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THE VICTORIAN FLY-FISHERS' ASSOCIATION INC.

OCTOBER 2008

Organisation No. A0024750J

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**NEXT MEETING – AN EVENING WITH PHIL BAILEY  
AT THE KELVIN CLUB, 8.00PM THURSDAY 16 OCTOBER 2008**

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



## SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING – THE AGM

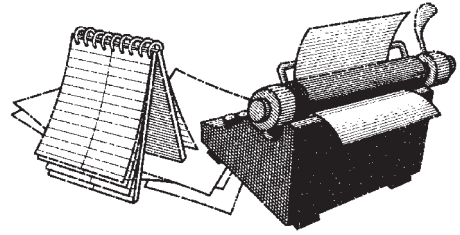
The Association’s Annual General Meeting was held on September 18, and was well-attended. Retiring President David Grisold gave his annual report, and received a long and generous ovation as recognition of his superb contribution to the VFFA over the past three and a half years. He then indicated that Council had proposed that secretary Colin Morrison be awarded a Life Membership for his outstanding services to the Association over 10 years.

Treasurer Tony Mitchem presented the financial statement for the year ending June 2008, and new President Peter Boag outlined some of his hopes and plans for the coming year. Office Bearers and Councillors for the 2008 / 09 year are:

President	Peter Boag	Councillors	Joe Haslauer
Senior Vice President	Rick Dugina		Hamish Hughes
Junior Vice President	Terry Rogers		Richard Kos
Secretary	Colin Morrison		Hugh Maltby
Treasurer	Tony Mitchem		John Pilkington
Editor	Lyndon Webb		Richard Salvado
Librarian	Marty Rogers		Paul Squires
			Rick Williams



# From the EDITOR'S DESK



The October newsletter has turned out to be another hefty tome, and again there was lots more material than the available space. So again some excellent articles have been held over for next month. One of these is the full text of Bob Hart's very entertaining speech at our recent Annual Dinner.

Having too much material is not a bad problem for a new editor still finding his feet! I'm very conscious that a newsletter such as ours is only as good as the quality and relevance of the content, and I'm also aware that the most relevant and interesting material are the contributions submitted by members. In a club such as the VFFA there is a wealth of fishing expertise and experience among the membership which deserves to be shared around, so I would encourage all of our readers to consider putting their thoughts and ideas on paper and emailing them in.

This issue carries a brief report on the AGM, listing the new office bearers and Council members. David Grisold's final annual report is there, along with the first contribution from new president Peter Boag. Peter has stepped into his new role with lots of enthusiasm and energy, and we wish him all the best at the beginning of his presidency. We also welcome some new members and trust that their membership is rewarding in fulfilling.

The October general meeting promises to be another enthralling occasion, with past president Phil Bailey sharing tales of his recent fishing exploits, particularly in the United Kingdom.

We have included reports from different parts of the state. Jim Blakeslee, from Warrnambool, has submitted an account of his excellent start to the season, and Mick Hall, based at Thornton, has provided an update on the early-season fishing in the Eildon area. I also managed to find a recent report on the beginning of the season in the North East. The trouble with such reports is that by the time they get to members they are weeks out of date, and we all know that fishing conditions can change dramatically in a few weeks. Despite this it is always useful to hear how the fishing has been in places we visit.

An issue that has been raised a number of times in recent months is the prospect of the VFFA establishing its own website. Most members these days have access to a computer, and a club website filled with all manner of useful material would be of great interest. But setting it up takes effort and expertise, and there are a number of issues to be resolved at Council level first. Be assured, we are looking into it, and hopefully next year will see us with our own website. (And if there are any members out there who have expertise in this area, we would love to hear from you). In the meantime, members who would like to receive a colour pdf file of the monthly newsletters by email are welcome to e-mail me at [lgwebb@bigpond.net.au](mailto:lgwebb@bigpond.net.au) and have your details and email address added to the list. Be aware though that the pdf file is usually between 2MB and 3MB in size, so a cable or ADSL connection is needed. (A dial-up connection will take a long time to download).

A final thought – we are making inquiries and hope to produce a special December (Christmas) issue in full colour. In the meantime, I trust you enjoy our October newsletter.

*Lyndon Webb* - [lgwebb@bigpond.net.au](mailto:lgwebb@bigpond.net.au)

# October General Meeting – an Evening with Phil Bailey

Philip Bailey has been a member of the VFFA for 25 years. He is now temporarily residing in the UK, where he fishes extensively throughout Britain. Philip is a Past President of our Association and the Council of Victorian Fly Fishers. He was the inaugural President of the Australian Trout Foundation, during which time a closed season, bag limits and size limits were restored to our Trout Fishery.

He has been a committee member of the Australian Freshwater Fishermen's Assembly, and served on a Government select committee to develop and introduce the peak angling body (VRFAC) into the management of our recreational angling environment.

An accomplished fly fisherman and fly tier (he has given numerous fly tying demonstrations at our meetings) he also acted as a guide in Tasmania for a few seasons before moving to the UK. Philip has had numerous fly fishing articles published in magazines here and overseas, including web sites. His talk at the October meeting will focus on the not so familiar rivers of northern England, and the association of those rivers with many past masters of fly fishing.

## VFFA Meetings & Activities

### OCTOBER 2008

- 16 **General Meeting**  
– Speaker Phil Bailey
- 24-26 Opening Weekend - Tranquil Rises,  
Flowerdale

### NOVEMBER 2008

- 7,8&9 Fishing Weekend – King River
- 20 **General Meeting – Book Auction**
- 21-23 Fishing Trip – Big River
- 23 Nov-5 Dec – Fishing trip to NZ

### DECEMBER 2008

- 18 Christmas Dinner  
– Speaker Michael Youl

### FEBRUARY 2009

- 19 **General Meeting** - Liar's Night

### MARCH 2009

- 7-13 Fishing Trip "Hayes on Brumbys",  
Tasmania
- 19 **General meeting**  
- Speaker John Philbrick

## The Rumour File

Members who listened to radio station 3AW in the mornings will be familiar the 'Rumour File'. Perhaps the VFFA might instigate its own 'rumour file'. We heard recently of a well-known Council member who was caught fishing the Steavenson River with worms. Can you believe it? Who was it? Sad to say, he was quite successful too.

## Book Auction

The November General Meeting will be an auction of books from our VFFA library. These books are no longer required as part of our library stock, but include some very popular titles. This auction is only open to VFFA members. A catalogue of titles to be sold at the auction is included as an insert with this newsletter.

Make sure you have the date – 20 November – marked in your diary, and come along to bid for an early Christmas present.

# **President's Message**

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When I joined the VFFA in September 2002 I had no thought of being on Council within a relatively short period of time, let alone being the new President in September 2008. It is indeed a daunting task, and one to which I commit to giving my best shot.

It is appropriate to thank all Council Members of the past year for a job well done. I would like to make particular mention of David Grisold, who has made an enormous contribution to the VFFA during his time on Council and as our immediate past President. John Philbrick also deserves special acknowledgement for his outstanding contribution to the VFFA as our immediate past editor and in many other roles he has so capably filled over a period of many years.

