

FLY LINES



JULY 2026



Thursday, July 23, 8:00 pm, at the Kelvin Club

Australian Fly Fishing Centre Update

Something special is taking shape at Fairfield, and we want you to be part of the conversation.

For more than 95 years the Red Tag Casting Pool on Fairlea Road has been a home for Melbourne's fly fishers. That same site is now set to become the **Australian Fly Fishing Centre (AFFC)** - a world-class venue for training, competition and community, endorsed by the Victorian Government and backed by the Victorian Fisheries Authority's master plan for Fairfield.

Join us for a special presentation when Stuart Murphy (President, Red Tag Fly Fishers & Precinct Project Lead) and Christopher Gray (Past President, Victorian Fly Fishers Association) will walk us through the vision, the journey so far, and what's next.

You'll hear about:

- The world-first simulated fly fishing stream, designed to teach casting and drift control in real-flow conditions, year-round.

- An upgraded casting pool with new lighting for evening practice and competition.
- A pavilion and community hub for clubs, workshops and events.
- Heritage displays celebrating Australia's fly fishing story.
- The remarkable list of stakeholders, from state MPs to fly fishing clubs across Victoria, already backing the project.
- A permanent home for the VFFA and many other clubs and organisations.

This is a rare chance to see how a multi-club initiative has united the wider fly fishing community and to find out how you can be involved as the AFFC moves toward construction.

Whether you're a lifelong caster or just curious about the future of fly fishing in Australia, come along, ask questions, and be part of the journey. We'd love to see you there.

For more information, visit affc.com.au

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Vice President's Message

... John Spragg

It has been a very busy month for the VFFA. We had a second team head to Loombah Weir to help lower the number of brown trout in the weir so that in a couple of years the VFA can set up an isolated sanctuary for Macquarie Perch, so that they have stock available in case of disease or a blackwater event elsewhere. Team 2 consisted of Peter Clayton, Rodger Muir and myself. We were welcomed on our arrival with light mist that turned into 135mm of rain over the next few days. Our three tents leaked, so we were saved by a gazebo Peter had set up for previous groups. No chance of a fire for a couple of days, and apart from five trout in the stream trap, things were tough.

The weather hardly improved over the week; we had just one day of sunshine. Fly fishers are a hardy lot, and we did have fun, and while damp our spirits were always positive. Rodger was often seen fishing in the rain and was frustrated with the boat supplied that did not behave. We made sure we were well hydrated every night.

The fish did not really run in the stream, and the fish trap caught only a handful. Anglers did not do well either, though all fish trapped or caught were in good shape and were subsequently rehomed in the King River area in perfect condition.

The rain rejoined us as we packed up and headed for home. I have decided that next time I camp out the minimum will be a 40-foot Winnebago with drying room, heating, spa, massage facilities, full kitchen and a heated queen size bed. My tent camping days are over! My tent at Loombah was like a wombat hole. I

had to crawl into it and out of it. It was supposed to be a three-man tent - maybe if based on pygmies.

Our expert fly tier Richard Kos had a good number of interested fly tiers on June 16. All attendees were shown some of the best tying techniques by Kossy, and I am sure everyone left with lots of hints and tricks they would soon put in practice with their tying.

On June 21 five of our members (Hamish Hughes, Rodger Muir, Chris Evans, Mike Groves and myself) headed to the Waitahanui River area on Lake Taupo (New Zealand), and had a sensational week thanks to Rodger's superb organisation, and great guiding by Dustin and Cieran. Bron and Anthony from Waitahanui Lodge went above and beyond to ensure our stay was excellent, and Marie's cooking far exceeded expectations. It was not as cold as we anticipated, though it did chill down after we left. Roll on March next year! If you're thinking about joining next year's March Taupo Trip, I suggest you jump in early.

Sunday June 28 saw a great turnout for casting at the Red Tag Pool. The weather was great and encouraged anglers to practice their skills. Out thanks to Ray Goddard who fired up the barbeque and cooked a pile of snags. We are hopeful we will have a VFFA gazebo for the July 26 casting day, when Ray will fire up the barbeque again. Let Andrew Fuller at the Flyfisher know if you want to try rods, reels and lines, and you may be able to do this on the day.

Our next General Meeting is at the Kelvin Club on July 23 at 7:00pm when our speakers will be Chris Gray and Stuart Murphy. They will be giving

an update and presentation on the proposed Australian Fly Fishing Centre at Fairfield. Come along - this will be a very interesting night.

Kossy is weaving his fly tying magic again on Tuesday, July 28, so come and learn some new fly tying skills from an expert. These nights are fun nights, as well as being very informative.

Put Thursday August 20 in your diaries for our Annual Dinner, which this year

will be at the Cricketers Arms Hotel at 69 Cruikshank Street, Port Melbourne.

There will be a "cane" casting day at the Red Tag Pool on Sunday August 30. If you do not have a cane rod then bring your favourite rod along to get some practice in, and enjoy barbecue snags at the end (or beforehand). A great time to hone your casting skills with the trout opening not far away.

Everyone stay safe and tight loops :)

The VFFA Annual Dinner

One evening. Good food, good company, and everything you need to hit the new season running.

Join us for our annual dinner, the social night of the year for our members. It's a chance to catch up over a meal, swap stories from the season past, and get set for the one ahead.

On the night:

Flyfishing trivia. Test yourself against the room on all things flyfishing. Bragging rights are on the line, and so are some great prizes. Come prepared.

Season opening presentation. With opening weekend around the corner, we'll walk you through where the best early season options are and how to plan your season around them. Where to be, when to be there, and what to have ready. You'll leave with a plan, not just good intentions.

Event Details

Date: 20th August 2026

Time: 6:30 for 7pm

Location: Cricketer's Arms Hotel Port Melbourne

Cost: \$50

Bookings essential. Guests welcome!



VFFA ANNUAL DINNER 2026

COUNTDOWN TO OPENING DAY

The long winter is nearly over.
Rivers are calling. Fly boxes are full.
Waders are ready.
Let's get together and
kick off the season in style!



GREAT FOOD
& GOOD COMPANY



AWARDS &
RECOGNITION



TRIVIA &
PRIZES



**THURSDAY
20 AUGUST**

*Be part of the excitement
as we celebrate another fantastic year
and look ahead to the 2026–27
trout season.*



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69 CRUICKSHANK ST, PORT MELBOURNE
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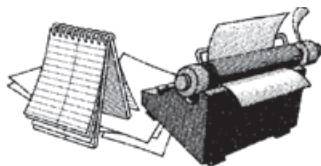
\$50
PER PERSON

**TWO COURSE MEAL
DRINKS AT BAR PRICES**



ALL GUESTS OF VFFA MEMBERS MOST WELCOME!

