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THE VICTORIAN FLY-FISHERS' ASSOCIATION INC.

MARCH 2009

Organisation No. A0024750J

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**NEXT MEETING – GUEST SPEAKER: JOHN PHILBRICK – FISHING IN POLAND & THE UK,
AT THE KELVIN CLUB, 8:00PM, THURSDAY 19 MARCH 2009**

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

LIAR'S NIGHT

Some 35 members gathered for the February general meeting – the annual roundup and reports on the summer holiday fishing. Known as 'Liar's Night', it was a little disappointing in that most of our presenters appeared to be largely telling the truth. At the least, their accounts all sounded very convincing.

Peter Campbell commenced proceedings with a report on his recent fishing in Tasmania. There had been some good rain prior to Christmas, so the Western Lakes were full when Peter and his companion Bill Fisher arrived. They stayed at the Great Lake hotel, which Peter described as both luxurious and quite reasonably priced. Unfortunately the Tasmanian highland weather during their stay was the usual mix, with snow on the ground on a couple of mornings and gale force winds on most days. They had heard reports of good fish coming out of Penstock, so headed there,



Well done Wayne

with Peter landing a 4½ lb brown and missing two or three others. They also fished Little Pine and Botsford, where, in a howling gale, Bill caught a 3½ lb brown at two o'clock in the afternoon on, of all things, that famous Dunny Brush fly. Peter concluded with the comment that Tasmanian trout are not easy to catch, and one or two fish a day is a typical result.

Richard Kos fished a couple of Otway streams over the holidays, and assured us at the outset 'that he hadn't used any live bait'. He had been staying at Skenes Creek whilst attending a family function, but managed to escape on a few occasions to explore those delightful little streams around Apollo Bay. He was particularly successful in the Wild Dog Creek, seeing lots of fish and catching several, from 6 or 7 inches up to 2 lb. His successful rig was a small brown nymph suspended under a dry fly indicator. Richard also fished the Barham River, from the second bridge up to the area known as Paradise. In this stretch he observed a very healthy population of fish, but sizes were generally smaller than in the Wild Dog. He found the local landowners very obliging and was able to park his vehicle in their properties. They also reported that the water levels were the lowest in their experience.

Wayne Sanderson described some delightful fishing he had enjoyed just prior to Christmas. He visited the Delatite River with his son, where they fished 2 or 3 km of the river and took 16 fish up to about 1 lb in weight, all on dry flies. Wayne indicated that the Delatite is now much better to fish, as recent removal of trees has made access so much easier. Wayne also enjoyed some fabulous fishing in New Zealand. With some friends he fished the central plateau of the North Island, which he assured us has fishing every bit as good as that found in the South Island. They had exclusive access to 5 or 6 km of the upper Mohaka River, where the fishing was magnificent, and Wayne's only complaint was the long steep



Hubert strikes again - another magnificent South Island brown

exhausting uphill climb back to their accommodation each evening. They caught mainly brown trout, though the accompanying photo shows Wayne proudly attached to a large rainbow. On one occasion they charged through the bush on a Quad Bike to gain access to an isolated area that yielded five trout, two of which were just on 6½ pound. Wayne confessed that even though he originally came from New Zealand, he is only now realising how much great fishing he hadn't exploited when he lived there.

John Pilkington described with some pleasure his trip to Tasmania with his son Ben, now a VFFA member. Ben has fished the Big River around the family residence at Enoch's Point quite successfully over the years, taking up to 40 fish on a few outings. But on these occasions his

modus operandi was the spinning rod. However on this recent trip to Tasmania, he indicated that he wanted to try his luck with the fly rod. They had concentrated their efforts on the streams – particularly the Styx, Tyenna and Plenty Rivers. Initially these streams were high and dirty, but by the third last day of their trip the water in the Tyenna had dropped and cleared. John managed a very nice brown of about 2 lb, but when he caught up with Ben he found that his son had landed a magnificent 3½ lb brown, which he had spotted feeding in a pool. Ben had cast a Red Tag over the fish several times without soliciting a response, so changed to a small Royal Wulff, which was taken on the first cast. John was keen to report that Ben is now a committed fly fisher.

The final report for the evening came from Hubert Reichelt, who also reported on a New Zealand trip prior to Christmas. On this occasion Hubert had fished in early November with the intention of targeting the rainbows in the Mackenzie Basin area. At this time of the year the rainbows are returning to the lakes after spawning, but there are still lots of fish in the tributary streams. Hubert found fish, and on one day landed 28 rainbows and lost 12 others. He fished the Tekapo on Opening Day, but found himself in the company of hundreds of other anglers, with three or four vehicles at every access point. However he found that



Hair raising transport



Five-star accommodation

there were still plenty of fish to be caught using a weighted nymph. On his second week there he was joined by Trevor Stow. They found that many of the streams in the area were badly affected by didymo, so that the fly had to be cleared after almost every cast - very frustrating.

For the last week of their trip they travelled to Gore to fish the Mataura. In Hubert's experience the Mataura fishes best when it is high but dropping and clearing – conditions that usually give rise to the Mataura Rise, for which the river is justly famous. But, sadly, not on this

occasion. The rain was continuous and heavy. Despite this Hubert's personal tally for the three weeks was 93 fish landed and released. Well done Hubert – you haven't lost your touch!

Hubert made the observation that in the Oreti River, famous for its magnificent trophy trout, the average size of fish is falling, because traffic along the banks is now so heavy that the fish are constantly disturbed and spooked, and thus are leaving their feeding lies to retreat under the banks. Hence they are not feeding sufficiently to maintain condition.

So it would seem that most of our anglers have had to travel 'overseas' to find good fishing. Generally speaking the drought, the hot weather and the fires have made things tough at home, with grim reports emerging of fish dying in the Howqua and upper Mitta.

Our thanks to all of our presenters who provided details of their exploits and rewards.

VFFA Meetings & Activities

MARCH 2009

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

APRIL

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

MAY

- 16/17 End of Season BBQ
 21 **General Meeting** – Speaker: Jim Allen ('Shark Fishing' on the Great Lake)
 27 Council Meeting

JUNE

- 7 Sunday Casting
 11 Partners' Dinner
 14 Cane Day
 18 **General Meeting** – Auction
 21 Sunday Casting
 24 Council Meeting
 28 Sunday Casting

The Partner's Dinner is coming – June 11

March General Meeting – Guest Speaker John Philbrick

John needs no introduction. He is a past president of the Association, and was the Editor of the VFFA newsletter for some 13 years. He is a very skilful, experienced and much travelled angler, and a very witty and entertaining speaker.

In August and September last year he travelled to the San River in Eastern Poland – a river reputed to offer the best wild trout and grayling fishing in Europe. It also has a resident population of Huchen (known as Taimen in Mongolia). These very aggressive fish can reach a length of four feet. The San flows through a national park, and wolves, the area's European bison, lynxes, beavers, bears and otters are still found there.

John then travelled to the charming village of Stockbridge in the County of Hampshire, to fish the hallowed (but much trodden and expensive) banks of the Test River and visit the holy of holies, the Flyfishers Club in Brooke St, London, where he lunched with one of the VFFA's English-based members, Dr R. Foale, and viewed the artefacts held there, including the G.E.M. Skues' collection.

John has returned with some wonderful stories to tell and a magnificent set of photos of the places he visited. This is a meeting you wouldn't want to miss.

Report on Donger Weekend

On the weekend February 20, 21 and 22 the Bairnsdale Club members held their annual Dinner and Donger weekend, to which VFFA members are invited. Unfortunately this year the VFFA representation was very small, with only three VFFA members able to attend – Bruce Houghton, Peter Campbell and Hubert Reichelt. According to Hubert, the Friday evening dinner was a very pleasant affair – fine food and great company, with some 35 in attendance.

