

# FLY LINES



JUNE 2017

## May Meeting with Bernard Holbery

Our speaker for the June meeting is Bernard Holbery, well known to us all through his many contributions to *Fly Lines*. Bernard is a highly skilled angler who spends a lot of his time fishing the rivers around Buxton and Taggerty, just north of Melbourne.

He is one of those dedicated anglers willing to pay the price. When the fishing is good (as it often seems to be for Bernard) he's on the rivers at the crack of dawn, and often fishes late into the night.



Thursday, June 15,  
8:00 pm at the  
Celtic Club

For the June meeting he will speak about his passion for fly fishing, especially in the Acheron and Steavenson valleys. He will elaborate on some of the many wonderful memories recorded in his fishing diaries – important historical moments, lighter moments, his love of the natural environment, significant people who have influenced his fly fishing, and of course his encounters with some very large or challenging fish.

Bernard has an extensive collection of photos of his exploits and will illustrate his presentation with a series of PowerPoint slides.

**So, come along and hear Bernard – at the Celtic Club, Thursday June 15, 8:00 pm.**

**All members are welcome to join us at 6:15 pm for dinner in the Shamrock Restaurant prior to the meeting, but PLEASE make a booking by 5:00 pm on Wednesday, June 14, by phoning 0498 254 497 and leaving a message.**

# THE VICTORIAN FLY FISHERS' ASSOCIATION INC.

**VOL. 65 NO.8 – JUNE 2017**

Organisation No. A0024750J

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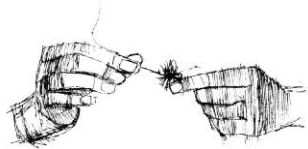
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## Fly Tying Falters

Richard Kos has offered to run fly tying classes again this year. Unfortunately there has been little interest from members, so Kossy has indicated that there will not be any official VFFA fly tying classes this year, though he has indicated he is happy to meet with individuals for occasional private lessons at his house.



*Tichborne watercolour  
– Kaiwi Lakes*

## July Meeting - with Daniel Hackett

Our July meeting is another lunchtime meeting, and we will enjoy the occasion with an outstanding guest – Daniel Hackett.

Daniel is a Tasmanian guide and his business, RiverFly 1864, is based in Launceston. RiverFly 1864 has been operating since 2005, when it was originally founded as a river-based guiding business. It is owned and operated by Daniel and Simone Hackett, and it has grown to become one of Tasmania's most respected guided fly fishing operations.

The business has grown to include a destination fly shop (opened in 2011), and RiverFly Wilderness Huts (opened 2012). This private camp in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area enables the guiding team to offer sight-fishing amongst the famed Western Lakes.

RiverFly was a Tasmanian Tourism Award Finalist (2013, 2014), a Silver Medallist in 2015, and the Gold Medal Winner for 2016 in a first for the Australian fly fishing industry. In February 2017 RiverFly 1864 was awarded the industry's top accolade, the 2016 Qantas Australian Tourism Award.

Daniel and Simone have developed a top team of skilled and enthusiastic fly



*A nice brown Daniel*

fishing guides, with fly fishing experience from across the globe and excellent teaching and guiding skills.

The last time Daniel spoke at a VFFA meeting was back in 2008, when he talked about how he expected the Tasmanian trout fishery to change due to more frequent droughts and climate change. Most of his predictions came true, so for our July meeting he will revisit this theme and call it 'The Tasmanian Fishery Version 2.0'.

For those of us who fish Tasmania, and all who have an interest in our changing Australian trout fishery, this will be a fascinating presentation to hear.

So mark it in your diary – 12 noon, Thursday July 20.



*Tichborne  
watercolour  
– Spring Creek*

# President's Message

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Well, try as I might, I just couldn't manage to get out and have a final stream session during May before the season closes. And, what about the weather! It couldn't have been better for fishing. But I was forced to attend to other matters rather than enjoy a glorious autumn day working my way up a nice river somewhere. 'Them's the breaks', as they say.

So, I hope that many of you managed to get out and enjoy a final fling before winter sets in and winds up a season that I believe many would argue was one of the best we have seen in Victoria for a few years.

I have certainly enjoyed my fishing this year and caught and saw quite a lot of fish everywhere I went. From the Otways to Omeo, from the Nariel Creek to the Goulburn River, the fish were there, and I managed to tangle with quite a few of them. All in all, a great season and plenty of promise for the future.

Now it's time to check the gear, replace some flies and make sure everything is in order for the next river season, which, after all, is only a couple of months away. Of course, the lakes are open and can provide a fine alternative, particularly if the weather is not too wintery.

Which leads me to remind everyone of the new annual western lakes winter competition with the Bairnsdale Fly Fishers, which will be held over the weekend of June 24 and 25, competing for the Bruce Whitehead Trophy. Several people have already signed up for the event but we could do with a few more to bolster the VFFA team. This year the event will be held at Camperdown and is being organised by Hugh Maltby, who would



like to hear from anyone interested in taking part. His mobile number is 0423 283 079. The NOE is an insert in this newsletter.

Sunday casting at the Red Tag pool has traditionally been a VFFA winter activity, but with numbers dropping steadily over recent years, it has been decided not to hold regular casting sessions this year. Rather, we intend to have special casting-related events from time to time during the winter, and the first of these will be a Cane Day at the Red Tag pool on Sunday, July 2, that is being organised by David Grisold. David tells me it should be a great morning, starting at 9 am and finishing at 1 pm, so get along and support "Choco", catch up with a few mates, and enjoy a Hugh Maltby BBQ. What a way to spend a Sunday morning!

And another good way to spend a Sunday morning is planting trees, especially trees along river banks to help restore stream-side vegetation. The VFFA has made a commitment to the Goulburn Broken Rivers Catchment Management Authority to undertake a tree planting session on

Sunday, August 6. Dermot O'Brien is organising the event and is keen to get a group of 10 to 15 members to participate. Elsewhere in this issue of *Fly Lines* you'll find further information on the event and how to volunteer to take part. I would urge everyone to get involved in this very worthwhile initiative.

Our next meeting should be a cracker with Bernard Holbery as guest speaker. Bernard is a very skilled angler who spends a lot of his time fishing the rivers around Buxton and Taggerty. Don't miss this one. And another good reason to be

at our June meeting will be to farewell one of our longest serving members, David "Feathery" Featherstone, who is leaving Victoria for Perth to be closer to his family. This will be his last meeting before leaving, so here's the chance to say au revoir.

Well, I guess that's about it for this month. I look forward to seeing many of you at the next meeting, so until then, adieu.

- Mike



## VFFA Cane Day – Sunday July 2

All members are asked to come along to:

**Cane Day 2017 – on Sunday, July 2**

Enjoy the BBQ master – Hugh Maltby's burnt offerings.



Enjoy a wonderful morning with your very special mates from Turville, Southam, Gillies, McKean, Piesse, Taransky and Carter

It's all about the cane. Unwrap your dear old friends and bring them along to meet the new boys on the block.

Please come along and catch up with members old and new.

Cheers, Choco

## The May meeting with Scott Xanthoulakis



Thank you for inviting me tonight.