From the EDITOR'S DESK



... from Lyndon Webb

I received a very welcome phone call a few months ago from my grandson. Taking the lead I guess from his grandfather, he had suddenly and (from my perception) quite unexpectedly developed a keen interest in this 'fly fishing business'. What's it all about?

He has grown up with a natural interest in 'the bush', had acquired an elderly four-wheel drive soon after starting fulltime work, and has subsequently spent lots of his spare weekends camping out in wilderness areas (which he discovered he loves), often with nearby rivers or lakes. So doing a 'bit of fishing' on these country excursions was an obvious addition to the fun and games.

He spent some time checking out a number of fly fishing videos on his laptop and decided that this was the way to go. The next step was to consult the elderly family fisherman, who of course was delighted to discover his grandson's new passion. "Of course I'll give you some gear. How much would you like?"

So he departed with a quite serviceable five-weight fly rod, a couple of reels of fly line, some boxes of flies, spare leaders and leader material, various other bits of maybe useful gear, and of course both ears full of suggestions and advice.

An outing together is obviously on the cards, but this hasn't happened yet. But we've had a number of phone calls. His casting is not yet up to scratch, and he hasn't actually caught anything yet. But he loves it. We need to spend some time

together soon sorting out those casting problems. Hopefully a new and very keen fly fisher is now plying his trade and enjoying the experience.

Fly fishing is certainly addictive – at least I have found it so. And it has so many associated skills. Fly casting is a sport in its own right, and I can recall occasions when I have seen highly talented casters hurling fly lines truly prodigious distances. In this issue we are advertising more fly tying nights, and there's another addictive skill. On those cold winter nights when good fishing weather is months away, an evening spent topping up the fly boxes with replacements for lost flies and new patterns to try are very pleasant times of creativity. (The good news, as I have discovered, is that a fly I tied in a hurry that is really a very ordinary example of the skill of fly tying will still catch fish. Trout are quite forgiving of your less than perfect tying habits!)



And of course fly fishing has generated a huge library of truly enchanting books, so again a cold winter's night can be spent stepping out with David Scholes as he takes us up one of his favourite Tasmanian rivers or lakes. Of course there are countless other truly superb fly fishing writers, and I've spent some fabulous evenings enjoying the company of Philip Weigall or Robert Sloane, or the fabulous Tom Sutcliffe from South Africa. And that's just from a quick glance behind me here at my shelves of fly fishing books.

And the final thought to note is that fly fishing and fly tying and fly casting days or nights are all social occasions. So these VFFA events – meetings, fly tying nights, casting days, cane rod building days (??) are all fabulous opportunities to share experiences with friends and fellow members.



Victoria has some fine trout streams, including the delightful Acheron

New Zealand Report

... John Spragg



The VFFA team in New Zealand

After the great success of our Taupo Summer Trip, five of us, including Hamish Hughes, Rodger Muir, Chris Evans, John Spragg and new member Mike Groves headed to Taupo for the first winter Taupo Trip. As we had done for the summer trips we stayed at the Waitahanui Lodge and were superbly looked after by our hosts Bron and Ant. Ant had some great local flies in the shop along with some very helpful tips. However, it was Bron who caught the biggest fish while we were there – a 5.6 lb brown she caught in her ‘spare time’.

Hamish, as he often does, caught the first fish for our group - a 4.5 lb jack rainbow. He was using a newfound skill: wet lining using a sinking line he had purchased recently at The Flyfisher store. ‘Wet lining’ is a New Zealand term for casting a sinking line across the river, letting it drift downstream until it is tight, then stripping in a streamer fly (Woolly Bugger, or similar) and hopefully making a hook up. Hamish broke his duck on the Waitahanui River at Totara Bridge Pool not far up the river from Rodger Muir’s house.

That set the pace for the rest of the trip. We fished with head guide Dustin in rivers and lakes. Some of us were also guided by Cieran, who did a superb job finding fish for us as well.

It was not as cold as we expected, and all of us had packed far too many clothes for the anticipated freezing conditions. Like Victoria until recent arctic blasts there had been very little snow in New Zealand right up till we left. One day we even experienced a ‘high’ of around 18°C. This



Rainbows this size were the standard issue



John Spragg hidden under all that protection with a superb rainbow

led to a very late run of rainbows up the rivers and streams that we largely missed. Most of the fish we caught had been in the rivers for some time, so new river run trout were rare though we did catch some.

We fished far and wide. A couple of anglers tried the Whakapapa.

Lake fishing generally produced double figure catches for all anglers fishing from Dustin's boat. The names of the lakes are not secret – it's just that I can't remember them. We fished nymphs under a wool indicator, fishing the nymphs at various depths depending on the weed and the bottom.



A big day on the river for us with over 25 fish of this size caught by out group



Chris Evans landed this superb fish

The Hinemaiaia River, the closest river to the Waitahanui, was a very productive stream that held fish in a couple of ripples and a pool all day on a couple of days. The river had many anglers fishing it, but the couple of areas we fished even after others had fished it still produced great numbers of good-sized fish on nymphs using a split shot to get them down.

The Waitahanui did not produce as many fish as in the summer, but was still fun and easy to fish. It produced fish on some days but was quiet on others.

A couple of us fished the Tongariro River with success, but told us it was tough fishing though the catches made it worth the effort and the boulders.

A highlight of each day were the stories told during pre-dinner drinks with snacks and occasionally Rodger's famous freshly smoked trout followed by Dustin's partner Marie and her French culinary delights for dinner.

A great time was had by us all. Good numbers of fish and quality fish were caught by everyone.

So get in early with your booking for next year, as I hear six are already pencilled in.

Lake Craft

... Jim Jackman

(Here are some suggestions and thoughts on lake fishing from Jim Jackman)

Put the fly where the trout can see it without spooking it.

In order to do this, we need to work out where the trout are holding and their likely behaviour.

There are only two types of trout - those that are feeding, and those that are not.

This may sound glib, but it plays a huge part in how we approach things. When there are no visual signs of feeding then it can be deduced that the fish are either feeding in deeper water or are holding there for safety.

Some takes will result from aggression rather than hunger, especially when you are retrieving larger flies quickly.

Trout do not feed all day. You need to identify peak feeding times if possible, and this can vary depending on the time of the month. Moon cycles and many other factors can make up the dynamics of feeding, so it's unwise to isolate one factor and base your calculations on that one single factor.

Local knowledge is gold, so seek it whenever possible.

Upon arrival at a lake take some time to observe.

Sometimes something as simple as playing a hunch pays dividends.

Factors influencing trout behaviour

The four primary drivers are feeding, security, reproduction and comfort.

Other factors include structure, water temperature, rapidly falling water level, and moon cycles. My experience is that generally the fishing seems to be better with the moon waxing rather than waning. However, it's not wise to take this in isolation.

