

# FLY LINES



MAY 2016

## The May Meeting with April Vokey

At our May meeting we will have the opportunity to hear April Vokey, Canadian fly fisher, fishing guide, casting instructor and TV personality. As a teenager April became a passionate fly fisher and has since dedicated her life to the pursuit. She is now a respected authority in the sport and has travelled the world in pursuit of game fish on a fly rod.

Her articles have appeared in numerous prestigious fly fishing publications and she has become a very popular TV personality. She is a FFF certified casting instructor, fly tying instructor, active conservationist, and much sought after speaker.

The May meeting will be a fabulous opportunity to meet with April. The VFFA has organised a dinner at the Celtic Club for this occasion. April will provide a fly tying demonstration prior to the dinner, and during the evening will speak for about 45 minutes, addressing a number of aspects of fly fishing and giving us some fascinating glimpses of her life as a very successful fly fishing personality in a competitive industry.

THURSDAY, May 19  
6:30 for 7:00pm  
at the  
Celtic Club

An invitation was included in last month's Fly Lines and is again included with this issue. The cost of the dinner has been deliberately kept at a very attractive \$30 in the hope that many members will bring their wives/partners and other guests to meet and hear this exceptional speaker.



Mark it in your diary – Thursday, May 19, at 6:30 for 7:00 pm for an evening with April Vokey.

# THE VICTORIAN FLY FISHERS' ASSOCIATION INC.

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## The June Meeting with Jim Higgs

The June meeting will be another lunchtime meeting with guest speaker Jim Higgs. Jim is a VFFA member, an accomplished fly caster, and a keen saltwater fly fisher. His experiences fishing for hefty pelagics in Sydney Harbour were described in our March issue earlier this year. But many will also be aware that Jim was a top leg spin bowler who represented Australia at the international level. He played District Cricket for Melbourne University whilst studying Civil Engineering, and made his debut for Victoria in 1970. He was included in the Australian Ashes squad touring England in 1975 and subsequently toured the West Indies and India as leg

spinner for the Australian team. He later became a Victorian and Australian selector. It is also reported that he taught a young Shane Warne how to bowl the 'flipper'.

What will Jim be talking about at our June meeting? He's still pondering this issue, but assures us it will certainly include both cricket and fly fishing. Undoubtedly it will be a very illuminating and entertaining time, as Jim is a popular and very experienced speaker with a great supply of tantalising tales.

Mark it in your diary – Thursday, June 16, at 12 noon at the Celtic Club.

# President's Message

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They say good news comes in threes.

Since my message in last month's *Fly Lines* bemoaning the lack of trout I believe things have picked up. There are good fish to be caught. Reports from Christopher Bassano in Tasmania are that the season there is now proving to be outstanding, about 100 trout were caught last weekend by the Bairnsdale Fly Fishers and VFFA anglers in the Donger competition, and I believe the Ovens, Goulburn and nearby rivers are also fishing better. I trust that the season ends well for all of us.

On the Donger trip Trevor Stow, Trevor Hawkins, Mike Jarvis, Terry Rogers and I were having breakfast at Twinkles in Omeo when we picked up the news that the Federal Government announced the National Carp Control Plan designed to decimate the fish by 2045. Some years ago the VFFA wrote to the then Labor government encouraging it to continue funding the research into whether the koi herpes virus could help eliminate European carp without any negative side effects on nature and the environment. It seems that this research has proved the

point. The koi herpes virus will first be unleashed in the Murray which is obviously good news for NSW, Victoria and South Australia. Let us hope that it is successful there and in all its tributaries. Maybe Tasmania will follow in due course.

The third piece of good news is that the VFFA has finally got our name back on the Donger Trophy. Ten of us travelled to Bairnsdale Fly Fishers magnificent lodge with the objective of winning it back. On Saturday night we were the leaders and until an hour before closing at 1 PM Sunday we seemed safe. See the report on how we ended up with a tie.

The weekend was great fun for us all. The Bairnsdale hospitality was amazing. In cold and wet conditions they all slept outside in tents and allowed us the luxury of their lodge. We could not thank them enough.

The April Vokey dinner should be very interesting. I look forward to catching up with you and your guests then.

Tight lines,



*The famous Donger*



## The April Meeting – Our Annual Auction

Our April meeting was an auction of fly fishing equipment and books. Unfortunately it was a decidedly unpleasant evening weatherwise, and this was probably the reason why the attendance was a little disappointing. Most of our previous auctions have drawn good crowds, but this year's event was not so well supported. And there were 120 lots to be sold, so as a consequence there were some very attractive bargains. Rods, reels, a new pair of breathable waders, and some superb books were all

purchased by keen members during the evening. Auctioneer Hughie Maltby was in fine form again and the final lot was sold just on 10pm sharp.

We must express our sincere thanks to Hughie and Peter Boag and their team of helpers for their weeks of hard work in preparation for the event and for overseeing the auction on the night. Rick Dugina, who compiles the records of sales at our auctions, tells us that the total sales for this year's auction was just over \$2600.



*Attentive buyers*



*Books and more books*



*The gathering crowd*

*The record keepers*



*Auctioneer Hughie*



*Treasurer Tony Mitchem was a handy model*

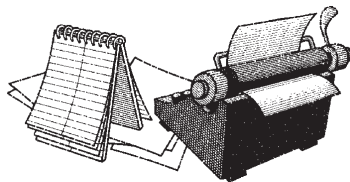


*Some of the gear*



*Bruce was a keen bidder*

# From the EDITOR'S DESK



*"The damage caused by European carp costs the Australian economy as much as \$500 million per year. They are the rabbits of our waterways."* (Federal Agriculture and Water Resources Minister Barnaby Joyce)

I first started fishing seriously as a 13-year-old growing up in Mildura in the state's far north-west. The mighty Murray River, dividing Victoria from New South Wales, flowed right past the town, so of course I spent my days drowning worms or yabbies in an effort to connect with the fish hidden away in those murky depths. When I first started I couldn't afford a rod so my gear was a length of hand line wrapped around an old bottle, and casting involved swinging a lead sinker and loaded hook in vigorous circles around my head before letting it all fly out into the current. After some months, however, I had saved enough from delivering newspapers after school to acquire a cheap eggbeater reel and an even cheaper rod. Now I was really in business as I could cast 'spinners' (i.e. lures) as well as fish bait.

In a sense I was really fortunate because at that particular time the river at Mildura had redfin (English perch) in plague proportions. They were fairly large in size too, and easy to catch on both bait and lures. On one occasion I recall taking home a hessian bag filled with some 50 redfin, and returned the following day to the same spot and caught another 50. They were good eating too, so mum was very encouraging of my angling efforts. Success was thus easy to come by, so my fishing career was kicked off to a good start. My fishing mates and I were catching plenty of native species as well, but redfin were the bulk of the bags.