I started the guiding operation, *Wilderness Fly Fishing*, about a year ago. You could say that I was born to fish. The photo up on the screen shows me as a very young angler fishing the Swampy Plains River. I also spent a lot of time in my early years fishing the lakes around Ballarat. I lived in Bacchus Marsh, so Lauriston Reservoir was a place where I learned a lot of my early fly fishing skills for lakes.

First it was with the 'Devil's Stick' (as we called spinning rods), and then when I was 12 years old I picked up a fly rod. This saw me almost failing Year 9 at school. The report sent home to my parents said: 'Scott is fishing too much after school, and if he doesn't stop fishing we are going to have to hold him back a year'. You see, every night after school I was off fishing somewhere.

The photo now on the screen shows me as a young fellow fishing New Zealand, and obviously enjoying some success. One of the reasons I love fly fishing is because it takes us to so many wonderful places. The next photo shows me fishing a remote atoll in Tahiti. This was on an

unexplored island where we were targeting bonefish and GT species. It's a fantastic place. And it reminds us that it's not only about the fishing, it's also about the wonderful people that we meet. Fly fishing provides a fabulous opportunity to share our fishing experiences with friends and the people we encounter.

I'm a member of the Ballarat Fly Fishers' Club, and clubs are great places for meeting people and sharing information.

I am a fanatical fly fisher and am extremely passionate about the sport. The reason I started guiding was to share this passion and to grow the sport. I want to teach and share information about fly fishing with other anglers. I think it's a sport for everyone, and at *Wilderness Fly Fishing* I try to keep it fun.

I teach lots of beginners, and the photo on the screen now is of a young angler called Michael. He was a beginner 18 months ago and had never cast a fly rod. But after two or three guided sessions he caught this beautiful fish in the Rubicon River on a dry fly. It is great to watch someone like Michael arrive at a stream and show you that he knows where to wade, what lines to follow in the river, and where the fish will be lying and feeding. It's personally very gratifying to see that progression, and it's why I guide.

This next photo shows young Max with his first fish. It was his first time fly fishing and his first fish caught on a fly. He told me that this had been one of the best days of his life. I replied, "Mate, you're only 16 and there are a lot more days ahead." He was fishing a dry fly and saw the fish come up and take the fly - an exhilarating experience that many of us have enjoyed so often.

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*Prospective young fly fishermen*

Here now on the screen is a photo of a group of young students from the Peninsular Grammar School that I guided a few weeks back. Most of these young teenagers had never fished before, and many had never camped before, so it was very special for them to share the occasion and for me to teach them some fly fishing skills. I work with their outdoor education program teaching students how to fly fish.

And this is something really important for fly fishing clubs. We talk about growing clubs, and at Ballarat we are trying to grow our club. These young anglers are our future.

As I suggested earlier, I'm trying to give fly fishing more exposure. The next photo shows me with Paul Worsteling, who produces the TV show IFISH for Network 10. I took Paul out and showed him the trout in rivers close to Melbourne, and he was really surprised to see how good the fishing was so close to town. IFISH is one of the most watched fishing shows in the country, so getting more fly fishing on the show hopefully gets more people interested in

becoming involved in the sport. This particular IFISH segment is going to air sometime in June.

The next photo shows the Anaa atoll in French Polynesia. There are only about 500 people living on the atoll, and the work there mainly involves harvesting copra from the coconut trees. This doesn't provide much income, so many of the locals leave and go to other places to find work. We are trying to give those who are there some other options aside from harvesting copra, so we're training some to work as guides. So we are introducing fly fishing to Anaa, and it is quite a special program that we are operating.

At this point in my presentation I will show you a short promo movie that we have put together. It goes for about nine minutes and shows some of the things that I do and some of the places I visit. This movie is one that I use to introduce new people to the sport.

Let's now talk about the Snowy Mountains – my favourite place. It's where I learned to fly fish, and it's still my favourite Australian location. You



*A big brown captured on a sparkling trout stream is what it's all about*

will all be familiar with the name Mike Spry. When I was a young fellow I used to watch Mike practising his fly casting on the lawn at the Khancoban caravan park. I spent a lot of time watching Mike and visiting his shop, which was then in an old shipping container. I would wander through his shop looking at all his fly tying gear and think, "That's for me".

When we fish the Snowy Mountains we are fishing for wild trout, and the river I most like to fish is the Swampy Plains – the tailwater coming out of the Khancoban pondage. I focus my guiding activities on the rivers on the western side of the Snowies; rivers that all eventually flow into the Murray. The map shows both the lower Swampy and the upper Swampy above the pondage, and both are spectacular fisheries.

One of the hydro schemes operating in the area releases water into the pondage,

and this water remains cold right through the summer. So we have this cool water coming down the tailwater, thus providing great trout fishing right through the summer months. The photo now on the screen shows the Swampy Plains River about a kilometre downstream from the pondage wall.

Some of you will be familiar with the spot. You can see the beautiful runs, the deep holes, and the gorgeous glides. The river here is reminiscent of some New Zealand streams. It's a freestone river with heaps of caddis and lots of mayflies too. The photo shows a bend we call 'Easter Bend' because, as you might expect, it produces the best fishing around Easter.

There are beautiful runs and glides there that produce wonderful caddis hatches in the evenings right through the warmer months. We have access to this section through the Khancoban station, and >>>

that's helpful because access on the Swampy is a real issue.

(I also have an affiliation now with the Millbrook Lakes system, so a lot of my guiding is done at Millbrook Lakes.)

Getting back to the Swampy, the fish there are typically one to two pound, and they fight really hard. On a four or five weight rod they are a heap of fun.

The small streams in the area are also a highlight, and you can fish them for hours. They are endless and offer fabulous dry fly fishing. There are also some wonderful meadow streams up in the high country. These are spread right through the area and one in particular is a favourite. It has brook trout, which are a very pretty fish, and this is the only population of brook trout that I know surviving up there. As you can see from the photo they have beautiful markings. We fish dry fly for these guys right through the summer, often fishing hopper patterns.

Caddis are an important food source in the Swampy. I have here a small caddis grub pattern that I will pass around. We fish these in the middle of the day under a dry as an indicator. You can fish the Swampy all through the day. If you don't want to hang around for the evening caddis hatch, which usually occurs at about 9:00 pm in the summer months, you can fish just through the daylight hours.

Now here is the fly that I get most excited about – the caddis pupa. This is what we really focus in on when fishing the Swampy.

Many of you will be familiar with Gary LaFontaine's book on caddis flies. Gary identified the pupal stage as the most important in the caddis life cycle for trout, and he subsequently devised his famous Sparkle Pupa.



*Scott loves teaching beginners*

I fish this fly by casting it across and slightly down and letting it swing in the current, because when these guys are hatching they shoot up as a pupa and get stuck in the surface film, then typically move sideways in the film. We can mimic this by swinging the fly, and it is a deadly technique.

You've all seen those clouds of white caddis moths on rivers like the Goulburn. You often see them about 45 minutes before dark, so we start swinging the pattern about an hour and a half before dark. So we're fishing in daylight, and you will be surprised at how many fish are feeding at this time, especially in the ripples at the top of the runs and in the tail outs.

The fish move into these areas to feed on the caddis pupa, and it can produce some really spectacular fishing. Sometimes in the peak you get a hit on almost every swing. You don't need to jerk or pull the flies - you just cast them out and let them swing in the current, then take a small step downstream and repeat the process. It's a very exciting and productive way to fish.