The weather - sudden cold winds can cause the water temperature to change quickly, which can shut down trout feeding.

Be stealthy:

It is absolutely essential to avoid false casting. If the water is choppy or discoloured, then perhaps it's ok.

Learn to 'pick up and lay down', or even better use a single-handed Spey cast. This is when good technique is essential. Learn to eliminate inefficient casting errors. You will save a lot of energy, catch more fish and enjoy the casting process more.

The US Navy did experiments on which colours are visible above water from below the surface and concluded that light cream is the least visible colour. It's interesting that predatory birds like pelicans have light underbodies.

A trout's main predators are airborne. Given that birds normally roost at night it's no coincidence that the more experienced trout do most of their feeding at night.

Trout are very sensitive to movement, especially movement in the air - such as fly lines during false casting. Trout are also highly sensitive to movement sub-surface, as they are usually the Apex predator in their environment.

However movement above the water is usually assessed as danger. I have seen many trout spook before the fly or the line has landed. A line landing on calm water can spook fish.

Keep your silhouette from the horizon.

When in boats don't stand on the gunwale.

On calm sunny days fishing indicators deep is a good option.

Lines:

I use floating lines when there is surface activity, and when polaroiding. But for general prospecting use intermediate lines or sink tips.

Use full sinking lines from boats or sink tips from bank.

Flies

Where do we start? Do we match the hatch? It depends!

Mostly I prefer suggestive rather than imitative flies. Your fly can be like a snowflake in a blizzard during an intense hatch. However there are those times when a good imitation is essential.

Getting the size right can be crucial.

Scruffy looking flies seem to do better than neat flies!

Boobys, Blobs and Fabs are often overlooked in Australia but the English have proven how deadly these are.

Don't overdress flies.

Movement and subtlety are effective in clear water. However in dirty water the opposite is effective. Flies that move water work because in dirty water fish use their lateral lines to find food.

Detecting takes:

Waiting for the line to go tight means missing out on a fair few takes.

When stripping (or pulling as some say) watch the 'bridge of the line' – that's the line between the rod tip and the water. Sometimes it will barely move – it may pause for a split second, or just move a fraction out of rhythm.

With indicators, if the indicator does anything remotely suspicious, strike! (It may be just a wobble or a few subtle rings around the indicator.)

Fish on-shore banks, as fish feel more secure to come in close to feed.

I like to fish with the wind blowing parallel to the bank.

Learn to cast into the wind techniques. Fish close.

Usually there is more feeding activity in the first 30 – 40 feet (the Littoral Zone), than out wider, unless there is a predominate food source available, e.g. yabbies in deep water.

Have a basic knowledge of which food is available at different times of the year for each lake you visit, and also the life cycle of trout prey. Some lakes have different major insect inhabitants. For example - Wendouree is a mayfly lake, whilst Wartook is a midge lake with very few Mayflies.

Fish as light as you think you can get away with. I prefer fast rods in saltwater, but prefer slower rods for trout which can handle light tippets. The exception is when Loch-style fishing out of drifting boat, as the flies are being stripped quickly.

Perhaps one of the biggest mistakes made is when there is no action: the first impulse is to change flies. Focusing on depth is the key here, and should be attended to before changing flies.

Line choice is crucial - especially if the fish are not feeding.

Often an intermediate or a sink tip line gets the job done. It can be difficult to cover the entire water column effectively with a floating line.

On the subject of depth, unweighted or neutrally bouyant flies on intermediate or sinking lines impart more movement than bead head flies. Also they are less likely to snag.

Use a loop to attach your fly. I don't think it is necessary to use tapered leaders with sinking lines. 3x fluorocarbon is adequate. I would typically use a 6 - 8 foot leader with an intermediate line, and a 3 to 4 foot leader with a full sinking line.

Vary the retrieve, and animate the fly - many strikes will come from aggression rather than hunger.

I have observed that refusals are much more common in lakes than in streams. I have seen lake trout swim up to a fly, inspect it and then swim off.

How many trout during a session would see a fly and not take it? I would argue quite a few.

Getting the fly to behave like a prey item fleeing for its life will often will trigger a response, just like a cat with a ball of wool. I have seen this behaviour confirmed with a mate using a downscope.

When the fish are actively feeding on insects employ a slow retrieve or fish static. When attempting to induce a strike from aggression strip fast with big flies.

On those calm sunny days look for deep drop offs and fish with indicators set as deep as you can.

Advantages of indicators: a good ambush method when polaroiding, and they keep the fly in the strike zone for extended periods. They enable static fishing which helps when fish are spooky or are feeding on small nymphs, etc. They are great for targeting bloodworms / nymphs deep on a midge lake or mayfly lake.

On a boat use quick release indicators which enables the indicators to be set deeper than the rod length. While sometimes a single fly is appropriate, however in general an attractor fished with something more subtle works well.

Always fish the hang. This is essential as it enables the retrieve to be fished right to your feet, and can often entice those pesky followers.

When first tying on a fly, check that it's swimming correctly - otherwise all that will be achieved is casting practice. Check your fly and leader for weed and wind knots frequently.

When playing a fish, use the rod as a shock absorber, and keep it at about 11 o'clock. Dropping the rod tip when a fish runs is a good way to get a bust off.

Give a fish line when it wants it. Take line in when it lets you. A knot will not approach its breaking point when this is done. Bust Offs in the main are avoidable.

Learn to tie good knots and how to seat them. A well tied knot is rarely the cause of a bust off - it's always poor technique, or a rod that's too stiff for the tippet, or both. If a fish becomes airborne whilst playing it, then it is usually a sign that too much pressure has been applied, or bad technique.

Stay out of the water when it's appropriate, like calm conditions or when fishing after dark. Fish have a very sensitive lateral line and can detect waves made by wading.

A lot of fish die after release, even though they seem to swim away. Handling fish with dry hands or gloves, even when wet, can cause problems.

Wet hands are preferable, though wet hands can be instrumental in dropping fish and injuring them.

Avoid leaving fish exposed to air for too long. If a photo is wanted, do it quickly.

If the water temperature on release is too high, then wade out to deeper to cooler water to release the fish.

Best practice: If you are employing catch and release, then leave the fish in the net and in the water, and also use barbless hooks. Don't exhaust the fish.

Fly lines: Floating, Hover, Midge tip, cold 25 sink tip, Di sinking

To Sum up:

What is attitude? Attitude is everything!

Fish with confidence - if you think you can't, then you won't!

The difference between being good at something and being great is attending to the one percenters.

Get things in perspective: instead of counting fish, count your blessings: the people you fish with, the places you go, and lastly the fish you catch. That way, every trip will be a good one.