I think these days redfin are not so universally admired – they are voracious predators and on more than a few occasions have been guilty of rapidly devouring almost all of the fingerling trout stocked into reservoirs. So maybe the jury is still out on the value of redfin.

Not so those pesky European carp. They seem to be universally despised in Australia because of the damage they have done to our waterways. I know that in many other countries carp are a highly regarded game fish. In the UK and in Europe people pay substantial fees for the privilege of fishing for them, and I recently came across a number of podcasts on tactics for fly fishing for carp in the USA. Some sites even describe suitable flies. Here in Melbourne VFFA member Richard Kos is something of a carp expert, and if trout are a bit scarce (as they often seem to be these days) the carp that he fishes for are often quite large and Kossy tells us they fight fiercely when hooked. I've also heard a few of our native fish experts suggest that small carp in the Murray have been a great source of food for Murray cod, and the significant improvement in cod populations in recent years is at least partly due to this plentiful food source.

But the fact remains that carp consistently muddy up our trout streams, reducing once crystal clear streams to a murky and uninviting mess. Carp cause this detrimental environmental impact through their feeding habits. They feed by sucking soft sediment into their mouths, separating out any food present, then ejecting the sediment back into the water. This leads to a suspension of the sediment in the water.

When carp are present in high numbers (and they often are) the resultant suspended sediment results in a number of problems, including direct deterioration of water quality and increased nutrient levels, reduced light penetration resulting in reduced plant growth, smothering of invertebrates and fish eggs, clogging of the gills of other fish species, and inhibiting visual feeding by other fish.

The carp impact on plants can also have a number of related impacts, including reduced populations of invertebrates that are dependent on plants, and reduced stability of bottom sediments through loss of aquatic vegetation.

I recall visiting a workshop in Melbourne some five years ago with then VFFA President Terry Rogers to hear about research being carried out on a type of herpes virus to try to control the exploding carp populations. It all sounded good but we were just a tad pessimistic about the likelihood of any resulting action. However recent news reports tell us that this virulent strain of herpes virus

which is deadly to carp is now ready for release. Hamish Hughes also mentions this in his President's report in this issue.

The last five years of course have seen exhaustive research to confirm that the virus is absolutely harmless to all other Australian wildlife. So far so good, and a recent media release by federal science minister Christopher Pyne informs us that the virus will be released in rivers in 2018 and over a period of years should decimate something like 95% of current carp populations. Some \$15 million is being invested in this project. One of the issues yet to be sorted is what might be done when huge numbers of large dead carp are found floating down our best streams.

Ah well, regardless of the complications it will certainly be good to have lots of our great rivers again free of carp. We can look forward to that.

Tight lines, and great fishing

*Lyndon Webb*

# Web Fish

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

## About the VFFA web site:

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

## Features of VFFA web site:

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

## A Tribute to the Life of Noel Jetson

Noel Jetson was born on February 16, 1933, and died on March 10, 2016. He was without doubt one of our finest trout fishermen.

He was the first fishing guide in Tasmania (and probably Australia) and was the founding member of the Trout Guides and Lodges Tasmania Inc. Association, formed in 1979. He was made the Association's first Life Member in 1994

Noel was not only a guide. He mentored many young fly fishers, taught fly tying at the Launceston TAFE, was a dedicated club man, and was never reluctant to step forward to advise and support local anglers. He was the first angler to be inducted into the Tasmanian Anglers Hall of Fame, a thoroughly deserved recognition of his contribution to trout fishing in Tasmania. He and his wife Lois ran a store, Jet-Fly, in Cressy for many years. It was a well-known and popular stop for anglers as they headed to the highlands.

Noel had a passion for trout fishing and fly tying that took him and Lois across all major fly fishing continents. He became an advocate of 'catch and release' and promoted the idea of 'limit your kill, not kill your limit' to his fly fishing students.

He once participated in a small local trout fishing competition (much to the chagrin of his mentor, David Scholes) and found it much to his distaste. Yet by the early 1990s he saw merit in actively supporting the World Fly Fishing Championship in Tasmania, initiated by Rob Sloane, as a way of 'getting Tasmania onto the map' and promoting the fishery. Noel believed usage and promotion of the fishery were amongst the best ways of ensuring its protection and development.



His streamcraft was honed on the tutelage of Scholes and Wigram, and evolved through an open-minded approach. He was an experimenter and a keen observer, and was never hampered by the shackles of 'tradition'. Yet, as his trout acumen developed, he increasingly loved the Red Tag, which was so often his 'go-to' pattern. And in that sense, he was very much in line with what appears to be a strong Tasmanian tradition of 'presentation over imitation'.

Noel made a profound and very significant contribution to Australian fly fishing, and we honour his memory.



# The Donger A Dead Heat

(a report by Mike Jarvis)

The annual competition for the Dudley Lee Donger with the Bairnsdale Fly Fishing Club resulted in an 11th hour dead heat, with fish caught by Bruce Houghton from the VFFA and David Usher from Bairnsdale both weighing in at 1 lb 10 oz.

Fishing conditions were excellent and over 100 fish were taken by the 25 anglers taking part in the competition, which was held on the rivers and streams around the Bairnsdale Lodge near Omeo. Most fish caught were smallish browns – about the

half pound mark, but this augurs well for the fishing in this area in the next few seasons. They were taken on both dry flies and nymphs. Water conditions were brilliant, although some rivers were a little low. Most of the fish were caught in the smaller streams such as the Gibbo, Bundarra and the Victoria.

VFFA members attending included Mike Jarvis, Hamish Hughes, Terry Rogers, Bruce and Corey Houghton, Peter Clayton, Brian Eddy, Jon Kenfield, Trevor Hawkins, and John Fasso.



*Competitors*



*Measuring the winner*

>>>



*Weighing the winner*



The VFFA members attending would thank the Bairnsdale team for their wonderful hospitality. The meals, which were provided by the Bairnsdale members, were magnificent, the company over the weekend was fabulous, and a great weekend was had by all.

*Bruce caught some fish*



*Inside the lodge*



*Another nice one Bruce*



*One of Corey Houghton's fish*



# Thoughts on Greater Fishing Success in Tasmanian Lakes

(by Mark Youngman)

Why do some anglers catch heaps more trout on slow days than others on popular Tasmanian highland waters such as Arthurs, Woods, Penstock and Little Pine Lagoon? Does this matter to a lot of anglers, or are they just out for a relaxing day in the outdoors with good company?

