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THE VICTORIAN FLY-FISHERS' ASSOCIATION INC.

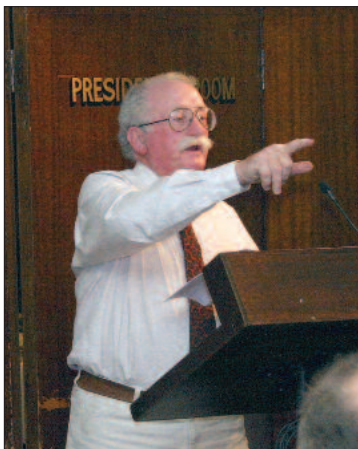
MAY 2012

Organisation No. A0024750J

P.O. Box 18423 Melbourne Bourke Street, Melbourne 3001

[www.vffa.org.au](http://www.vffa.org.au)

**May General Meeting:  
Auction of Books & Equipment**  
(Catalogue included as an insert)



Thursday, May 17, 8:00 pm  
at the **Celtic Club**

The Meeting will be preceded by Dinner at the **Celtic Club**, commencing promptly at 6:00 pm.

All members are invited, but PLEASE make a Dinner booking by 12 pm (lunchtime) on Wednesday, May 16, by –

Phone: 0498 254 497, and leave a message,  
Or Email – [secretary@vffa.org.au](mailto:secretary@vffa.org.au)

# THE VICTORIAN FLY-FISHERS' ASSOCIATION INC.

(info@vffa.org.au)

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## May Meeting: “The Annual Auction”



Yes, there will be another VFFA Auction this year, and it is scheduled for the May meeting – Thursday, May 17, at the Celtic Club. Marty Rogers is organising the event, and he informs us that it will again include about 100 lots, with both books and fly-fishing equipment going under the hammer.

A tentative catalogue of lots is included as an insert in this newsletter. While a number of items have already been made available for the auction and are listed in the published catalogue, Marty has indicated that a small number of items can still be accepted, so if you have books or equipment you would like to offer for sale then please ring Marty on 9481 1501 by Monday, May 14.

### Important note:

This auction is limited to VFFA members only, as the majority of lots are books from the estate of Dr R.A. (Tony) Brothers, and it was felt that the sale of Tony’s books should be restricted to the members of the Association to which he contributed so much.

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## Our New Home – The Celtic Club

The Celtic Club is located at 316 – 320 Queen Street (near corner of Queen and Latrobe Streets), Melbourne, and can be contacted on 03 9670 6472, email - [info@celticclub.com.au](mailto:info@celticclub.com.au).

It was founded in 1887, and has a long and fascinating history, which can be found on the club’s website - <http://www.celticclub.com.au>. A quick check of the website provides lots of useful information on our new home.

Parking in the immediate area is reasonably accessible, and the dress code at the Celtic is ‘Smart Casual’.

As the recent letter to all members indicated, we do need to book to have a meal before meetings, and you can do this by leaving a message on the mobile phone that secretary Richard Garvey monitors – the number being 0498 254 497. Alternatively, send a brief email message to – [secretary@vffa.org.au](mailto:secretary@vffa.org.au).

Our next meeting, the May Auction, is on Thursday May 17, at our new home, so please make that phone call, try out the Celtic Club dining room, and then buy a book or two from Tony Brothers’ very large and very fine collection.



## April Meeting Report:

### Fly Tying with the Masters

The April meeting saw members gathering to view some fly tying expertise. Unfortunately Andrew Mossman, one of our most accomplished and experienced demonstrators, was unable to attend, so Richard Kos stepped in, and he and Hubert Reichelt tied a number of flies for an attentive audience.

Richard tied four flies – a basic green nymph, a CDC emerger, an Egg-Laying Caddis, and finally his signature piece – his Kossy Damsel. The green nymph was tied on a size 16 hook and Richard used dyed olive duck feathers for the tail, olive possum fur for the body and thorax, fine gold wire for the rib, and a slip of black feather as a wingcase over the quite pronounced thorax.

Richard's second fly was a CDC emerger, which he had modified from a Hans van Klinken pattern. Hans van Klinken is the Dutch fly tying master who first designed the fabulous Klinkhamer style flies. On his website (<http://www.danica.com/flytier/hklinken/hklinken.htm>) he describes in detail an emerger pattern he calls the 'Once and Away', and he gives a description of the pattern's history and tying sequence. Kossy has tied and fished this fly to great effect. He ties it on a #16 or #18 Klinkhamer-style hook, using brown pheasant tail fibres for the body, peacock herl for the thorax, and some large dark CDC feathers for the wing. The finished fly has the same shape as the Shaving Brush Emerger, and the photo here, from the Van Klinken website, shows the overall shape.



*CDC Emerger*



*Hubert's green Wee Muddler*



*The brown one*



*Richard Kos in action – fly tying as a spectator sport*

Richard's third fly was a variety of adult caddis – an 'Egg-Laying Caddis'. He again used a Klinkhamer ('extreme') hook, size 18, and tied in an orange or lime green tag at the rear. The body consisted of dubbed cream-yellow possum fur, a wing of light elk or deer hair was then tied in parallel to the hook shank (similar to the Elk Hair Caddis) and a few turns of light ginger cock hackle were added at the eye in front of the wing.



*Kossy's Damsel*

The final fly in this set was Kossy's Damsel, a rather complicated but very productive damsel nymph. This fly was described in detail in the VFFA newsletter of February 2009. In brief it has a tail of olive marabou with some brown marabou on top and a body of olive possum fur with a strip of brown marabou tied along the top. The body is ribbed with very fine green wire, and there is a wingcase of dark brown pheasant tail fibres, legs of partridge feathers dyed olive, a thorax of olive possum fur, and to complete the illusion, small black glass bead eyes are added. The fly is tied on size 10 or 12 Daiichi model 1770 hooks. The pattern takes some time to tie, though Richard seemed to put it all together quite nimbly, but it is worth the trouble and has won Richard a lot of fish.

Hubert tied only one pattern during the evening, but then on request demonstrated a number of different fly tying techniques. The fly that Hubert tied was Robbie McPhee's 'Wee Muddler', a cicada pattern made famous on the New Zealand 'Trophy Trout' series of DVDs. The Wee Muddler as a cicada pattern has proven to be a very productive fly when the cicadas are about in the summer months. It looks drab and unattractive, but on the water it looks very much like the real cicadas, and it floats low in the surface film as the real insects do.

Hubert tied the Wee Muddler on a size 10 dry fly hook, using monofilament tying thread which



*Tying in the CDC*

is stronger for spinning the deer hair. For the abdomen he uses polypropylene dubbing in either green or brown. The natural cicadas come in a variety of colours, depending on the surrounding bush, but green and brown cover most situations. The dubbing is started above the barb and continues to the middle of the hook shank, where a bunch of deer hair is tied in on top of the hook. Hubert ties a loop of thread around the deer hair in order to pull it down on top of the shank and then he uses three strong turns to secure it. This causes the hair to flare, so he then adds a few more turns of less tension to keep the bundle a little narrower in profile. Dubbing is then added over the base of the deer hair and then a second bunch of deer hair is tied in, this being less bulky than the first bunch. More dubbing is then tied over this point, which is about three quarters of the way along the

hook shank. A third thicker bundle of deer hair is now tied in just behind the eye and pulled tightly to spin it around the shank. This hair is then pushed back and the thread is tied off behind the eye. Hubert then removes the fly from the vice and trims it to shape. It is important to trim under the shank so that the gape is left clear. The fly needs to be trimmed to shape slowly and carefully with a sequence of small careful snips.