Gary Lafontaine developed this fly in the late 1980s. He went diving in rivers to watch how caddis hatched and eventually worked out that the fish were



*Bone fishers and guides on Ana'a Atoll. Friendly faces and fighting fish are a feature of the Pacific atolls*

keying in on the air bubble surrounding the pupa that glistened as the pupa floated up to the surface. He subsequently discovered that a synthetic material called Antron was perfect for imitating this air bubble. This was the key.

He covered the body with an Antron sheath and handed samples of his new fly to several guides in America. Their results were mind blowing – they caught fish after fish. I discovered the fly some six years ago, and it has been a life changer for me.

My favourite mayfly nymph up on the Swampy is the Kosciusko nymph. I guess you've all heard of the Kosciusko Dun - that big mayfly that occurs in many New South Wales rivers. There is, of course, a corresponding nymph. It's a large nymph and it mainly hatches right on dark in the warmer months, and during the day, too, in autumn.

When you see those big sailboats floating down it's game on. We tie the dun in size 10 because they are a big mayfly. We have even tied them in size 8 to use just on dark. The body is pale – a sandy

colour. I personally find the best fly is one tied as a parachute dry fly. Just imagine a big parachute Adams tied with a fat body in a cream or a light Cahill colour. This pattern brings out the big fish, particularly on the Swampy.

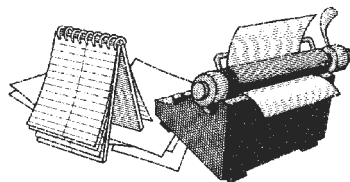
You can also use terrestrials. We get some big cicadas up there, and these can be matched using big black stimulators.

Backcountry fishing is an option in this area if you are prepared to walk. I do hike-ins to the upper Tumut, and the best time to head up there is in the warmer months of January and February. I soon discovered I needed a very good sleeping bag in this area, as even in January and February the night temperatures can be very cold. And it's wild up there too – every time I've been there I've seen snakes. But it is also a stunning place to fish.

We typically walk in about 10 km to get to good water, and this takes 3 – 4 hours. It's all dry fly fishing in the middle of the day, it provides some sensational hopper fishing to both rainbows and browns, and there are some very big fish in the section. It's isolated, so rarely gets fished.



# From the EDITOR'S DESK



*"In early June the world of leaf and blade and flowers explodes, and every sunset is different."* (John Steinbeck: *The Winter of Our Discontent*)

It's now June, the start of winter. The days are shorter and colder. The stream season has closed. Is it the winter of our discontent? How might we fill in the months until it all starts again in September?

Winter is an ideal time, of course, to sort out our gear. We might check the runners on our rods, smear a touch of candle wax on the ferrules, and give those stained and grubby-looking cork grips a freshen up with some fine sandpaper. Lines are expensive so are worth a bit of care. So pull the working section off the reel, soak it in some warm soapy water in a bucket or dish, then wipe it dry and perhaps even give it a polish with one of those line treatment products that the major line manufacturers sell. The reel itself will also appreciate a clean up and a bit of grease added to the innards.

Leaders may need replacing. For those of us who like to glue our leader butts inside the end of our fly lines (for a very neat and smooth connection), the right glue is essential. It's called Zap-a-Gap, and while a number of outlets (and eBay floggers) sell it, I discovered that Eckersley's Art and Craft store in Hawthorn had a plentiful supply.

If you're going to fiddle around with leaders then winter is a good time to try something new. Tie a couple of your own using different combinations of section lengths to see how they perform. Or buy some braided leaders and furred leaders

and give them a try. A few of those Airflo polyleaders are also worth keeping in the kit. Braided leaders have drawn some criticism because they soak up water when they're on the surface, and then spray it out when they're cast. But this can be fixed by rubbing floatant into them. Then the tiny bit of extra weight helps them cast better, too.

We've drifted here into talking about casting, and some winter casting practice and tuition is a great idea. The VFFA is currently organising some free casting tuition with Ian Sambell, a VFFA member and highly qualified casting instructor. A lesson by VFFA member and professional casting instructor Peter Hayes is another excellent option. But you can also just take a rod and line up to the local oval, tie a bit of wool on as a fly and do some casting practice.

None of us can resist trying to see how far we can cast, so blaze away. Great fun. But a more profitable tactic is to drop a plastic plate or ice cream container lid on the grass, then stand 8 - 10 yards away and practice dropping the fly on the target. When that's under control move back a bit further and try again. Then swap to another position so that the wind is coming from a different angle. All the gurus assure us that being able to cast accurately in the range 8 - 15 yards is infinitely more useful in catching trout than belting out a you beaut 25 or 30 yard cast.

If you're looking for a new challenge, take a long softish rod and try it for French Leader fishing. See how you go casting short distances with a leader that has a butt section 10 - 15 yards long and a tiny split shot at the end. Here's

another tantalising possibility - check <https://flylife.com.au/tips/tongariro-roll-cast> to see how the Tongariro Roll Cast works. It is written up in the latest *FlyLife* magazine (issue 88) and the two-minute video clip shows Herb Spannagl casting incredible distances across the Tongariro River using a hyped-up roll cast on steroids. Fascinating stuff. The cast is a brute to master though.

And what about those boxes of flies? Take them out one type at a time (i.e. nymphs, dry flies, emergers, parachute hackles, beetles, big wet flies, ...), dump them on the kitchen table, inspect them carefully, chuck out the tired or less than top quality specimens so that you keep only the best, then carefully re-pack your boxes so that your flies are all sorted and ready for next season.

This process will of course reveal where your supplies are lacking, so set aside some fly tying sessions. Replenish your favourites and the dozen or so you catch most of your fish on, but try something a bit different too - perhaps some of the Fly of the Month offerings in recent issues of *Fly Lines*.

Those cold winters nights are great times for stoking the fires of your imagination with a favourite book (David Scholes, perhaps), or a new purchase. Watching a few wow factor DVDs of spectacular fishing in Tasmania or New Zealand or Patagonia can fill a very pleasant hour or two, and if you don't want to spend any money on the exercise then our friendly YouTube has truckloads of stuff on fly tying, casting, and fishing in every corner of the world.

But best of all, when the rivers are closed go fish some lakes, as Mike Jarvis suggests in his President's Message. Lake fishing is similar to river fishing in that they both have water with trout swimming in it. Beyond that there are heaps of differences. The fish in lakes

tend to be bigger, but a good day might see only two or three caught. Reading lakes and trying to find the fish is different and harder. The flies and gear and techniques are different in many ways, too. But fishing lakes is great fun.

So where are these places? For those of us who live in Melbourne there are several in the Ballarat area, and Philip Weigall's most recent issue of the digital *FlyStream* magazine (issue #15) lists some of these with helpful hints on how to fish them. Names like Newlyn, Wendouree and Hepburn come to mind, but there are plenty of others. Those of us who have paid the small subscription to join the Latrobe Valley Fly Fishing Club can also fish the Latrobe Valley club's many stocked dams around the Thorpdale area.