The Saturday and Sunday saw members travelling up to the Bairnsdale Club's new lodge on the Mitta River, which from all reports is very well-equipped with excellent facilities. Hubert fished with Trevor Stow and Geoff Johnston, from the Bairnsdale Club, and Hubert is convinced that Trevor went to great lengths to keep him away from all the winning fish. On the Saturday Hubert, Trevor and Geoff fished the Mitta River near the junction with the Gibbo. They were hoping to find the water there a little cooler, but this wasn't the case – the stream temperatures they encountered there were just too warm (19°C early in the morning and over 21°C by lunchtime). So all they found were small fish, and not too many of these. They headed back to the lodge, and on the way called in at the top end of the Gibbo River, where they found better fishing, catching 13 fish between them, though all fairly small. In this area the stream is sheltered by trees and the water temperature was a far more ideal 16°C. Despite these better conditions and more cooperative fish, the Donger Challenge was still won by one of the Bairnsdale members with a trout of 1½ lb.

However all was not lost – according to Hubert the Saturday night barbecue was a magnificent occasion, greatly enjoyed by all present.

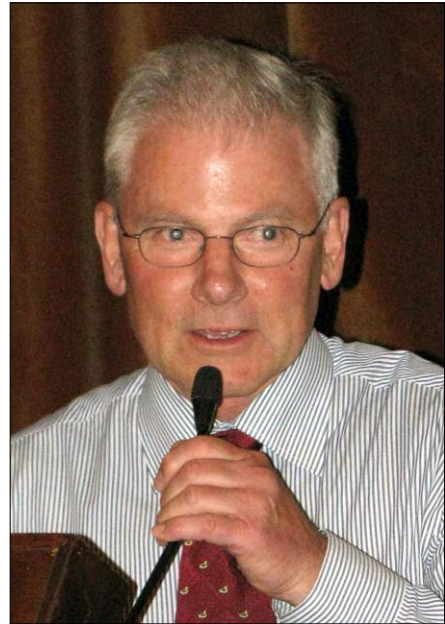
As a footnote, it would appear that high summer temperatures in the area have been a problem. Hubert spoke with one of the farmers who keeps a close eye on the local fishing, and was told that numbers of dead fish had been seen floating down the river in the the week prior to the Donger weekend. This was confirmed by other reports of dead fish in the Mitta. It would seem that these high summer temperatures are not helping our trout fishery at all.

President's Message

I sit here at the end of February to write the President's Message reflecting on the extremely low rainfall over the past two months and the horrendous bushfires, with their impact on the bush, wild life, property and especially the loss of human life.

The combined effect of low rainfall and more frequent bushfires is undoubtedly having an impact on fresh water fishing, as well as impacting on all manner of other things. How well we can adapt in a fishing sense to these changing circumstances is a question not easily answered. On current indications vis a vis climate change I am not optimistic.

The trout fishery over large parts of the north-east and other areas of Victoria is taking a belting, and there may not be a lot we can do about it. For both water quality and amount, the big unknown is climate change. The interaction between climate, fire, forests and hydrology are very complex. We are dependent on these matters being managed in the best possible way in an uncertain future for there to be opportunities for quality fishing in this part of the world.



VFFA member Bernard Holbery lost both his house and cabin in the fires. Included in this newsletter is a short piece from Bernard detailing his experience on the day.

Many members have visited Ray Butterworth's Tranquil Rises in recent years, and although Ray's home was spared, the lower cabin and toilet/shower block was lost. There are no doubt many more stories, and as I write this, the fires continue to burn.

Thirty-seven members attended Liars' Night, and it was good to see David Featherstone present, who was having his first 'outing' since early December surgery. A report on the night appears elsewhere in the newsletter.

Malcolm Elms is recovering well from his major surgery, but has further procedures to undergo before he is back to his old self. He cannot express enough thanks for all the concerns and well wishes he has received. Council member Joe Haslaver has stepped up to the plate and generously offered his help to Malcolm with Sunday Casting.

Lee Brasch, a forty-five year member, passed away recently, and a vale appears in this newsletter.

Hubert Reichelt reports only three VFFA members made the Bairnsdale Donger weekend. This is a disappointing number, and we must endeavor to increase numbers for next year.

Bairnsdale retained the Donger, which is a good reason to get a bigger team next year and try to regain it.

We have a very full program in the next few months. Please take a look at the calendar in the newsletter and make a note in your diaries.

John Philbrick is the speaker at the next General Meeting. He is giving a PowerPoint presentation of his recent fishing experiences in Poland and the UK.

I encourage as many as possible to come along early and have dinner at the Kelvin Club, and enjoy what will be a very good night.

Peter Boag

New Members

The VFFA welcomes Alex Mitchem, David Houghton, and John Permewan as new members. We trust that their membership of the Association is long and fulfilling.

THE JUNE AUCTION

The June general meeting, to be held on Thursday, June 18, will be an auction of equipment and books. Tony Brothers has again accepted responsibility for the organisation, and has indicated that members wishing to sell equipment or books will need to contact him with all relevant details of vendor lots by Wednesday, May 27, at the latest, to allow for cataloguing and advertising in the June newsletter. None will be accepted after this date.

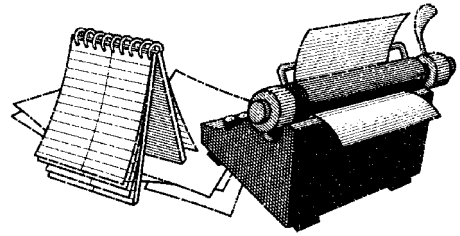
Descriptions of items must be provided in writing to Tony Brothers at 1/113 Thomas Street, East Brighton, 3187, or via email – tonyjazzman@gmail.com, so that they can be appropriately listed in the catalogue. The full list of lots to be auctioned will be forwarded to the Editor for inclusion in the June newsletter on Wednesday June 3.

Items for auction will need to be delivered to Tony's home address in the week from Wednesday May 27 to Wednesday June 3. (Tony will be interstate from June 4 to June 11).

No reserves will be permitted on items under \$200, a 15% commission will be deducted from the proceeds of sales, and purchasers will need to pay by cash or cheque on the night.

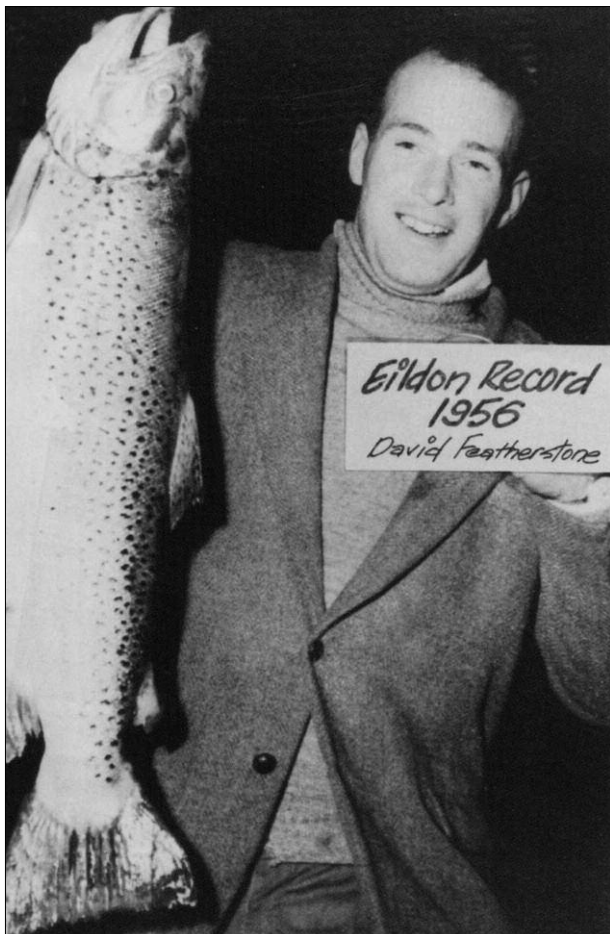
Tony has indicated that these conditions will be strictly adhered to.