If there is a chance of catching fish on a dry fly would you spend the whole day fishing this way? Would you also put another dry on and fish with two or three dries on your leader?

Would you consider moving, twitching, shaking, pulling, or retrieving your dry flies on a regular basis? Even on every cast?

Would you leave your flies hanging at your side if wading or beside the boat for 5 to 10 seconds, and watch a fish miraculously appear and grab your fly beside you?

Would you put a nymph on with your dry to increase your chances by fishing in and under the surface?

If there are no fish moving and they are down deep would you put on an intermediate or sinking line to determine where the fish are located, or persist with the dry fly in the hope that one will eventually take your floated offering?

Picture this scene: five mates and myself, all in our twenties, on the back shore of Little Pine in January, waiting for the dun hatch. Guys like Hairy Castles, Jules Fantarella, Joe Conti, Neville Hudson, and Brett Fazackerley all arrive at about 9:30 am.

We were fishing with Sage 4-weights or Loomis IMX 6-weight rods, floating lines

and dun patterns. Some days were fantastic and the action started as soon as we arrived and went all day. On other days 1:00 pm came and went and we had hardly made a cast, as we only cast to moving fish. Boredom had set in, and clouds of cigarette smoke hazed the water in a line of five. How could we catch these fish if they were not co-operating? Or should we just pack up and go home?

One day when nothing was happening Joe Conti fished, much to our amusement, with a floating line and nymphs - doing a slow figure of eight retrieve. After about half an hour he hooked into a nice fish and landed it to a vigorous round of applause. So it was indeed possible to catch a fish when nothing was happening on top while we waited for the duns to start. There were other ways to catch these fish than by sight fishing. Now we all love sight fishing, but on the majority of occasions when we visit the Highlands, due to either poor weather or the time of day, nothing obvious is happening. Most times the fish are down below feeding on scud, stick caddis, snails, or galaxia.

When you're fishing at the tough times of the day, adaptability and flexibility are required if you are to be effective. Either that, or go back to the caravan or shack and sleep during the day and just fish mornings and evenings.

In my opinion, when dry fly fishing a team of three flies is more effective than just one, and moving the team of flies on a regular basis is essential. When duns are around a Claret Dabber, partridge type March Brown, or Duck Fly by Trevor Berne is essential on the top dropper. Often every fish caught will have taken this top fly when moved, especially on the pulled pauses and on the "hang".



*Some of Mark's fly lines – floaters, intermediate lines, and various sinkers*

On the middle dropper it is very hard to go past a black foam head Bibio Hopper or Orange Hopper. In Scotland the foam head Bibio is absolutely deadly on the lochs and was used to great effect by the Australian Team on the Isle of Islay during the Commonwealth Fly Fishing Championships.

The point fly is the presentation fly and is the fly delivered to a moving fish when it is sighted. My favourites would include a Parachute Dun, Barry Lodge Emerger, Possum Emerger, Trevor Berne foam strip suspended nymph on a grub hook, or a dark brown fly like a fat brown spinner with a soft hen hackle. All these flies sit in or are suspended in the surface film, which is an important attractor.

If on top isn't working then the fish are often on the bottom or at mid-water and a range of sinking lines and 10' 6-weight rod are essential. A Sage One is my main lake rod, along with an older Z-Axis and my old favourite - the mighty Sage XP. The longer rod is important for hanging flies and casting distance.

Lines in my opinion are more important than the flies. Changing your line, which a competent angler can do in 30 seconds, should be common practice throughout the day. For me it is as much, or more a

consideration, than the flies used. My lines include a sink tip, clear intermediate, slow and fast intermediates, Di3, Di3 sweep, Di5, Di5 sweep, Di 6 and Di7. The preferred lines if you're just carrying two or three would be a clear intermediate and a Di3, then a Di5. The number on these lines, e.g. Di3, indicate the sink rate in inches per second. So a Di3 sinks at three inches per second.

Non-stretch lines with braided cores are essential, as the non-stretch aspect means you can feel plucks, weed and hook ups easily. Other lines are not as sensitive and this is why popular lines by Airflo are called 'Sixth Sense Lines'. Cortland lines are also good and the Cortland Clear is a favourite for nymphing and smaller wets. This line is also great for a roly poly retrieve high in the water. Scientific Anglers and Rio also have some outstanding lines these days, so it does seem we are spoiled for choice.

The count down and retrieve are also important. In most lakes the preferred depth is 4 feet to 12 feet. It is best to mix up the sink time after the fly hits the water - from a short pause to varying counts from 1 up to 15, depending on the line being used. The reason for counting off seconds before starting to retrieve the fly is of course to determine at what depth the fish are located and feeding.

Retrieves are varied too in terms of the type of strip, from roly poly giving a uniform speed of retrieve varied from slow to fast, and also varied with pauses and strips from slow to fast, and the popular strip, strip, strip and pause being extremely effective. The roly poly is usually done with the rod clamped under an arm and both hands used for the retrieve. Try it some time.

A good 'hang' is vital and some days all fish are caught on the hang, and often on the top dropper. If fish follow and >>>



*Nice fish Mark*

are not taking then drop the rod tip down to give them another chance, rather than just pulling the fly out of the water. So when you think you have finished your wet fly retrieve just let your flies hang in the water for a few seconds. It can be amazing to have a big Arthurs Lake brown or Penstock rainbow smash your fly right beside the boat or when wading. It is one of the most visual and exciting types of fishing there is.

Many anglers mark their fly line at a point 20 feet from the end. Often this is done with some thread or something tactile that can be felt rather than seen. Aquaseal or similar can work well. When this part of the line comes to hand you know you have 10 feet of fly line out plus your leader and will know exactly where your flies are in the water column.

Break offs can be common on the hang with big rainbows and browns. As a result it is vital to use 8 to 10 pound fluorocarbon leader. A single 6 metre length of fluorocarbon is used, with the top dropper longer (12 inches) than the middle one (8 to 10 inches) for hanging purposes. Figure eight each fly to the top

after the hang, and look for any following fish. If the line tightens at all then strike, as in river nymphing.

The choice of where to fish on a lake when in a boat is based on experience, water depth, and weather conditions – particularly the direction and strength of the wind.

At Arthurs, rather than drifting across a whole bay it is often much more effective to do a shorter drift from say 100 metres offshore and drift in from deeper to shallower water. A good drogue is essential. Often the best fishing is the last 20 metres right onto the shore. As a result expect to have some dinged props, as there are lots of rocks. Zig zag along the shore, moving in and out and the rewards will come.