*Hubert Reichelt explaining some finer points of technique*

After he had completed tying a couple of samples of this pattern Hubert was asked to demonstrate various fly tying techniques. He showed how he ties in deer hair wings, and then how to tie a parachute-style hackle on a curved hook (grub hook or shrimp hook) so that the fly sits correctly in the surface film with the same posture as an emerging nymph. He also demonstrated how to tie a parachute hackle using a white foam cylinder as a wing post. He wrapped thread around the foam post and this reduced its overall diameter where it was compressed under the thread tension. This created a nick in the foam and the parachute hackle was wound into this nick. After the hackle was tied off the top of the foam post was cut back, leaving a visible button of white foam just above the hackle that acted as a sighter. If done correctly this caused the fly to hang in the surface film in exactly the same orientation as a hatching insect. Fish love emerging nymphs at this stage of the hatch because they are 'sitting ducks' and the trout can cruise along making leisurely rises to mop up the hatching insects. Hubert also demonstrated tying parachute hackles on a vertical post where he affirmed that it was critical to use the right material for the post. In his view the best material for posts was polypropylene floating yarn by Wapsi. This material retains its shape during a long fishing session (whereas many others don't), and is easily dried with one false cast.

The members present were very grateful to both Hubert and Richard for demonstrating their skills and for presenting some great patterns to try.

## VFFA Casting with Peter Hayes

Sunday July 22, 2012

Commencing at 10 am and finishing at 4 pm

BBQ Lunch & Drinks provided.

Cost – \$145 per member,

Venue - the Fairfield Casting Pool

Come along and learn the techniques that Peter has perfected from over 20 years of competing in casting and fishing competitions.

If you are attending, please bring your favourite casting rod, matched with a bright coloured easy to see fly line, a chair, and some eye protection (i.e. sunglasses).

Please note – this event is limited to a maximum of 12 participants.

To book your spot please contact: Rick Dugina on - Phone: 0401 963 601 or email on [edugina@bigpond.com](mailto:edugina@bigpond.com)



# President's Message

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Well, the fishing season is almost over, at least for me. The Goulburn River is running so high that it is pointless even going there. Our two Japanese guests have left for New Zealand with good impressions of our fishing opportunities here. They got to cast a line over the Rubicon and managed a few rainbows. They also managed to fulfil their wish to visit Mick Hall (many thanks for your time, Mick), and to visit the Alfred Ronalds gravesite, where they saw the fantastic work that was done by members of the VFFA in the restoration. I know for a fact that they took many photos, and Noboyuki Kawana will be writing a report on their trip which we will include in a future issue of the newsletter. I was greatly impressed by the excellent casting of Tatsuya Yamada, and by the incredibly beautiful flies that these guys tied. I would also thank David Featherstone for hosting our guests around Ballarat for a day. They were very impressed with Victoria and with the members of the VFFA. In fact they asked if they could join as international members. I hope to see an application form from them soon.



Obviously the big news (and you should already have received a letter by mail) is about our move to the Celtic Club. Hamish Hughes and his Venue Committee have worked very hard to achieve a great outcome for members. It is now up to you all to support this work by attending the meetings and functions. The CC has great food and a wonderful atmosphere. They have also provided a room for us to use for our library. I hope that in time we may use this facility and our books in a more useful fashion; possibly as a reading room / drop-in centre during the week.

Moving the Library: a small group of council members has volunteered to audit and pack the books. We could really use a hand if you have some time in the next week or so. Contact myself or Marty Rogers to get the details. We also need to dismantle the display cases so the movers can do the re-location.

The first meeting at the Celtic Club will be the auction. This will consist mainly of books from the library of R.A. (Tony) Brothers. A catalogue is included with this newsletter. Make sure you book your attendance for dinner and the auction so we can organise the appropriate space. I expect this auction to be well attended and it will be limited to VFFA members only.

The following meeting, in June, will feature some representatives from Time Plus Communications. I recently had a meeting with their principal about our requirements. They will show us the latest (GME) equipment and explain the capabilities of the various 2-way radios, sat phones, in-car units and personal locator beacons. This focus on personal safety is in line with our recently published Risk Management Strategy, and will facilitate a far greater level of safety for members when out in the bush. We have also discussed the possibility of bulk purchase discounts for members. (Another opportunity to buy some more tackle, but this is “for our safety”.)

On June 7 we will hold our annual Partners Dinner. This is the opportunity for our partners to check on what we get up to on our meeting nights. The convener for this event is Peter Boag, so ring or email early as it will be upon us soon.

Peter Hayes will be our speaker in July. He will also run a casting day on the Sunday for a lucky 10 (maximum 12) members to attend. I am taking bookings now, so get in quick, preferably by email. The cost will be \$145.00, payable in advance to the Treasurer.

We then have Mike Stevens (Tassie member and major publisher) as guest speaker at our Annual Dinner. Please note that at the Celtic Club we are limited to a total of 80 at the Dinner, so again, book early as we normally exceed this number. Then in September we have the AGM, where we will see the usual turnover of Council members. After two years service as President I will be stepping down so that our very capable Senior Vice-President, Terry Rogers, can take the reins. I urge all members to consider standing for election to council and / or the other positions that will become available, including Senior Vice-President, Junior VP, and some councillor positions. The full list will be advised well prior to the election, but you need to start to consider your nomination now.

The Bullen Merri trip and the Warrnambool trip are also scheduled again this year, so keep an eye on the calendar for the details.

Please note that a number of measures are being put in place for the efficient administration of the Association. These include new email addresses for major officer bearers and for making dinner bookings, a PO Box number for mail, a mobile phone number where you can leave voice messages for the Secretary, and a facility for B-Pay so that you can pay fees and other purchases over the internet. However members will still be able to pay by cash or cheque if this is their preference.

Your council has been very hard at work in providing a significant step forward in ensuring the future viability of our Association. We would benefit by an increase in our membership, so if you are sharing our newsletters you could ask your friends to share the financial load by becoming members and receiving their own newsletters and joining in our activities.

Hoping to catch up with you soon,

Tight lines,

*Rick Dugina*

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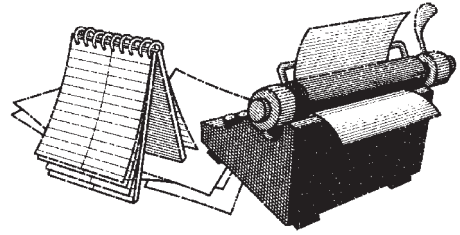
## **New Members Welcomed ...**

It is with real pleasure that we welcome Stuart Strickland and Wayne Stott as new members this month. We trust that their membership of the Association brings many years of pleasurable enjoyment and involvement.