We welcome Richard Salvado back on to Council after a short break. Also new on Council is Lyndon Webb, our new editor. Lyndon has a number of new ideas for the newsletter, which is such an important part of our communication with members.

During my time on Council I have become aware of the contribution made by so many other members 'behind the scenes', and this is one of the enduring strengths of the VFFA

We have a very full program over the next few months, and I urge members to read the newsletter for details. I would make a special mention of the 'Opening Weekend' at Ray Butterworth's 'Tranquil Rises'. A number of members have already booked for the weekend, and I encourage others to join us, if only for the Sunday lunchtime barbecue (BYO) when we can discuss the prospects for the coming season over a glass of red.

Well known Tassie member Don Urquhart has enjoyed success in the Tasmanian Fly Casting Championships, held in late August. He came equal 2<sup>nd</sup> in the dry, 2<sup>nd</sup> in the skish and 2<sup>nd</sup> overall. Well done Don.

We would also express our best wishes to Paul Squires, who has recently undergone surgery for prostate cancer. We are delighted to report that he is making excellent progress and the various post-surgical tests show he is now in the clear. We're all relieved to hear this Paul and trust you are fully fit and with us again very soon.

On a closing note, when are we going to get some rain? Proper rain! I do believe climate change is happening and fear it is a forlorn hope to pretend otherwise. We must learn to adjust to the new reality.

*Peter Boag*

## Fishing in the North-East

(The following report was taken from a VRFish media release, dated 25 September. The author was Geoff Lacey. Most catches have been on worms, according to Geoff, so perhaps we need to tie up some of those worm flies. It's early days though, and flyfishing will become effective soon. The reports are encouraging in that there seems to be plenty of fish around.)

**Bogong High Plains:** Rocky Valley and Pretty Valley reservoirs at Falls Creek remain snowbound and will be unavailable for fishing for a while yet. The snow skiing season ends this weekend so access for fishing should improve quickly, especially when the Bogong High Plains Road is reopened between Falls Creek and Anglers Rest.

**Lake Guy:** Lake Guy at Bogong Alpine Village is low and hardly worth fishing at the moment. The inflow streams are producing many brown trout to 400 grams.

**Mt Beauty Pondage:** The pondage at Mt Beauty is full and fishing is excellent, with rainbow trout to 750 grams being taken. The outflow into the Kiewa River is running hard and should hold brown trout to around 1.5 kilograms, as is usual at this time of year.

**Kiewa River:** The Kiewa River from Mt Beauty through Tawonga to Mongans Bridge is running high and a bit coloured, but will settle down if it doesn't rain. Brown trout to 700 grams and rainbows to 900 grams have been caught in good numbers since the opening weekend.

**Ovens River:** The Ovens River from Germantown to Porepunkah is high and running fast with some colour in the water today, but clearing. Many brown trout to 450 grams are on offer this week and anglers are doing well fishing the quieter sections.

**Lake Catani:** Lake Catani at Mt Buffalo is at 100% capacity with good fishing on offer this week. Trout to 450 grams are plentiful and responding to wet flies that are fished at mid-depth or deeper.

**Upper Mitta Mitta River:** The upper Mitta Mitta River from above Anglers Rest to Benambra is running high and a bit coloured after heavy rains, but should clear soon. Many brown trout to 1.5 kilograms have been caught in recent weeks, most taken on drifted worms and a few on lures, according to reports.

**Bundara River:** The Bundara River at Anglers Rest is running high and clear.

**Cobungra River:** The Cobungra River is also running high with a bit of colour in it this week and fishing is excellent above the Blue Duck Hotel. Most fish are brown trout and they are being caught on drifted worms.

**Victoria River:** The Victoria River at Dinner Plain is running high and fast, with lots of colour at the moment. Brown trout to 1.5 kilograms and larger are caught on big bunches of drifted worms when the river is high.

**Lower Mitta Mitta River:** The lower Mitta Mitta River from Mitta Mitta to Eskdale is running at 200 megalites a day, with excellent fishing conditions although safe wading in the current is a problem. Many brown trout and numbers of rainbows have been caught in recent days.

**Snowy Creek:** The Snowy Creek at Granite Flat is running high and a bit coloured this week with brown trout to 550 grams taken on worms from many parts of the creek in recent days.

## Life Member – Colin Morrison



Honorary Life Membership of the VFFA is not given lightly or often. At the 2008 AGM it was presented to Colin Morrison

Colin began flyfishing in 1972, but due to a transfer to Hong Kong with his work in 1975, his fly fishing exploits were put on the back burner. He was transferred to New Zealand in 1978, but again, with the pressure of work, travel and a new wife, there was no time for flyfishing. During his four years in New Zealand, Colin did not wet a line and this is something that he still cannot believe to this day.

Some time after his transfer back to Melbourne in 1982, Colin's wife Annie brought home a photo of Phil Bailey (a work colleague) holding two very large trout he had caught in Tasmania. Annie told Colin he should join the VFFA to give him an interest and something to do in his retirement. So Colin joined the VFFA in 1988.

Work commitments again kept Colin from taking an active part in the Association until he retired in 1997. He became a member of Council in 1998, and has been the Honorary Secretary since 1999.

Over the past ten years on Council, nine of those as secretary, Colin Morrison has been a valued contributor to the VFFA. He has held a steady rein over Council and has been an invaluable support and guide to successive presidents.

Colin is now making up for lost time. He spends two weeks of each year in New Zealand, and has at least two trips a year to Tasmania. He now fishes whenever his bride gives him a leave pass.

Colin Morrison has been a hardworking member of the VFFA for 20 years. The presentation of his Honorary Life Membership was endorsed by the enthusiastic and lengthy support of all present at the AGM.

## New Members

The VFFA welcomes the following new members, and would wish them each a long and fulfilling membership of our Association:

Geoff Barow, Peter Gilbert, Bill Hewett, Harvey Hilary-Taylor, Andrew Lowe, Tony Japp, David Martin, David Mozina, Bintoro Tedjosiswoyo and Milton Zeuschner.

# PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT - 2008

The last twelve months have been eventful to say the least. With a full calendar of events and a fantastic list of guest speakers it has been a very successful year. Our general meetings have been well attended, with many members coming to catch up for dinner beforehand.

All our trips this year have been over-booked and our first ever Art Show, along with the David Scholes Book Auction and the restoration of Alfred Ronald's grave site at Ballarat, were all successful beyond our wildest dreams.

Now for the year in review.

## October

After having my yearly check up, a biopsy confirmed that I had prostate cancer.

Our October General Meeting saw a turn out of 20 members attend dinner and 35 members roll up for Rick Innes' informative talk. Rick spoke about his days working for Jim Allen and producing *'Memory Hold the Rod'*, and later the reproduction of *'Fly Fisher in Tasmania'* and *'The Way Of An Angler,'* by David Scholes.

At the opening weekend at Ray Butterworth's property, 20 members gathered to eat, drink and fish themselves into a frenzy. Another fantastic weekend. Thank you Hugh Maltby and Ray Butterworth.

## November

Our November General Meeting was a book auction. Marty Rogers gathered a great assortment of books to be auctioned. A small group came along for dinner and purchased themselves a Christmas present or two. There were some wonderful bargains on the night. Well done Marty.

Our first book *'Geehi to Great Lake'* is almost sold out.