My favourite flies for this type of fishing are Trevor Berne's yellow bodied Cat Fly with barred olive zonker strip representing a galaxia. This is absolutely deadly on Arthurs. Joe Riley's Shrek in green and gold is also deadly on Arthurs. I also carry the wonderfully reliable Terrific (named after my old man), a black and purple Woolly Bugger with black tungsten 3.5mm beadhead for using on the point, or black and gold Humungous in large and smaller sizes, and a smaller black and red Woolly Bugger, also tied by Trevor Berne with gold beadhead.

These colour combinations have proved the best over the last 20 years, and on each trip the fish go for often one or two colours in particular, so use a combination of the three colours on your leader and also vary their positions in the team of three to see what is working on the day. If your boat partner is catching them on a particular depth line or colour fly, change to what is working, and if they want green and gold put one on the top dropper and one on the point.

Well, there you have it. The traditional dry fly methods, while effective during the good times, don't work nearly as well during tough fishing conditions. There is heaps of fun to be had and fish to be caught by trying other methods. So take

off the blinkers when it's tough and don't go home. Try something different and you will soon realize there is a whole new world of fishing waiting for you. For those willing to give it a go the rewards are awesome.



*Some of Mark's flies*



## Come Fly With Me

This is an article by Rick Wallace, VFFA member and journalist, written for the *Weekend Australian* of January 16 – 17, 2016.

New Zealand's Wairau River is trout fishing paradise.

One minute they are there and the next they aren't – three of the biggest brown trout imaginable cruising the aquamarine waters of a deep pool in New Zealand's Wairau River. One is at least 12 lb (5.4 kg, but fly fishing weights and lengths are measured in the imperial system) and the others not far behind. All are feeding close to the surface and thus, in theory, are catchable.

Owen River Lodge is about 100 km from Nelson on the South Island and its owner, Felix Borenstein, says this is fly fishing's Everest. I don't know it yet but I'm about to be taken out by the equivalent of an avalanche before even reaching base camp. As I move down from the elevated position above the river to make my cast a rock dislodged by my foot rolls loose. It doesn't crash into the water but lands with a solid crack on a rock further below. Alerted by the vibrations, the leviathan browns I have been stalking flit away into the depths and I am left to contemplate the many ways you can lose your shot at the fish of a lifetime.

"It's the pinnacle of brown trout fishing in the world" Borenstein says back at the lodge over a glass of riesling from the local Neudorf Vineyards. "We don't have big numbers of fish, but those we do have are as big as you'll find."

The night I arrive at Owen River Lodge, two American brothers have smashed the lodge record with a 12 lb trout and 14 lb monster taken on the same day. Over a delicious communal dinner of kingfish sashimi and duck breast they show off pictures snapped before releasing these

beautiful creatures back into the tumbling blue waters. With expectations running high, all guests retire early ahead of a full day's fishing.

The goal for the guides is to avoid coming home without catching a fish. There is also a lot of personal chemistry; Borenstein has to juggle to pair the right guide with the right angler. In recognition of my comparatively tender age (by fly fishing standards) I am matched with a hard-charging Kiwi, whereas others are paired with guides more suited to their physical capacities. For the uninitiated, fly fishing involves trying to fool trout with imitations of their prey, which are generally made from feather, fur and foam. In the clear waters of New Zealand the technique is to first spot your quarry, determine what it is feeding on, and then cast the imitation within about 10cm of the fish and hope it eats it.

Misplaced casts, falling rocks and sudden movements are punished ruthlessly with the wary fish fleeing to deeper water at the first hint of being stalked. A good day on these rivers typically sees the angler spot 15 to 25 trout, cast to perhaps three-quarters of those, and land about five weighing more than 51b.

The highlight of my four days of fishing comes on the third day, when we spot a large brown trout cruising a corner eddy beside a rapid on the Wairau. We target it with a blowfly imitation. My cast is not perfect but the fish rises as slowly as a submarine. Its great jaws breach the surface as it gulps down the fly. I set the hook by lifting the rod and it's game on as we chase it down through the rapids. We are connected via line with a breaking strain of just 7 lb (any thicker and the

trout could see it), so it's a nervous five-minute struggle to subdue the fish and bring it to the net. It tips the scales at 8 lb, a little shy of the 10 lb benchmark, but comfortably the largest brown trout I have caught. My heart is beating rapidly as we take pictures and release the fish to fight another day.

The next day, I fish with Borenstein in the Owen River, the "home" stream that runs behind the lodge. The water level is low and the fish wary. "Some of them have got PhDs," Borenstein jokes. Still, we catch the first fish we see, a nice 6 lb trout, which falls to a mayfly imitation.

A fish this size is pretty standard for this part of New Zealand, but it is a once-in-a-decade catch for those who fish in Australia. Having avoided the dreaded "zero", we creep upstream, eyes peeled for the next target. We chat about how Borenstein came to open a five-star fishing lodge. A former tech mogul who ran a successful recruitment business, he tells me he came to fly fishing after a friend bought him a trip as a way of suggesting he chill out. Borenstein soon went from a workaholic to a wannabe trout bum ... a dream that became reality when a rival firm made an offer for his company in 2002. "I had day-dreamed about opening a fishing lodge. I was 42 and I thought if I don't do it now I never will."

He had already zeroed in on the Murchison area in the north of the South

Island, a site chosen for its variety of rivers, proportion of big fish, and reputation for the sunny spells that are essential for this type of fishing. "I was shell-shocked for the first two years," he admits, "but I absolutely adore it. I pinch myself many days. It is just fantastic." He caps guest numbers to a maximum of 12, hosts the sociable dinners, and offers the best of everything in furnishings, food and comfort.

As we approach one of the better pools on the upper Owen, Borenstein suddenly falls silent – he has spotted a big, healthy trout. Concealing himself in the bushes he briefs me on its movements as it traverses the pool feeding freely. My first cast is astray, but the fish is none the wiser. I dare not recast the line as it will surely spot the disturbance. Luckily, its circular path continues back up the side of the pool where it spots my fly waiting suspended in the metre-deep water. The fish powers towards the imitation, inhaling it in one gulp. I set the hook and before long we have a lovely 7 lb brown trout in the net.

A fish of the magical 10 lb mark (much less a 14 lb giant) has eluded me and I don't feel I have quite reached the summit of fly fishing's Everest. But I've moved well past base camp and I know I'll return for another shot at the peak.

(Rick Wallace was a guest of Owen River Lodge.)



*Tichborne watercolour –  
Waiau River, New Zealand*

# Narbethong's Small Creeks

(from Bernard Holbery)

It was the Author George Brennand who mentioned Narbethong in his book – *Halcyon: An Angler's Memories*.