At our April meeting we were reminded that the Goulburn Valley Fly Fishing Centre has two lakes at the Centre that are heavily stocked and open all winter, so for a modest outlay you can drive to Thornton, park the car, have a coffee with the boys, and then spend a couple of hours fishing midges and wet flies to some big fish. The largest trout caught last season from these lakes was a hefty 11 lb, so take some decent tippet material. Tranquil Rises, near Flowerdale, has stocked dams that provide another option.

Finally, if you'd like to brush up on your lake technique, here's one for your bucket list - book a day with Philip Weigall or one of the other guides at Millbrook Lakes near Ballarat. I couldn't do it every weekend, but as a birthday gift or fathers' day donation from a loving spouse or grateful child - well, what could be better?

So there it is. Winter is not angling downtime or a lost cause. There's heaps to do.

Tight lines, *Lyndon*

## Help With Tree Planting

That concludes my presentation.  
Thank you again for inviting me.

In recent years the VFFA has been active in lobbying Victorian Fisheries Department managers and catchment management authorities for a better deal for fly fishers locally. Also, we now have representation on the Government's Trout Reference Group and have been active participants in the recent Wild Trout Conferences held in Mansfield.

The Victorian Government recognizes the need for healthy waterways and has made a significant investment in riparian protection and improvement projects.

The VFFA recently approached the Goulburn Broken Catchment Authority to see how we could help. We were surprised to learn that no fishing clubs had shown any interest in the streams South of the Goulburn and even including the Goulburn. This catchment includes the Steavenson, Acheron and Rubicon streams, which have been heavily connected with the VFFA for decades and provided enjoyment for so many of our members for so long. Frankly these streams are part of VFFA history.

To that end, VFFA has agreed to help with a tree planting exercise on the banks of the Rubicon and we are looking for volunteers. It will take place Sunday morning, August 6, just upstream of Tumbling Waters. We are looking for members to pitch in for a couple of hours and then finish with a barbecue lunch.

The work will not be strenuous and this is an opportunity to chat with catchment management officials and demonstrate our enthusiasm for trout habitat

improvement along one of these wonderful streams.

This is an important project because streamside vegetation provides critical temperature relief for trout. Drought, bushfires and land clearing practices have left some of our favourite streams exposed, and temperatures can vary drastically from water exposed to the sun compared to shaded water. Research indicates that a variance up to 11 degrees is possible; a life or death difference for trout!

The Council is urging members to pitch in on Sunday August 6.

Those wishing to help on this morning please call me on 0412 330 265

## CALL FOR ENTRIES AUSTRALIAN FLY FISHERS' ART & CRAFT SHOW

**Closing date 31 July 2017**



Organised by the  
Victorian Fly Fishers'  
Association (VFFA)

**\$5,000 first prize**

**Entry information:**

**[www.vffa.org.au/vffa-art-craft-show](http://www.vffa.org.au/vffa-art-craft-show)**

**Show date: 13-16 September 2017**

**Steps Gallery, 62 Lygon Street, Carlton Vic**

# The Bruce Whitehead Western Lakes Challenge – June 23 - 25

*Dermot O'Brien*

This challenge between the Bairnsdale Fly Fishers and the VFFA was conceived by our respective presidents last year, and this year's event will be held on the weekend of June 23 - 25 at the state's two iconic crater lakes, Purrumbete and Bullen Merri.

The event has been named after our 50-year member Bruce Whitehead, who has possibly had the longest association with the two clubs.

A perpetual trophy has been crafted from timber taken from the Bairnsdale Club's lodge site and will be presented by Bruce on the Sunday. Last year's challenge, at lakes around the Ballarat area, was declared a tie, and the trophy was not available at that stage. So this year's competition will be the inaugural challenge with the Perpetual Trophy available to be presented to the winner.

Accommodation has been confirmed at both the Crater Lakes Caravan Park in Camperdown and the Lake Purrumbete Caravan Park.

The competition will commence at midday on the Friday and finish at 11:30 am on the Sunday. The team that catches the largest fish, confirmed by photographic evidence, will be deemed the winner.

This promises to be a great weekend of fishing, friendship and camaraderie, and between us we already have over 20 confirmed starters. To celebrate the event a group dinner has been arranged at the Commercial Hotel in Camperdown on the Saturday night.



The winners' presentation will be held in the all-weather pavilion at the Purrumbete Caravan Park at 11:30 am on Sunday, followed by a light barbecue lunch (provided).

Several reports coming in from both fisheries are very encouraging, with browns and rainbows of significant size being caught.

Usual rules apply – bring your own food and bedding. An NOE for this event is included as an insert.

Hugh Maltby is co-ordinating this event and can be contacted on 0423 283 079.

laces are running short so get in quick.



## The VFFA 2017 Art Show – as reported in the Weekly Times

(The issue was dated May 31, 2017, and interested readers can see it online at <http://theweeklytimes.com.au/eb2cbae0be53fb9cdd7ba329c0f50082>. Members can thank Alex Evans for his hours of hard work in promoting our Art Show in this and several other publications.)

To the fly fisherman, few sensations compare with the sound of a prize trout as it swirls on the surface and sips down a carefully cast lure. Few, that is, apart from capturing the moment on canvas. There's something about the serenity of casting in a stream or lake — punctuated by the flurry of excitement — that has inspired artists for time immemorial.

The Victorian Fly Fishers' Association is staging an Art and Craft show to show off work inspired by fishing — with a \$5000 prize on offer to the winner.

Among those entering is Terry Baker, whose love of painting is matched by his

love of fishing. He said: "I'm an 'omnivore' — I catch and eat as many different fish as I can — but trout in particular. I'm fascinated by the skill of fly fishing."

The competition is open to all mediums of art and craft, provided the work relates to angling, so a sculpture is welcome, as is a finely crafted rod or knife.

Up to four works may be submitted by July 31 and will be displayed at the Australian Fly Fishers' Arts and Craft Show, in Carlton from September 13-16.

For more details, visit [vffa.org.au/vffa-art-craft-show](http://vffa.org.au/vffa-art-craft-show).

(Incidentally – Terry Baker is the very clever friend of the VFFA, and close friend of President Mike Jarvis, who prepares all those very clever invitations to our Annual Dinners.)



*Terry Baker adds the finishing touches*

## An Invitation - Warrnambool Fly Fishers' 2017 Annual Game Dinner Invitation

The Warrnambool Fly Fishers' Annual Game Dinner will be held this year on Saturday, July 22, in the Members Lounge at the Warrnambool Racing Club Pavilion on Grafton Road, Warrnambool. We invite any VFFA member who wishes to join us on the night to attend as a paying guest.

As usual, it will be a BYO wine and beer night. The cost of the dinner has been set at \$75. Before-dinner drinks with canapés will begin at 6 pm, and we will sit for the first course at about 7 pm for the start of what will undoubtedly be another night of fabulous food and company.

Because of the size of the venue, the number attending is limited to 65, so it would be greatly appreciated if VFFA members wishing to attend would confirm their booking soon, and no later than July 20.

Before July 14 I can be contacted on my email address, [jtblakeslee@westvic.com.au](mailto:jtblakeslee@westvic.com.au), or by calling me 03 5562 5168 to make a booking.



E-mail: [jtblakeslee@westvic.com.au](mailto:jtblakeslee@westvic.com.au)

Phone: 0355 625168

P.O. Box 1380 Warrnambool 3280

Between July 14 and July 20 anyone wishing to book a place should phone our President, Adrian Jacobs, on 0437 620 972.