Lastly, no matter how the day's fishing goes, remember how many kilometres you are away from the lawn mower!



A superb New Zealand South Island river that has a very high trout population

New Member Spotlight: Peter Panopoulos



Peter Panopoulos

Nursing student by day, fly fishing every other waking moment, Peter Panopoulos is one of our newest VFFA members. We caught up with him to find out how he got hooked, where he fishes, and what keeps him coming back for more.

It's just so addictive, it's a never ending journey. Nursing (and many other professions) and fly fishing are kind of similar in that way - there's always more skills or knowledge to gain.

How did you get into fly fishing in the first place?

My dad had the box set of *A River Somewhere* and a few old fly rods lying around. By the age of 12 I was out in the lane behind our house pretending I knew how to cast.

What was the moment you knew you were properly hooked?

The first time I ever went fly fishing - on the Delatite River. I caught a tiny

brown trout on a size 16 Indi Klink and remember the whole moment as clear as day.

You're happy chasing anything that swims. Where does that come from, and what do you love about mixing it up?

Again, credit to my dad. I was exposed to a fairly diverse range of fishing growing up, and I never seem to focus on just one species for too long.

Trout, natives, salt. If you had to pick one to fish for the rest of your days, could you?

New Zealand trout or Cocos Island bonefish. A split decision.

Do you have a home water, or somewhere that's got under your skin?

The Taggerty River is the first place that comes to mind. Looking back, I must have fished it two or three times a week during summer after I finished high school, doing day trips whenever I could. As for something that got under my skin, I've never really figured out how to fish Moorabool Reservoir consistently well. Always catch the odd fish, but never seem to quite crack it.

Working at *The Flyfisher*, you're around gear and good fly fishers all day. What's that taught you that you didn't see coming?

That fishing means something different to everyone. What floats one person's boat might not do much for someone else, and that's okay. It's what makes the fishing community so diverse and interesting.

What's been your best session on the water so far?

New Zealand North Island backcountry rainbows over four pounds eating size 8 cicada patterns in November.

... and the one that still keeps you up at night?

Fishing a dun hatch at Talbotts Lagoon and being completely new to lake mayfly fishing. I probably missed more than a dozen quality fish through plain incompetence.

What made you join the VFFA?

Another way to stay connected to the fly fishing community while studying. There's so many different opportunities and cool fly fishers to connect with.

What are you hoping to get out of being part of the Association?

To learn from people with far more experience than me, contribute where I can, and help ensure that the future of fly

fishing remains strong. The social side is a bonus too.

Between study, work and fishing, something's got to give. How do you actually find the time to get out?

Skip classes and go fishing, obviously.

In all seriousness, there are two mantras I try to stick to: make the most of easy half day or full day trips to tide you over, and always have a bigger trip planned. Half the fun is spending your spare time researching, tying flies, and getting gear ready for the next adventure.

What are you chasing this season, a species, a water, or just more days out?

I'd really like to nut out the metro bream on fly. We have such an underutilised fishery right on our doorstep.



An attractive midge pattern

The Psychology of Fly Fishing

... by Peter Whitelaw (with a little AI assistance)

To someone who has never stood waist-deep in a clear mountain stream, fly fishing may appear to be an unnecessarily complicated way of catching a fish. There are leaders and tippets to be tied, insects to be identified, currents to be read, and artificial flies so small that ageing eyes may struggle to thread them onto a hook. Even after all this preparation, there is no guarantee that a fish will cooperate.

Yet that uncertainty is part of the attraction. For many fly fishers, the true value of a day on the water cannot be measured by the weight of the catch - or, in the age of catch and release, by the photographs stored on a phone. Its deeper rewards are psychological: freedom from everyday pressures, immersion in nature, intense but peaceful concentration, companionship and a renewed sense of perspective.

Leaving the Everyday World Behind

A fishing trip begins to provide benefits before the first cast is made. There is pleasure in planning the journey, checking the weather, selecting a rod and examining the fly boxes. These rituals mark a transition from the world of appointments, emails, household responsibilities and unresolved problems into a different mental space.

Daily life frequently requires what psychologists call directed attention. We must concentrate on tasks whether or not they interest us, suppress distractions and repeatedly make decisions. Over time, this can produce mental fatigue.

Natural environments appear to help restore this depleted capacity. Reviews of research into contact with nature have found associations with improved mental

health, cognitive functioning, sleep and physical wellbeing. Experimental research also suggests that exposure to genuine green spaces can reduce stress and help restore attention.

The river therefore offers more than attractive scenery. It provides temporary relief from the demands of ordinary life. The mobile phone loses its authority. The week's difficulties may not disappear, but for several hours they cease to occupy the centre of the mind.

Immersion in Green and Blue Space

Fly fishing places us at the meeting point of two environments increasingly associated with wellbeing: green space and blue space.

The angler is surrounded by trees, grasses, rocks and changing light, while standing beside, or within, flowing water. Researchers studying recreational angling have noted that aquatic environments may contribute positively to mental health and wellbeing. A study of UK male anglers described fishing as a meaningful way of spending time in "blue spaces", while wider research has linked nature exposure with reduced stress and improved mood.

The important word is immersion. Fly fishing is not simply observing nature through a car window. It requires active participation in the environment. The fisher notices the temperature of the water, the direction of the wind, the softness of the riverbed and the changing rhythm of the current. There is the sound of water slipping over stones, the sudden flash of a bird and the movement of insects above the surface. These sensations draw

attention away from repetitive thoughts and towards immediate experience.

This resembles mindfulness, although most fly fishers would probably not use that term while studying a promising pool. Mindfulness involves paying deliberate attention to the present moment without becoming consumed by judgement or distraction. On a river, such attention develops naturally. A fisher who is mentally reviewing yesterday's argument or tomorrow's meeting may miss the quiet rise of a trout beneath an overhanging branch.

The Calming Power of Preparation

One of the distinctive qualities of fly fishing is the amount of apparently small preparation it requires. Which rod will suit this stream? Is the water likely to be high or low? Will the fish be taking insects from the surface, feeding below it or holding deep in a pool? Should the fly imitate a mayfly, caddis, beetle, nymph or something less easily identified?

To a non-fisher, this may seem like excessive fussing. Psychologically, however, it serves several useful purposes. It provides structure, encourages concentration, and creates a manageable series of decisions. Unlike many workplace problems, each question has a practical and immediate answer. The angler makes a choice, observes the result and adjusts.

Even tying a knot can become a calming exercise. The task is small enough to be controlled but important enough to demand attention. Hands and mind must work together. For a few minutes, there is no room for abstract worry.

