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THE VICTORIAN FLY-FISHERS' ASSOCIATION INC.

OCTOBER 2012

Organisation No. A0024750J

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

www.vffa.org.au

October Meeting

Thursday, October 18, 8:00 pm at the Celtic Club

Our guest speaker for the October general meeting is Jon Kenfield, who has quite some expertise in the use of GPS units, two-way radios and other safety and communication equipment. Of particular interest is the Garmin Rino 650 UHF radio / GPS unit, which has been purchased by a number of VFFA members. Jon will show us how to operate this item, but his presentation will also encompass many other aspects of safety when we're out fishing.

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

All members are invited, but PLEASE make a Dinner booking by 12 pm (lunchtime) on Wednesday, October 17, by –

Phone: 0498 254 497, and leave a message,

Or Email – secretary@vffa.org.au



Jon Kenfield in action, yet again proving that in fly-fishing size doesn't matter!

THE VICTORIAN FLY-FISHERS' ASSOCIATION INC.

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October Index

VFFA Office Holders	2	Rick Dugina's Annual Report	11
Advance Notice - October Meeting.....	3	Two Great VFFA Trips	13
Advance Notice - November Meeting	3	The Italian Casting Style.....	14
The September AGM.....	4	Report from Way Out West.....	19
President's Message – Terry Rogers.....	6	Mayfly Time in the Ballarat District	20
The Annual Christmas Dinner	7	An Elder Statesman - Bob Roles (Part 2) ..	24
Editor's Desk – Lyndon Webb	8	Fly of the Month.....	29
David Grisold - Life Member	10	VFFA Meetings & Activities	32

Advance Notice - the October General Meeting



The October general meeting, on Thursday October 18, will focus on aspects of angler safety and particularly the use of the Garmin Rino 650 UHF radio / GPS, which a number of members have purchased. Jon Kenfield has experience and expertise with this equipment and has agreed to talk us through its use.

One of the great joys of fly-fishing is its ability to take us far off the beaten track into places where ‘no hand has set foot’ (to quote Kenny Everett), at least not within fish memory time frames. Another of our pleasures lies in the camaraderie of fishing with friends, not to mention the amiable competition that comes with it. However, as we age and our eyes, bones, muscles, balance and (dare I say) brains lose a little of their former "edge", it's wise to get a little more serious about personal safety - dying of a broken leg or snake bite a few Klicks from the car would seriously eat into your allocated fishing time.

This is where modern technology can help, without becoming too intrusive. The use of a GPS unit for finding your target area, or your current location, or where your car is parked; two-(or more)-way radios for maintaining contact with mates while giving each other plenty of room to fish; and EPIRBs for summoning angels in choppers for dire emergencies are all forms of practical risk management we should all be seriously considering.

Jon Kenfield (aka "Gadget") is a long time believer in the sensible use of technology to enhance safety. The VFFA has recently ramped up its safety requirements and its advice to members in this regard. A number of members have recently purchased Garmin Rino 650 units which combine GPS and two way radio functions in a single handset. The VFFA encourages members to acquire their own safety equipment, be it a Garmin Rino 650 unit or similar product, in order to enhance their safety when “out in the wilds”. Jon will describe when and how to use the Garmins to best effect, and will open the discussion around the whole subject of personal and group safety.

Advance Notice – the November General Meeting

Our guest speaker for the November meeting is Gavin Hurley, Managing Director of Pro Angler and their two tackle stores located in Bentleigh and Geelong. The Pro Angler stores organise a number of fishing trips each year to exciting locations in such places as Tasmania, New Zealand, Chile, Christmas Island and Alaska. Gavin will provide members with information, pamphlets and details of each of these trips, and his presentation will be illustrated with lots of spectacular photos of the fishing opportunities at each of these venues.

He is also keen to show us some of the latest and greatest in fly-fishing equipment and clothing, and will bring samples of his stock for members to check out.

Mark it in your diary – 8:00 pm at the Celtic Club on Thursday, November 15.

The September AGM

There's probably a perception abroad that Annual General Meetings are very important for organisations but are not necessarily the most exciting and entertaining events on the calendar. Despite this, some twenty-three members attended our AGM in September to see the conclusion of business for the past year and to witness the election of office bearers and councillors for the next year or two.