Congratulations to the Bairnsdale Fly Fishers Club on the opening of their new Mitta Lodge.

The Big River weekend was again a great success. Congratulations must go to Pilks and Stewart for their organizing. You wouldn't believe that two blokes who don't drink could get so much enjoyment out of watching others enjoying the pleasures of the grape.

## December

Here we go again, another day in paradise. I have had my successful radical prostatectomy, and I must take this opportunity to thank everybody for their cards, flowers, visits and phone calls. I sincerely appreciated everybody's best wishes.

Before entering hospital I attended the funeral of our great mate Vic Bell. Vic was one of our most popular members, and the funeral was well attended by VFFA members. We will miss seeing Vic at our dinners and on his seat at Ray Butterworth's Flowerdale property. Vic's last





fish at Ray's was a memorable 3lb. Tight lines young fella.

Christmas Dinner was another great night, with a large number of members attending to hear Charles Peck reminisce on his many years of fly fishing in Tasmania, in particular the Western Lakes.

We announce that the private book collection of the late David Scholes has been given to the VFFA to auction, and that plans were on the drawing board for the VFFA to hold an Art show.

Twenty VFFA members returned from the South Island of New Zealand, after another very successful trip. Well done Rick Dugina.

After his photo appeared in the newsletter, Sandra Maltby denied knowing her husband and banned him from future trips to sample the Pointwater.

## **February**

Whilst fishing in Tassie in January I had the good fortune to meet Mary and Steve Faulkner. Mary is the grand-daughter of the late Reg Clayton. Reg was a keen and skillful fisherman who spent many years fishing with his great mate David Scholes, and featured prominently in several of David's books. On the last day of the trip Mary, with the permission of her father, presented the VFFA with her grandfather's fly rod. The rod will go into one of the glass display cabinets in our library.

Some 30 members attended Liar's Night to hear some very fanciful stories from six scallywags, brave enough to tell a tale or two. As the night progressed the subject of trout politics raised its head and it was great to hear so many concerned members expressing their points of view.

## **March**

A very special thank you to the Bairnsdale Fly Fishers for their hospitality in looking after 10 members of the VFFA at their Annual Dinner and Donga weekend. It's a pity that the VFFA could not retain the Donga, but it's a good reason to go back and try again next year.

12 VFFA members enjoyed a relaxing week at Peter Hayes' complex on Brumby's Creek. This is our first fly-fishing trip to Tassie in many years, and hopefully not the last. Well done Hamish on organizing a first class trip.

I had the pleasure of meeting John Silberberg and presenting him with his 50 year membership certificate. 50 years a member of any organisation is a fantastic achievement. Congratulations John.

At our March General meeting Tony Brothers discussed the upcoming history of the VFFA and asked members to help him find old fishing photos suitable for our history.

It is with deep regret that we announced the passing of Sid Gilding. Sid had been a member of the VFFA since 1993. He was a very keen fly fisher, but a very private man. Sid's ashes were scattered on his beloved Howqua River. He will be sadly missed by his many friends at the VFFA.

## **April**

We started the month with a "get well" message to Les Hawkins. Les was bitterly disappointed to have to cancel his talk at the April General Meeting. Artist Pieter Zaadstra stood in for Les at short notice, and 30 members attended the Kelvin Club to hear Pieter talk

of his life as an artist and of his latest book *'The Artist and the Fly Fisher'*.

One of the limited editions of 100 copies of *'Geehi to Great Lake'* was sold in April at the Jocelyn Society auction for \$600 dollars. This is an amazing result given that this book was on offer to members late last year for \$200.

Ray Butterworth, in an open letter to members, announced that due to failing health he was putting his property at Flowerdale on the market. We would take this opportunity to thank Ray for all the wonderful memories, and would wish him all the very best for the future as he undergoes treatment for cancer.

## **May**

Bob Hart was confirmed as guest speaker for this year's Annual Dinner. A special thank you to Howard Scrivenor for his generous donation of two large boxes of books for our library.

The David Scholes Book Auction was one of the highlights of the year. 70 members and guests attended a very entertaining evening, and hopefully left with a book once owned and loved by David Scholes. Thank you to everybody who helped to make the night such a very memorable event, with special thanks to John Philbrick, Andrew Braithwaite, Tony Mitchem, Tony Brothers and Marty Rogers, our auctioneer for the evening.

Our end of season BBQ was held on a private lake in the Ballarat area. A special thank you to Rick Innes and Richard Koss for all their assistance in making the day a great success.

## **June**

Members who attended the June General Meeting enjoyed an enthralling presentation by Tasmanian guide Daniel Hackett. Daniel gave a very impressive talk, featuring many slides of his favourite fishing spots in Tassie. Daniel's passion shone through on the night and impressed all who attended. I would thank Daniel very much for the kind donation of his book *'In Season Tasmania'* to our library.

Cyclone Hughie hits Miami and whips the coastal waters into a foam.

Winter casting started again in earnest, with many members coming to attend a pleasant Sunday morning with Malcolm and enjoy one of Nancy's famous cookies.

Dick Goodall hosted 16 VFFA members to an action-packed weekend at Bulleen Merri, where a 6lb rainbow trout was caught. Our sympathies go to the unluckiest rainbow trout ever. Dick - you will have to lift your game. A fish caught on a VFFA trip? Oh Dear!

Cane Day was well attended, and all who came along had a great day. Congratulations to Hobart whisky distiller, Bill Lark, for his first attempt at making a cane rod. If Bill's whisky is as good as his cane rod, then I can feel a headache or two coming on. The only person missing from Cane Day was Peter McKean, who was recovering from a recent stroke. Thanks again to Peter Campbell for organizing the BBQ, and to Malcolm Elms, our 'Lord of the Rings'.

Dinner with partners was again well attended. A special thank you to Colin Morrison for organizing a wonderful night at the Kelvin Club.

Peter Boag was on the mend after his recent hernia operation.

Congratulations to Geoff Hall, who became the new president of The Australian Trout Foundation.

## July

The July General Meeting saw the three amigos again entertain more than 30 members with a dazzling display of fly tying expertise. Thank you Hubert, Peter and Andrew.

A David Scholes Book Auction catalogue sold on eBay for \$140 dollars. At the May auction it sold for \$10 dollars.

100 people attended the opening night of the VFFA Art Show. Members, artists and friends thoroughly enjoyed the evening. The catering was by Jean Jacques, who provided a selection of exquisite cheeses, served with crusty bread, drinks and other refreshments. It is wonderful when something you plan and put a lot of effort into comes off. Congratulations to Paul Squires who did a superb job organizing and running the VFFA's inaugural Art Show.

The Latrobe Valley Fly Fishers put an 'associate member package' together for VFFA members. This is a great opportunity for VFFA members who want to fish their dams and support their club.

## August

On 17 August we unveiled the restored grave site of Alfred Ronalds in the Ballarat Cemetery. A very special thank you to John Pilkington for all his efforts and hard work over many years in driving this project to a satisfactory completion.

I attended the Northern Suburbs Fly Fishers' Dinner, and must thank President Glen Cox and his council for holding such a pleasurable evening.

The Warrnambool Annual Dinner was attended on my behalf by Peter Boag. Peter reported that a wonderful night's entertainment was had by all.