From the EDITOR'S DESK



Much has already been said about the fires that have devastated our State, with such tragic loss of lives, livelihoods and property. In an Association as large as the VFFA it is inevitable that there will be members who will have had family or close friends who were affected, and this indeed has been the case. Our sincere and heartfelt sympathy is expressed to all those who have suffered.

VFFA member Bernard Holbery lost his two properties, both destroyed in the Narbethong fire on February 7, and was very fortunate to escape alive. His account of that terrible day, included in this issue, makes compelling and chilling reading. We trust that Bernard will be able to rebuild and re-establish his business in the Narbethong area.



A famous photo – David's Eildon record fish

Over recent weeks it has been my privilege to visit two well known members of our Association who have been unwell. I visited Malcolm Elms when he was in hospital, and after the obvious inquiries about his progress and treatment, we got down to some serious fishing business. I was given a free casting lesson, and Malcolm was in the midst of a fairly complex technical description of the proper movement of the wrist during the forward stroke, complete with biomechanical demonstrations, when we interrupted by the arrival of some nursing staff. To say that they were somewhat bewildered and perplexed by all the arm wrestling and gyrations is something of an understatement. But it was a lot of fun, and instructive too.

On another occasion I spent a delightful morning with David Featherstone. I was invited into his 'fishing den' – two quite large adjoining rooms in his house that are filled with the memories and memorabilia of more than 70 years of serious angling. Photos, rods, reels, books, flies ... fly boxes by the score in fact ... were all there, along with several magnificent display cases with

mounted fish of enormous proportions. David has established a reputation over the years as a specialist in catching big trout, and the evidence was certainly there. He was a patient and entertaining host, and the time I spent with him was again most informative.



That 17 Pound monster

its path. The fish took the tiny scud pattern (on a size 16 hook) and then took off. Nearly an hour later it finally came to the net. It is just one of the more than 20 trout over 10 lb that David has captured.

David had lots to say about the component skills of trouting – leader design, flies, stream fishing tactics, rod selection, casting and presentation. But there were three qualities that seemed to underpin his success – his wealth of experience, his persistence, and his patience. Some of David’s thoughts and ideas on when and how and where to fish will be reported in newsletter issues later this year.

As I left the Featherstone residence it struck me that we have such an enormous wealth of trout fishing experience and knowledge among the members of our Association. We are rich indeed.

Vale Lee Brasch

It is sad to report that Lee passed away in December last year, following a number of years suffering with chronic lymphatic leukaemia. It flared up in 2007, and despite intensive treatment with chemotherapy, he finally succumbed. Lee was 84 years old and had been a VFFA member for 45 years. Prior to his retirement he was state manager for a large packaging company.

Lee was passionate about his fishing, and his wife Peggy describes him as a ‘fly fishing purist’. It was his only sporting interest. He loved fishing the Eildon and Khancoban areas, and often camped at Khancoban during his holidays to pursue his passion. Reg Lyne was one of his fishing associates.

In later years his health problems made it difficult for him to get around, so he rarely attended VFFA meetings. But he valued his membership greatly, and always looked forward to the monthly newsletter, which enabled him keep in touch with VFFA news and activities.

Lee lived in Templestowe, and his home was close to the Yarra. In recent years, though very ill, he would often make his way down to the river. No longer able to fish, he would sit quietly by the water, perhaps reflecting on those many wonderful memories of the days he spent casting a fly.

Australian Trout Foundation

Buxton Trout Farm

As a result of the “black Saturday“ bushfires, one of the ATF’s projects this year is to assist with the rebuilding of the Buxton Trout Farm hatchery. VFFA members will be familiar with this place, which is located on the Maroondah Highway at Buxton on the way up to Thornton.



Peter Boag, Mick Hall and Merv McGuire at a recent ATF meeting

It was badly damaged in the recent fires, and the owner, Mitch MacRae, lost over 40 tonne of trout and salmon, all of which had to be removed and buried. The ATF, in conjunction with the Futurefish Foundation, is keen to assist with the rebuilding, as the hatchery attached to the farm has been a major supplier of trout eggs and fingerlings to both the Futurefish Foundation and to many angling clubs that have stocked dams.

The Trout Farm serves a number of purposes – it is a place where families can visit and catch fish (and the editor’s young grandson loves these places, though the cost can get steep unless a bag limit is quickly applied!) It also supplies trout to markets, grocery outlets and delicatessens. And as already indicated, over the years the associated hatchery has supplied huge quantities of eggs and fingerlings to the Futurefish Foundation and numbers of fishing clubs that stock dams. The millions of trout stocked in Lake Eildon by Futurefish were supplied by Mitch MacRae at minimal cost.

Unfortunately the hatchery was totally destroyed in the fire, and the ATF is keen to assist in its rebuilding. While the property was insured, there is some urgency in getting the project underway. The hatchery needs to be up and running by June of this year, when the brood stock trout need be stripped, otherwise this year's production will be lost. Some brood stock survived the fire and the owner has since been able to acquire more brood stock, so now he needs a hatchery, and hopefully within the next few months.



ATF meeting – serious trout issues being discussed

Accordingly, the ATF and Futurefish are organising a joint working bee, currently planned for Saturday March 21. This was to be confirmed, but now looks certain to go ahead on March 21. Work will commence at 9am, and a barbecue lunch will be supplied. Merv McGuire, ATF vice-president, and Dave Kramer from Futurefish are co-ordinating the day. Lots of assistance will be needed. Members of some of the larger angling clubs have already promised their support, but the more who turn up, the better. The purpose of this working bee is mainly to clear and tidy the site in preparation for the rebuilding.

The Maroondah Highway through the Black Spur is now open again, so access to Buxton is via the Maroondah Highway through Healesville. However people intending to help at the working bee and who wish to confirm access through the Black Spur should either ring VicRoads on 131 170 or check the VicRoads site:

www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/Home/NewsRoom/News+Releases/BushfiresRoadClosures.htm

Both Mick Hall and Merv McGuire are anxious to promote this project as an opportunity for ATF members, and in fact all interested trout anglers, to give a day to repay some of the goodwill and assist a business that has been very helpful to the Victorian trout fishery.

Members who are willing to assist should contact Merv, either on 0417 887 815 or merv.mcguire@bigpond.com.au (See enclosed flyer for more details)

New Zealand TRIP 2008 REPORT – A PICTORIAL STUDY



Terry Rogers with another handsome specimen.

Rob Hennessy worked hard for this one. Another huge tail (tale ?).



Kevin Hindle with a Brightwater version of 4½ lb of glorious brown trout, taken during a very short 5 minute hatch, on “a Dad’s Favourite” which matched the duns gliding down with the current. There is a captivating video sequence of this capture, which will be edited along with other footage for a grand production featuring “The Professor and the Earl”. Not quite a “Trout Bums Diary” but good fun nonetheless.



The Irthing Stream is wonderful to fish on a windy day, as the protection afforded by the dense willows on both sides, the easy access and the easy wading with clear water all make for some great sight fishing. This one weighed in at 3½ lb.