Retiring president Rick Dugina presented his report on activities over the past year by means of a PowerPoint presentation of photos highlighting the various trips and activities of the past twelve months. The election of office bearers and councillors was completed under the watchful eye of scrutineer Stan Lancaster, with the following outcome:

President - Terry Rogers, Senior Vice President - Hamish Hughes, Junior Vice President - Jon Kenfield, Secretary - Richard Garvey, Treasurer - Tony Mitchem, Librarian - Peter Boag, Editor - Lyndon Webb, and Council Members Hugh Maltby, Kevin Finn, Mike Jarvis, and Dermot O'Brien. As retiring President, Rick Dugina remains on Council Ex-officio.



Terry Rogers with the H. L. Ford Plate which is presented to the incoming President

A special feature of the evening was the election of an Honorary Life Member. David Grisold was awarded this honour, and was completely taken by surprise. His speech in reply reflected his deep gratitude and delight at receiving this award. The presentation was made by Peter Boag, whose comments supporting the election of David to Honorary Life Membership are given in this newsletter on page 10.

The Tom and Frank McDonough Memorial Trophy for the winner of the President's Casting Day, an event that follows the Annual Dinner, was in fact won by retiring President Rick Dugina, who was obviously very pleased with his win and attributed his success to lots of practice following casting lessons with Peter Hayes earlier in the year.

The evening concluded with the traditional presentation of the H.L. Ford Plate by Rick Dugina to the incoming president Terry Rogers.



These AGMs are serious business



Retiring President Rick Dugina



Tony Mitchem presents his treasurer's report

New Member Welcomed ...

This month we give a very warm welcome to new member Jim Higgs, and trust that his membership of the Association brings many years of pleasurable involvement and enjoyment.

President's Message



I am honoured to have been elected your President for the following year and look forward to a challenging and satisfying 12 months with the support of the new Council and all of the VFFA members. It is important to remember that it is your Association and it needs your input to keep it vibrant and growing. The Executive and Council are only there as your elected representatives to implement the wishes of the majority.

In welcoming the new Council I would also take the opportunity to sincerely thank John Pilkington, Marty Rogers, Joe Haslauer, David Grisold and Rick Williams, members of the previous Council who did not seek re-election at this time. Each of these gentlemen has put many years of service into the operations of the VFFA. John has provided wise legal advice in numerous areas and has worked tirelessly in assisting in the preparation and publication of the books that the VFFA has produced in recent years. He has agreed to continue in his role as Assistant Editor.

Marty, with his vast knowledge of fly-fishing literature and equipment, has been of invaluable service as our Librarian and Auctioneer. It is hoped that he will continue to be “The Auctioneer” long into the future. Joe has done a wonderful job in taking over from Malcolm as the organiser of Sunday Morning Casting and has added an exciting new dimension to the tasty cakes, biscuits and coffee that Malcolm kindly provided for as long as I can recall. Joe has added an elegant range of barbequed continental sausages to the Sunday morning menu, and again I fervently hope that he will continue in this role indefinitely.

David (Choco) Grisold's contribution to the activities of the VFFA through his service on Council and subsequently President needs no further detailing in this report. David was justly presented with Honorary Life Membership of the VFFA at our recent Annual General Meeting, and details of his many achievements for our Association and fly-fishing in general are included elsewhere in this newsletter. Suffice to say: “Thank you Choco, and don't go away, please.”

Rick Williams had been an active member of Council for a number of years prior to taking “leave of absence” to live in Italy for a year or so. On Council he was always ready to fill whatever role was asked of him. Rick, we look forward to you returning to the VFFA ranks at some time in the future, at which point we will retain your services as a Guest Speaker at one of our Meetings so that you can recount your fly-fishing achievements in Italy without fear of contradiction, unless of course we schedule it for the Partners' Dinner, when your lovely wife Helen might contribute some detail.

In conclusion, on behalf of all VFFA members, I would congratulate Rick Dugina for his outstanding performance as President over the past two years. Many of you will not be aware of the countless hours of behind the scenes work that Rick has put in through a period that

has seen many necessary changes in the overall operation of the VFFA, including the move to our new headquarters, along with risk management and trip organising policies and the like.

My contact details are listed on page 2 of the newsletter, and I invite any member who wishes to contact me with any issues, criticisms, suggestions, information or even compliments that they might like to air. I guarantee you a response one way or another.