Paul Squires departed for London to fish the Test and then visit France. John Philbrick headed to Poland. We believe that the Polish distillers and butchers have been hard at work preparing extra Vodka and sausages for Tup's arrival.

Winter Casting was now finished. I would take this opportunity to thank a stalwart of this Association, Malcolm Elms, for all his hard work and for his love of the VFFA.

What a great night our Annual Dinner is. 110 VFFA members and their guests attended this year at the Kelvin Club. It's the one night of the year when we all get together and catch up with our mates. We had the great pleasure of being entertained by Bob Hart, who was without a doubt one of the finest after dinner speakers we have had at our Annual dinner.

Howard Scrivenor was the very proud recipient of "The Jack Ritchie" medal. Congratulations must go to Gerard Driden, 60 years a member of the VFFA. A special thank you to the Kelvin Club staff who looked after us on the night.

President's Casting Day was well attended by 40 members who struggled out of bed and were fed a hearty lunch by Master of the Barbecue, Peter Campbell, who also prepared four apple pies which were consumed after lunch. Thank you, Peter.

Congratulations to Glen Cox, Hubert Reichelt and Rick Innes, the winners on the day. To Malcolm Elms and his helpers, thank you for all your hard work .

Well that's it from me. I would just like to say that I have thoroughly enjoyed my time serving the VFFA on council - as Junior and Senior Vice Presidents and then as President.

There are some people who have been a great influence, and who have given me much encouragement and support. To Colin Morrison, John Philbrick and my great mate Hugh Maltby - thank you all so very much.

To my wife Rhonda, for all your typing and computer work, along with my daughters Rachael and Ashlea – thank you.

As I stand down as President, a job that I have thoroughly enjoyed, I would wish the new President and Council all the very best for the future. I look forward to being a member for many years to come, and helping whenever and where ever I am needed. I am very proud of the things we have achieved on Council over the past three years, and of the commitment of everyone who has served. The harder we worked the luckier we got. And I am lucky to have had a great Council of 'doers' and I thank them all for it.

Please never forget the friendship and camaraderie that this Association embodies.

Thank You

*David Grisold*

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## They're a Happy Team At Hawthorn ...



... and so is the VFFA's own David Featherstone. VFFA members are very familiar with the smiling face and considerable angling prowess of David, but perhaps we weren't so familiar with his passion for Aussie Rules and, in particular, his connections with the Hawthorn Football Club. David has been a member at Hawthorn for 70 years. He has also seen 59 grand finals. He even confessed that he played a few games in the Hawthorn seconds back in the early 1950s. David has been a volunteer at the football club for many years, and personally knows many of the players. He is certainly celebrating their big win this year. He was mentioned twice in Channel 9's various commentaries on the big final, and has association with the club was featured in the Sunday Age of September 28. Well done David – a man of many talents.

### **Fly Fishers Club Of Tasmania Annual Dinner.**

The Fly Fishers Club of Tasmania, based in Launceston, is having its Annual Dinner on October 24. The guest speaker for this occasion is Peter Morse. Ray Klimeck, Treasurer of the club, has contacted David Grisold and indicated that any VFFA member in Launceston at this time is most welcome to attend. VFFA members interested in attending should contact Ray, or President Peter Rasmussen, or secretary Mike Collins to indicate their intentions. Phone numbers are Mike Collins – 6327 3119, and Peter Rasmussen – 0427 911 861.

# AUSTRALIAN TROUT FOUNDATION

## President's Report and Elections

### President's Report

The opportunity to be president of the ATF was offered to me by the outgoing president, Mick Hall, who was retiring from his many interests. Having spelt out my limitations, particularly my inexperience with computers, I accepted. What I could contribute was a broad knowledge of recreational fishing issues and trout in particular. As a professional trout guide these past 15 years, I was close to the industry as well many hundreds of individual trout fishers.

### MDBC Trout Eradication Tenders

The Australian Trout Foundation was soon to be tested. Over the Christmas break the Murray Darling Basin Commission had advertised tenders for the eradication of 'alien' species from the whole of the basin and replacement with native species. High on their list were brown and rainbow trout. We were galvanized into action. Press releases, radio interviews, telephone interviews with journalists and newspaper articles were initiated. The absurdity of the MDBC proposals were exposed and the Victorian Government, through Fisheries Victoria, issued a statement to the effect that the permits required for such work would never be issued in Victoria. Similar action was taken in NSW. The MDBC website was forced to remove the skull and crossbones stamp emblazoned across the pictures of brown and rainbow trout.

The ATF is vigilant in protecting our trout fishing heritage, responding rapidly and effectively whenever threats to the trout fishery appear. The threats are out there in all sorts of ways. A typical example being the MDBC audit listing the Goulburn River 'severely degraded with only 20% of native fish stocks.' This audit uses the year 1770 as

its benchmark under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act. This process is patently absurd because it ignores 200 years of agriculture and man-made infrastructure such as dams and irrigation. Worse still it ignores the dynamic trout fishery that exists in the cold water sections of the river. The ATF immediately challenges these inaccuracies correcting the record and alerting the media.

### Stream Classification

This process has proceeded past the draft proposal stage and is now being formalized. Streams can now be specified as 'trout waters' and the subsequent management of these streams dedicated to that purpose. This removes much of the confusion and acts as a guide to all authorities making management decisions for waters for which they are responsible. The success of this process is a credit to Merv and Mick and the ATF.

### Access And Restoration

The ATF has been successful in opening a walking track along the Howqua River. This highly successful project has involved co-opting local agencies and residents and restoring access through blackberry infested overgrown and bushfire affected part of the river. This project can be viewed in detail on our website and it sets a precedent for action by the ATF when issues of access and restoration arise.

The ATF is prepared to act to make improvements and initiate solutions. Congratulations must go to Merv and Geoff Churcher who have seen this project through to a successful conclusion. Watch this space for further projects in the future.

### Structural Reorganisation

The ATF is in the process of reorganizing our structure. We are seeking to develop

expertise-based committees to handle our expected growth into the future. Sponsorship and corporate relations, membership, project applications etc. We are hoping to involve a great many more people in areas of expertise. There is much work to be done and we hope to engage your help in protecting, promoting and improving the trout fisheries of Australia.

One particular way in which you can contribute regardless of where you are in Australia, is to assist in the establishment of a local chapter. We intend that local chapters be established in places like New England, the Snowy Mountains, South Australia, and in fact anywhere where there is a need to protect our inheritance of trout fishing and promote and develop recreational angling for trout.

Our current membership is 1200 and growing. Individuals committed to trout who have joined our organization also belong to clubs and state based organizations but ATF has a single focus. Trout.

The membership gives us the strength to respond rapidly and negotiate with federal and state authorities with the clout of a national organization. In this respect our membership strength and charters are vital to our operation. The ATF welcomes and invites all trout anglers regardless of how they fish with bait, lure or fly.

### **Drought And Climate Change**

Drought and climate change have impacted heavily on many of our marginal streams lakes reducing the availability of good trout fisheries. A reduction in supply has meant an increase in demand for the available trout fisheries, causing us to reevaluate these assets upwards, increasing the intrinsic value of our trout fishery. With the increase in population and the popularity of trout fishing, the assets that underpin tourism and local and regional economies must be guarded more carefully and managed more effectively.