*The Waipahi River –  
a Nancy Tichborne  
watercolour*



# From the EDITOR'S DESK



Firstly, a sad note. Just a few weeks ago, on April 17, Jim Blakeslee's father passed away in California. Jim is well known to all of us through our newsletters as our regular and very reliable Warrnambool correspondent, and to many of us personally. He is a brilliant angler and fly tier, and a very warm, friendly and generous angling colleague. Fortunately Jim was able to fly to California to spend some time with his father in those last few days. His father, Charles ('Chuck') Blakeslee, was very prominent in the US scuba diving community, and among a host of other accomplishments, was the founder of the very popular and widely read American 'Skin Diver Magazine'. Our thoughts and deep sympathies are with Jim and his wife Tricia at this time.

A correction too. We make every effort to get the important details right in our newsletters, and the work of our small group of proof readers is greatly appreciated. But last month some wrong dates slipped past. Most were found and corrected before we went to print, but the Cane Day notice – advertising this year's Cane Day on Sunday, June 18, was incorrect. June 18 is a Monday, and the correct date of course is Sunday, June 17. Sorry about that.

President Rick and I have spent some time correcting and updating the membership database. It's taken several hours but hopefully we're now close to having all those details, especially mail addresses and email addresses, correct. One reason for doing this follows from Rick's recent letter offering members the opportunity to receive the newsletters as emailed pdf files. A small number have indicated a preference for this method of delivery, and we should be able to make the change for them this month. But it does give rise to an obvious request – if you change your home address or email address then please let us know. Newsletters being 'returned to sender' and bouncing emails do cause some frustration.

Related to this is the superb work that Kevin Finn is doing behind the scenes to update and improve our website. In the next month or two members will find the VFFA website an increasingly useful and informative site to visit. Keep watching.

And talking about websites, two that I regularly visit are the Orvis podcast site - <http://www.orvis.com/intro.aspx?subject=6413>, and the Ask About Fly-fishing site - <http://www.askaboutflyfishing.com>. Both sites provide excellent podcasts on a variety of fly-fishing topics, which I then download to my iPhone and listen to when I'm out and about. The presenter on the Orvis podcasts is Tom Rosenbauer, who has authored some superb fly-fishing books. A recent podcast tackled the topic of solunar tables, moon phases, barometric pressure changes, and other weather-related factors that influence our fishing. All beaut stuff, and of great interest to me personally. If fishing opportunities are limited, then it's obviously advantageous to be able to check the weather map and a few other charts and guides, and then schedule the outings to coincide with the times when the trout are most likely to be feeding furiously.

If only it was that simple! It's certainly contentious. Tom Rosenbauer suggests in the recent podcast that Solunar Theory and Solunar Tables are just so much 'snake oil', yet I personally

know some very good anglers who are convinced that their best catches invariably occur in the recommended ‘major feeding periods’ listed in the Solunar Tables. Tom also informs his listeners that there is no real scientific data connecting fish feeding activity with changes in barometer readings, and he points out that a trout rising up to the surface of a lake or stream through a few feet of water would experience a change in pressure due to the change in water depth that was many magnitudes greater than the trifling changes in air pressure created by a dropping or rising barometer. So there you go. There are lots of factors that might effect the feeding inclinations of our beloved trout – moon phase, barometer, water temperature, air temperature, strength and direction of the wind, cloudy or sunny, time of day, water level, water clarity, month of the year, proximity to public holidays, distance from bridges and other access points, distance from Melbourne, number of grass hoppers in the nearby paddocks, time elapsed since last fishing competition, the AFL season and whether Collingwood is winning or losing (yes – I did once hear that suggested seriously as a possible factor), ... so it’s tricky. The challenge is to sort the authentic and verifiable influences from the many popular misconceptions and superstitions (you know – “when the wind’s in the east, the fish bite least”, etc). When you’ve got it all sorted, please let me know!

In the meantime, tight lines, and remember – your next cast might well be the one that transforms your day into one of the best you’ve ever had.

*Lyndon Webb*

## **VFFA Dinner with Partners**

**Shamrock Dining Room at the Celtic Club**

Thursday June 7, 2012

@ 7:00 pm for 7:30 pm

\$40 per person

Drinks: On consumption paid by individuals

Dress – Jacket and Tie for Men

RSVP: Peter Boag – 9389 8003 or 0408 711 946

By Friday, June 1

# Fishing Memories

(Rex Hunt reflects on a very precious fly-fishing memory)

I entered the river downstream from my selected spot. I had watched for a few minutes two trout taking small insects from the surface. I gently made my way towards an overhanging tree branch and saw a bubble line coming down beside a long bunch of strap weed. The river was slightly coloured, tannin, this being normal here even after long periods of dry weather. I was conscious of presenting my fly as well as possible. A couple of small false casts and I released my line. It fell perfectly. Drifting down the run, nothing. I was disappointed, as I felt that a good presentation to a feeding fish was nearly always accepted. So I stopped and just stood in the river. Then I saw him - a small brown of around 12 inches. He came up and majestically took a very small midge-type insect from the edge of the weed.

The fish now had my undivided attention. It is amazing how when this happens nothing else in the world matters, and I suppose this is one of the main reasons why we go fly-fishing for trout. Again my cast was spot on. Again, nothing. "What's going on?" I thought to myself. "Surely this fish is feeding. I have made two of my best deliveries and he has given me the cold shoulder both times." I recall thinking that perhaps he was digesting his insect and was not ready to feed again. A couple of minutes passed and then he came up again. This time it was a false rise to a small piece of drifting bark or something similar. After a short wait I cast to where he was rising consistently. He came up to my fly, a Coachman, and literally hovered in a vertical position eyeballing the fly.

Then he took it. I mumbled "Mr Findlay's Water-race" as my allotted time to pause before setting the hook. I was on and the fish was not at all happy. Nor should he be. After a wonderful few moments of darting, jumping and pulling, my prize was beached on the side of the river. I removed the fly, grabbed a stone and dispatched my little trout.

No big deal in a normal day's fly-fishing you might think. But to a 15 year old boy in 1964 it was monumental. The day was my 15th birthday in March, the river was the Acheron at Narbethong, the fly outfit was a Shakespeare Rod, Pflueger reel, Kingfisher DT 6 line and J.M. Gillies tied leader. My father had driven me to the bridge on the Maroondah Highway and was filling in time picking blackberries. I had been fishing regularly that trout season, but mainly with unweighted worms, crickets and grasshoppers. This particular day, my birthday, was the commencement of my fly-fishing career - a career that has lasted right until today. My interest, and then enthusiasm, to commence fly-fishing was spawned, so to speak, in the previous year, 1963, when I purchased David Scholes' second book, *The Way of an Angler*. Many times I had earned detention and yard duty at school because all I would read was this little fly-fishing gem. I am sure many of you will have fished Mr Findlay's water-race, or been with David when he snapped the tip of his cane rod that night on the Goulburn. Or perhaps stood with him as he fished Snoddy's big bend in the Yarra at Launching Place and caught his 5 pounder.

