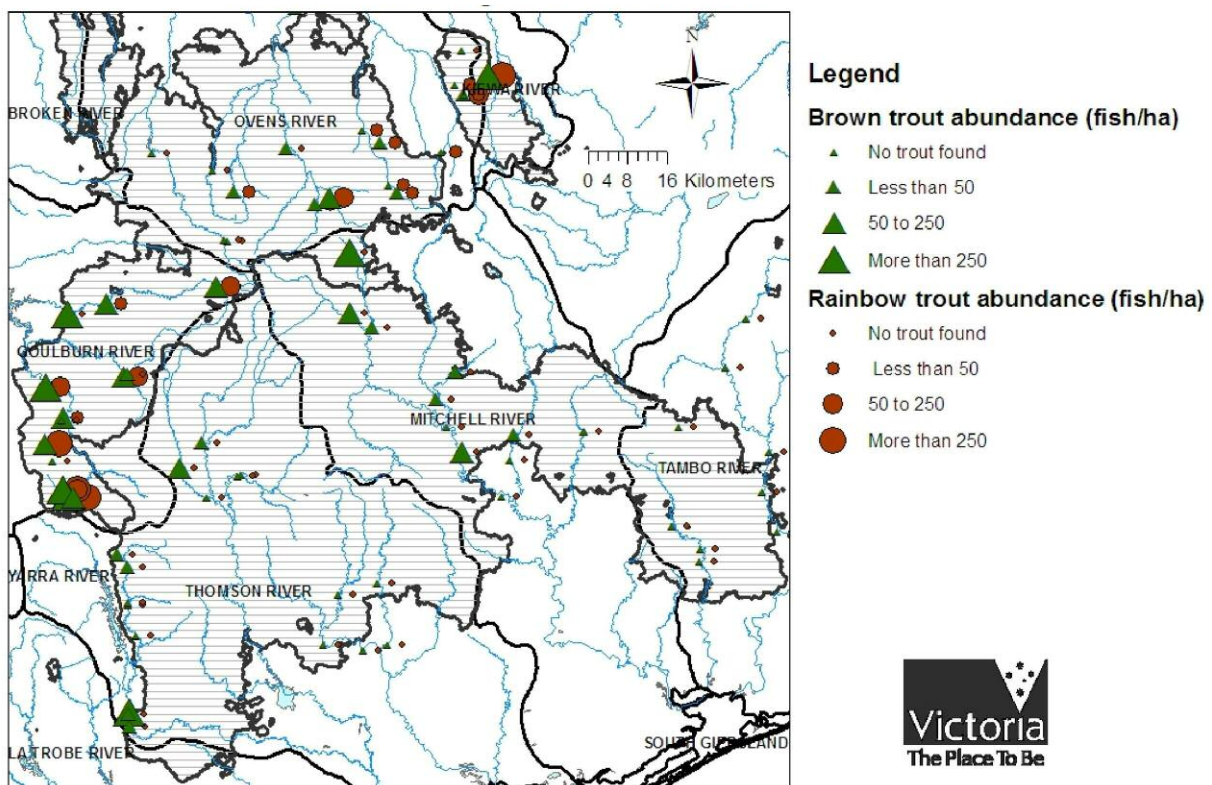


Figure 1: Results of the broadscale assessment for trout fisheries affected by the 2006-07 bushfire.

FLY OF THE MONTH

La CREMA

THE CREAM BUG alias THE GREEN BUG

(A deadly Shrimp pattern)



(This month's fly has been provided by Jim Blakeslee, our Warrnambool correspondent. Jim is a master with a fly rod and a superb fly tier. He is a qualified biologist, and has accumulated a wealth of experience fishing the rivers and streams of the state's Western District, where he has lived for the past 30 years. This is the first of some special flies Jim will describe for us.)

I've been fishing as long as I can remember. and began flyfishing in 1966 at the age of 16. During the first few years of transition in my persona - from youthful bait and lure trout fisher-boy to that of earnest, contemplative apprentice fly fisherman – I concentrated on “learning the trade.” That is, practicing my casting and presentation, spotting, stalking and playing fish and tying flies to “match the hatch.” At this time the quarry were native California rainbow and golden trout in small mountain streams and high alpine lakes close to home in the Los Padres and the Southern Sierra Nevada Mountains. The fly of choice was usually a small dry, such as a #16 Adams or Quill Gordon, or a hopper pattern such as a #10 Joe's Hopper or a floating Muddler Minnow. When not fishing, I often found time to read fishing articles in magazines as well as fishing books by authors such as Zane Grey, Ray Bergman, and Joe Brooks. By 1971 I had my own car and was on one of my early flyfishing expeditions. It was a full 12 hours drive north from sunny Santa Barbara in the south to fish the rivers and lakes on the lower slopes of a volcano called Mount Shasta,

which was just south of the border with Oregon and one of the southern-most of The Cascades chain of volcanoes, running all the way north into Canada.