Nigel had elected to take Kevin and Rick up the Nokomai River. Protected from the wind, we had one of the best days you could hope for. Unfortunately the water is thin and can't take a lot of pressure, but when conditions allow it can test the stamina of any fisher. We both hooked many fish from 3½ to 5 lb, whilst getting some great footage and setting new standards for short but difficult casting. We named the monster under the tree in this pool 'Kevin'.



This is not 'Kevin', but impressive nevertheless. Nigel and Kevin are very happy with this capture. Careful handling allowed all our fish to be returned for next time.



A high percentage of captures were on the dry fly. Wonderful fishing.

The social life was pretty good too. These evening post mortems and inquests after the day's angling were thirsty work.



Nigel prepares to land another good fish for me. I had just spent an eternity and changed a dozen flies, my hands were cramping, and we were on our last change back to a smaller brown Adams when it finally rose to my fly.



Hamish and Nigel prepare to trap an unwary brown lying along the rock shelf on the right. Probably about a 30 ft cast. The fish had returned after completing a beat below the rock, which is midstream. By the time we were ready to cast it had cruised almost to within a metre from Hamish and then slowly disappeared into the depths. The hole is about 3 metres deep and has a couple of large boulders for the fish to hide behind. Some may recognise this spot as further up the Roberts River.

Not many fish get the better of Nigel but the depth and current proved too great an obstacle in this case. There must be a way, and we will work it out another time – perhaps next year.

In conclusion it must be said that this type of trip improves your skills to amazing levels. The guides play a major role in this – their knowledge of the fish and the local streams, their incredible ability to see fish in the water, their knowledge of the local bugs and corresponding fly patterns, and their patience and encouragement in the face of our bungled presentations all help make these trips so rewarding and enjoyable. Our very sincere thanks to Nigel and Len. But the combined angling experience and skills and wisdom of the VFFA members making up the group contribute too. In summary, we had a fantastic trip.

Rick Dugina

DO SNAKES HAVE A MEMORY?

“When you hear a snake yarn, multiply the breadth by the length and divide by ten. Same calculation applies to Murray cods.” (Paul Wenz)

I am very annoyed with Richard Salvado. This January Richard joined us on a trip to fish one of my favourite Tasmanian streams. This lovely little river is easily waded for much of its course although it is occasionally necessary to leave it and fish from the bank. As the weather is usually warm in January I wear shorts and wading boots and wet wade. There are snakes but they have never been a problem and I cannot recall a single frightening encounter with a tiger snake in the 14 years that I have fished this stream. I have always associated this river and the beautiful valley through which it flows with peace and tranquillity and it has always been a joy to tread its banks.

This has all changed, thanks to Richard. One day he was wandering along the riverside wearing full length waders and wading boots. He could not have been looking where he was walking as he stood on a very large tiger snake. Richard swears that it was two metres long but then again, he is a fisherman. The snake did not take at all kindly to being stood on and became very angry. It seems likely that one of the studs on Richard's boot ground into its back. The snake reared, flared its head and struck at Richard who instinctively stepped backwards in terror. In doing so he lost his footing and tumbled two metres down the almost sheer bank into the river. The snake was so enraged that it slithered down the bank and into the river after him. Every fly fishers' nightmare came true when Richard came eye to eye with the snake as he floundered in the river. It was ironic that this confrontation occurred in the water as, in another life many years ago, Richard was the Victorian butterfly swimming champion. I understand that he put in some mighty strokes that day in a frenzied endeavour to get away from the snake. He is not sure what happened to it but it seems that in the pandemonium it departed for places unknown leaving him bedraggled, battered, bruised and shaking with shock. He was not bitten but had to drag himself out of the river and return to the car to lick his wounds. I suspect that the whisky bottle might have copped a hiding that night.

You may ask why I am annoyed with Richard. I had left the river a few days before his encounter with the snake and had returned to Melbourne. Before I went back to Tasmania I was at great pains to ensure that Richard told me precisely where the attack took place. I do not know if snakes have a memory but, in case they do, I wanted him to pin point the spot so that I could take special care whenever I went near it. Richard assured me “That's easy, it's on the bend where the willows have been piled up.” Some willow trees had been removed by the farmer last year and the branches had been stacked for burning.

To my consternation when I returned to the river there were not one but at least ten bends where there were willow trees piled up. My enjoyment of my favourite stretch of river that I once fished with such a blithe and carefree spirit has been ruined, perhaps forever. I now spend most of my time when I fish this beat approaching bend after bend where the willows are piled up thinking of little but Richard's snake lying in wait for an opportunity to exact its revenge.

When Richard arrived back at the cottage after his ordeal, his mates Hughie Maltby and Choco Grisold thought that his close call with this malevolent reptile was a great joke. For Hughie and Choco claim that they have no fear of snakes and they are extremely unsympathetic to others who are scared of them. Of course, when pressed Hughie does admit that he once harboured a

slight phobia about snakes but he says that is far behind him. I suspect that this phobia was not helped when he encountered a snake on the same river a couple of years ago. Choco and Hughie were walking along a high bank on the side of a pool that I was wet wading when a huge tiger snake swam across the river about fifteen metres upstream. I heard Hughie say “Choco, what’s that?” To which Choco in his usual laconic way replied “That’s a snake Hughie”. That snake was so big that Hughie could not believe that it was a snake! Indeed, when it reached a willow tree which was growing on the opposite bank, the branches of the tree shook violently as it climbed through them. Although from Hughie’s perspective this was a long distance encounter it nonetheless seemed to make a deep impression upon him. For the remainder of that trip he was particularly jumpy whenever he was walking near long grass or willow trees. But these days Hughie is adamant that snakes don’t bother him at all and he becomes quite indignant if anyone suggests otherwise. And Choco not only claims that he is not scared of snakes - he is contemptuous of anglers such as myself who admit to harbouring such a fear. On more than one occasion he has said to me, “All you talk about is snakes”. I feel this comment is a little unfair as, after all, I do wet wade.



Phil from Blessington Junior (wet) wading up the river to yet another corner where the willows are piled up. Note how he is careful to wade in the middle of the river!

Yet, inexplicably, Choco and Hughie always wear full length waders and wading boots, even when they are fishing a small tributary stream that is barely knee deep on a very hot day. It is a strange sight to see these two fearless figures making their way up a creek in searing heat clad in wading regalia which would be better suited to an icy cold fast flowing Scottish salmon river. And the even odder thing is that this dauntless duo invariably wear wading belts that are always tightly clasped around their waists. You may ask, why wear belts on their waders on a hot day when fishing a gently flowing and shallow creek. After all, wading belts are designed to prevent waders from filling up with water if the fisherman falls into a deep section of river and is swept away. I have asked them this question on more than one occasion but to date I

have not received a satisfactory explanation. I do know that last year, the very same Choco who chastises me so regularly about talking about snakes all the time, was fishing this river when he saw two distressed birds flying above a willow tree. Choco is a curious soul and he poked his head into the foliage to investigate what was causing the birds to behave in this manner. He recoiled when he saw a tiger snake a few feet away steadily making its way up a branch towards a bird’s nest. I cannot say with any certainty what effect this experience had on our intrepid former president. But, I can state that the next morning was particularly hot and sticky, and I observed both Choco and Hughie grimly tightening up their wading belts an extra notch before they headed off to fish another tiny willow lined creek. And as for Richard, he readily admits to a healthy fear of snakes and is not showing any inclination towards forsaking his full length waders and taking up wet wading.

I suppose I will forgive Richard one day. But in the meantime can anybody tell me if snakes have a memory? Because if they do I will have to do something that I swore I would never do again – go boat fishing!