What a skill it is to write. What another skill it is to take the reader with you on your adventures. One of my treasured fly-fishing pieces is my signed copy of that book. Anyway, I digress. Fast forward to March this year (2012). I, for some time now, have wanted to revisit the site of that occurrence all those years ago. I wanted to revisit the pool and to catch another fish in the same place that started me on this amazing journey in fishing, a journey that has seen me travel to all parts of the world. And yet, despite fishing many celebrated waters on the planet, my instinct was to return to the Acheron, where it all started just shy of 50 years ago.

This might also explain to my friend Bernard Holbery my constant enquiries earlier this year about the state of the rivers in the Narbethong area.

So it was again, in early March, that I parked at the Narbethong bridge. Little had changed at the area where I parked the car. Litter was scattered everywhere and spent shotgun shells lay on the ground. The sounds of the river and surrounds were very familiar. The piercing yell of a Kookaburra rang out down the valley, and a small blue wren was focussing on an unsuspecting hovering caddis. Scholes, through his writings, had introduced me to the things that surround the river, not just the trout and its capture. For that I am ever grateful. Perhaps this explains why, despite my love of my friends, I do prefer at times to fish the water alone. I suppose this is best explained by Norman Maclean in his masterpiece, *A River Runs Through It*, when he mentions “all existence fades to a being with my soul.” As I made my way downstream towards the pool, some of the areas were quite different to all those years ago. 4WD enthusiasts had changed the river somewhat where they’d driven into and then along the river and then out again. I wonder how much some of our rivers can take before finally succumbing to our vigorous intrusions. An old windmill that had pumped water from the river ever so enthusiastically all those years ago now lay a shattered and rusty shadow of its former glory, and blackberries had spread to areas that used to be open grass banks. But if you looked carefully through all the changes, the river was still itself. Bubbling along, running over small gravel bars, then slowly moving through deeper parts, and then doing it all again.

Again, despite a protracted length of dry weather, the river was slightly tannin coloured. I entered the stream near enough to the spot that I had entered all those years ago. I was ready. I tied on a Coachman size 14, as I did back then. Whilst stripping some line and preparing to cast I heard a splash. I couldn’t believe it. In the same area, along the same patch of strap weed there was a rising trout. There were no obvious insects that would have been the target of such a splashy rise. Apart from a dancing pair of white caddis and a small buzzing damsel fly, there was nothing I could match to see whether I could repeat my triumph of five decades ago. So I decided to test the water. My cast was not bad - not perfect, but not bad. I felt, at the time, that I may have been short. We all know that it’s not bad, at times, to be short when you have not made your best presentation. At least you have not spooked your fish. I cast again. I stopped the forward cast with my left hand and it fluttered and lay on the surface beautifully. A short mend and I had the perfect trap. I could see the same thing all those years ago - my fly dancing along the run. The trout, a small brown of roughly the same size, 12 inches, inspected the fly and bluntly refused it. No ifs or buts, it was a full on knock back. I thought at the time that if I try again with the same fly, I may spook this fish completely and ruin my chance of reliving a magical moment in my fishing life. I sat on the edge of the river bank and opened my fly box. On inspection I looked at smallish Adams, midge balls, Klinks, Royal Wulffs and emergers. What do I use? Then I saw it. Pilks’s palmer tied Red Tag. So many times on difficult fish the good old Red Tag has brought home the take.

There was no sign of the trout. The river hit the edge of the strap weed area and then ran alongside the weed, creating a small bubble line. Perfect. He’s got to be there. I haven’t spooked him; this is it! The fly hit the water a little roughly and bounced off the floating weed into the run. The trout came up as if there was nothing else in the world he would rather have. “Mr Findlay’s water-race”, I mumbled, and he was on. Away he went as he felt the pressure, jumping, diving and darting for his life. About 40 seconds later I beached the little brown on the gravel and he glistened in the late morning sunlight. Golden sides, dark green back and rich red spots of those beautiful Acheron valley browns. The only difference, from back then till now, is that this little beauty would live another day.

Many things have changed in the world in which we live. One of the best in fishing is that we don't have to kill fish just for the sake of it. Don't get me wrong - I love eating trout, particularly the real wild ones. But I think it is best that fish like this little brown go back, particularly in delicate areas like this one. So there you are.

I am very happy that I have joined the Association. I have, in a very short time, made some wonderful friends who I respect. I also enjoy their company. To those members who have gone out of their way to make me feel welcome, I say a very big 'thank you'. To those who have tied me flies, drawn me maps and generally made me feel so welcome, I am deeply indebted. Fly-fishing for trout to me is what I want to do until I cannot do it any longer.

Finally, I have been very fortunate to have travelled the world in my job and fished some wonderful waters with some wonderful people. I have caught the pretty browns of the Itchen, fought the big rainbows of the Tongariro, and I fished the golden years at Lake Sorell. But now that I have decided to enjoy my retirement, I keep coming back to the places where it all happened all those years ago. Many times in my public life I have yearned for those uncomplicated and happy days I spent fishing as a young man. Don't get me wrong, even with the great cost that comes with the loss of anonymity and public scrutiny, even in private matters made public, my life has given me an unbelievable living and retirement benefit. And I am delighted to say that I have now found, again, the joys of the simple things in fly-fishing small streams. In the words of Norman Maclean again, "I am haunted by waters".

Thank you for allowing me to share with you a special insight into why I fly-fish for trout.  
With my best regards,

*Rex Hunt*

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## The Ghosts Of Misty River

(By Dermot O'Brien. Dermot has been pondering for some time whether he might contribute some fly-fishing fiction. After some prompting from your editor he produced the following tale, this being the first of a three part story).

**S**omewhere off in the distant gums the scream of a cockatoo broke the silence. It had been a good silence, befitting a small and solemn occasion. Just the river and me. The ashes spilled out, most hitting the water and some blown away by a slight breeze. I thought of no better way for an old fly fisherman to end up. And, no better way to celebrate his life than to wander up the river and cast a line.

Old-world was the best way to describe it, leather chairs, the walls dark and seasoned timber up to waist height. A clay urn, a wooden chest with brass fittings and a set of keys were before me. The man behind the desk was no spring chicken and he was reading the Will of Mr. Finn McTrout. He read without emotion. Occasionally he paused, looked over his rimless glasses, then continued on. Not much to show, I thought, for a long life, although I was not really sure how old McTrout had been.

McTrout's little farm cottage stood beside the Misty River, the local landowner letting him live there for many years. Wading close to his cottage we were nodding acquaintances at first,

eventually becoming friends bonded by a love of fly-fishing. He told me a little of a life dominated by fishing for trout and salmon. He captivated me with tales from afar, of great fishermen and great rivers, a bygone era when fish were plentiful and fish were big.