I was fishing an Adams dry fly along the east bank of a beautiful section of the upper Sacramento River when I heard splashing in the river behind me. I turned to see another fly fisherman land a nice fish, release it, then continue wading upstream along the west side with the aid of his wading staff. He was advancing faster than anyone I had ever seen fish a trout water before. He was fishing water I hadn't covered pretty much directly ahead of him, making one or two short casts into every likely bit of pocket water, especially behind boulders, and holding the rod high as the fly drifted back towards him. He covered a hundred yards in what seemed like about five minutes flat. The fisherman reeled-up and waded across to my shore when he was about 20 yards below and began walking towards me. During this time I had waded upstream no more than ten yards, repeatedly casting, searching with the dry fly over what looked to me to be good trout water. I hoped he wasn't a local who was going to politely tell me to piss-off from his favourite bit of river.

I needn't have worried. He said, "Hi, my name's Ted Fay. What's yours?" After the introductions I was cheeky enough to enquire about his fast pace, his flies and fishing method. He said he had the afternoon free and didn't want to waste time repeatedly casting to fishless water, with no surface feeding evident, when there were fish to be caught elsewhere and especially when the caddis pupae were about to begin rising towards the surface at that time of the day and the trout would be looking for them. He also showed me the brace of heavily weighted caddis pupae flies that he was using. He gave me a couple flies and invited me to tag along with him for a while to watch his technique – a lesson I will never forget. After 20 minutes Ted said, "Well, I guess I'll leave you to it", and he crossed back to the west bank, walked away from the river heading upstream half a mile before cutting back to the river to scout for fish for a client he had the next day. I was left alone to practice the new upstream nymphing technique I had just witnessed. I never saw him again.

I first read about the flies I had been given almost a year earlier - I think in a 1970 edition of the American outdoors magazine *Field and Stream*. The flies were developed by none other than Ted Fay, the same short, stocky, cigar-chewing, fast-talking professional fishing guide I had just met who was based at Dunsmuir on the upper Sacramento River in Northern California. His services as a guide were, apparently, much in demand. Ted designed the nymphs to represent the caddis pupae that rise from the bottom of the river and are taken enthusiastically by the local Shasta-strain of rainbow trout before the pupae have a chance to reach the surface and hatch into caddis "moths."

My wife and I were able to fish the river, upstream of Dunsmuir again, just a few years ago. Dunsmuir was once an outfitter's paradise, complete with fishing tackle and gun stores and a couple saloons. It was the outdoorsman's "gateway" on the main road heading north towards Oregon. When Interstate Highway 5 was built Dunsmuir was bypassed, and over the years the town had pretty much died. Still, the occasional driver diverts from the freeway into Dunsmuir in search of "huntin' and fishin'" supplies, for fuel, food or a rest in one of the seedy motels. In our case it was food. When we walked into a café for lunch, we discovered the town also gets its share of visitors in search of another sort of "recreation." Anyway, the caddis and the trout were still there in the Sacramento River, in spite of more fishermen, dams and water diversion

schemes, but Ted Fay was long gone. The only “professionals” left in town were now of the female kind, operating out of several “pro-shops” along the main street. But I digress.

In the early 70’s I faithfully tied The Cream Bug according to Ted Fay’s original formula, with the hook wrapped with plenty of lead wire, then covered with soft fur in a colour to match the local caddis pupae – usually cream, gray, tan or light brown (e.g. white or gray rabbit, muskrat, hare body fur, beaver, otter, mink, etc). I fished the fly with Ted’s short-line, upstream nymphing technique, allowing the fly to sink a few seconds as the current carried it back downstream towards me before slowly “lifting” the fly back towards the surface, all the while watching the leader for any hint of a take. I still tie and fish the Cream Bug this way for fast flowing rivers in the mountains of Victoria and NSW, the Western USA and New Zealand. In all its variations, it’s a deadly fly and an alternative to try when the trout refuse “old faithful” - a well-presented gold bead-head Hare’s Ear nymph.