Phil from Blessington

TROUT, GRASSHOPPERS AND WATER TEMPERATURE

By ROBERT ROLES

It is well known that trout are fond of grasshoppers in their summer diet, at times feeding on them to the exclusion of other terrestrial insects. What is less known is the reason for poor fishing on what would seem a perfect grasshopper day. Ideal grasshopper conditions are usually brought on by hot weather during early December, and sometimes this occurs in November, making juvenile grasshoppers fully grown by early January.

In the process of hoppers developing fully during sustained heat, the downside is rising water temperature where you hope to have memorable fishing. During our recent holiday in the Corryong region I fished various locations over a 12 day period, noting morning and afternoon flowing water temperatures.



Grasshopper magic on the Swampy Plains – 2 lb 11 oz brownie taken on the incomparable Keam's Autumn Hopper

At no point did I record a sub-20°C reading; the coolest morning temperature was 20°C in a Murray River tributary, which warmed to 21.1° by late afternoon. The least cool water was flowing down the Swampy Plains River at 23.3°C; at a volume of ten cubic metres per second (cumecs) on December 31. Sightings of trout went into 'shutdown' along this majestic river during the period my Fishpond thermometer showed these figures.

Each morning I phoned the Snowy Hydro for a Khancoban release figure (in cumecs), sometimes to be advised the volume had increased to 40 or 50 cumecs! Large volumes of flowing water are generally cooler than lesser flows, but if the increased discharge is not icy cold in the upstream impoundment, it will warm up quickly, making its way down the river course along hot earthen banks, and very hot exposed river stones. The river temperature will still be 23.3° despite the huge flow, and will only gradually become cooler if the river remains stable, i.e. no change in the discharge volume. From my observations, this can take between 4 and 7 days to achieve, which by then might be our going home day!

When we arrived at our Corryong camping ground, we were met by my young fly-fisher friend, James, on December 29. My first question after "good to see you" was "Are the hoppers jumping?" James had arrived on December 19, and fished most days along the Swampy. His reply was: "Bob, the river is 10 cumecs, and 19°C, ... the fishing is as good as

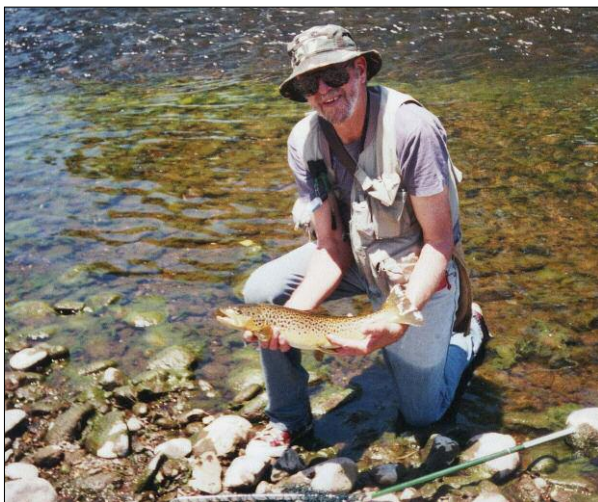
on previous times.” Now, I knew what that meant, as we had had some sensational hopper fishing together previously. James then produced his mobile phone photos depicting six or eight shots of beautiful brown trout from 1½ lb, up to a beauty of 3 lbs! All of them tricked on Keam’s hopper. But the river James had fished before my arrival had been low flow, but stable. More importantly, the water temperature was sub 20°C, with trout visible along suitable banks, WAITING for their next grasshopper meal.



One of five magnificent wild brownies taken on the Autumn Hopper – another day in paradise

When you hear an angler describe a flowing river as ‘cool’, this does not tell you much. On an extreme heat day, a thermometer reading of 23.3° will tell you that you are highly unlikely to see, or tempt a trout, even if the water ‘feels’ cool to the touch.

The temperature range from 19° to 23° is only FIVE degrees, but it is that difference which will determine your angling day. It should also be noted (most importantly) that as water temp rises, the dissolved oxygen level diminishes. Over 23°C, trout become distressed, while at around 25° they can die. At this higher temperature, the dissolved oxygen range for trout of 8 – 9.5 ppm would be dramatically reduced, with trout being incapable of breathing, and thus dying (i.e. fishkill).



Let's put this one back

With the Upper Murray and its high temperature offering no chance of hopper sport, I channelled my energies into finding tributary water as cool as possible, which was 20° at 11:30am on a very hot summer morning. This required driving many kilometres upstream to where the creek was beyond open hot dairy farming paddocks. It was here, in shaded, narrow, quick-flowing runs, many with surprising depth, that produced the sport I was yearning for - 28 beautiful trout from 8 visits, recorded fish from 13 inches, ranging up to a best of 2 lb 2 oz, all of them completely hoodwinked by Keam’s Autumn hopper. My Keam’s hopper

floats brilliantly on fast aerated water, riding atop the waves and then, out of nowhere – ‘KA-CHONK!’ But sometimes my fly SANK, and when this happened, I hooked into my two weightiest fish (when lifting out). Rick had said to me “They’ll take it underwater, you know”.

So, you may be fishing your favourite stream in N.E. Victoria in summer, with grasshopper in abundance. Best looking spots with grass/blackberry overhangs and vibrant current produce not a rise; waist deep pools with undercuts and cover disappoint for the same

reason. Chances are the flowing water temperature is 21.5° or higher, and the resident fish have ‘shutdown’ because of the stress they experience. Low dissolved oxygen will contribute to this outcome, as will the pH of the water. If the pH is below 7, or above 9, a good angling outcome is remote.

You need to find water temperature of 21° or less, and the headwaters of small tributary streams that flow out of natural forest offer the best opportunity. As a result of making the effort, you may be rewarded with wonderful ‘hopper sport’.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

THE THERMOMETER: I possess an original American Orvis Fahrenheit, given to me as a gift by an American friend. I’m able to convert to Celcius with a very accurate conversion chart (i.e. 70° F = 21.1°) but a recent purchase of a Celcius Fishpond brand, also American and of good quality, provides me with instant accurate information.

Of further interest should be the information laid out below which I gleaned from a New Zealand angling publication:

“The optimum water temperature for trout is 13 degrees C, with a comfort range between 10 degrees and 18 degrees. Below 10 degrees, trout metabolism slows down, making the fish sluggish or torpid. Above 20 degrees, lower dissolved oxygen levels slow trout activity. Over 23 degrees, they become stressed, while at around 25 degrees they can die. Trout are therefore constantly moving locations to find the perfect water temperatures and/or better feeding situations, which are similarly influenced by the same factor. Brown trout can generally tolerate wider ranges in temperature than rainbows.”

Also, ‘The Factors’, an article from Freshwater Fishing, issue 11, included a chart detailing significant figures for the wellbeing of trout:

	Temperature Preferences ° C	Temperature Preferences ° F	O ₂ Preferences ppm	pH Preferences
Brown trout				
Range	3 - 25	37 - 77	8 - 9.5	7.5 - 8.5
Most active	13 - 21	55 - 70		
Peak activity	16	60		
Spawning	7 - 10	45 - 50		
Rainbow trout				
Range	3 - 25	37 - 77	8 - 10.5	7.5 - 8
Most active	10 - 18	50 - 65		
Peak activity	14	57		
Spawning	7 - 10	45 - 50		

The Demise of the 'Fly Fishers' Rod and Creel'

(VFFA member Bernard Holbery tragically lost his two properties - at Narbethong and Taggerty - in the February 7 fires, and was lucky to escape with his life. Here is his account of that terrible day)

It's early morning at Taggerty, and two men have come in to buy flies. The temperature is already 35°C and it is only 8am. The wind is howling, and trees are falling at the back of the property. I decided to close the shop for the day, thinking to myself 'who would want to fish in these conditions?' It was only a few days earlier that Kevin Hindle and myself had been out fishing the evening rise in conditions that had been so much more pleasant.