Even when I had no time for fishing, McTrout would write and tell me about the comings and goings on his great trout river. He wrote to me about flies, fish, water and men. I looked forward to his letters. I was sad when I heard of his passing.

I was jolted back from this thought by the lawyer who had stopped reading.

We unlocked and lifted the lid on an old chest. Old and well used fly reels, some papers and a number of what looked like handwritten journals. I thumbed one open and there was a sketch of a fly and under it were the words: The Never Fail Fly....interesting, but I put it back with the others.

The keys on his desk were for McTrout's ancient Land Rover. I wondered what had happened to his fly rods.

Scattering the old fisherman's ashes on Misty River, the river he lived beside for so long...a privilege. A cockatoo screamed again. The scream was eerie, it sounded almost human - like someone calling me. The river absorbed the ashes almost immediately and they became one. I looked into the water for a long time. I thought I could see the old man's face staring back at me. Time to turn away.

Upstream looked particularly inviting, the water forceful, hard to wade. The dry went out a few times and nothing. This river never gave up its riches easily.

Scanning the water my attention stopped on two big ghost gums either side of a stream running in. Strange, I had fished this river many times and had never noticed the little stream. The gums formed an arch and wading under the arch the stream opened up and fish were rising.

Not alone. Another fly fisherman stood on the bank. Tall and thin wearing an old battered vest, a bamboo fly rod strung up. He spoke.

"I fished with McTrout," he said. "I fished with him on the Battenkill and before in Newfoundland in '38. McTrout and I fished Big Falls on the Upper Humber River. We had 30 salmon each before noon.

"The Battenkill, a difficult river even for the best. No-one ever masters the old 'kill .... no-one," said the tall stranger.

"McTrout did better than most," he said. "He was deadly on Dutchman's Hole and the Eagleville Bridge Pool."

This tall fisherman with an American accent talked of float planes, canoes, rods, trout and salmon. He talked with great authority on flies and mighty trout and salmon rivers.

He knew much of McTrout, more than me, saying that one day the Australian with rod and pack had just turned up. He said they fished many times together. The old fisherman's conversation finally slowed and he stood to go. I asked him his name and said: "Lee Wulff."

We shook hands and he handed me the rod. I knew it had belonged to McTrout. He then walked upstream. I stared as he walked away. After a few paces he was just not there.

The cockatoo again.....the shrill more and more human, someone calling me?

*(To be continued)*

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# Omeo Fishing

(by Humpy)

Fishing in the Omeo area was non-existent for almost the entire month of March, due to a rain event that spread over about half of Australia. It extended from Darwin, through Central Australia, picked up most of NSW and dumped many inches of rain in our area. However since that time we have had great, settled autumn weather, and the fish have responded by returning to the feed.

The best river in our area this year has been the Buemba River. This tiny high country stream runs into the Gibbo River, and contains a mixture of wild rainbows and browns. Normally this river has been predominately a rainbow fishery with most of the trout being pan sized. A one pound trout would be quite a trophy. For some reason this situation has changed this year, and a lot of browns have entered the system. Also, the average size of the fish (both browns and rainbows) has increased quite a bit, and a few real thumpers have appeared. We are talking here about fish of 3 to 4 pounds mixed up with a lot of one pounders. Now bear in mind, this is a tiny river that you can jump across in some places. Dry flies have been very successful here.

The Bundarra River is yielding a few fish of between ¼ and 1 pound. Nearby the Cobungra River is fishing a little better, particularly in the Innisfail area. The fish here are also a little bigger and they have been happy to take a dry fly for much of the year. The lower Middle Creek has also fished well for fish of a similar size.

The Mitta River is a mixed bag. In the Hinnomunjie area the fishing has been poor to patchy. A reasonable number of small fish have been showing up, including a few small rainbows, but generally the fishing has been ordinary, although I spoke to one fly-fisherman yesterday who had lost a couple of good rainbows near the Livingston River. Perhaps a few lake fish are making an early run. In the upper section, upstream of the Bundarra River, the fishing has been better - more fish and of a larger size. Nymphs have been the fly of choice. Hubert Reichelt's 'Bismarck' in size 12 has accounted for some of these trout.

The middle section of Livingston Creek has been fishing well for small browns in the Cassilis area. Near Buchan the Timbarra River has been brilliant all year. It is a great little river full of browns up to 2 pounds.

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*From our archives –  
a re-enactment of  
trout arriving in  
Australia in 1864 as  
part of the 1988  
Bicentennial  
celebrations*



## VFFA Enoch's Point Resort Weekend, April 20 – 22

10 members of the VFFA, including our host John Pilkington, spent a very enjoyable few days at this beautiful location on the banks of the Big River. I think I speak for all who put a line in the water in saying that the trout were few and far between in all locations that were fished, and in some instances they just didn't show themselves at all.

However, we all know that fly-fishing is not just about fly-fishing. The scenery in this part of Victoria is nothing short of spectacular. The birdlife is colourful and abundant and the overall peace and tranquillity of the region has to be witnessed to be fully appreciated.

Away from the streams our host did a wonderful job in maintaining the 5 Star reputation of "Chez Pilks Resort @Enoch's Point". The unanimous opinion of the guests was that: "The Resident Chef made the best sausage rolls they had ever encountered".

On Saturday night we were treated to a menu of Clay Oven Roasted Lamb garnished with Baked Potatoes, Pumpkin and Roasted Garlic Cloves, dressed with a Robust Red Wine Based Gravy with a side serving of Baby Green Garden Peas. The Main Course was followed by a wonderful Sticky Date Pudding, again produced by our host out of the Clay Oven. The meal was completed with a tasty variety of cheeses.



*They look a bit stern, but the Saturday evening meal was delicious*

All meals, other than breakfast, were consumed with a wide selection of alcoholic beverages to aid digestion and enhance lively discussion on an equally wide selection of topics.

I will leave it to others to relate any fishing tales that they may have from this weekend other than to let members know that I think Hamish Hughes is in training for a new Olympic Event akin to Rowing (sans boat), Swimming (dressed to look like a fly fisherman) and Mud



*Peter Boag and Rick Dugina - breakfast time*

Wrestling (sans Opponent), as on two separate occasions on the Saturday afternoon, Hamish threw himself into the Big River (back somersault in pike position) in what must have been a well-disguised Training Session for the forthcoming London Olympics.

In conclusion I would, on behalf of all attendees, again like to thank John Pilkington for his wonderful hospitality, and would recommend to any member who has not been fortunate enough to have visited “Chez Pilks Resort @Enoch’s Point” to keep an eye out for when bookings open for next year - and then act quickly.

*Terry Rogers, April 24, 2012.*



*The beautiful Big River at Enoch's Point*



*Brian Kent-Hughes was fishing a nymph*



*David Wakefield and Peter Boag*



*The house special – sausage rolls with Pilkington's secret herbs and spices*



*President Rick fishing with his favourite cane rod*

## Visit By Two Top Anglers From Japan

(Readers may recall that in the July 2009 issue of our newsletter we reported that Council had received a very generous donation from Dr Nobuyuki Kawano, who was a neuro-surgeon in Japan. In fact while being Brain Tumor Pathologist, President of Isobe Clinic, and Guest Professor of Neurosurgery at Kitasato University School of Medicine in Japan, he claimed that his primary occupation was that of a ‘fly-fisherman’.