After migrating to Warrnambool from California in 1976, I encountered sluggish, weedy, tea-coloured nutrient-rich rivers and lakes full of large wary brown trout. I caught my first big Western District trout - a 7½ lb brown – while fishing a tan beaver fur Cream Bug on the Moyne River (near Port Fairy) with Lyndon Webb in ‘76. However, after looking at the stomach contents of a number of fish, it didn’t take long for me to discover that these trout were normally targeting a different sort of food and this explained why they would often refuse the usual version of Ted Fay’s fly. Then it happened. Being the adaptable fly that it is, the Cream Bug “mutated” into the Green Bug to “match the hatch” out here in the Western District. Today it has a greeny-gray body and is usually fished unweighted, which is better suited to the sink rate in the slow-flowing rivers around here. It’s allowed to slowly sink dead-drift in the path of browns that I’ve polaroided ...and stalked... browns searching for ... shrimp. Then a slight lift and, with a bit of luck, I’m on!

The Pattern (This is for The Green Bug)

The tie is basically the same as the caddis pupa Cream Bug; only the colour of body fur and hackle is different. This version is used as a shrimp imitation. Don’t be afraid to experiment and don’t be put off by the fly’s initial appearance. It’s pretty “fuzzy” until you get it wet. It will then be a pretty good “impressionistic” match for the shrimp in the stomachs of the trout you catch.

Hook: I usually tie mine on a #10 or #12 Mustad nymph hook for a shrimp fly (for the original Cream Bug, use #14 or #16 if you want to represent caddis pupae in NZ, where the caddis are usually smaller species).

Weight: Lead wire wrapped around the front 2/3rds of the body of the hook (remember to leave plenty of room for the “legs” and “head”), before covering with fur dubbing. This is an option you may want to try if you want a faster sinking fly. The down-side is that the body of your fly will look fatter.

Thread: 6/0 insect green to match body colour.

Body: A blend of 3 parts light grey hare's body fur + 1 part golden-olive, or insect-green, seal's fur. If you dye your own fur, you can use dyed green hare's fur instead. I prefer not to use synthetics. You will find that stiff seal's fur will dub onto tying thread better when mixed with a softer, finer diameter fur such as hare.

Hackle for the

Legs/Antennae: Two bunches, each of about 10 fibres, from Wood Duck barred flank feathers dyed insect-green (to match body colour). Use the "wiggly" fibres closer to the base of the feather. They give the fly better action in the water.

Head: Peacock herl. It's one of the ultra-violet reflective materials. Trout see in the U-V range, so the herl helps get their attention.

Method

1. Tie the thread at the head of the fly and wind back towards the bend in the hook to build a foundation for securing the dubbed-fur body. Continue winding a third of the way around the bend in the hook.
2. Wax 8 cm of the tying thread and dub onto this the blended fur.
3. Try to create a gradually tapering body that isn't too fat as you wind the dubbing from a third of the way down the bend of the hook forward towards the head, finishing before the eye of the hook (being sure to allow room for the Wood Duck fibres and peacock herl). If 8 cm of dubbing is not enough, dub on more fur to create a body that gradually tapers and increases in diameter from the bend towards the eye of the hook. Then, dub onto the thread a very fine layer of fur and wind back until you reach the bend again. Finally, wind the tying thread, like ribbing, towards the head a second time and secure with a half-hitch. This will reinforce the body while giving it a segmented appearance (at least until you pick-out the fur a bit if you want to make it more fuzzy. Of course, the fish will do this for you free of charge if you are patient).
4. Tie a bunch of Wood Duck fibres that are long enough to reach the bend of the hook and that are roughly on each side (e.g. the right and left sides) of the hook just ahead of the body fur and secure with a half-hitch. Trim off butts of the fibres so the eye of the hook is clear. The fibres should angle back towards the "tail" of the fly and give the impression of wiggly, segmented legs and antennae.
5. Tie in a strand of peacock herl and wind over the butts of the Wood Duck fibres, then back to the eye of the hook to create a small head. Reinforce the herl with a few winds of tying thread by going back over the herl, then forward with a few more winds of thread. Add a half hitch when you get to the eye. Trim off the butt of the herl, then complete a with a whip-finish knot behind the eye of the hook.
6. Add a dab of head cement to the knot and you're done. If your fly looks fuzzy and messy, don't worry, it will probably catch more fish that way.



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