The ATF is contributing to this process by

direct consultation with fisheries managers wherever possible.

### **Conclusion**

2008 has been a year of consolidation. A website rebuild, membership renewal and expansion and a restructure to expertise-based committees. Due to circumstances beyond my control I will not be standing for re-election for 2009.

*Geoff Hall*  
President

### **ATF 2008 Annual General Meeting**

Our next Annual General Meeting will be held at 8 pm, at the Yarra Valley Clubrooms (Bailey Room ) on the shoreline of Lilydale Lake, on Thursday 23 October 2008.

Melways Map 38

The Agenda will be:

1. Presentation of the President's Report
2. Presentation of the ATF Financial
  - 1. Accounts
3. Conduct of 2008 Committee of Management Elections
  - 1. Management Elections
4. Confirmation of 2008 Membership fees
5. General Business

### **ATF Committee of Management Elections**

Under our Articles of Incorporation, the ATF must fill all six formal Committee of Management positions each year. Nominations are therefore sought, from financial ATF members, for the following roles:

1. President
2. Vice President
3. Secretary
4. Treasurer
5. Two General Committee Members

All the other ATF Committee Chair and Committee member roles will be filled by direct appointment by the Committee of Management.

**ATF Committee Nomination Process –**  
nominations closed on October 7.

# Paul Squires Encounters Some French-speaking Trout

My wife Jenny is a very clever woman, as every time we plan a trip overseas she manages to find fly-fishing for me! This year we travelled to England and France. We spent two weeks in the south of England and three weeks in France: a week in Burgundy, a week in Provence and a week in Paris.

I booked three days fishing on the Test, out of Stockbridge, Hampshire ([www.fishingbreaks.co.uk](http://www.fishingbreaks.co.uk)), and 3 days on La Sorgue Provence ([www.gourmetfly.com](http://www.gourmetfly.com)).

The Test is a very clear river and is stocked with brown trout on the beats maintained by Fishing breaks. Each beat, approximately one kilometre long, is stocked with 200 - 300 browns each season. The river also holds wild browns, grayling, chub, eel and pike. There are plenty of fish to be polaroided in the river. The first day I spent on the Dever (a tributary of the Test), at Bullington Manor, where I hooked 8 trout and lost all of them to heavy-handed strikes. I was using 5X tippet and sizes 22 - 24 flies. On the second day, still at Bullington Manor, I landed 12 trout on Adams, Greenwell's Glory and Sawyer's pheasant tail nymph. All the very small dries (sizes 22 - 26) and nymphs were very sparsely tied. Duncan, my guide, spent some time showing me the Sawyer induced strike, as the water is gin clear and you can watch the trout take your nymph in deep water.

The third and last day on the Test was spent at Wherwell Priory. The river was deeper

and faster flowing. I raised 10 trout and landed 6, all bigger fish than further upstream at Bullington Manor. Once again they were all taken on small flies: Adams, Greenwell's and Sawyer's nymph. I must admit it was like fly-fishing in your backyard, as the beats were immaculately maintained, and then off to the pub for lunch.

Fly-fishing in France was completely different, as I had my new best friend, Cyrille Ponce. Yes, I have become a Ponce. Cyrille is a member of the French flyfishing team and was no. 2 in France. He doesn't compete outside of France, as he



doesn't like flying. We fished La Sorgue at L'Isle sur la Sorgue. La Sorgue flows through L'Isle sur la Sorgue and is full of very large trout being fed on bread thrown to them from restaurants. We drove out of town for 15 minutes to fish

the river. The La Sorgue River is spring fed by the Fontaine de Vaucluse and only flows about 26 km to the Rhone River. The clarity of the water needs to be seen to be believed.

I fished for three days with Cyrille, mainly catching grayling on a method of nymphing similar to Czech nymphing, with a long leader of 5m tapering to 8X. The brown trout look striped in the river when polaroided. Out of the water they have the same colourings, but with an overlay of banding. Cyrille and his brother loved my New Zealand nymphs, and nearly cleared me out of them. Go to Nick de Toldi's website on [www.gourmetfly.com](http://www.gourmetfly.com), as he offers many places to flyfish in France.



## WHITFIELD KING RIVER WEEKEND 7-10 November

It is planned to have an early season weekend on the King River and its environs early in November. We will be staying at the Mountain View Hotel in Whitfield.

Recently Hamish Hughes and Paul Squires joined me on a reconnaissance of the area and it was fantastic to see the river running a banker.

We stayed overnight at the Mountain View Hotel, where our host Bruce Doherty looked after us very well. The accommodation is comfortable and the evening meal was excellent.

This is a beautiful area that has been hit hard by drought and fire in recent years. However the word is that it will be well worth a look prior to Christmas.

So if any of you gentlemen wish to join us to find out for yourselves call Hugh Maltby at work on 03 9455 9017 or at home on 03 9459 2241

We look forward to your company.

## VFFA OPENING WEEKEND

Friday 25th & Saturday 26th  
October, 2008

Ray Butterworth's 'Tranquil Rises'

65 Collins Road, Flowerdale  
(RACV VicRoads Country Street  
Directory – Map 61 F7)

Collins Road is just past Long Gully Road (marked on the map), and is the last road on the right before the main road makes a right turn into the Whittlesea – Yea Road. Ray's mobile number is 0418 525 445 for those who find themselves lost.

\$25 per night

Convenor: Peter Boag

Please contact Peter on Home:  
9690 1017 or Mob: 0408 711 946

Don't miss this magnificent weekend



## Eildon Report – from Mick Hall

(Mick Hall has kindly agreed to provide us with regular reports on the fishing in the Eildon area.)

Mick reports that the Rubicon River has stoneflies coming off during the day, and in the early afternoons, when the water heats to above 9°C, small blue duns (baetids) are hatching.

The Goulburn River has just risen to 3000 Megalitres per day, and needs to settle down. At present the fishing is quite difficult, with beadheads nymphs being the best option.

With some concern, Mick was suggesting that the best flyfishing on the rivers in the Thornton area will happen before Christmas, as rain is desperately needed and the rivers are very likely to be low and very difficult to fish after Christmas. The lake is now at 20% and the Pondage is full – too full for good flyfishing in fact. The Acheron and Steavenson Rivers are running at good levels but should be fished with gold beadhead nymphs for best results. The

water is still a little too cold for hatches.

The Big River is always worth a look, but again the water is cold and nymphing deep with beadhead nymphs is Mick's recommendation.

The Rubicon for 2 km above Tumbling Waters has been stripped of trees and is now open and accessible everywhere. The worm drifters and bait fishermen have been hitting it hard, and lots of fish have been taken, as there is no protection or cover for the fish.

Mick reminds us that the snakes are out in good numbers, so keep those eyes peeled. Other reports from Thornton suggests that the section of road between Taggerty and Thornton needs to be driven carefully as there are lots of kangaroos moving on dusk and dawn.

(As a postscript to this report it was sad to hear that Mick's mother passed away at the end of September. We would assure Mick that he has the sincere sympathies of all members at this difficult time).