So the doctor is a very keen fly-fisher, and his 2009 donation was towards the Alfred Ronalds Memorial Appeal. Alfred Ronalds was a very prominent British fly-fisher and entomologist who wrote a landmark book called *The Fly Fishers’ Entomology*, which was first published in 1836 and ran to 11 editions, the last edition being published in 1913. In November 1848 he left England and sailed to Australia, settling eventually in Ballarat. He died in 1860 (aged 58) and was buried in the Ballarat cemetery. The restoration of his grave was organised by the VFFA a few years ago.

Dr Kawano has a particular interest in Alfred Ronalds and translated the fifth edition of *The Fly Fishers’ Entomology* from English to Japanese for publication. He is also the author of a voluminous work entitled “*Fly Fishing Dictionary*” (684 Pages, 208 color pictures, 153 illustrations) - clearly a reference for the serious Japanese angler.

Nobuyuki and a friend, Tatsuya Yamada, recently visited Australia, and David Featherstone took them out for some local fishing. This is David’s account of their day out.)

The rendezvous at the Stanford Hotel Plaza at 4 am on Friday, April 27, was something of a shock to our visitors. We drove the 90 minutes to our trout waters, a lake in the Ballarat area, and following coffee and sandwiches, were soon ready and keen to tackle those elusive trout.

Tatsuya connected with a large rainbow after just a few casts, but in his excitement he held on too hard and the fish escaped. However on his next hook up he showed his experience and landed a fine rainbow, which he then released. It was a powerful fish. A little later Nobuyuki (aka ‘Nobie’) also managed to connect with and land a couple of lively trout. Both of these anglers showed their skills and their love of the sport.

After our session on the water we visited a florist in Ballarat to purchase a beautiful flower display that was then





taken and placed on the Alfred Ronald's historic gravesite, which the VFFA had restored a few years earlier. As our guests placed the flowers on the grave I'm sure I saw a tear in their eyes. Following lunch in Ballarat we headed back to Melbourne. My Japanese guests fell asleep on the journey back.

When we arrived back at my home in North Balwyn President Rick Dugina met us there for a coffee. Rick and our two guests then headed off to Thornton to enjoy some river fishing on the Goulburn and other local streams.

It was an honour and a privilege to meet our two Japanese visitors and to spend some time with them. They loved being here and especially seeing the fly-fishing that this country offers. They were both top fly-fishers and great guys who love the sport.

*David Featherstone*

## VFFA CANE DAY 2012

**Sunday, June 17, 9:00 am to 3:30 pm**

Members are reminded that our annual Cane Day is fast approaching. At the Red Tag Pool, Yarrabend Park, Fairfield (Melway's reference 2D H2)

VFFA will provide BBQ lunch and refreshments. Rod Makers will be in attendance, along with a cast of thousands. Cast with the new rods and compare them with gems of the past.

So unwrap your dear old friend and bring it along to meet the new boys on the block.



### “IT'S ALL ABOUT THE CANE”

Red Tag Pool is an all weather venue, so bring along a raincoat in case the weather turns.

Please Contact David Grisold: on 0419 558 462 or [rjgrisold@bigpond.com](mailto:rjgrisold@bigpond.com)

# Dun Hatches and Some Theology on the Steavenson

(Bernard Holbery)

*“In our family, there was no clear line between religion and fly fishing. We lived at the junction of great trout rivers in Western Montana, and our father was a Presbyterian minister and a fly fisherman who tied his own flies and taught others. He told us about Christ’s disciples being fishermen, and we were left to assume, as my brother and I did, that all first-class fishermen on the Sea of Galilee were fly-fishermen and that John, the favorite, was a dry-fly fisherman.”*

(From *A River Runs Through It*, by Norman Maclean.)

Fishing the Steavenson River with Hubert has become a weekly occurrence over the past two years. We start early, with Hubert or myself preparing the lunch, and we invariably arrive home late - 11 pm or later. The locals up that way are becoming quite familiar with Hubert’s face. As he says when we fish the Steavenson, “I’m in your backyard”, just as when I fish with him in New Zealand, I’m definitely in his backyard.

In October and November the Steavenson has some superb mayfly hatches. We usually plan our outings around the weather forecasts, looking for overcast days. The Steavenson has a little dark-coloured brown mayfly that is matched by a size 16 dry fly. It is one of the Baetis species, and the little brown dun usually hatches at about 10:30 in the morning or, if it comes on in the afternoons, around 2:30 to 3:00 pm. One particular section of the river produces clouds of mayfly where fish rise consistently for them. I find this fishing more exciting even than the late summer hopper fishing. I have already seen two huge hatches this season, and by late November the trout have stomachs full of duns and are waiting in keen anticipation for them. The best fly to use in this hatch is a parachute pheasant tail or a parachute hare’s ear, both brown in colour. In previous years we have landed some better than average trout. Hubert, of course, needs no introduction. He is an exceptional fly-fisherman and a great friend and fishing companion.

As a young boy he lived on the edge of the Bavarian forest in Germany. Every Sunday morning his mother dressed him up in his finest clothes, ready for church. However before he left he would sneak into his mother’s sewing room and take a needle and a length of strong silk thread. We would bend the needle around into a curve (a rough fish hook) and then stuff the needle and thread into his trouser pocket. His mother thought he was heading off to church, but Hubert had other plans. The path to the church followed a trout stream, and he would walk the banks, eventually arriving at a bridge where he could look down and see the beautiful crystal clear water with trout swaying gently in the current.

The temptation was always too much for young Hubert. He never made it to church, but a fisherman was born. He would dig worms out of the side of the stream, and the trout he caught were stored in his leather pants.

On Sunday mornings I often walk through the churchyard at Buxton. The parishioners invite me in to worship, even with my waders on and fly rod in my hand. But it’s 10:30 and I’m praying that the duns are hatching. These people are wonderful parishioners, but I’m not an Anglican and I feel that perhaps the Good Lord leads me to the river through their

churchyard for a reason. So Hubert and I have a lot in common. Fly-fishing is high church so we both miss a hell of a lot of regular church.

I often take Hubert to the best parts of the Steavenson for fly-fishing, because every month produces different types of fishing, and this river has been my life. I have had days with Hubert when we've caught up to 60 fish together. Sometimes the hatches draw 3 and 4 pound browns up to the surface. Most people think the Steavenson is full of small fish, but in all rivers there are always some real gems. They only come out when it's dark, or when the grasshopper season is in full swing, or when those little brown mayflies are hatching. A local and very skilled fly-fisherman, Donavon, caught a 5½ lb brown recently when the hatch was on.

These dun hatches are frequent in November, but then as the summer approaches they become fewer and far between. They seem to appear again around Easter, but not in the numbers you find in November and early December.