*Jim Blakeslee*  
Social Committee  
Warrnambool Fly Fishers Club

### Volunteers Needed

The Australian Trout Foundation (ATF) has been given a stand at the 2017 Melbourne Boat Show at the Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre on June 16 – 19. The ATF plans to use the occasion to promote fly fishing in Victoria by providing fly casting tuition, fly tying demonstrations, and information on the state's trout fishery. But people are needed to assist, and even the offer of a couple of hours of help at the stand or casting venue would be greatly appreciated.

Boat Show hours are Friday June 16: 10am to 8pm, Saturday 17: 10am to 8pm, Sunday 18: 10am to 8pm and Monday 19: 10am – 5pm.

The current president of the ATF is VFFA member Terry George. Anyone interested in helping at the Boat Show should contact Terry for further information on 0418 332 744.

# Fly Fishing the Hidden Lochs of the Highlands

... by Paul Sharman, March 31, 2017

Nestled deep in the cols and nice-gouged corries of the North-West Highlands of Scotland are a myriad of wild lochs waiting to be discovered by the adventurous fly angler. Away from their roadside brethren who can offer great sport, but also often suffer from summertime assaults by day-trippers and holiday-makers armed with spinners and worms, a hike over the hills and peat-bogs will reveal hidden lochs and lochans glistening like jewels amongst the sombre tones of heather, bog-grass, granite and gneiss for those willing to get tired and dirty in pursuit of truly wild fish in wild places.

I took one such trip right at the end of the season last September up into the mountains of Wester Ross. It was probably less than an hour's hike from the small single-track road where I left my car, but a steep ascent over rough lichen-covered rocky outcrops and the soft boggy ground in between, flecked with the white heads of cotton-grass, soon had this Sussex Sassenach huffing and puffing. The views from the high points along the way, though, were worth the effort, and of course the first sight of water glinting down in one of the hollows was enough to give me a boost of energy and I scrambled on with a renewed vigour and excitement.

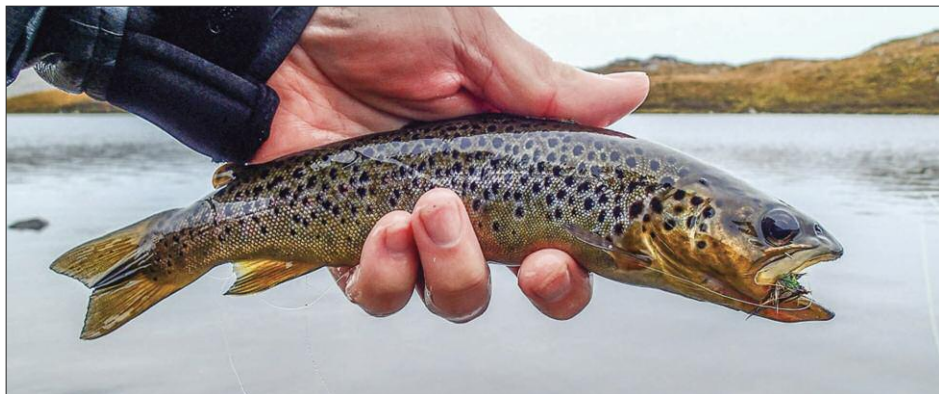
The majority of the trout in these waters are small, but on the right day can be very willing as they are often hungry and looking out for any terrestrial food items falling on the water. In amongst them though there is always the chance of one or two larger fish, so be prepared. It is the beauty of the different markings of these



*Travelling light keeping warm and dry –  
Paul Sharman hiking the hill lochs in Wester Ross*

native brown trout that fascinate me, and I know many others too. Even between neighbouring waters they can often look strikingly different, with hardly any red spots or lots of them, small spots or large, and they can be anywhere from quite silvery in appearance to my favourite, the beautiful butter-bellied and olive-brown backed variety, to almost completely dark.

As it was just a day hike I was travelling with a sling-pack (and I must say I'm a big fan of my Orvis pack as it is so easy to access everything without having to take it off each time), and my rod and a net, that's it. Waders and a waterproof fishing jacket are necessities of course, both for the inevitable rain and mist at that time of year, as well as the yomping over the sodden peat bogs and a little wading in the larger lochs if necessary. In terms of flies, big and bushy often works a treat if there is a little breeze and the fish are looking up – I was using a Sedgehog which you can just make out in the photo above. Otherwise a good selection of traditional English wet flies like Zulus, Invictas and Mallard and Clarets still work just as they have always done,



*A typical loch-dwelling brown*

either singly or as a team of two or three. If you are fishing a team of flies it is not unusual to get some competition for the flies if you find some fish, and a double or even a triple hookup is possible.

This is pure fun fishing, the epitome of 'getting away from it all', whether fishing solo like me or sharing the experience with a friend or two. It is likely you will

have the water all to yourself but in the (very) unlikely event someone else has beaten you to it, where there is one hill loch there are likely to be others in close proximity, so do your homework before leaving and go prepared with a map. Talking about preparation, safety is key also – so particularly if you are heading out alone, be sure to let someone know



*Late September in the Highlands, and a glorious view of a magnificent chain of lochs*



where you are going in case of any mishap. It is easy to slip, trip or fall on such treacherous ground – I've done it and had a very lucky escape in the past which brought home to me how important it was. Be safe!

Also, please be legal. Although many of these hill lochs look like they are on open ground they are in fact on sporting estates, and/or perhaps a local fishing association has the fishing rights, so be

sure to check locally first whether you need to buy a ticket or seek permission from the landowner before fishing. Most of this information can be found online these days with a search, but of course you have two of the best fly fishing information resources at your fingertips – our *UK Fly Fishing Forums* at [www.flyfishing.co.uk](http://www.flyfishing.co.uk) - where it is very likely someone will know about the area you want to fish and can fill you in on the details you need to know. And our *Where To Fish* resource which has a great starting point for your research with a listing of estates with fishing in the Highlands.

Best of luck and tight lines for 2017.

*Paul Sharman.*



# Web Fish

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

## About the VFFA web site:

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

## Features of VFFA web site:

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

# My Start in Fly Fishing

... by Rick Williams, VFFA member and past Council member

When I was 12, I started at a new school and met Peter Boag. We became friends. He used to go fishing with his father and uncle, often to Eildon reservoir. One weekend they invited me to join them. They would pick me up on Friday night and drop me back home on Sunday evening. This was the start for me of a lifelong interest in fishing (and camping and the love of the outdoors).

Subsequently Peter's family bought a shack in Dargo, in eastern Gippsland, which we stayed at several times every year during my teenage years, and up until recently. We fished for trout in the Dargo, Wonnangatta and Wongungarra rivers for years, using lures in earlier times but progressing to the fly in our twenties.

Accompanying us on these weekends were Peter's Uncle Alex and a great friend of Peter's father called Freddie, who was a truly interesting man. He was a dam buster in the Second World War flying for the RAF. He was shot down and survived, making it back to England to fly more missions against the Germans. His stories about the war (with plenty of red wine after dinner) were highly memorable. Freddie was a fly fisherman who showed us how to cast. He talked about streamcraft, and where trout were likely to be, so we started to gain an understanding of the trout's environment and how we might catch them. These were great times that I will never forget.