# Wild Versus Domestic

(by Greg French)

(The following is an extract from an article by Greg French on the Bradys Chain of Lakes, published in the Tasmanian Fishing & Boating News, August 2008. Mike Stevens has given us permission to use it)

Although I don't have any real problem with domestic fish being used to bolster stocks in lowland dams where there is negligible recruitment of wild trout, the wanton transformation of a robust wild trout fishery like the Bradys Chain into a mediocre put-and-take fishery is to be abhorred.

Domestic fish are not revered by serious anglers anywhere in the world. No-one would consider going halfway around the globe to target someone else's tatty stockies, yet many people travel extraordinary distances to sample New Zealand's rivers, Mongolia's taimen, Norway's salmon, Canada's steelhead and Tassie's wild browns. When you read English magazines, they're full of Englishmen extolling the praises of wild Irish trout, and of Irishmen lamenting England's reliance on hatchery fish. Several people have tried to invalidate these arguments by stressing that the IFS is catering for locals, not visitors. Are they suggesting that locals deserve an inferior experience?

Nor do I accept that rampant stocking is a good way of increasing licence sales: the world-wide experience suggests quite the opposite. Indeed, Tasmania's licence sales peaked in the late 1980s around the time of the World Fly Fishing Championship, when we were proudly bragging about the lengths we were prepared to go in protecting our wild fisheries.

One of the scariest things about becoming reliant on stockies is the cost. The IFS alluded to this in a letter dated March 2008, in which it first proposed reducing the bag limit in waters that were being stocked with adult fish - a course of action justified entirely on the grounds that things were becoming too expensive. Bear in mind that this unbearable cost was for transportation only. When the commercial farms begin charging for the fish that they now offer 'free' to the IFS, that cost will skyrocket and anglers will have to foot the bill. (In the March 2008 letter, the IFS suggested that the real cost of providing a single adult salmon was in the order of \$28 to \$33.50.) Believe me, as soon as a steady demand for stocked fish has been entrenched, the farms will start charging for their produce: their shareholders will demand it.

Already in Tasmania we have the ludicrous situation where our IFS considers a small tatty domestic rainbow from Bradys Lake (bag limit 5) to be worthy of more protection than a big wild brown trout from Bronte Lagoon (bag limit 12 fish). This is an admission that maintaining a mediocre put-and-take fishery at Bradys is more expensive and unsustainable than maintaining a robust wild fishery in the same system. Go figure.

Remember, the future of Tasmanian fishing is your hands. Do you want quality fishing you can afford and be proud of? Or not?



# Artificial

## by Greg French

Mike Stevens – VFFA member and well-known book publisher – has provided the following review of Greg French's latest book.

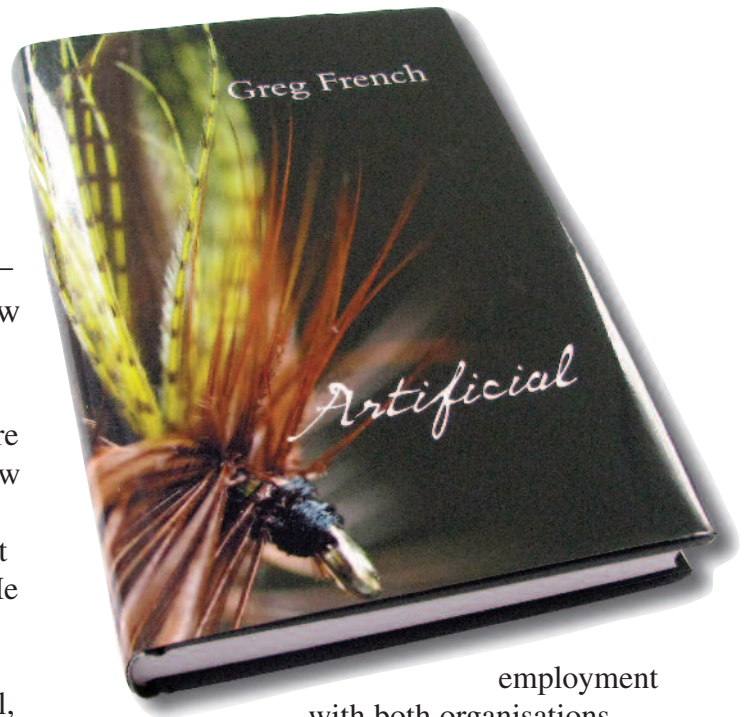
In Launceston, on Friday 12 August, there was a book launch for Greg French's new book, *Artificial*. This is a book by one of Tasmania's leading fly fishers, and without doubt, in my mind anyway, best writers. He is not just a prolific fishing writer though, but a thoughtful and articulate writer of short stories about life, love, friends, travel, beasties, fish and fishing.

Greg French is best known as a writer of where to fish and how to fish. His book *Tasmanian Trout Waters* is 'The Bible' for trout waters in Tasmania, and has been in production in various forms for many years.

*Artificial* though is a short story book, much along the lines of *Frog Call*. Greg French stories are real and incredibly dynamic. He doesn't embellish them, because there is no need. He has real people, real places and best of all, real fish. Some are little more than a paragraph, and all are complete on their own. Yet the characters and places arrive and depart many times within the pages.

Greg is a person of enormous practicality and a keen observer of the natural world. It is this that helps him explain and understand his place in this world. In his early life he kept animals in aquariums, and carefully observed how they were doing. If they were stressed he would go about changing the environment and improving their lot. He didn't need a book for this – Greg just had the 'touch' and understood what to do.

He worked as a Park Ranger for Parks and Wildlife on the West Coast and later for Inland Fisheries. He has stories of his



employment with both organisations that seem to defy logic – mostly because of the people he encountered. These include characters perhaps many would avoid, but Greg embraces them all, though he doesn't suffer fools and bureaucrats at all.

In *Artificial* you will find Scarface, Magenta, Calvin, Zongo, Karen, partner Frances and his good mate Lester. Who amongst us has ever gone fly skinking? Read about it and laugh. Greg has experienced more than most and lived a very full life. He works so he can enjoy life, and I for one reckon he has got the balance of life and work spot on.

His new book, *Artificial*, is an eclectic mix of life with Greg and his friends. Greg is a traveller, naturalist, builder, angler, philosopher and a delightful writer. His nickname is Trout but some call him Greg. Don't wait for an occasion to buy *Artificial*, but go and buy this book now. It is a fine collection of short stories by a master writer, virtually undiscovered. It is not just for trout fishers, and not just about trout, but they do appear. Everyone can enjoy this.

Mike Stevens, Stevens Publishing,  
PO Box 7504, Launceston, Tasmania 7250

## VFFA 2009 TASMANIAN TRIP



### A Few Spots Left For The 2009 Tasmanian Trip.

Having had a wonderful time in March 2008, the VFFA will return to Cressy from Saturday March 7 to Friday March 13 next year. Hayes on Brumbys has been booked. Bed and breakfast will be provided, as will linen and towels. We will self cater for lunch and get together for a barbecue at dinner time. Peter Hayes and his guides will be available to take you to the streams or lakes of your choice.