I have no idea what Narbethong means in the limited Aboriginal vocabulary I have, but to me it means and will always mean one of the most delightful places for the fisherman to visit. Narbethong and its environs have a fascination for me that has remained with me over more than twenty years of revelling in its sunlight, huge trees in the dark gullies, tree ferns, wattle saplings, the mopokes and kookaburras calling in the silence of the forest, and the persistent tinkle of the Bellbirds.

For George Brennand it was an ocean away from his favoured English chalkstreams, the Test and the Itchen. But Narbethong clearly made a great impression on him, as he devoted a whole chapter of his book to it.

Narbethong means 'happy place'. When you go there now you'll find the Black Spur Hotel and the little old post office across the road that no longer operates. I guess plenty has changed since the days when George stayed at the Black Spur Hotel. The lumbermen have gone and so have the horses and drays, and the tales of his fishing exploits once heard in the parlour by the timber workers are in the distant past. The Black Spur road now echoes with the noise of cars and the Norton Motorcycle Club racing through the Gully pass.

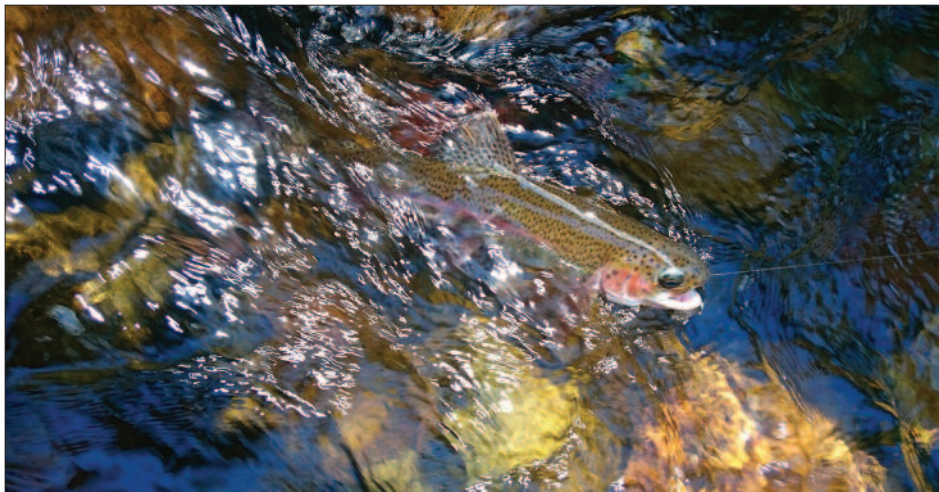
But one thing that hasn't changed are all those little forested streams and creeks that George Brennand admired so much in his time fishing around this area. Narbethong has been my special fishing place since I was a boy, as well as being the gateway to all the major trout streams in the near North-East. In any given week



*A Narbethong Creek*

you might see Rex Hunt and David Grisold passing through the gully spur to fish a favourite stream. Perhaps Hubert Riechelt will be venturing into a forested stream to fish his fabulous flies, or John Pilkington will be heading to his beloved Big River Valley to tempt those Big River trout with his palmered Red Tags. You might even spot Jason Platts on a ridge hiking into a secret creek where trout rarely see a fly. And of course there will be those countless other anglers making their way to the Goulburn in the hope of finding a rising fish.

But Narbethong is my special place where I can fish the little creeks in the forest



*A smallish Narbethong rainbow trout*



*Bernard with another fine brown*

glades and the meadow streams when the mayfly hatch. This beautiful place is my starting point at the commencement of each new trout season. Nothing gives me more pleasure than standing in one of those small forest streams and seeing the first mayfly land on my arm, signalling the start of a new dry fly season as the rivers come to life, shaking off the icy cold of the winter months. It is a time for reflecting on the wonderful memories of friends we have fished with in times past. Some are no longer with us but they remain in our thoughts, perhaps with recollections prompted when a favourite fly of theirs is discovered in a fly box.

We need to fish these little streams early because as the hot summer approaches they are the first to suffer. As the months warm we find ourselves moving on to the larger river systems in the Goulburn area.

But these small waterways hold a special charm. Fences are jumped, blackberries are eaten, whirling duns are fished, and the little trout are as gold as butter. As a boy this is where I caught my first trout.

I'll keep returning to Narbethong.

# Lack Of Rainbows Dawns On You When Fishing At First Light

(from *The Weekend Australian* – April 30/May 1)

In a cool autumn morning at sunrise, Bob Frost is buoyed by the slight chop to the water: these are good conditions for trout fishing.

He's been fishing Lake Jindabyne since 1980 and remembers years when the catch was so plentiful that he and his mates would throw surplus fish back every hour. But about five years ago locals in the Snowy Mountains began noticing rainbow trout were smaller and harder to catch, despite the lake being stocked with 50,000 fish each year.

As president of the Jindabyne Fishing Club, Mr Frost ran a two-day competition last month. The 46 entrants caught just 12 fish between them.

"This is the worst I can remember the rainbows," the 64-year-old tells *The Weekend Australian*. The Snowy Mountains trout fishery has been compared to Kakadu National Park and Uluru. NSW Department of Primary Industries Fisheries scientist Jamin Forbes says reeling in a Snowy Mountains trout is an "iconic thing" to do in Australia—like catching a barramundi in the Northern Territory. "The rainbow trout are easier to catch. If they're not there it literally stops people taking their holidays in the Snowies when you have year on year of poor fishing," he says.

Peter Gibson, 60, secretary of the Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW, has been fly fishing in the area for half a century. He describes the months following Christmas as "pretty awful". "Typically, I'd go out to Eucumbene or Jindabyne of a morning, fish for three or four hours and come home with three or four fish. Recently I've fished 11 or 12 hours and only seen one fish, let alone

caught any. I know I haven't just lost the knack. Something's wrong," he says.

While there appears to be a consensus among fishermen and the NSW government that rainbow numbers have fallen, brown trout, which breed naturally in the lake, are at record levels.

Theories about the rainbows' decline depend on who you talk to, but range from climate change and warmer waters, to lake levels, poor spawning and the threat posed by pelicans and cormorants. "It's really affecting the tourism," Mr Frost says. "Accommodation, the service stations, tackle shops, the local butcher, even Woolies gets affected — everybody misses out"

Senior DPI fisheries manager Cameron Westaway says he's witnessed the ebb and flow of rainbow trout. Local fishermen may not be convinced, but he says the government is "pretty confident" the fish are "in recovery". "I remember great years and poor years from those lakes going back to the 70s and 80s," he says.

"We seem to have had dips in a number of rainbows at the end of droughts. We haven't established a causal link but there does seem to be a pattern every 10 or so years and the good news is the rainbows recovered each time."