About this time we booked a week with Mike Spry, who ran a fly fishing guiding and education business in Khancoban. Peter, Kevin Finn (current VFFA secretary) and myself spent a very

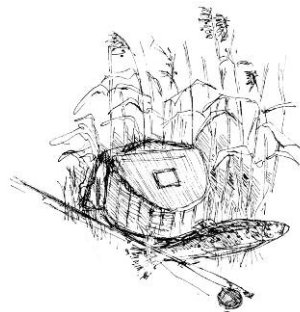
enlightening week with Mike, who started us in the classroom with lessons on streamcraft, entomology and trout environment; basically the where and why of a trout's life and environment, all of which I found really absorbing. Afterwards we had casting lessons on the river bank before we were allowed to go fishing. I still have Mike's notes and educational material, which I occasionally refer to.

Subsequently Peter, Kevin and I became part of a group of six friends who have gone fishing together for a week in November/December for 30 years. In recent times we have gone to Miena, Tasmania, as Peter had purchased a shack there. But over the years our annual trips have taken us to Khancoban, Thredbo, Jamieson, Enochs Point, Snowy Mountains, Dargo, Warrnambool and one trip to New Zealand.

Some years ago Boagy and I joined the VFFA and have enjoyed all that this great association has to offer: the monthly meetings, fishing trips, auctions, casting days and not least, many enduring friendships.

Kind regards,

*Rick Williams*



## Trout Tales – Rod Barford

Rod Barford is well known to many of us as a trout guide and recently retired ATF president. He's been busy with his fly rod and emailed me the following report.

Yes mate, I've been busy with the rod.

I recently fished with clients in some lovely NSW streams, and have not encountered so many big browns outside of New Zealand in a long time. I was snapped off by no less than five separate fish, one easily a double figure fish.

We had great dry fly fishing with huge numbers of duns and black spinners around, and even some late hoppers. My clients caught I think around 13 or 14 fish each over four days, with average size of 4 lb, and a few of 6 lb. All on dries or emergers. I had a few casts myself while they rested in the cabin.

Kay and I fished New Zealand for a couple of weeks in November, and caught some nice fish (despite horrendous conditions) from the Upekarora, Ahuriri, Eglinton, the top end of Lake Benmore where the river flows in, and a few smaller streams closer to Dunedin.

It was the wettest, windiest Spring season in the South Island for 70 years. Much of the time I fished in dirty water. But I did find a real oasis in the storm, a small sunken stream where I found the sections between weed banks held several good fish.

We had dinner that night with Trevor Hawkins and Mick Rosenboom from Bairnsdale, so I suggested they pay it a visit. They lucked out with simultaneous caddis and dun hatches, and caught 27, then next day 35 and a mere 12 fish on the third day. Unfortunately Kay and I were booked into Milford Sound for those days and I missed the best of it, but was happy to be able to put them onto a gem.



*A fine brown from a NSW river*

Early in December last year I had a guy over from Oregon. He fished the Goulburn for some nice fish, including a big brown right out the front of our cabin - a 5lb Kossie Dun muncher.

I had two clients with me in early June last year and was telling them that there is always a bridge pool fish that's bigger than the rest. A minute later we all saw him. He came up and took a damsel fly mid-air.

There were still a few hoppers around and I had one on, so threw it across the river near some weed on the other side. He came straight up and lunged at it. I had him on for several minutes until he settled the matter once and for all by leaping over a huge raft of floating weed and pulling the line around it. Tragically the 5 lb tippet gave way. I'd guess his size at about 7 lb, maybe more.

This scenario was repeated a few times on another NSW trip. After I dropped two clients off at their place in Cooma, I went back to the river and ended up

sitting in the car for four hours while a thunderstorm swept through. After it stopped raining, the wind was still up around 25 knots. I looked at the bridge pool and spotted 3 fish immediately. (Not the same bridge by the way.) The largest looked about 6 lb, the other two maybe 3 lb and 4 lb.

I crept down and floated a Shaving Brush emerger over them, and saw the big one eyeing it off. Just as he looked like coming up, a smaller fish dashed in and took the fly. That's him in the photo with the Orvis rod.

After that I took a long walk downstream looking for more fish. In the first couple of clear spots I spooked three large fish, all around 5 lb or so. Then I came to a really long pool, perhaps 250 yards long. I scanned the whole pool without seeing a single fish, even though swallows were feasting on duns. I got to the tail where it drained through some reeds and right at the narrow outlet I could see a huge fish sitting in about six inches of water with his whole back exposed.

I floated the emerger down to him and he took it first cast. To play him I jumped into the water from the high bank, which sent him fleeing upstream at a rate of knots. He then surprised me by racing straight back at me, swimming right between my wader legs and through the reeds downstream. I had no chance of keeping up and after a few awful seconds he was gone.

Size? I would say a double figure fish and no mistake. He was big. The good news is he should still be there next time. I hope. They play a hard game these fish, that's for sure.



*And it wasn't the biggest in the pool*



*A handsome brown*



*And another*



*Then a quick snap before release*

# El Dorado

... by Judith Oliver and Lester Walton

We were not the first Australians to visit Estancia Don Joaquin (as they had been running a horse trekking/gaicho experience operation for some years), but we were the first Aussies to stay at the much newer River Lodge. The ranch is situated near the town of Esquina in Northern Argentina, and the lodge is on the banks of the Corrientes River.

We were there to chase dorado, but also caught the fearsome piranha (flies totally destroyed when landed) and the much less common pira pita. We had also hoped to snare a pacu, a fruit eating piranha, but the nearby Parana River they inhabit was unfishable because of recent heavy rain. The Corrientes was also quite discoloured, but the dorado remained on the chew, which is a significant advantage for the short-stay fly fisher as the more famed Bolivian rivers can take days to become fishable again.

Dorado fishing is challenging. The casting is mainly short distance and the flies are deliberately landed with a splash, but we were fishing with very large heavy flies, and accuracy is critical as the target was the precise bank/ foliage water edge. The fish strike with vigorous enthusiasm, but



*A small rainbow from jurassic lake caught by Judith Oliver*

setting the hook in those hard mouths was a learning curve. Once hooked they invariably put on a fine aerial display, so maintaining tension is vital. Suffice to say we lost many, especially early on.

Both the pira pita and the dorado are beautifully marked fish. If anything the smaller dorado seemed to be the more vividly golden. It was a very satisfying fishing experience enhanced by the abundant wildlife.

I find it difficult to adequately describe the lodge. When we saw the estancia homestead later on we noted the obvious similarities. The building was designed by the farmer and built by his two sons, who now act as hosts and guides. The building is new with modern facilities, but has been fitted out and furnished with elegant recycled materials - chandeliers, chesterfields, etc. Perhaps 'Spanish Gentlemen's Club' goes some way to capturing its very comfortable atmosphere. The food was homely and wholesome rather than overly posh. What we found charming were the tiny frogs which inhabited the bathroom in small numbers, though maybe they're not everyone's cuisses de grenouilles delight.



*Lester in action*

The guides, gauchos and other staff were very friendly and hospitable. The guides were impressively skilled and knowledgeable. Ramon, the elder of the two brothers, actually tied flies while we whizzed along in the boat.