The VFFA Tassie 2009 contingent will meet at 6 pm at the Kelvin Club before the Christmas Dinner on Thursday, 18 December, to discuss the details and finalise sharing arrangements. Members will be responsible for their own travel arrangements to and from Cressy. Some will take their cars over on the Spirit of Tasmania, while others will fly and hire vehicles from Launceston airport.

Accommodation is limited but there are still a few vacancies left, so if you are interested in being part of the team please contact Hamish Hughes on 9822 6811 or [hthughes@bigpond.net.au](mailto:hthughes@bigpond.net.au)



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Hugh Maltby on Work: 9455 9000  
Mobile: 0400 887 065

# REPORT FROM WAY OUT WEST

(The following report was provided by Jim Blakeslee, who lives near Warrnambool in the Western District. This is an area that provides some fabulous fishing, and is one of the few places in Victoria where fish to 2 or 3 kg are regularly taken from the local rivers. Jim describes his first day for the new season).

What is it about the “Season Opener” that sparks interest and gets the heart pumping? Even during winter, for a bloke living in Warrnambool, there are plenty of opportunities to fly fish for trout, year round. We have the Merri, Hopkins and Moyne Rivers, and Mount Emu Creek, as well as Lakes Gilliear, Cartcarrong and Aringa - all within a 20 minute drive from home. The lakes are open year round, of course, as are the lower reaches of the Merri and Hopkins Rivers. So, where did this feeling of exhilaration and anticipation come from as I drove the 15 minutes from home for a day’s fishing on the upper Hopkins River?

The Victorian trout season’s official opening corresponds with the arrival of spring. I had waited for almost a week after the opening date for the rain and wind to ease, and chose a day that the boffins at the Bureau of Meteorology predicted would be warm, with clear skies and a light breeze. They were right. It was a glorious day that put a smile on my face and gave me a sense of anticipation, optimism and renewal.

There was no one else in sight as I parked the car, donned the waders, packed lunch into my vest and assembled my rod. I crawled

under the barbed-wire fence and headed downstream across the paddocks. Twenty minutes later I arrived at the first of a series of barriers. My plan was to spend the next three hours fishing back upstream to the car. There were three sets of runs or “barriers” created by old lava flows on that stretch of the river, and it was pleasing to see that the high, dirty water of winter had lost some of its colour and settled down into a wadeable, steady flow. I anxiously looked for signs that other fishermen had been there before me, but there were no footprints. So I was optimistic that I would be the first to cast a

fly into the pockets of water behind the boulders which were likely to hold some good fish.

I selected two flies. The first, a #6 Warrnambool Spuddler (representing a gudgeon that is often taken by trout in our area), was attached to a length of 3x fluorocarbon tippet.

Then to the bend of the hook, New Zealand style, I tied a 50 cm length of 4x fluorocarbon, to which was tied a #14 gold beadhead Hare’s Ear nymph, that represented the small caddis larvae and pupae that end up in the stomachs of Western District trout in early spring.

The following is my recipe some exciting upstream “nymphing.” The slight turbidity of the water in spring allows an angler to approach a trout much closer than later in the season when the water clears. I like to get in close to the fish, cast a short line, and let the flies “swim” around in the current. I hold the rod high, allow the line to hang in an arc and draw the line back towards me, watching for



any response. Sometimes there is an obvious slash at the Spuddler, but usually I strike instantly if there is the slightest hesitation or movement of the line upstream. If I'm lucky it's a good fish, but more often than not I find myself firmly attached to a rock. There is the initial thrill, then "damn, snagged again!"

This day I cautiously approached the first set of rapids from downstream and, after a few false casts, dropped the brace of flies into a likely bit of quiet water behind a large boulder. I held the rod high, the leader moved slightly upstream, so I struck and a golden-brown trout was thrashing on the surface in a frantic bid to throw the hook. I lead her downstream, away from the snags and boulders in the run, to slug it out in the pool below. A few minutes later I netted the first of 6 fat brownies. As I moved up through the runs I kept thinking to myself "how good is this?" It certainly was a memorable opening to the trout season. The browns I had done battle with were all between 1.5 to 2.0 kg and in excellent condition. I returned most of them to the river to fight another day, but kept two for the table, and to check their stomach contents for future reference.

What fly did they take, and what was in their stomachs? Well, for the record, 5 took the bead head nymph, with only one falling to the Spuddler. Their stomachs were full of small, greeny-brown caddis cases.



## The Gippsland Streams

(Rod Barford, well-known fly fishing guide and instructor, was asked by the DPI to carry out some surveys of the Gippsland rivers and streams, following the recent catastrophic bushfires and floods that had affected this region. Rod has very kindly provided the following summary of his most recent work).

Some good news from the Macalister catchment at last - several locations on the Macalister and Wellington Rivers that I'd looked at this time last year, and several times since, and which had earlier showed no invertebrates whatsoever, have begun to show much improved populations of mayfly and caddis fly. Very small numbers of dragon fly, stone fly and midge are also present in those locations, located over several kilometres from Kendall Flat down to Horse Hill.

Other spots that I've been checking, while showing no sign of fish, have finally begun to show small numbers of insects, though nothing you would call close to normal. It would appear that the bugs have survived in some places but not others.

One notable absence are the Coliburiscoides. I haven't found even one living nymph as yet, but did find what appeared to be a single empty nymph shuck yesterday at one location. The two mayfly species I've found thus far are an Atalophleb and a Caenid, which leads me to consider the possibility that the reason for the absence of Colibs may be related to the fact that they are mostly free swimmers, and move about the stream bed quite freely, which could cause them to more susceptible to being swept away by flood waters. Of course, huge quantities would have been crushed by the wholesale movement of larger stones and gravel.

Looking at the stream bed itself, while there is a significant silt/ash layer still present, this seems to be forming part of a new detritus layer, with good quantities of decayed and decaying matter building up to a level where it can provide proper habitat for invertebrates. The only problem there is that it takes very little to disturb the ultra-fine ash and silt to cause turbidity.

Yesterday was a good example - while it didn't rain where I'd been sieving, it must have much further upstream, as the Macalister rose 20cm during the early morning, and despite being quite clear the day before, became increasingly turbid, to the point where you couldn't see 10cm into it. The suspended silt has a very 'coppery' look to it, strongly reminiscent of the colour of the water during the flash flooding.

Sadly, other locations I've been checking have shown less positive results, with invertebrate numbers still either absent or extremely low. Mostly these are places where the finer sands, gravels and silt layers have been swept away completely, and sufficient replacement has not yet occurred, at least not yet to the point where recolonisation can effectively occur. In this respect, the Wellington seems to be a bit worse off than the Macalister, particularly in the stretch downstream from the B1 Track crossing.

Of the fish themselves, I have some reliable reports of brown trout being caught in several locations, mostly on Opening Day weekend - 6 fish at Paradise Valley, 1 fish at Cheynes Bridge, 2 fish at Licola Village, 1 fish at Lyndon Flat, and 2 fish at Basin Flat - all of these locations being on the Macalister River.