Mr Forbes says data from the annual spawning run suggests the numbers of rainbows are increasing and it looks as though they will continue to improve. But more data and funding is needed to help solve the mystery. "The fishing was great five years ago for a couple of years and we hope to get back there," Mr Westaway says. "It's a fantastic place to be and it's still fun to come up and catch a fish."

# What Of The Future For The Trout In Australia

This article comes courtesy of ABC Radio National. It is the text of a broadcast by James Bennett made on April 13, 2015.

Generations of anglers in south-eastern Australia have enjoyed waterways well stocked with trout. Yet both rainbow and brown trout are introduced species: breeding them to stock waterways may be detrimental to native fish and lead to a vicious cycle of re-stocking. James Bennett investigates.

In south-eastern Australia, the most sought-after freshwater fish is the trout—but fishers have a problem. ‘Over the last two years, rainbow trout numbers just collapsed,’ fly fisherman Steve Samuels told *Off Track*, sitting beside his favourite fishing spot, Lake Eucumbene in the Snowy Mountains.

## **Steve Samuels, President, Monaro Acclimatisation Society:**

‘We started stocking Lake Eucumbene with rainbow trout in the year 2000, and about four years after that that the fishing went absolutely gangbusters.

We put 150,000 fish in this lake and we’ve been doing it since year 2000—that would indicate to me that we’re getting things more right than wrong. To suddenly change that to 300,000 might make the fishery collapse.

That went for seven to eight years, then over the last two years we saw the collapse again even though we are stocking.”

Some ecologists believe the fish shouldn’t be there at all, because trout can drive away or out-compete native species like golden or Macquarie perch, and smaller galaxids at higher altitudes.

Although he’s not advocating the de-stocking of trout, Professor Ross Taylor, a freshwater ecologist at the Australian

National University in Canberra, said their impact on native species has been well documented.

‘In Australia, where we’re very heavily stocking some waterways, that means we get quite a dramatic effect on native fish biomass,’ he said. ‘[But] there isn’t a question here of saying, “lets eradicate trout,” it’s not realistic and I don’t think there’s a social mandate to do it.’

The brown trout was first introduced to Australia 151 years ago.

‘It’s controversial, there are a lot of people that would say they wish it never happened,’ Steve Samuels acknowledged. ‘But we also brought out lots of other things that are a lot worse for the environment. We brought out foxes and the starlings, rabbits, pigs, goats and even sheep and cattle and horses, even ourselves—as Anglo-Saxon people we’re all imports into this country and we’ve all had our impact.’

Samuels is the president of the Monaro Acclimatisation Society in southern New South Wales, one of many such societies set up in Australia during the early years of white settlement which aimed to establish more homely surroundings for the early pioneers.

‘The acclimatisation society was about trying to make Australia a little bit more like home, a little bit more like England, and in the 1800s you can understand that, it was a long way from home,’ he explained.

‘Good, bad or indifferent, we have these fish in the lake and what we at the Monaro Acclimatisation Society try to do is to make sure that we manage the

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fishery. A lot of people have a downer on trout. We love them, of course, and think they're a good sport fish.'

Philip Weigall, a fishing writer and guide, can't help but agree.

'There's just something about them. I mean, obviously they're pretty, but you could say that about a lot of fish,' he said, casting a fly line into Tantangara Reservoir in the Snowy Mountains.

'A very important part of it [is] they just happen to like to live in beautiful places. They like mountains, they like clear water, all the things I guess that we associate with beauty.'

How the first fish arrived is a story in itself: 151 years ago, a ship by the name of the Norfolk docked in Melbourne from England, carrying a most unusual cargo. In her hold lay boxes and boxes of live trout and salmon eggs. The ova had survived the three-month journey from England, carefully sandwiched between layers of damp moss and ice.

The eggs unloaded in Melbourne would perish, but the remainder, carried further south to Tasmania, would hatch into the first Australian-born brown trout. They were supplemented several years later by rainbow trout, originally from North America, but brought to Australia via New Zealand.

### **Why the allure of fishing has little to do with fish:**

Both species are still being bred and released into lakes and rivers today. Gary Caldwell, the assistant manager at the New South Wales Department of Primary Industries' Gadens Hatchery at Jindabyne lists the facility's annual output: 'Between 300,000 and 500,000 browns, upwards of a million rainbows depending on survival rates, 100,000 brook trout and 200,000 to 250,000 Atlantic salmon.'

Staff at the facility harvest eggs from trout that move up the Thredbo River to spawn each autumn. They're then fertilised and nurtured through a series of tanks and ponds before release. The work is paid for by the revenue fishery authorities derive from selling recreational fishing licenses.

In the United States, fisherman-turned-author Anders Halverson has argued that requiring fishery managers to be self-sustaining drives them to pursue aggressive stocking policies designed to drive license sales and thus income. 'The idea is to get [trout] in there and then tell people where they are so that they go catch them and bring them out again,' he said.

Halverson's book, *An Entirely Synthetic Fish*, documents mankind's efforts to spread rainbow trout around the world. According to Halverson, fish stocking had been pursued with such vigour in parts of the US that it has actually made fishing worse.

'If you stock hatchery fish on top of wild fish, you end up having fewer of either,' he said. 'They chase the wild fish out of their holds and after a month or two the stocked fish die, but only after they've also caused the death of many of the wild fish, because they've chased them out and caused them to burn too much energy. You can guess what happens then—this is a big economic driver in many places—everybody complains there's no fish in the rivers so it's a cycle, a spiral: you stock even more fish, people say, "Come stock our river again, were out of fish," and so it drives this cycle where wild fish are driven down, down, down and you might have been better not stocking anything at all in many cases.'

When trout catches dwindle, which anecdotally they have done across south-eastern Australia, grumblings of protest don't take long to build into something

much louder. Widespread reports of fewer fish in New South Wales and Victoria in recent seasons have prompted renewed debate about the best way to manage fisheries.

Steve Samuels said any decline had a big impact on business in town like Lake Eucumbene, which are sustained in large part by fishing tourism.

“The majority of anglers that fish this lake probably come from Victoria, Melbourne right up through to Sale, Sydney and the ACT. They saddle up for a decent trip, so if the fish aren’t here, they stop coming and find other places to go and fish.”



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## Thoughts on Roll Casting

The roll cast is a wonderful thing. It has all sorts of uses, the most obvious being that it is the get out of jail cast when you're in tight surrounds with no room for a back cast. And we all know how to make a roll cast – you have some line lying on the water out in front of you and you lift your rod back up behind you, then make a firm stroke forward and the line rolls out to complete the cast. Unfortunately though this often doesn't give you much distance. But there are a couple of things you can do that will greatly increase the distance you get on this cast.