Bernard Holbery with Peter Campbell at what was Bernard's Cabin

I made my way to Narbethong, to my little cabin on the water. It was about 3pm and the temperature was now close to 48°C. I was to meet an angler from Canada, who wanted me to show him sections of Fishers Creek. He arrived all decked out in new fly-fishing gear. He was new to the sport and his 9 ft, 6 weight rod was a little heavy for creek work, so I offered him the use of an 8 ft, 4 weight Winston. We went out to the stream and commenced fishing. A couple of rainbows came to the net before a loud rumbling sound caught our attention, and a thick black cloud come racing towards us. I could see flames rising above the smoke – they seemed to reach upwards about 100 metres high. We started running for our lives through a pine plantation and came to a dam where a helicopter was drawing up water to drop on the inferno. The pilot saw us, took us on board and whisked us away as the flames raced through the plantation. We were dropped off a little while later at Alexandra.

The following day the little townships of Narbethong, Marysville, Buxton, and Taggerty were all burnt out – totally destroyed by the fire. The pine plantation had been razed to the ground. My properties – my cabin and the Fly Fishers' Rod and Creel - were also totally destroyed. But I retain many happy memories, and I'm sure that in the not too distant future those fish will be rising once again.

My sincere thanks to the VFFA members for your support and help throughout the season. I feel very honoured to be part of such a group.

Bernard Holbery.

Knotty Problems

Colin Morrison recently came across a website that provides a series of small movie clips showing how to tie many of the common knots that anglers use. While there are many of these sites around, this one is certainly worth a browse. The instructions are given at a comfortable pace, and are very clear and easy to follow.

The website is <http://videofishingknots.com>

WINTER FISHING (Some of it even legal)

Julian Newton-Brown

All manner of weather aberrations are blamed on 'global warming', but I reckon extremes are part of normality. In 1969 we had one of many poor or warm snow seasons. There was no snow until mid-July and then only a small covering.

So, being all geared up for a snow season we had to entertain the few guests who arrived full of hope. We took them on walks. One day, whilst walking along the shore of the western arm of Rocky Valley, where there are some very small creeks running, we saw abundant trout in them. I tickled a couple and released them. Next day those guests opted for the same walk but set off with various containers. I pointed out that interfering with spawning trout was illegal, but that fell on deaf ears. I did manage to limit their harvest to just one each, to be cooked for them for dinner.

Our ski school director, Siggy Haberzettle, was also at a loose end and looking for some entertainment, so I suggested he do the same walk and observe those trout. I also told him of the previous day's excursion, but he did not believe that the fish could be tickled. He questioned me at length until he was convinced my story was true. He returned later in the day full of excitement with a fat two pounder in a bag.

Knowing the huge number of these small creeks available as spawning grounds, it became apparent to me that the lakes were now overstocked, which accounted for the continuing decrease in fish size. I advocated blocking them all off and allowing only the two best areas for natural spawning. These could be opened or closed at spawning time so as to allow only the bigger trout to spawn, and the less viable ones removed for relocation elsewhere. Thus the fish would be better in both size and genetics. The Department almost agreed to allowing this procedure, as mentioned in my last chapter.

In the second half of July we were able to hold an international ski race. It was on a very thin base of snow and only just possible. Snow conditions deteriorated from then on, and by the end of August the warm weather melted all the snow. We could not even see one speck of it on Spion Kopje, which usually holds snow until December and, in a heavy year, for longer. Rocky Valley dam was low but on a walk in the third week of August I saw trout rising. So when the season opened in September and for some days after I fished a dry fly and caught numerous fish.

At the beginning of the second week of September there was a snow fall of one metre and skiers came to ski on a good base in sunshine for the next three weeks.

There was another poacher in Falls Creek at the time. He was an expert with a grasshopper and a bubble float but when that didn't work he used a .22 rifle. It was old, with a split at the end of the barrel. This was of no concern as his method was to put the tip of the barrel in the water close to an undercut bank and fire a shot. The water muffled the noise and the concussion stunned a fish or two, which he then netted. I hope this story does not inspire any reader to emulate his technique.

I don't know if poaching is part of the Australian psyche, but the following story shows how our young resolve a problem. The SEC built a series of aqueducts (Racelines in engineering

terms) to increase the catchment area of Rocky Valley Dam. One of these follows a contour around and through Falls Creek. To allow skier access across this waterway there are sections of earth-covered concrete pipes forming bridges.

One child, a dog owner, would hold a net over one end of the pipe while others took the dog some distance away. They would then walk toward the pipe, herding trout as they went. On reaching the end of the pipe the dog owner would lean over to call his dog through the pipe. Some dogs loved this game, and sent many a trout to its doom in the waiting net. The good news is that, at least in those days, the trout population never seemed to suffer from this antic.

“ANOTHER LITTLE PINE EPISODE”

Andy Hodson

Visitors over, getting close to dun time, so a few days at the Pine are in order. The visitors are old hands and good friends, so there is a quiet optimism. However the season is late and the duns have not really made their presence felt. The Pine is also low, at -0.9 below.

I settled them into the shack, then donned the waders and hiked down to our favourite corner for the rest of the afternoon. Not really a dun day though, with no warmth and a nasty little cross breeze under a grey sky. Weed tops are showing, so our favourite corner is shallow. This should make it easier to see signs of fish, even if they aren't rising, but the weed will make a wet fly difficult. The guests opt for dual dry fly rigs - a larger attractor and a small dun - just in case. Not being a big fan of dual dries, the fly box is studied. Sitting there patiently for many years - tied up after an article by Hubert Reichelt on tadpoles in a past Newsletter - one of the two in the box is tied on for a swim.

Its a simple tie on a size 12 dry fly hook, consisting of a couple of turns of chenille near the front of the hook, then a largish (size 8??) hackle tied in the usual place. The thread is then taken behind the chenille and the hackle fibres brought back over the chenille, encircling the fly and tied off behind the chenille (and thank heavens for the Materelli whip finisher, which allows this placement). A bulbous little body is thus formed with trailing hackle fibres to form a tail. The ones in the box had been tied in green shades - the hackle being a cock hackle dyed for another fly and the colour looked just right. Out it goes as a prospector and swims back in the top 5cm of water at a slow figure 8 retrieve. A few fish show themselves with back or tail, cruising horizontally but not looking up. The dual dry boys have only one look, whilst the little tadpole had five hits for one success. What was the fish feeding on? Scud galore.

This success has not been repeated, as conditions have not been replicated. However I am pleased with the little tadpole and tied up some more in varying colours. Even used two different hackles to give some variegation of colour. I feel the main success though was being at the right level in the water column whilst still being 'fishable'. Other deliberate scud patterns used over the years have all tended to be big weed attractors, whilst this one only seemed to catch up about every sixth cast - not bad when prospecting. More importantly though, when cast to a seen fish it was usually in the right zone to attract attention.

Tassie Reports

(We don't have a Warrnambool report this month, but Jim Blakeslee provided the following note from friends who had recently fished Tasmania.)

Fishermen have more chances than most to experience some unusual and different encounters in the natural environment. On our recent Fly Trip to Tassie we certainly had our share. This year we had a first - fishing in the snow on Little Pine on January 2. You can still catch fish in the snow - I managed to fool a 54cm brown with a Great Lake Beetle in the Little Pine River. If you don't take into account all possible weather conditions on a trip to Tassie you are dreaming.