A minor disaster for Lester was having his left heel penetrated by a long thorn. Fortunately I carry an operating theatre nurse in my backpack these days, so danger was averted.

On our last night we were invited to the homestead for asado (Argentinian barbecue); a final treat in what was a fantastic trip to the northern reaches of Argentina.



*Well done Lester, a fine reward*



*This magnificent 16.5 lb brown was captured recently near the Eildon caravan park*

## The Last Wild Trout

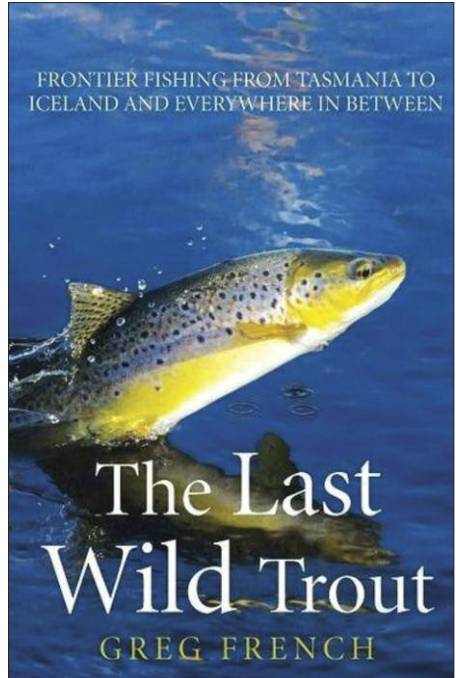
(A review by Iain Skinner of Greg French's recent book)

*I will start this review with the advice that I am planning to give you at the end - "Do not read this book". An odd way to start a book review but by the end I think you will see why.*

Greg French undertook an ambitious project when he decided to write a book about all of the Salmonid species known throughout the world and some of the places and situations where he had encountered these and caught them. From first page to last, perhaps excluding the more scientific interludes that end each section, French is engaging, humorous, entertaining and probably even delicious. I certainly spent the majority of this book salivating, and if Greg's intention was to deliver experiences, emotions and feelings that he had found in each situation, directly into my sensorium, then he certainly succeeded.

*The Last Wild Trout* deals with each of the different Salmonid species in six different sections of the book. Within each of these sections Greg details major examples of each species (and then sometimes argues whether they may actually constitute subspecies). For each of these examples he then provides a travelogue about where and how he travelled to find this particular Trout. Each subsection also revels in describing the experiences that surrounded the travel and the fishing. Greg often goes into some detail about the techniques that were required to successfully fool and land each one.

An integral part of the description occurs at the end of each subsection and describes many of the conservation and environmental issues impacting each particular Trout, and how they have been interpreted and modified by regulatory bodies in each relevant country. At the end of each section there is also a short



scientific discussion constituting an overview of the major branches within each species and some of the thoughts around how and why each developed in the specific geographic location it did.

As his first quarry Greg discusses the Salmo family that constitutes the European brown trout and Atlantic salmon. He ranges from Europe including the British Isles, Slovenia and Iceland to far from their home waters describing fishing in Tasmania, the South Island of New Zealand, and the big rivers of Patagonia. It is probably his bias, having come from the Southern hemisphere, to regard the brown trout here as wild. I think he should probably

substitute self-sustaining, for wild, in categorising those trout found in non-native habitats. What Greg does recognise by describing these areas, however, is the way in which salmo species have adopted non-native environments and prospered, perhaps even more successfully than in some of their home waters.

More truly "wild" are the descriptions of the *Oncorhynchus* species that developed throughout North America. This species differentiated over 5 million years ago into the Pacific salmon varieties and the various rainbow, cutthroat, gila and golden trout. These different groups all have different numbers of chromosomes and yet many seem to be able to breed with hybridised fertile offspring, thereby causing one of the common discussions in this section of the book - the purity of species. Once again Greg discusses travel and fishing for transplanted rainbows in New Zealand and Patagonia as well as native trout populations throughout North America. In an echo of his last book release, *The Imperilled Cutthroat*, he also writes with great passion about the Yellowstone cutthroat trout.

The last third of the book deals with a broad group of Salmonids including char (*Salvelinus*), taimen and lenok (*Hucho and Brachymystax*), grayling (*Thymallus*) and whitefish (*Prosopium*). These more exotic species are found in places such as Japan, Iceland, Mongolia, Patagonia and Slovenia as well as the more mundane British Columbia and Montana. While not mainstream for the majority of us, all of these species have been, or become, valued and targeted fish. Greg's stunning descriptions of Hokkaido, Iceland, the Andes, Mongolia and even Slovenia had me reaching for my atlas, online flight prices and my credit card so that I could follow in his footsteps.

Greg French is an extraordinary fisherman as he seems to find the techniques that matter, whether guided or not, to catch (and release) his quarry at every turn. For me to travel this widely and have this much success would take a lifetime of work (to earn the money), another lifetime of practice (to become good enough) and a third lifetime convincing my wife as to why I should be able to indulge my fishing passion this completely. It is fortunate, then, that Greg has an equally passionate fishing partner and the contacts to help his travel plans to be far more smoothly executed than mine.

I devoured this book. It was impossible to stop reading the passionate descriptions of fly fishing and the wonderful narratives of travel. The scientific bits were fascinating and almost equally readable. After finishing the book I was asked if it had added to my fly fishing bucket list. I corrected my interrogator with an "s". It is now my BUCKETS list.

And so to my final analysis. It remains – "DO NOT READ THIS BOOK"! At least, not if you want to remain happy with where and how you currently fish.

*Iain Skinner*



## VFFA Cane Day 2017 – Sunday July 2



Red tag pool Fairfield Park

Sunday, July 2, 2017

Only cane rods allowed

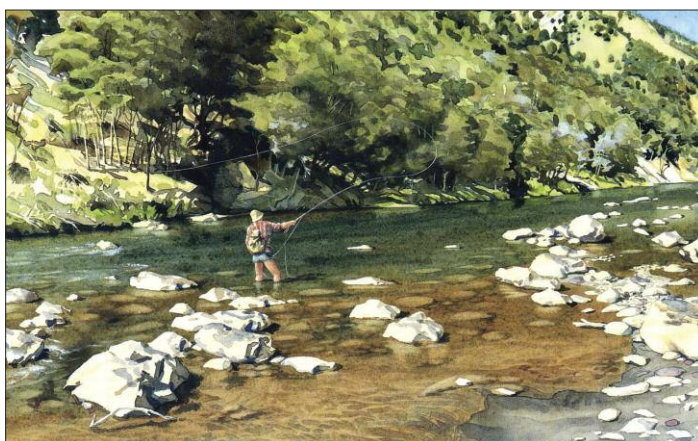
If you don't own one, buy one, borrow one, or steal one

Do yourself a favour - be there 9 am till 1 pm

Please come along and share a sausage with friends at a very special Hugh Maltby BBQ

For any further details please contact

David Grisold: home - 9459 4401; mobile – 0419 558 462



*Tichborne watercolour – Waiau River*

# FLY OF THE MONTH

## *Sparkle Caddis Pupa – Gary LaFontaine (... as tied by Scott Xanthoulakis)*



At our May meeting speaker Scott Xanthoulakis described the success he has experienced in recent years fishing Gary LaFontaine's famous Sparkle Caddis Pupa. Scott discovered this pattern some six years ago and it quickly became one of his favourite caddis patterns. He typically starts fishing it in the evenings about an hour before an anticipated caddis hatch (i.e. about an hour and a half before it gets totally dark).