I haven't yet heard any reports of fish being caught further upstream than Lyndon Flat, or of fish being caught in the Wellington River, although I did hear mention of a couple caught in the Barkly River near Red Hill. I checked several angler groups on the

Wellington River along the Parks Victoria camp sites in the ANP, but none had seen any sign of fish. There was a large angler group camped at the Licola caravan park on Saturday, and no-one had caught fish at that time. Of all the anglers I've spoken to, none have seen a fish rise to the surface, but admittedly it is early in the season for surface activity. My own angling efforts, mostly with a fly, have yet to yield a single fish. However I have seen several Long-Horn Caddis on the wing, which is very encouraging.

Over this past weekend and on Opening Weekend I canvassed as many anglers as I could find. However these results may not be really indicative of the overall scenario, but just applicable to the more accessible parts of the rivers.

Normally when conducting sieve tests, I find at least a small number of brown trout fry and sub-fingerlings in my nets, but thus far, not a single specimen.

I think it very possible, indeed likely, that some portion of the fish population in these rivers has been swept downstream into Lake Glenmaggie, and remains there now. I haven't heard any reports of anglers fishing the lake to any good effect, but that doesn't necessarily mean anything, as most anglers keep good news pretty close to their chests if they can. I recall there was mention at one of the Fisheries Roundtable meetings of a presence & absence study for this catchment - I don't yet know if this has already occurred, is underway, or about to be completed. Anyway, allowing for the probability that my testing methods won't be as efficient as those employed by government zoologists or entomologists, I thought you would find this information of interest.

Cheers, Rod Barford

# FLY OF THE MONTH

This month we feature the hopper pattern that Hubert Reichelt tied at the fly-tying evening last July. This fly it is a little complicated to tie, but is an excellent hopper pattern.

## *Hubert Reichelt's Foam Hopper*

- Hook: Dry Fly – size 12, eg Kamasan model 405
- Body: Yellow foam cylinder – 0.3 mm or 1/8” diameter
- Thread: Olive 6/0
- Legs: Beige or light brown raffia, and the thin red string from an onion bag.
- Overwing: Golden pheasant feather – natural colour or dyed bright yellow.
- Head: Olive or yellow deer hair. (Hoppers occur in a variety of colours, typically beige, green or yellow. The colour changes over the season as the hoppers mature. Hubert suggests that anglers catch a few near their favourite hopper stream to check the colour.)

### **Tying Steps:**

1. Tie a layer of thread over the hook – starting halfway along the shank. Tied to the bend.
2. Take a length of the cylindrical yellow foam, and to get the right taper, hold the end in some pliers and pull the foam until it breaks. Cut the foam with scissors to get a length of cylinder about 12 mm long.
3. Use a razor blade to cut a notch in the cylinder which is halfway through the cylinder and half the length of the cylinder. See diagram below.
4. Place the foam cylinder on the hook shank so that the bend of the hook is inside the notch as shown below. (Superglue can be added before this stage to stop the foam body from rotating on the hook shank). Tie the thread on firmly over the notch to hold the foam cylinder in place. See fig 1.
5. Next construct the legs – use some string from a red onion plastic bag and some beige or light brown raffia. Take a strip of raffia 5 or 6 mm wide, place the red onion thread on top, then fold the raffia over to encase half of the piece of red string. Then hold them together and tie a simple overhand knot. The knot is the ‘knee’. The top half of the leg is the red string encased in raffia, and the bottom half, below the knee, is just red string. Make a second leg the same. (Hubert makes several legs at the start of a session and then takes a pair for each hopper that he ties.) See fig 2.

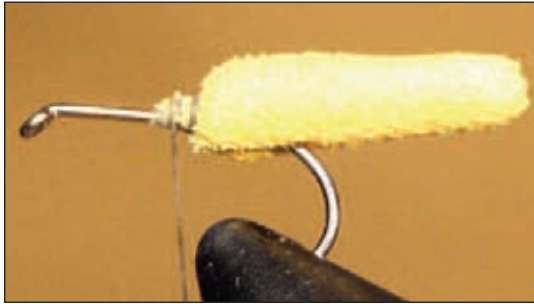


Fig 1

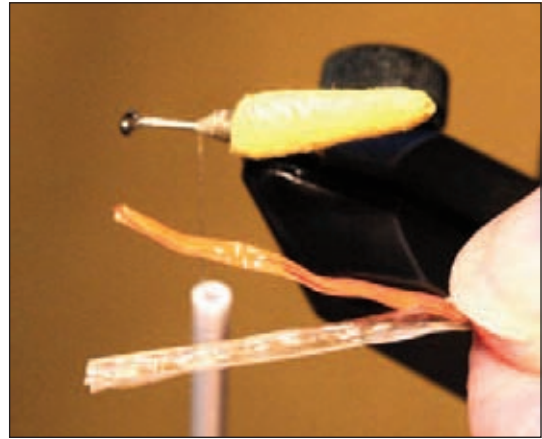


Fig 2

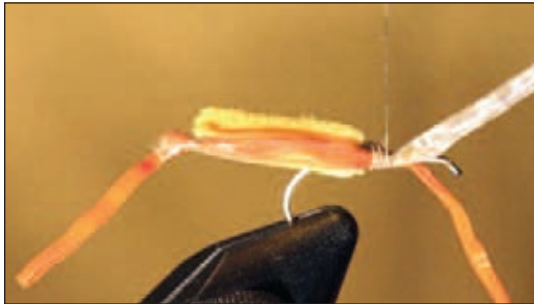


Fig 3



Fig 4



Fig 5

Fig 6



6. Tie a leg onto each side of the body of the fly so that the knee (ie the knot) is about 3mm beyond the end of the abdomen. The leg beyond the knot should be about 10 – 12 mm. See fig 3.
7. Take a strip of golden pheasant feather 5 or 6 mm wide and tie the strip in over the top of the hook, level with the abdomen at the back of the fly. Tie the strip in at a point 5 mm back from the eye of the hook so that this gap is bare, as it is easier to spin deer hair over a bare hook. Add a drop of superglue if the abdomen looks wobbly. See fig 4.
8. Take a small bunch of deer hair, tease out the underfur, and level the ends using a hair stacker. Hold the deer hair on the near side of the fly and take two loose turns around it and pull tight. Leave the long ends back over the top of the wing.
9. Push the deer hair near the eye of the hook back with your fingers and thumb, and add a couple of half hitches to the thread. Tie in another small bunch of deer hair – again using two loose turns of thread, and then tighten. Let the deer hair rotate and spin. Carefully wind the thread forward through the deer hair, whilst holding the deer hair back with your left hand. See fig 5.
10. Push the deer hair back hard to bunch it up and clear the eye. If needed, add another small bunch of deer hair to cover the shank up to the eye. Now push the deer hair back from the eye and tie off.
11. Carefully trim the deer hair to create a head, muddler minnow style. Trim closer under the eye to clear the gape. See fig 6.





## 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:

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 2008 Annual Dinner:**

- Armadale Angler • Aussie Angler • Australian Fishing Network • Balwyn Newsagency • Compleat Angler Box Hill • Compleat Flyfisher • Fly Life Publications • J M Gillies • Lowes Furniture • Mayfly Tackle • Mick Hall [www.kossiedun.com.au](http://www.kossiedun.com.au) • Michael Steven's Publishing • Millbrook Lakes Lodge • Nick Taransky - Bamboo Rod Maker • Pro Angler Fishing Tackle • Ray Brown, Onkaparinga Flies & Cane Rods