In a day's fishing Hubert and I might fish one or more of the Steavenson, the Acheron River, the Little River, the Rubicon, the Goulburn, and possibly one or two of the 'twig streams'. That's the beauty of this region – there are so many trout streams and we need to look after them all for our fellow anglers. And a short drive takes you to John Pilkington's Big River at Enoch's Point. What a magical place. God placed them there especially for fly-fishers, of that I'm quite sure.

Churches and rivers go hand-in-hand - they both lead to serenity and peace.

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*No, not from the Steavenson. This one came from the Latrobe Valley club dams, and is quite small by their standards*

# Preserving The Catch

(Julian Newton-Brown)

Many years ago on my first fishing trip to Tasmania I met a number of fly-fishermen at the old pub at Miena. Some of them had wicker creels containing fish that were a few days old. These fish had been cleaned of course, and the drying that occurred in the creels helped to 'keep' the fish.

Prior to that trip I had fished mainly at Rocky Valley, and as this was close to home at the time any surplus fish were frozen. Glad wrap was not even heard of at this time, so they were just plonked in the deep freeze. Nevertheless I had by then learned how to smoke a trout, but more about that later.

Trout that had been cleaned and hung to dry kept remarkably well if the weather was cool. I remember in 1983 when I was building the pub at Miena a plumber friend of mine came over to install the waste and septic system. Jim Allen sent him home with some trout that had been hung up and dried. He told me they were delicious when later cooked back in Victoria.

John Fox, who was a fishing guide in Tasmania for some years, was a leader in filleting and later cryovacing trout. He was featured doing so on Rex Hunt's program and inspired others to follow suit. Jim Allen learned the Fox method of filleting, and is now almost as quick as Foxy at it. There is no doubt about the presentation of fillets frozen in an air-extracted pack, and of their enhanced 'keeping' qualities. When unfrozen they are just as good as fresh fillets.

When out fishing we usually have a fish box with an ice pack in it to keep the fish we catch cold through the day. Then we hang them overnight to dry and the flesh becomes firmer, which makes filleting easier the next morning. We are fortunate in the central highlands of Tasmania to be well above any sort of pollution in the air, water or ground. Thus the trout are superior to those farmed and fed on pellets containing additives. Once unfrozen our fillets are second to none and can be cooked in a variety of ways. Simply fried in a mix of butter and olive oil until the flesh does not bounce back when pressed by a knife, then eaten with a little salt, pepper and lemon is hard to beat.

Another way of preserving the catch is to gravlax the fillets. This process adds value and interest to your catch. The word 'gravlax' comes from the Norwegian or Swedish words for dead trout and is made as follows:

1. Mix sugar - two parts (brown is best), with salt - one part, and some freshly ground black pepper and some chopped dill.
2. Spread this mixture on both sides of the fillets. Put them in a dish and cover with glad wrap. Turn after one day. On the second day the salt and sugar will be a liquid. Osmosis will have extracted moisture from the fish and made it much firmer. This has the effect of helping to preserve it, and wrapped in glad wrap it will keep for much longer.
3. Discard the liquid, then quickly rinse the fillets and dry them. That completes the process.
4. Sauce: This can be made to taste but is usually made with mustard, either strong or mild, olive oil, cream or yoghurt, and chopped dill.

5. To serve: Slice slivers off the skin, then put these onto a biscuit, add a little sauce, and eat with a glass of your favourite tippie.

The next method is to smoke the fish. I started smoking trout in the late 1960s when I caught lots of fish and wanted to add value and interest to them. I read a book on smoking fish and had a few disasters along the way. It is only by using 'cold' smoke that trout can be preserved.



*Julian's second smoker smoking the fillets*

Smokers available in Australia which use sawdust heated with methylated spirits produce a very palatable and usually delicious result. But having been cooked the flesh it is not preserved and will not keep long.

Before smoking the fish some curing is necessary. This is done in the same manner as in gravlax. In fact I have smoked fillets after subjecting them to the same treatment, and they come out just the same.

For many years I smoked whole trout in a smokehouse on the roof of my shack in Tasmania. They were headed and tailed and soaked in brine over night, then smoked for up to a day and a half. I used to insert twigs into the belly flaps to keep them open to the smoke. The smoke was generated from the wood heater inside the shack, which had to be stoked through the night and at times through the day – very inconvenient when the fishing was good.

When the old shack burnt down I built a new smokehouse, but have used it only twice as I have a new and easier system. While in Ireland in 2007 I visited a place on the west coast where they smoke wild salmon commercially. They used only the fillets on racks, with cold smoke generated electrically, and this is what I now do too.

We came home via the USA and stayed with an old friend whose husband is a fly-fisher. He had a smoker containing an electric element and racks, but it only semi-cooked the fish. However I purchased one, and brought it home and discarded the 110 volt element, replacing it with an equivalent 240 volt one. This I placed into a metal box and by using some metal flue I was able to send cold smoke to the fillets. I can smoke the fillets of six or seven large trout in one day, and the final product is better than from the previous whole fish system.

To cure before smoking I dissolve two cups of brown sugar and one of salt in a litre of water, and soak the fillets over night. The fillets are then wiped dry and allowed to become 'tacky' before smoking (i.e. just leave them on the rack with the door open for a while). The so-called pellicle becoming 'tacky' helps the smoke to 'take' to the fish. The fillets are placed skin side down on the racks and smoked for about 12 to 14 hours.

When completed each fillet is wrapped in glad wrap and put in the frig. If you can afford a cryovac machine you can pump all the air from the fillets



*Making some adjustments to the first smoker*

and seal it in a special plastic bag, this being the best method by far. However if using glad wrap then ensure they are well-wrapped. Otherwise the smoke flavour will penetrate such items as milk. I recall years ago I took David and Noela Wallace fishing to Lake Ada. Noela made the sandwiches and I remarked on the nice smoked ham she used. She replied that it was just plain ordinary ham which had been in the frig with some smoked trout I had given to her. The ham was lovely, but smoked milk?

People often ask what kind of wood should be used. Any of the eucalypt species produces the best smoke available. I get red gum chips from the hardware store, but have used most others including yellow box and even snowgum. So you do not have to buy hickory or other imported exotics, as none are as good as eucalypt.

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## This Month's Yarn

(from September 1963)

“You know,” said McTaggart reflectively, “big trout like their privacy.” He paused and gazed reflectively in the direction of his empty glass. Alf gave a start, and promptly ordered a refill. “When my nephew Clarence was a Boy Scout,” McTaggart continued, “he spent a week camping up on the Big River near Pilkington’s Point. Just downstream from the camp the boys built a stone wall out across the stream to create a bathing pool. However the next morning they discovered their wall was knocked down. So they rebuilt it, but the following morning they discovered the same thing had happened. Now, as it happens, I was staying in a little pub not far away, partly to keep my eye on Clarence, but mainly, I confess, because I was trying to catch some of the very decent trout that are still quite numerous in the Big River up there.”