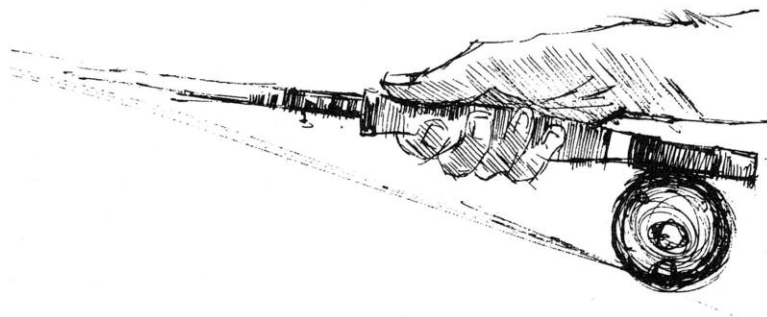
Another first for my buddy Peter Hussey was an encounter with a tiger snake. Apparently Peter appeared to be quite tree-like when standing in the water on Flora. The tiger snake, after swimming out to him, was determined to climb up on him. Pete quickly realised that the Priest was too short, the net might net the snake and the rod tip too fragile. After three whacks with the reel and an unnerving duck-dive by the snake, it swam back to shore. Pete ended up with a stiff neck this trip because he couldn't help looking behind after every few casts.

We always have an enjoyable trip to Tassie. Our team consisted of my brother Tony, President of Bendigo Fly fishers, Peter Hussey, my brother in law, Glenn Payne and myself, Adrian Jacobs – President of Warrnambool F.F.C.

(And from Daniel Hackett's very helpful website:)

Expected fishing for March

March is my favourite month for dry fly river fishing. The hoppers will continue through until late March, and will be joined by mayfly on the cooler overcast days. By late March, mayflies will start to dominate the hatches, with baetid mayflies becoming key hatch. On the afternoons where wonderfully moody thunderstorms feature, ants will present as another dependable hatch. This will present very good match-the-hatch fishing opportunities and is a highlight over March and April. During May we have a small number of rainbow rivers open, which will feature good dry fly fishing, and the chance of catching large pre-spawn browns that also reside in the rivers. Lake Rowallan will also be a feature fishery during May, with its high-banks and timbered shores creating an awesome shore-based polaroiding location.

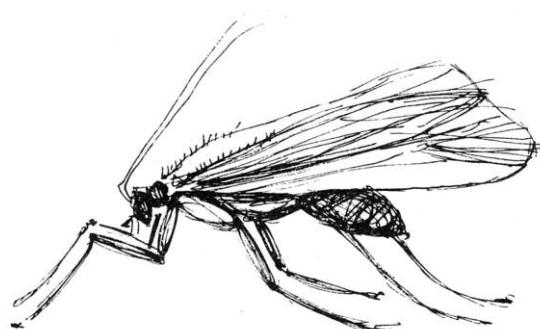


Catch Rates in Popular Tasmanian Waters

The Tasmanian Inland Fisheries Service regularly carries out surveys of anglers to gather data on popular fisheries. The following table is from the most recent survey, and ranks lakes and rivers in terms of the number of survey forms returned by anglers. Perhaps the most useful and interesting column is the one giving the catch rates in terms of average fish per day taken by anglers in the survey. Apparently Arthurs Lake and Woods Lake are the best bet for stillwaters, and the little St Pats and the Tyenna River the best streams.

Rank	Lake	Total Catch Rate (fish per day)	Total Anglers Surveyed
1	Arthurs Lake	2.98	8449
2	Great Lake	1.40	5393
3	Penstock Lagoon	1.06	3658
4	Little Pine Lagoon	1.16	3470
5	Woods Lake	2.96	2829
6	Four Springs	1.05	2753
7	Bronte Lagoon	1.58	2602
8	Bradys Lake	0.95	2527
9	Brushy Lagoon	0.56	1357
10	Meadowbank Lake	0.96	1357
11	Lake Burbury	1.91	1282
12	Lake Barrington	0.36	1207
13	Dee Lagoon	0.48	1207
14	Lake Binney	1.00	1093
15	Lake Ada	0.37	905

Rank	River	Total Catch Rate (fish per day)	Total Anglers Surveyed
1	Brumbys Creek	1.34	3017
2	River Derwent	0.73	2640
3	South Esk River	1.20	2376
4	Macquarie River	1.20	1735
5	Mersey River	0.80	1621
6	Huon River	0.83	1471
7	Tyenna River	2.60	1471
8	Meander River	1.87	1282
9	St Patricks River	3.54	1093
10	River Leven	0.77	980



FISHING IN THE NORTH EAST

Our regular correspondent from the North – East, Andy Zarro, has provided the following report on the fishing in that area.

The Swampy Plains River has not fished well over the summer. Releases of water from the pondage have been incredibly high (up to 150 Cumecs on some days), so downstream the river has been running fast and high and also very warm. During January and into February temperatures over 20°C were the norm, reaching 23°C on a few days. One of Andy's fishing colleagues took four fish to 3 lb from a recent rafting exercise, but Andy has fished on a couple occasions without success, spending five hours on the river one day and seeing only one rising fish. However, for whatever reason, the water temperatures have dropped in the last few days and Andy recorded readings of 17°C at Nankervis's. He has the feeling that there are now fewer fish in the system – at least from his perspective. They seem to be harder to find than in previous years.

But Eucumbene is fishing well. Andy fished there in late January and reports that many anglers were 'bagging out'. Most fish caught were rainbows of about 1½ to 2 lb, but a brown of 7 lb was taken. Most success was in the evenings, with anglers fishing mud-eye patterns from dusk to 2 or 3 am. Andy kept much more sensible hours – he fished from 7 pm to 9:30 pm and caught a number of fish. He reports that if a fish rose and a mud-eye pattern was cast anywhere near it, then a hookup was almost certain. (This sounds good!)

Andy has also had some trips up into the hills – fishing various creeks around Tantangera and Tumut and the

Murrumbidgee River. Lots of fish, apparently, but mostly small rainbows.

He was very reluctant to part with the following information, but was assured by the editor that VFFA members are responsible anglers, and quite tight-lipped. The one river in the area that has fished well all summer is the Nariel, especially in the upper sections, where almost any dry fly proved successful.

EILDON REPORT

Mick Hall's advice in early March was to give the area a miss for a few weeks. The road over the Black Spur was closed at that stage, fires were still burning in the area and the roads were clogged with emergency vehicles (and fallen trees across roads in many places). However since then the road has been opened, and there has been a plea for anglers to start visiting the area and supporting the struggling local businesses which are now desperate for patronage.

Apparently many of the local rivers are running low and clear, but this may all change with the first decent rain, which will wash ash and all manner of rubbish into the streams. Mick's advice to anglers contemplating visiting the area is to either make a phone call or have a look at the Goulburn Valley Fly Fishing Site - http://www.gvffc.com/Information/fishing_report.htm

Mick feels that some of the local rivers, such as the little Steavo, may take a couple of years to recover. Bill Classon has indicated that the rivers in the North East have now bounced back and are fishing well again, following the 2006/07 bushfires, so hopefully the rivers closer to Melbourne that been devastated by the recent fires will be back to their best in a season or two.