The first one is simple – use a longer rod. I saw this suggested in an article I read recently (and I can't even remember now where I read it). But it pricked my interest so I headed down to one of the local lakes near where I live with an 8 foot 3-weight rod and an 11 foot Vision 3-weight rod that I purchased a few years ago when I was experimenting with the French leader technique. I loaded up the 8 foot rod with a 3-weight double taper line and made a few roll casts. It all worked nicely. Then I took the reel off the 8 foot rod and attached it to the 11 foot rod and made some more roll casts. No surprises – these went a fair bit further. So I guess the point here is that if you are going to be fishing somewhere where

lots of roll casts will be needed along with reasonable distance, then a longer rod will be helpful.

The next suggestion for longer roll casts comes from reading Simon Gawesworth's wonderful book on Single-handed Spey Casting. I saw in his book that he recommended stopping the rod fairly high on roll casts. Now I confess that I had got into the habit of making roll casts with the rod sweeping over and finishing parallel to the water – an action reminiscent of windscreen wipers on cars. But we all know that with normal overhead casts you get better distance if you cast with tight loops, and you achieve tighter loops by keeping the angle of the rod between your back cast and your forward cast fairly small. Stop the rod sharply and high on an overhead cast and the tight loop you generate sails out further. Clearly the same logic applies to roll casting, so if you want longer roll casts you start with the rod pointing upwards and slightly backwards just behind your shoulder, then you snap the rod smoothly forward and stop it high. Now your cast races out with a tighter loop and goes further. An easy fix.

The next two suggestions also come from Simon's wonderful book. He describes

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*Simon's rod is in the key position ready for the forward cast when the light touches the water*

the 'Double Roll Cast' as a way of increasing your distance. This is a good cast to practice - and you need to practice it because the timing I've discovered is really critical. To make this cast you make a normal roll cast but then while the line is still in the air you whip your rod back to make a second roll cast. It's best if I quote from Simon's book:

"The double roll cast is a simple way to get more distance than with a regular roll cast. I say simple, but it does take a little practice and good timing. The regular roll cast has a small D loop and a fairly substantial amount of line anchored on the water at the start of the forward cast. It also has what I call a passive D loop that only has mass and no momentum to help load the rod. To get more distant and tighten up the front loop, the cast needs to be more efficient. Efficiency comes from a bigger D loop, a small amount of anchor (line on the water), and the least amount of power applied to the forward stroke. This is achieved with the double roll cast - really no more than two roll casts put together. You make the first roll cast, and then while the forward cast is still in the air you make a second roll cast. Because the fly line is in the air when you start the D loop stroke of the second roll cast it comes back toward you

much cleaner and easier. It will also have momentum so you are now loading the rod against an aggressive D loop. This gives you a larger D loop, less line anchored on the water, and less need to hit the forward cast so hard. The end result is more efficiency, more distance, and tighter loops."

Believe me, this cast does need some practice, but when you get it right it's a delight to behold.

The final technique I'll mention for increasing your roll casting distance is another suggestion from Simon's book, where he gives some pages to describing the 'Switch Cast', which is essentially a roll cast on steroids. Again, to quote Simon:

"The switch cast has an aggressive D loop. In the switch cast you create a D loop that has weight and momentum. You literally throw the D loop behind you and when you make a forward cast against such a load the result is awesome. The rod loads deeply, uses a fraction of the effort on the forward cast, and the line zings out with speed and energy.

To make this cast you start with the rod tip low and the line tight and straight out



*Here Simon Gawseworth demonstrates a magnificent D loop*

in front of you. You commence by lifting the rod from the water surface to an angle of about 30° above the horizontal to unstick some of the line lying on the water. The rod then smoothly transitions into a sweep to the side and then up behind you pointing back over your shoulder (as the photo on the previous page shows).

As the rod passes you and starts to rise it should accelerate through this rise slightly and then stop. What you are trying to do with this acceleration is get the fly line, leader, and fly out of the water and speeding back toward you. It is vital your rod gets to the key position behind you and ready for the forward cast before any fly line or leader touches the water. At some stage gravity will overcome the line's momentum and it will touch down on the water. The faster you accelerate, the further back the line will travel before gravity causes line to touch the water. What you are trying to do is land the anchor, (i.e. the end of the fly line touching the water), level with

you and within a rod's length to the side of where you are standing. The perfect anchor lands with a straight fly line on the water. Then you make the forward cast where a short positive stop of the rod tip will result in a tight loop and a lovely long cast."

This cast again requires heaps of practice, but once you master it you will generate magnificent roll casts that really fly out. (And I hasten to add that your editor is still very much in the practice stages, but he's getting there.)

So there you go – some strategies for increasing the length of your roll casts. The good news is that practising these is a heap of fun and the end result will be some very useful casts for both rivers and lakes. Happy casting.

And for those interested in great texts on casting, Simon's book is 'Single-handed Spey Casting', by Simon Gawseworth, published in 2010 by Stackpole Books.



# FLY OF THE MONTH

*Courtesy of Chris Bassano -the Orange Bead McGoo*



Winter is approaching and this means that the rivers are closed and we Victorian anglers are pulling on warm coats and turning our attention to the many lakes and reservoirs that remain open and accessible. So this month we are featuring a very effective wet fly that will be a winner on those stillwaters. It is a pattern that Chris Bassano, top Tasmanian fishing guide and regular member of the Australian international fly fishing team, frequently uses and strongly recommends. The British Fulling Mill company is now marketing a selection of Chris's flies and these can be seen at <http://www.mayflytackle.com.au/FullingMill-bassanoflies.html>. Of course this selection of his favourite flies includes the Orange Bead McGoo.

In introducing the pattern Chris says this:

"This fly originates from Ireland and was then further developed by Ballarat fly anglers Vern Barby and, to a lesser extent, Craig Coltman. Although originally intended as a damsel fly imitation, it still works very well when none are present. The slim profile makes it very effective when fish are being selective, yet it still has "pulling power", attracting fish from way off. The fly works well on a floating line when fished from the shore on its own but really comes into its own in a team of flies on sinking lines. I prefer to fish it slowly but it is equally effective pulled hard and 'hung'. I have caught fish with this fly on all three spots on the leader but favour the point for the weighted version and the top dropper for the unweighted

fly. Used on a DI 7 (fast sinking) line it is quite effective, but as good as it is, I prefer it in a scenario when fishing in five feet of water or less. Not surprisingly, this fly is on the leader somewhere for almost all top Victorian anglers when fishing Lake Wendouree , Lake Fyans, and any other shallow weedy lakes where damsels are present. It has also proved particularly effective in Penstock and Four Springs in Tasmania. Indeed there is not a Tasmanian lake it won't work on. In bright weather, or when fish are slightly spooky, one piece of flash can be cut off either side of the tail to increase the catch rate."