This is one reason fly fishing can produce a state sometimes described as "flow": a period of deep involvement in an activity in which awareness of time

and self-consciousness diminishes. The activity is challenging but not impossible, and feedback is immediate. A fly lands neatly—or it does not. The leader drifts naturally - or the current drags it. The fish accepts the offering - or refuses it with impressive contempt.

Stalking, Observation and Stream Craft

Successful fly fishing is rarely a matter of marching to the river and casting as far as possible. It requires restraint. The experienced fisher pauses before entering the water. The surface is studied. Shadows are avoided. Likely lies are identified: behind a rock, under bubble lines, beneath a bank, at the edge of a current, or where fast and slow water meet.

This process of stalking a fish encourages a form of alert tranquillity. The angler is calm, but the senses are active. Attention becomes narrow enough to exclude intrusive thoughts, yet broad enough to absorb the whole environment.

Stream-craft also rewards patience and humility. The river cannot be hurried. A trout cannot be instructed to rise. The fisher must adapt to conditions rather than attempting to dominate them.

That lesson has value far beyond fishing. Much human stress is generated by our desire to control events that are not entirely controllable. On the stream, we are repeatedly reminded that effort matters, but outcomes are never guaranteed.

The Value of Companionship

Although fly fishing can be solitary, it also creates a distinctive kind of companionship. Fishing friendships do not always require constant conversation. Two people may travel together, fish separate stretches of water and meet later for lunch or at the end of the day. Silence

is not awkward, because both understand what the other is doing.

Camaraderie grows through shared knowledge, minor disasters and stories that improve with age. Flies are exchanged, knots untangled and advice offered - sometimes whether requested or not. One fisher celebrates another's success, while privately wondering why the trout ignored an apparently identical fly five minutes earlier.

Research into therapeutic fly fishing programs for military veterans has highlighted the possible importance of social connection, shared experience, learning and supportive relationships. A qualitative study involving participants from Project Healing Waters examined how fly fishing assisted veterans in managing post-traumatic stress symptoms and promoting personal growth.

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs has also partnered with Project Healing Waters to provide fly fishing activities for veterans experiencing PTSD. The programs combine time in tranquil natural settings with instruction, travel and companionship.

Most anglers are not participating in formal therapy of course. Nevertheless, the same elements can be present: belonging, encouragement, purposeful activity and the opportunity to talk, or not talk, among people who understand one another.

Why the Biggest Fish Is Not the Point

Modern life encourages measurement. We compare salaries, houses, sporting results, social-media approval and personal achievements. Fishing can easily become another contest: the greatest number, the heaviest fish, or the most impressive photograph.

Yet an excessive focus on results risks destroying the very benefits that brought us to the river. If success depends entirely on catching a large fish, most fishing days will contain frustration. Conditions change. Fish become cautious. The wrong fly is selected. The cast catches a branch. Sometimes the angler does everything correctly and still nothing happens.

But a fishless day can still be a successful day. The fisher has walked, breathed fresh air, studied the water and spent several hours away from everyday pressure. Perhaps a platypus appeared, a raptor passed overhead, or the light on the river was particularly beautiful. Perhaps nothing remarkable happened, and that was precisely what was needed.

Research into recreational trout fishing in New Zealand has explored the relationship between participation, mental health and wellbeing among nearly 1,900 anglers. Although research specifically devoted to fly fishing remains limited, the growing evidence suggests that the experience of fishing, and not merely the catch, may be psychologically significant.

The Moment of Release

There is, nevertheless, something cathartic about connecting with a good fish. The line tightens, the rod bends and the quiet concentration of the previous hour becomes immediate excitement. For a brief period there is no past and no future. There is only the fish, the water and the delicate connection between them.

When the fish is eventually brought to the net, admiration replaces pursuit. Its colours are often more beautiful than memory allows; spotted flanks, translucent fins and the muscular energy of a creature perfectly adapted to its environment.

Then comes the release. Held gently in the current, the fish regains its strength. With a flick of the tail it disappears back into the river. The angler is left with wet hands, a racing heart and a sense of satisfaction that does not depend upon possession.

Perhaps that is the finest psychological lesson fly fishing offers. We may pursue something wholeheartedly, experience it fully and then let it go.

The fish returns to its stream. The angler returns to ordinary life - usually calmer, often tired, occasionally triumphant and almost always improved by the day.

The largest fish may become the best story. But the greatest benefit is often less visible: a quieter mind, a restored perspective and the feeling that, for a few precious hours, we were exactly where we needed to be.

The Psychology of FLY FISHING

The best catch is often a quieter mind.

- 1 Escape Daily Stress**
Time away from pressure and routine helps restore a calmer mind.
- 2 Immersed in Nature**
Water, trees, birds and flowing currents encourage presence and wellbeing.
- 3 Focus & Flow**
Choosing flies, tying knots and reading the water create mindful concentration.
- 4 Stream-craft**
Observation, patience and stalking fish sharpen attention and humility.
- 5 Camaraderie**
Shared stories, quiet companionship and helping one another strengthen connection.
- 6 Not Just About Big Fish**
A fishless day can still be a good day.
- 7 Catch, Admire, Release**
Landing a fine fish and gently releasing it can feel deeply cathartic.

The Morton Smuggler

... from Jim Allen

I normally never review books, but just recently I read a book called *The Morton Smuggler*. Total fiction about a fly reel that is impossible to buy, but must be earned. The best fly reel in the world.

The book starts with a young Scot called Rupert in a very strict boarding school in Bombay in India, where he is caned frequently. A fanatical angler, he writes letters to the Morton Smuggler who makes fly reels of the same name, indicating his yearning to obtain one. Without divulging too much, our very young Rupert ends up under a guardianship in the Portuguese colony of Goa on the west coast of India.

Then home to Scotland, where he spends the holidays with his grandfather who runs a pub in Aberdeenshire, near the Dee. He develops an intense dislike of his grandfather, who sends him off to Timbertop, the mountain school of Geelong Grammar near Mansfield with a main campus at Corio just outside of Geelong. He develops a best friend called Finn, and encounters Fred Fry on the Howqua River. In between he spends his holidays near Taggerty in North-East Victoria.

(Your reviewer here recalls two fanatical fly fishing brothers called Finn and Rupert who were killed in a horrific car accident whilst returning from Alaska to fly home to their farm just outside Geelong, following a Steelhead fishing trip some twenty years ago. But any similarity with our Rupert in the story ends there, except to say they were both "loners and fanatical", and both went to the same school).

Whilst all the time writing frequent letters to the Morton Smuggler, Rupert was learning that he must understand a series

of "F"s to obtain one. On turning eighteen he leaves Geelong Grammar under a cloud and is distressed that he will no longer see his girlfriend at the school. He ends up in the Kimberley of Western Australia, having a frustratingly hard time with the unionized workforce there.