The Victorian Fly-Fisher's Association Art Exhibition

Entry form for 17th to 19th July 2009

Registration details (Please complete in BLOCK LETTERS)

Surname _____ First name _____

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

Female

Postal Address _____

State _____ Postcode _____ Country _____

Artists ABN if applicable _____ (Australia only)

Email _____ Fax _____

Telephone 1 _____ Telephone 2 _____

Art Work Details

1. Title _____

Medium _____

Size (cm) H _____ W _____ Dated _____

Sculpture – approx weight & preferred display requirements

Sale price of work in Aust \$

2. Title _____

Medium _____

Size (cm) H _____ W _____ Dated _____

Sculpture – approx weight & preferred display requirements

Sale price of work in Aust \$

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

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

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

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

Personal(tick) OR Australia Post OR courier

or

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

Payment details (Australian dollars only)

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

Card number _____ Cardholder's name _____

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

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

Signed _____ Date ____ / ____ / ____

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

VFFA Art Show 2009

5 Netley Rise

Doncaster 3108 Australia

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

The Victorian Fly-Fishers' Association Art Show

17th to 19th July 2009

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

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

Conditions of Entry

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

From Recent Media Releases

Study reveals secrets for catching Eildon brown trout

The opportunity to enjoy fishing for brown trout during summer has just been made even better thanks to a recent study revealing the seasonal habits of brown trout in Lake Eildon. In a project funded from recreational licence revenue, scientists found that as surface water temperatures rise, brown trout become restricted to an increasingly smaller section of the lake. At the peak of summer in February, brown trout habitat can be reduced to a section of the lake - usually between 15 and 25 metres deep.

For lure fishers who troll in Lake Eildon, this finding confirms that they are likely to have greater success by fishing with downriggers or paravanes during summer to get down deep. Bait fishers too, who might fish among the trees, now have a much better idea of the depths they should be concentrating on. By applying temperature and oxygen constraints, already known for trout, and using results from summer and winter trout tracking, scientists were able to predict preferred brown trout habitat throughout the year. Using this model, scientists will now determine seasonal fish habitat in other lakes across the state such as Lake Hume and Lake Dartmouth.

Trout stocking on rise despite drought

More than 360,000 trout were stocked into Victorian waters in 2008 to improve recreational fishing opportunities for freshwater anglers. This figure was significantly higher than 2007 when 200,000 trout and salmon were released for anglers. Fisheries Victoria managed to increase trout stocking in 2008 despite drought conditions continuing to affect both fish production and water levels.

Larger trout stockings included Hume Lake (50,000), Lake Purrumbete (45,000), Lake Bullen Merri (30,000), Eildon Pondage (24,000), Blue Rock Dam (17,000), Lake Wartook (10,000), Macalister River (9000), Merri River (8000), Wurdiboluc Reservoir (8000), Lake Banimboola (7000), Bellfield Reservoir (5000), Hamilton Lake (5000) and Lake Elingamite (3000).

While overall stocking was up last year compared to 2007, some high profile waters, such as Lake Wendouree, Hepburn Lagoon, Greenhill Lake, Malmsbury Reservoir and Newlyn Reservoir were unable to receive fish because of ongoing drought conditions. Ongoing negotiations with water managers were productive in some areas, with Lake Fyans, near Stawell, receiving its first trout stocking since 2005. A combination of more than 2000 brown and rainbow trout were released into Lake Fyans with some brown trout weighing as much as one kilogram.

More than 38,000 rainbow trout were also stocked into 55 small waters as part of the Family Fishing Lakes stocking program, which releases trout of a keepable size into metropolitan and rural lakes, mainly for junior anglers and those with limited mobility. These lakes included Seagull Lake, Geelong (2100), Morwell Lake (1500), Casey Fields Lake, Cranbourne (1200), Marysville Dam (900), Navan Park Lake, Melton (800), Jack Roper Reserve, Campbellfield (750), Cato Lake, Stawell (600), Arboretum Dam, Euroa (600), Caulfield Racecourse Dam (400) and Bannockburn Lagoon (400).

FLY OF THE MONTH

The F Fly

What does the 'F' stand for? Fantastic, or perhaps Fabulous? The F Fly is one of the simplest flies to tie. It also travels under a few different names. In the June 2008 issue, John Philbrick gave details of a very similar fly – the CDC San Classic. Before giving the tying details of the F Fly, it might be worth reading some of the history and properties of CDC. (A recent issue of FlyLife – number 55, Autumn 2009, carries a useful article on CDC feathers.)



Cul de canard, or CDC, feathers may be used for the tying of tails, bodies, wings and legs of an insect as no other single material may. Their versatility, and therefore their use to an enterprising tier, is unmatched. CDC feathers have inherent qualities that make the artificial fly look alive. By careful use of CDC the imitation fly will have wings that flutter, legs that tremble and gills that move within the current.

The first CDC flies were tied back in the 1920s, but it wasn't until the 1980s that real international interest in the material was stimulated when the Slovenian, Marjan Fratnik, introduced his revolutionary F Fly. In the late 1950s, the Frenchman Henri Bresson coined the name 'Cul de Canard' (duck's bum) for his fly pattern tied with duck preen gland feathers. Some thirty years later, Anglo-Americans adopted the abbreviation CDC, and the new appellation has stuck and the term CDC has become almost universal.

Birds living near water have a preen gland, and the secretions from this gland, which are strongly water-repelling, are spread through the plumage when the birds preen themselves. Thus as well as being very light, CDC feathers are very buoyant, and flies tied with CDC do not need floatant. In fact, treating CDC dry fly patterns with floatant can ruin their properties and buoyancy.

So how do we tie the F Fly?

Materials:

Hook: Size 12 – 28, fine wire dry fly hook. (Sizes 14 – 18 are a good starting point)

Thread: Any colour to suit local mayflies or caddis flies. Colours used in descriptions given in textbooks and magazines include black and various shades of grey, brown and olive.

Body: In many references the body is simply the tying thread covering the hook shank. In other references dyed pheasant tail feathers or very fine dubbing are used.

Wing: Natural grey, white or brown CDC feathers.

Tying Instructions: (for a body of pheasant tail fibres)

1. Fix the hook in the vice and run the tying thread along the shank from the eye to a point opposite the barb. Catch in four pheasant tail fibres with firm turns of thread.
2. Allow the waste ends of the feather fibres to lie along the shank and cover them with thread to create an even base for the body. Apply a drop of clear lacquer.
3. Leave the lacquer to dry until it is slightly tacky. Wind the feather fibres along the hook shank, keeping the turns even.
4. Continue winding the fibres to form an even body. Secure the loose ends with thread just behind the eye and trim off the excess.
5. Take two or three small CDC feathers and place them together so that their tips are level. Catch them in as a wing with three firm thread wraps behind the eye.
6. Position the wing low over the body, then trim off the excess feather with scissors. Secure with further tight thread wraps before tying off with a whip finish.



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LIBRARY NEWS

All members should remember that the Mick Martin Memorial Library is one of the most extensive collections of fly-fishing literature in Australia. It is valuable in its own right but is a great asset to members wishing to expand their knowledge or who simply enjoy sitting by the fireside and vicariously enjoying the exploits of others. In addition, the library boasts a number of videos on trout fishing. Our librarian Marty Rogers will be available prior to each general meeting to assist members wishing to borrow books or videos.

The library is divided into three parts.

Part 1 Books available for loaning to members.

Part 2 Books available for reference only and not to be taken from the library.

Part 3 Books bequeathed to the Association and not to be taken from the cabinet.

OVERDUE BOOKS

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

V.F.F.A. ITEMS FOR SALE

The Association has the following quality items for sale:

Book "Geehi to Great Lake"	\$45.00 each
Columbia Shirts	\$70.00 each
Polarfleece jacket with VFFA logo	\$40.00 each
Association ties (blue or maroon)	\$35.00 each
Cloth badges	\$7.00 each
Diaries	\$2.00 each
<i>The Australian Trout by Jack Ritchie</i>	\$20.00
<i>(Special offer – buy one, get one free!)</i>	
V.F.F.A. car stickers	\$2.00 each

Members wishing to purchase any of these items should contact Hugh Maltby prior to the monthly General Meeting on telephone 9455 9017.

VALUED DONORS

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

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