“When this happened to their shingle wall a third time, Clarence came to the pub and told me about it. So I promised to investigate, and after dark that night I crept down to their stone wall and squatted behind a bush. I waited there for about two hours, and then suddenly heard a thumping noise from the river. So I switched on my torch and went to investigate. I couldn't quite make it out at first, but then I realised that a very substantial trout was in the process of bashing the wall down.”

“But wouldn’t he have brained himself?” asked Alf. “Not this trout,” replied McTaggart. “He was a fairly big bloke, probably about 9 or 10 pound, and he had a short length of hollow log over his nose which he was using as a battering ram. He’d make a rush at a stone and over it would go. I was so absorbed with all this that I watched it all happening until he had finished the job. Then he swam up under an overhanging bank, wriggled free of the piece of log, and started just patrolling his beat.” “Did you let it go at that?” queried Alf. “I did”, said McTaggart. “I thought that this fish had exercised such cunning ingenuity he was entitled to be left alone. So I told the boys the next morning that a huge and horrid-looking bunyip had been smashing down the wall at night, and it would be prudent if they moved their bathing pool a few hundred yards upstream, which they did”.

# FLY OF THE MONTH

## *The X-Caddis*



The X-Caddis is a fly that is frequently mentioned on North American websites and podcasts as being the adult caddis pattern of choice. And it is a fairly easy fly to tie.

Firstly, some background: the X-Caddis was apparently developed by Yellowstone's Craig Matthews and John Juracek to represent an emerging or crippled caddis. Caddis emerge very quickly once they reach the surface, and often too quickly for trout to eat them. Trout know this and on occasions will not waste time or energy trying to feed on adults that are not crippled or in the process of emerging. With this in mind Craig Matthews developed this superb pattern to represent those emerging and/or crippled caddis that the trout key in on.

The imitation was originally tied with beaver dubbing to resemble an insect with a nearly transparent trailing shuck, but other tiers changed the X-Caddis's shuck to Antron and sometimes even looped the shuck material back on itself to create a more natural bubble appearance in the surface film. The shuck represents the pupal shuck of the natural, and the lack of hackle allows the fly to sit low in the water like a caddis emerger or cripple.

## The Pattern Details:

**Hook:** Standard Dry Fly hook sizes 12 - 20

**Thread:** 8/0 tying thread, of a colour to match the dubbing used for the body.

**Shuck:** Various materials. Many tiers use Antron, or other synthetic material such as Z-lon. The colour should be light (white, cream, or very pale green being common choices). The shuck should be about 1½ times the gape of the hook, and some tiers insist that you do not cut the ends of the shuck off square, as this looks unnatural. Instead leave the ends ragged and rough.

Alternatively, other tiers recommend tying the shuck around to form a small loop at the back of the fly, as the photo here shows. This is supposed to represent an air bubble at the back of the fly.



**Body:** Dry fly dubbing - colour to match the common caddis flies seen around our rivers. Brown and olive are popular choices, though Hubert Reichelt tells me that while he has tried lots of different colours for his adult caddis patterns, a mid to dark grey body colour seems to work well anywhere. As for materials – any good dry fly dubbing material should be fine. The websites recommend Superfine Dry Fly dubbing, or Antron, but I'm sure most of the usual dry fly dubbings or furs will work. Regardless, the body should be tied thin – the naturals aren't overweight.

**Wing:** For the really small sizes, say #18 or smaller, a CDC wing (light coloured?) can be used. For sizes #12 to #16 short fine deer hair should be used. Cut and stack a small clump of deer hair, then measure the hair against the hook shank so that it matches the length of the hook. Cut the clump of deer hair to the length of the hook and hold it in place with the butt ends of the hair just behind the eye of the hook. Place two loose turns of thread over the hair just behind the hook eye, then pull the thread toward you to tighten it while holding the long tip ends of the hair in place on top of the hook. Wrap the thread forward with two turns through the butt ends of the hair right up to the hook eye. The thread goes through the butt ends of the hair binding them down along the way, securing them tightly in place.

## How To Fish It

The fly is fished with an upstream presentation using a drag-free drift. If necessary, floatant will be applied to the wings to keep the fly within the surface film. The important feature is to allow the body of the fly to float low within the film as an emerging caddis. The fly should ideally sit upright in the film, with most of the body below the surface and the head and wings poking out above. Cast it up and slightly across stream and allow it to drift back. In slower water, let it sit and periodically twitch it just slightly to make it appear that the fly is struggling to emerge.



## 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 "The Country For An Angler" (the History of the VFFA).....	\$70.00 each
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	
<b><i>The Australian Trout by Jack Ritchie.....</i></b>	<b>\$20.00</b>
<b><i>(Special offer – buy one, get one free!)</i></b>	
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 2011 Annual Dinner:

- Armadale Angler • Aussie Angler • Australian Fishing Network • Bernard Holbery
- Compleat Angler, Box Hill • Fly Life Publications • Hookup Bait & Tackle,
- Ferntree Gully • J M Gillies • Lowes Furniture • Mayfly Tackle • Mick Hall •
- Michael Steven's Publishing • Millbrook Lakes Lodge • Nick Taransky - Bamboo
- Rod Maker • Peter Hayes, Cressy • Pro Angler Fishing Tackle • Ray Brown,
- Onkaparinga Flies & Cane Rods • The Flyfisher, Melbourne • Vision Fly Fishing

## VFFA Meetings & Activities

### May 2012

- 17 **General Meeting - 8:00 pm at the Celtic Club: Auction of Books & Equipment**
- 23 Council Meeting – 7:00 pm

### June 2012

- 3 Sunday Casting Commences – at the Red Tag Casting Pools
- 7 **Dinner With Partners – Celtic Club**
- 10 Sunday Casting
- 17 **Annual Cane Day – at the Red Tag Casting Pools**
- 21 **General Meeting - 8:00 pm at the Celtic Club: Time Plus Communications**
- 24 Sunday Casting
- 27 Council Meeting – 7:00 pm at the Celtic Club

### July 2012

- 1 Sunday Casting
- 8 Sunday Casting
- 15 Sunday Casting
- 19 **General Meeting - 8:00 pm at the Celtic Club: Speaker – Peter Hayes**
- 22 Sunday Casting and Casting with Peter Hayes (see advertisement in this issue)
- 25 Council Meeting – 7:00 pm
- 29 Sunday Casting

### August 2012

- 5 Sunday Casting
- 10/11 Annual Bullen Merri trip (TBC)
- 12 Sunday Casting
- 15 Council Meeting – 7:00 pm at the Celtic Club
- 19 Sunday Casting
- 24 **Annual Dinner: Speaker – Mike Stevens – Publisher of Fly-fishing books and magazines**
- 25 President's Casting Day

### September 2012

- 12 Council Meeting – preparation for AGM
- 20 **General Meeting - 8:00 pm at the Celtic Club: AGM**
- 26 First Council Meeting for the new Council – 7:00 pm at the Celtic Club

### October 2012

- 18 **General Meeting - 8:00 pm at the Celtic Club: Details to be confirmed**
- 24 Council Meeting – 7:00 pm at the Celtic Club