Scott fishes it on a floating line with a standard 9 foot leader. He doesn't treat the fly with any floatant, so it sits in the surface film. He typically fishes it at the top of runs or in tail outs and here his tactic is to cast it across the current so that it is swept across and down. He finds this fly and tactic particularly effective in tailwaters such as the Swampy Plains and Goulburn Rivers.

### **Materials:**

- Hook           Kamasan B170, or any other dry fly hook, size 14.  
Thread:       Light brown 8/0 UNI-thread.  
Tail (shuck):  trailing white Antron  
Body:          Green or olive Antron dubbing.  
Sheath:        White Antron.  
Wings          Deer hair  
Head:          Black or other dark coloured superfine dubbing

## Tying Procedure:

1. Put the hook in the vice and run some thread from 2 or 3 mm behind the eye along the shank to the start of the bend. At this point tie in a small bunch of white Antron so that it sticks out the back of the hook. The length of this bunch should be about 2½ times the length of the hook shank.
2. If you are using a rotary vice then turn the hook over at this point so that the hook point is uppermost. Now tie in a second small bunch of white Antron so that it is on top of the bunch that was tied in earlier. If you don't have a rotary vice then either tie in this second bunch of Antron under the previous bunch, or take the hook out of your vice and put it back in the jaws upside down, then tie in the second bunch.
3. (Either way, when you return the hook to its normal upright position, you will have two small clumps of Antron tied at the back of the hook – one tied on top of the shank, and the other tied under the shank.)
4. Run the thread back to the point just before the bend of the hook and add some of the body dubbing to the thread. Wind the dubbing forward to form the body, which should cover about two thirds of the hook shank. (You will need to leave 2 – 3 mm of bare space on the hook shank behind the eye to complete the sheath and tie in the deer hair wing).
5. Take the length of Antron under the hook shank and bring it loosely forward and tie it under the shank just at the front of the body. Make a couple of loose turns of thread to hold it in place, then use a bodkin or long needle to gently ease the Antron out to make a loose and evenly spread sheath under the body. Then tighten the thread to hold it in place.
6. Now take most of the length of Antron on top of the hook shank and bring it loosely forward over the top of the body to form the top half of the sheath. Tie it in at the front of the body with a couple of loose turns of thread to hold it in place, then use the bodkin again to gently ease the Antron out to make a loose evenly spread sheath over the body. Then tighten the thread to hold it in place.
7. You used most of the top bunch of the Antron for this upper half of the sheath, but there should still be a small amount of the Antron sticking out the back. This will form the trailing shuck, so cut it to be about the same length as the body.
8. Now for the wing. Trim a small amount of light deer hair off a patch and even up the tips in a hair stacker.
9. Tie the deer hair in on top of the shank, over the body, just behind the eye. The wing should be one and a half to two times the length of the hook shank (in Scott's version). Tie the wing firmly but then wind some turns of thread up the wing with less tight turns to keep the deer hair from flaring too much.
10. Complete the fly by dubbing a small amount of dark fine dubbing on the tying thread and making a couple of turns to complete the head. A couple of turns with a whip finish and a drop of head cement will then complete the fly.



# LIBRARY NEWS

A note from our librarian, Rick Dugina:

Because of impending changes and development at the Celtic Club our library books are to be placed in storage and won't be available for borrowing for a while. We'll keep you posted.

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

The Association has the following quality items for sale:

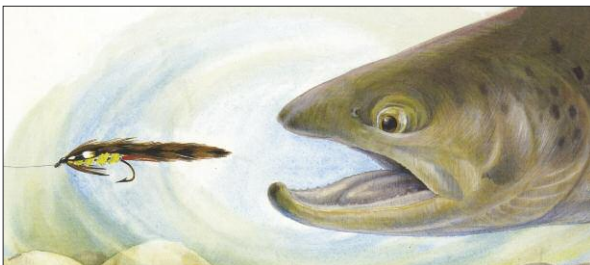
- Book *The Country For An Angler* (the History of the VFFA) .....\$70.00 each
- Book *Geehi to Great Lake*.....\$45.00 each
- Book *Time Flies: A Victorian Fly Fishers' Association Fly Box 1932-2015*.....\$70.00 each

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

VALUED DONORS

### The following made donations for the raffle at the 2016 Annual Dinner:

- Aussie Angler Tackle Outfitters • Armadale Angling • Australian Fishing Network
- Essential Fly Fisher Launceston • FlyLife Publishing • FlyFinz Fishing Tackle and Books • Gavin Hurley's Fly Fishing & Pro-Angler • J.M. Gillies Pty Ltd
- Mayfly Tackle Pty Ltd • Millbrook Lakes • Ray Brown Onkaparinga Flies
- Stevens Publishing Pty Ltd • The Flyfisher Tackle Store Melbourne
- Hook Up Bait & Tackle •



*Tichborne watercolour  
The take*

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

### June 2017

- 15 Thursday General Meeting – 8:00 PM  
Guest Speaker: Bernard Holbery
- 16 – 21 Melbourne Boat Show – at Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre  
(Some VFFA members are assisting with fly fishing exhibits)
- 19 Monday Council Meeting - 7:30 PM
- 24 – 25 Winter Competition with Bairnsdale FFC at Western Lakes  
Convener: President Mike Jarvis

### July 2017

- 2 Sunday 2017 Cane Day at the Red Tag Casting Pool
- 20 Thursday General Meeting – 12 Noon (Lunchtime Meeting)  
Guest Speaker: Daniel Hackett, Tasmanian guide
- 22 Saturday Warrnambool Fly Fishers' Annual Dinner
- 24 Monday Council Meeting - 7:30 PM
- 31 Monday Closing date for entries in the Australian Art & Craft Show

### August 2017

- 6 Sunday Tree Planting on Rubicon River,  
Convener - Dermot O'Brien
- 14 Monday Council Meeting - 7:30 PM
- 20 Sunday VFFA casting tuition day with Ian Sambell as instructor
- 25 Friday Annual Dinner, with Guest Speaker Greg French  
(Well known Tasmanian fishing guide and author)

### September 2017

- 2 Saturday Rivers again open to trout fishing
- 4 Monday Council Meeting - 7:30 PM
- 13 - 16 Australian Fly Fishers' Art & Craft Show, Steps Gallery, Carlton
- 22 Thursday Annual General Meeting – 8:00 PM

### October 2017

- 1 Sunday Annual Dam Day at Thorpdale with Latrobe Valley Flyfishers (TBC)
- 6 – 8 Annual Trip to Purrumbete (TBC)
- 19 Thursday General Meeting - 8:00 pm: Auction of Fishing Tackle
- 23 Monday Council Meeting - 7:30 PM

### November 2017

- 11 – 13 Annual Trip to Warrnambool
- 16 Thursday General Meeting - 8:00 pm: Speaker TBC
- 20 Monday Council Meeting - 7:30 PM