Finally, he goes to Algiers in North Africa, to discover the war years where his grandfather had been a spitfire pilot. He lost his best friend there and met up with his father. At the very last he returns to Scotland, for the wind up of the book and the outcome which is not to be divulged here. However, it is very important to re-read the Introduction or Epilogue at the end.

This softcover book of total fiction was one your reviewer could not put down, and it left a remarkable imprint. Any fly fisher with an instinct to be sometimes alone will enjoy the read. It is available both digitally and in paperback format from Amazon and themortonsmuggler.com

Jim Allen



This Month's Yarn



Your 'ighness getting urgent advice

... from February 1956

Sandy, a Scotchman well versed the art of salmon fishing with the fly but not so well versed in the delicate approach to persons better placed in the social scale than he, was called upon to act as a "Gillie" to a high-ranking dignitary of the Church. His approach to his employer, "The Lord of the Manor", resulted in his being advised to address the dignitary as "My Lord" or "My Lord Bishop".

The great moment duly arrived when Sandy and the Bishop approached the lie of one of Sandy's pets. "Now, my Lord", said Sandy, "Cast your fly about two feet upstream of that rock and allow the current to bring your fly downstream. Careful – careful! That's it, my Lord, that's it. That's it - Now – Now Strike!! You got 'im your 'ighness. Hold 'im! Don't let 'im come down stream. Tighten your line! Get

the slack onto your reel! Keep 'im coming, your 'oliness. Now let 'im run your hexcellency. Hold 'im. Lookout! Lookout!! There, you bloody fool, you've lorst 'im!!"

How Sandy got on in the life to come has never been reported to my knowledge - perhaps some member may have this information.

Thoughts on Nymph Fishing

... from Chris Bassano

(This is a scan of a fine article written by Chris Bassano some years ago.)

- Nymphs are good to use when other methods fail.
- They work well in dirty water - but dirty water needs lots of casts so that fish get to see the nymph. Fan across all the water. Especially fish edges in high and fast water.
- Fish foam, especially along undercuts.
- If fishing without an indicator: one fly, 10 foot leader, thin tippet for fast sink, and initially a bead-head hare & copper nymph. Watch the end of your fly line.
- For shallow water - grease your leader and watch your leader.
- Start short and work longer. Keep drifts drag free, but keep the line straight.
- Work across the water, fan cast - especially bubble lines and seams.
- The nymph should be bouncing along the bottom.
- Nymphs are good to use when the water is clear and you can polaroid. Spot a fish, cast to the fish, and watch the fish rather than the nymph.
- Rain adds colour, freshens the river, and fires up fish to feed.
- Try to match the nymph to those in the water – both in size and colour.
- Beetles are also very good to use – e.g. a black and peacock spider, and brown and black sunken beetles.



Chris Bassano – a highly regarded Tassie guide

- Good colours for nymphs are claret, brown, black and olive.
- In dirty water use gold bead-heads. In clear water use black bead-heads.
- Good flies (first choice) are the Hare's Ear and PTN. Use black nymphs and Copper Johns occasionally.
- Sizes - typically 12, 14 and 16.
- Tie nymphs – some unweighted, others with a few turns of lead, and bead-heads.
- Occasionally you can use stick caddis, large stone flies, and emerging sedge pupae.
- Watch drag and mend continuously.
- Short rods are best.
- Fish both the main current and the slower edges.

- Cast up in slow pools and use a very slow hand retrieve. Twitch occasionally.
- For shallow water use unweighted nymphs.
- Start short, then lengthen your cast and keep covering new water.
- Always fish the seams - carefully.
- Don't neglect any water, otherwise there is the danger of spooking fish.
- Use the roll cast.
- On short casts, lift the rod to keep in touch.
- Where you can't fish upstream, fish from the top of the pool downstream – stay low, cast across so your line washes down, sweeps around and rises.
- Progressively lengthen the line to cover new water. Use mends to get the line further down.
- In January – the water is low and clear – so use an indicator with a nymph on a dropper of 6 inches to 3 feet.
- Indicator fly – must be easy to see and a high floater = hoppers, Royal Wulff, Stimulators, Elk Hair Caddis, other Caddis patterns
- Turn over rocks in the stream to find typical nymphs.
- Along streams look in spider webs to see what dries are flying around.
- Use longer casts in low and clear water. Use an indicator with unweighted nymphs.
- Use smaller flies for smaller fish.



Rick Dugina fishing a productive New Zealand South Island stream

Reading Lakes

... by Peter Julian



Fishing the evening on a Tasmanian Lake

(Here's another good article written some years ago with suggestions for fishing lakes. At this time of the year the rivers are high and running dirty, and many are closed. So this is when we turn our attention to the stillwaters we can access.)

Every minute spent fly fishing is a precious minute, one not to be wasted, so it makes sense to use this time fishing when and where conditions are suitable. In the summer months, this means always carrying a good thermometer to check the water temperature in case the shallows have warmed up too much.

Trout will feed happily when the water temperature is between about 10°C and 20°C. Below 5° they become increasingly lethargic and above 25° they really start to suffer.

Given reasonable water temperatures and no obvious rising fish, it pays to search lake margins using a large wet fly, rather than a dry fly or a small nymph as might

be used on a stream. On lakes, especially if the water is a bit discoloured, try starting with a size 8 pattern. Assassin, Tom Jones, Mrs Simpson, Fur Fly and Matuka are names of suitable wet-flies that can be readily obtained at tackle stores.

If the banks are steep and the water depth is over a metre or so, a bit of weight in the fly or a bead-head version will help the fly to sink faster so it spends more time in the strike zone. Specialist sinking lines can also be used when fishing deep water, but generally a floating line is adequate for most lake shores and is much easier to manage and to cast.

Trout are creatures of habit and they favour areas which provide both food and cover. So, rather than just casting aimlessly, look for places such as weed beds, logs and ditches where fish are more likely to be, and try to work your fly along these features.

Allow the fly to settle for a few seconds before gently drawing it back towards you. Strip the line back in over the index finger of your rod hand so that when a fish grabs the fly you can pin the line to the rod with your finger and lift the rod to set the hook.

Keep your fly in the strike zone and moving gently in about 30 centimetre strips, but don't be afraid to speed it up or slow it down while experimenting with different types of retrieve.

To reach the best spots and to cast along any cover or food-holding features you may need to wade. Do so stealthily, without sending bow-waves ahead of you and without splashing your feet or banging rocks together.

Trout are extremely sensitive water movement and vibrations, which may warn of an approaching predator.

Once satisfied that you've thoroughly covered the water within comfortable casting range, move on a little further, three or four good paces, so that your next cast and retrieve will cover new water. Keep watching the water near your fly, in case a fish swirls or boils, but keep half an eye out for unnatural movement in the general vicinity, and be alert for the sound of fish rising - this may be an obvious splash, but sometimes it's as subtle as the sound of a kiss. If you do see a fish move, of course you should cover it. But don't cast right on its head. Try to lead it by a few feet and draw the fly across its path.