There are three varieties of the pattern – weighted, unweighted and with a beadhead.

#### **Materials needed (Beadhead version):**

<b>Hook:</b>	Gamakatsu S10, sizes 8 and 10
<b>Thread:</b>	Olive Unithread 6/0.
<b>Bead:</b>	Orange tungsten bead – 3.2 mm size (and few turns of fine lead wire).
<b>Tail:</b>	Dark olive marabou.
<b>Tail Flash:</b>	Flashabou (small).
<b>Rib:</b>	Fine red copper wire.
<b>Body:</b>	Peacock herl.
<b>Hackle:</b>	Dark olive hen.
<b>Throat:</b>	Dark olive partridge

#### **Tying Procedure:**

1. Slide the bead onto the hook and then place the hook in the vice.
2. Wind a few turns of lead wire onto the shank and then push these into the back of the bead to hold it in place. Then add some turns of tying thread onto the shank to hold the bead and lead wire in place, then wind thread along the shank to the bend.
3. Take a clump of marabou feathers and tie them in along the shank so that they cover the shank and stick out past the bend to form a fairly full tail.
4. Wind the thread back along the shank and then tie in a couple of lengths of the Flashabou on each side of the tail, as per the photo above.
5. Tie in a short length of copper wire, leaving several centimetres sticking out past the tail, ready to be later tied in as the rib.
6. Take three strands of peacock herl and lay them along the shank with their ends just over the eye of the hook, then take a couple of wraps of thread over the herl, tying them in behind the bead. Trim the waste then wind the thread along the shank, binding the herl to the shank all the way back to the bend. Then wind the thread forward to just behind the bead again.

7. Now carefully wind the three strands of peacock herl back along the shank to the bead to form the body, then tie them off and trim the waste.
  8. Tie in a hen hackle feather just behind the bead and wind four or five spaced even turns along the shank back to the bend.
  9. Take a copper wire and wind it over the end of the hackle to catch it in. Then make loose even turns of the wire along the shank to form a rib and hold the hackle in place. Tie the copper wire in behind the bead and trim off the waste.
  10. Take an olive partridge feather and pull the fibres back from the tip so that they stand out perpendicular to the stem, then tie the tip of the feather in behind the bead. Carefully make two turns of this feather behind the bead then tie it off.
  11. Whip finish behind the bead to complete the fly.
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## This Month's Yarn ...

(... from September 1968)

"Those fellows who have private lakes up near Ballarat," said Alf, whilst doing the right thing and having the lunch glasses topped up, "must find they have a lot of trouble with poaching at those times when they're absent."

"That's right," agreed McTaggart, after an initial swallow.

"I've heard," continued Alf, "that tight barbwire fences, and even Alsations don't always keep these thieving poachers out."

McTaggart took two more swallows, and continued: "The surest way I ever heard of protecting private waters was a method used by an American millionaire, one of those tycoons who didn't care what he spent so long as he got what he wanted. He hired a famed international biological research scientist to cross piranhas with flying fish. He then put some of these in his lakes and any unauthorised person fishing there was soon fiercely attacked.

These flyeranis, as he called these crossbreeds, would leave the water if there was anybody nearby or on the banks, and attack the intruders from the air. Any exposed parts like faces or arms were savaged. In no time they would clear the area."

"But... but ..." queried Alf, "surely those flyeranis wouldn't be able to distinguish between authorised and unauthorised anglers. So how did the owner and his friends do their fishing?"

"Quite simply," explained McTaggart, "The owner first plastered himself and any accompanying friends with one of those new treatments that are supposed to grow hair on men suffering with baldness. The flyeranis quickly realised that hair would affect their aerodynamics so they wouldn't go near the stuff."



# 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 or one of his assistants 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.

## 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
Wine glasses and whisky glasses inscribed with VFFA logo, set of 6.....	\$45.00 per set
Cloth badges.....	\$7.00 each
<b><i>The Australian Trout</i> by Jack Ritchie .....</b>	<b>\$20.00</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 0423 283 079.

VALUED DONORS

### The following made donations for the raffle at the 2015 Annual Dinner:

- Aussie Angler Pty Ltd • Andrew Braithwaite Fishing Gear • Armadale Angling •
- Australian Fishing Network • Bernard Holbery • FlyLife Publishing •
- FlyFinz Fishing Tackle and Books • Gavin Hurley's Fly Fishing Pro-Angler •
- Hayes On Brumbys • J.M. Gillies Pty Ltd • Mayfly Tackle • Mick Hall • Millbrook Lakes Lodge • Mountain Stream Company • Ray Brown Onkapinga Flies •
- Stevens Publishing Pty Ltd • The Compleat Angler Box Hill • The Flyfisher Tackle Store Melbourne • Vision and Pisces Fly-Fishing Tackle •

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

### May

- 19 Thursday Special Dinner – 6:30 for 7:00 PM  
Speaker: April Vokey,  
Canadian fly fishing expert, writer, broadcaster and instructor
- 20 Friday Fly Fishing Film Night at Cinema Nova in Carlton - 8:00 PM
- 21 Saturday Casting at the Red Tag pool with April Vokey - 9:00 AM

### June

- 5 Sunday Casting – 10 AM at Red Tag Pool
- 12 Sunday Casting – 10 AM at Red Tag Pool
- 16 Thursday General Meeting – Lunchtime Meeting with speaker Jim Higgs
- 19 Sunday Casting – 10 AM at Red Tag Pool
- 20 Monday Council Meeting - 7:30 PM
- 26 Sunday Casting – 10 AM at Red Tag Pool

### July

- 3 Sunday Casting – 10 AM at Red Tag Pool
- 10 Sunday Casting – 10 AM at Red Tag Pool
- 17 Sunday Casting – 10 AM at Red Tag Pool
- 21 Thursday General meeting – 8:00 PM  
Speaker: Christopher Bassano,  
Tasmanian fishing guide and member of the Australian fly fishing team.
- 23 Saturday Warrnambool FFC Annual Dinner
- 24 Sunday Casting – 10 AM at Red Tag Pool
- 31 Sunday Casting – 10 AM at Red Tag Pool

### August

- 7 Sunday Casting – 10 AM at Red Tag Pool
- 14 Sunday Casting – 10 AM at Red Tag Pool
- 15 Monday Council Meeting - 7:30 PM
- 21 Sunday Casting – 10 AM at Red Tag Pool
- 26 Friday Annual Dinner at the Celtic Club – 6:30 for 7:00 PM
- 27 Saturday President's Casting Day – 10 AM at Red Tag Pool