Unless you notice several conspicuous refusals, stick with the same fly for as long as possible. Changing flies all the time is



Currawong – a fine and very productive Tasmanian Lake

a real trap for beginners and just means you are spending less time fishing. For the same reason you should keep false casts to a minimum.

On a recent outing I noticed a likely looking hole in the weed, a comfortable cast out from the shore. By this time I had changed to a weighted Damsel Nymph, having noticed a few damsel-flies buzzing over the water. My fly landed in the middle of the hole and began to settle. Two three strips later, I absentmindedly raised the tip of the rod to extract the fly

from the weed I thought I'd hooked. The rod tip wrenched down as the 'weed' took off for the middle of the lake ...

When a fish grabs the fly in this way, you know your hunches have been confirmed. Instead of just blindly casting into a mass of water hoping for a response, you've been reading the water and conditions accurately and have been rewarded as a result. Your confidence will then be sky high as you search for similar places and fish your fly through the water with renewed enthusiasm.



Terry Rogers with a fine South Island brown

Small Streams

(Here is an article written by Peter Hayes some time ago. He explains that small streams can provide sweet fishing.)



Peter Hayes with a superb rainbow trout

It's a funny thing - if I had just one day left to fish do you know what I would want to do? I would grab my 4 weight rod and head for a small stream. I just love this type of fishing, and I will never tire of it.

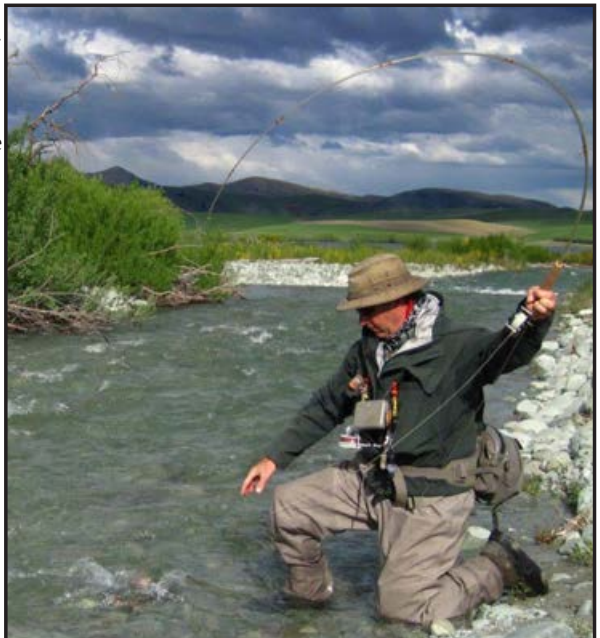
I love the fact that I am often the only one fishing. I love the fact that the water moves steadily toward me as I enter the fish's world and wade easily. Often casts are required in restricted areas. It may be a roll cast or a bow and arrow cast, and the trickier the casting situation the more I love what I am doing.

It seems that all the small sweet streams that I fish hold gazillions of small and eager trout. They are generally headwater streams where larger trout migrate in winter to spawn. Occasionally I will find a big old boy left over from the winter spawning, a veritable

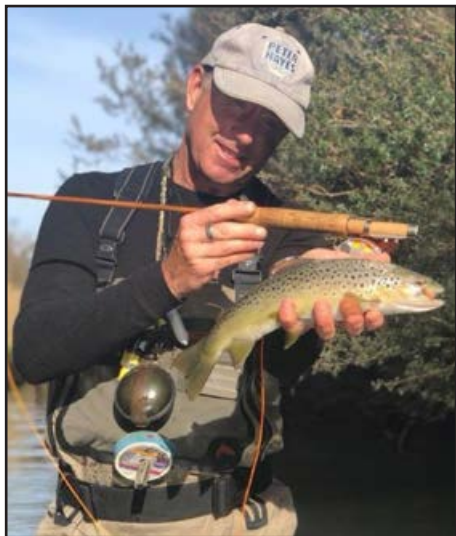
monster trout that has failed to drop back down into the lower reaches after spawning - literally a big fish in a little pool.

Short and accurate casts are mandatory in tight waters. It delights me to be able to wade so closely to my prey. Smooth, gently wading. Stalking at its best... movements like a heron. Minimal casting movements are best. A simple pick up, lay down cast just 25 feet upstream is often all that is required.

The closeness of the take excites me. Often the trout's movement is nothing but a blur, the take happening in a heartbeat. On other occasions the take seems to last forever, the trout studying the imitation over a metre of drift, seemingly balancing the fly on its nose, trying to talk itself into believing this really is food.



... landing another one



Peter with a fine brown trout ... and caught on a cane rod too

Fishing Styles

Very often small streams offer all the normal fishing opportunities. There are the very spooky, often impossible, tail of the pool teasers. Then as you move up the pool the sippers in the glides are usually easier to catch if the tail fish have not spooked them by the time you get there.

The easiest fish are always in the heads or run-ins. This is where the bigger fish lie too. Grabbing every food item as soon as it enters the pool. This water is broken and fast moving, where the fish need to make quick decisions and they are often fatal. Here, a quick strike is the only strike.

Be constantly alert for a soft edge cruiser or a backwater fish. If the backwater is adjacent to a hard run-in then these fish are often the largest of the stream. Careful observation and consideration is needed to bring a take. Setting a trap is often the wisest path.

I have had wonderful days crawling through thick bush on mountain streams. This is Rambo-style fishing where camo shirts, bow and arrow casts, and patience are all necessary ingredients to success. The creeks I like best are the ones it is possible to wade straight up the middle of. Casts are made more or less straight upstream. After just half a leader length of drift I immediately recast just half a leader length above the previous cast. This way you never line a fish and takes are always in the first few seconds of the landing. This 'machine gun' approach is nearly always the most successful.

Flies

Any flies will work but I like just one fly for this sort of fishing. For 20 years I have used a fly that Victorian angler Dick Clark gave me. When talking about small streams with Dick one day he said: "This is the only fly you ever need in the high country".

Dick put what I would call a parachute Royal Coachman in my hand. On the first outing I caught fish after fish with the fly that soon became known as an 'Australia II'. The fly fulfilled all the right criteria. It was a buoyant attractor, durable and easy to see. It sat in the film and the takes were always positive.

Tackle

Short rods are best. Rods of between 6 and 7 feet are ideal. I love cane rods for a host of reasons. There are many graphite rods on offer these days. The Vision range is sensational at an affordable price. Couple it to a 3 or 4 weight line. Buy Scientific Angler double taper lines and cut them in half. Put one half away for a rainy day, and glue braided backing to the line and, given that nearly all casts are less than 55, feet, this backing never sees the light of day.

A tapered leader of 9 feet is all that is required with 6 pound Maxima as a point. Towrope like this does not seem to scare the fish, and it allows you to pull down branches to retrieve your fly.

In this kind of fishing there is no need for a vest. Use a lanyard with Top Ride

powder, Loon Floatant, Clippers, Forceps, fly pouch, tippet spools and a sunglass cleaning cloth.

Have a think about the benefits of making small creek fishing a larger part of your fishing time.



Narrow little creeks like this can hold some great fish

Fish stocking

- 10 million fish stocked in the 2023-2024 season
- Since July 1 2023 the snobs creek team has driven a whopping 178,000km (nearly 6 laps around Aus!)

May 2024:

Rainbow trout

- 38,000 into Blue Rock Lake
- 10,000 into Pykes Creek Reservoir
- 2,500 into Lake Narracan
- 14,000 into Devilbend Reservoir
- 15,000 into Lake Eldon
- 10,000 into Lake Bellfield
- 2,000 into Teddington Bottom Reservoir
- 10,000 into Lake Burrumbeet
- 1,500 into Lake Gillies
- 7,000 into Bostock Reservoir
- 20,000 into Upper Stony Creek Reservoir
- 130,000 stocked total

Chinook salmon

- 15,000 into Lake Purrumbete

Brown trout

- 10,000 into Lake Buffalo
- 10,000 into Pykes Creek Reservoir
- 2,500 into Lake Narracan
- 1,000 into Sandy Creek Dam
- 8,000 into Lake Bellfield
- 10,000 into Cairn Curran Reservoir
- 5,000 into Mount Emu Creek
- 25,000 into Blue Rock Lake
- 20,000 into Lauriston Reservoir
- 2,000 into Teddington Bottom Reservoir

- 2,000 into Macalister River
- 10,000 Hopkins River
- 1,000 into Lake Gillies
- 20,000 into Lake Eldon
- 2,500 into Bostock Reservoir
- 1,000 into Wombat Reservoir
- 1,000 into St Georges Lake
- 1,000 into Cosgrove Reservoir
- 500 into Bullarto Reservoir
- 500 into Dean Reservoir
- 500 into Quarry Lake

-138,500 stocked total

The Flyfisher's Report

... by Andrew Fuller



A fine Inverloch salmon



A very solid Hinchinbrook permit

Winter has settled in properly now, and the reports coming through the shop this month have been some of the best we've heard in a while. The Crater Lakes are the clear standout at the moment, with both Purrumbete and Bullen Merri fishing incredibly well. A few of the smaller lakes in Western Victoria are also worth a look, though they demand a bit more patience. Expect to put in a day or two of solid fishing before things click, but when they do, the reward is often a genuinely big fish, which makes the wait worthwhile for anyone prepared to put the time in.

Down along the coast there has been some excellent bream fishing through the Great Ocean Road and East Gippsland waters. Out from Inverloch, huge schools of Australian salmon have moved in, with fish up to 5 lb and in real numbers. They are taking flies willingly at the moment, which makes for a great option if you are chasing a bit of saltwater sport. A boat

helps you get among the bigger schools, but fly fishers working the shore are still finding plenty of willing fish close in.

Inland, Lake Eildon is fishing well for both trout and Murray cod, though in quite different ways. The trout fishing has been a bit hit and miss, which is nothing new for Eildon. Put in the hours and you will find fish smelting and the odd one midging, particularly if you happen to be on the water at the right time. The fish are there and they are willing, it is just a matter of being out when the window opens. The Murray cod fishing is the more exciting story right now. At this time of year the cod are sitting in shallow water, often only a metre or two deep, which puts them well within reach on a fly rod. Fish around the metre mark are a real possibility, making this one of the best windows of the year to chase a genuine trophy cod on fly.

In the shop, we have significantly expanded our range of Murray cod tying materials, including beautiful 16 inch Schlappen feathers from Whiting with striking grizzly barring, along with Nyat, which ties up perfectly for cod patterns. Winter is always a good time to spend more hours at the vice, and our tying range has grown a lot over the past year to support that. Our full winter clothing range has also landed, including gloves and beanies, with the Skwala gear well worth a look if you need something warm for the cold starts.

Further afield, one of our regulars has just returned from an outstanding trip to Hinchinbrook, coming home with plenty of barramundi and queenfish, and even a permit for good measure. It is a brilliant destination at this time of year, and it does not take long to get amongst the fish. Even a couple of spare days is enough, with pickups available straight from Townsville and some excellent flats fishing on offer close by. Anyone considering a trip north should get in touch with Rodney at Australian Fly Fishing Outfitters, who knows the area well.



Seeing fish like these caught is also a timely reminder of just how important these flats fisheries are, and how much they rely on being properly protected. If you have not already signed the petition through the Inshore Flats Project, we would strongly encourage you to do so. It is a genuinely important initiative, and one the fly fishing community needs to get behind.



Andrew with a solid brown from one of the Crater Lakes



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THE FLYFISHER

FLY OF THE MONTH

The Dirty Bug Yarn Caddis



Materials are as follows:

Sizes	#12 and #14
Hook	Ahrex FW510 or Barbless Option - Ahrex FW511 Or Hanak H500BL
Thread	70D Black or Brown
Body-Shuck	Semperfli Dirty Bug Yarn Caddis - Brown, or Alternative – Mottled Olive
Tail	Also Semperfli Dirty Bug Yarn Caddis - Brown
Wing	Deer Hair
Hackle	Brown Saddle

VFFA 2026 meetings & other activities

*(Unless otherwise notified, all meetings are at The Kelvin Cub,
14 - 30 Melbourn Place)*

July

- 16 Thursday** Council Meeting – 6:30 for 7:00 pm
- 23 Thursday** General Meeting – Update on AFFC / Red Tag Pool / Fairlea Road redevelopment – Stuart Murphy & Chris Gray, 6:30 for 7:00pm
- 26 Sunday** Casting Day: 11:00am, Red Tag Pool, Fairfield
- 28 Tuesday** Fly Tying – Advanced – Richard Kos, 7:00pm, the Botanical Art School, South Yarra

August

- 13 Thursday** Council Meeting – 6:30 for 7:00 pm
- 20 Thursday** Annual Dinner – Venue / time TBD
- 30 Sunday** Cane Rod Casting Day, 11:00 am, Red Tag Pool, Fairfield

September

- 17 Thursday** Annual General Meeting (virtual)
- 24 Thursday** Council Meeting – 6:30 for 7:00 pm

October

- 15 Thursday** Council Meeting – 6:30 for 7:00 pm
- 22 Thursday** General Meeting