Best wishes,

Terry Rogers (President)

The Annual Christmas Dinner

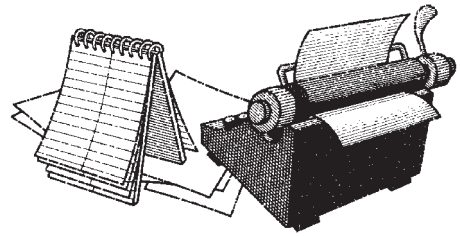
At this year's Christmas Dinner (Thursday, December 13) we will be acknowledging and honouring our long standing members. Our records show that we have five colleagues who have been members for 50 years or longer, and another 55 who have been members for 25 or more years. To acknowledge their years of membership the 25 year members will receive a special VFFA badge showing their 25 years, and the 50 year members will receive a similar badge along with a certificate to mark the occasion.



Our speakers for the Christmas Dinner will be a selection of members who have been invited to share special memories of their fly-fishing exploits over their many years in the Association. We have already locked in the services of Gerard Dryden who is about to commence his 65th year of membership of the VFFA. Gerard will be joined on the podium by Lyndon Webb and a couple of other esteemed “elders” with interesting tales to relate.

The invitation and application form to attend the Christmas Dinner will be included with the November newsletter.

From the EDITOR'S DESK



“Gamefish are too valuable to be caught only once.” This well-known quote was coined by Lee Wulff in 1939 in a book he authored: *Handbook of Freshwater Fishing*. He is considered the father of the catch and release movement.

I was reminded of this a few weeks ago when a copy of the August/September issue of the UK *Trout Fisherman* magazine arrived in the mail. It carried a feature article on ‘catch and release’, which I gather has been slow in gaining acceptance by British fly-fishers though its popularity is now growing.

I have to confess that in my early fly-fishing days I was a fully committed ‘kill and grill’ exponent. In this respect I was merely following the practices and the culture of the day. The fishing magazines and books that I read invariably carried page upon page of photos showing grinning anglers squatting behind rows of fish carcasses. The people I fished with dinged everything they caught, and even the writings of my trouting hero David Scholes were copiously illustrated with the dead remains of his catches. And why not? The whole point of fishing, after all, was to catch fish, and after I’d gone to all that trouble and effort and travel and cost to finally connect with a trout, putting it straight back in the water seemed absurd and irrational.

My conversion to a more enlightened attitude commenced in 1981 when I spent a year working in Hamilton, New Zealand. I joined the local angling club and its Vice-President, Peter Scott, took pity on this poor bewildered angling novice from ‘across the ditch’ and took me under his wing. Peter was a highly skilled trout fisherman - one of the best I’ve had the privilege of fishing with, and his job with a large dairy company gave him access to a number of local dairy farmers and thus to the rivers that ran through their properties. So how good was this – a top angler with access to some fabulous water, and I was invited to trot along with him. But Peter was a committed ‘catch and release’ man. I recall many occasions in those early months when I’d hooked a sizeable trout in some gorgeous stretch that he’d taken me to, and he would peer sternly over his polaroids with: “Now you’re going to put that one back, aren’t you!” And I did, too – every time. Since then it’s a given. When I land a trout now, regardless of its size, I admire it, sometimes photograph it, and then release it. Trout are beautiful creatures that look magnificent in their natural environment, so after I’ve made the connection and won the battle I’m happy to see them swim off again.

Having said all that I hasten to add that I have no issue at all with other anglers who keep the odd fish for the table. Bob Roles has some wise thoughts on this matter in his article. Where the fishery is fragile and spawning opportunities are limited then the wisest course is to put them back, but where the fishery carries a good head of trout then taking a few won’t damage the resource. (But I’ll still put them back.)

The September / October issue of the UK magazine referred to earlier carried news of another trend – and one I hope we don’t see repeated here. One of the writers reported a case where a

lone angler enjoying some trout on a quiet stream was set upon by four hoods who assaulted him and left him badly injured, stole his wallet and phone and fishing equipment, and even stomped on his hand in an effort to relieve him of his wedding ring. This apparently was just one example of similar instances of attacks on lone anglers. After all, quality fishing gear is popular, easy to sell and hard to trace. When Jon Kenfield talks to us at the October meeting about personal safety I'm sure assault and battery won't be on his list of discussion points. Let's hope it stays that way.

A note from Tom Edwards tells us that Dan Todorovic recently died, aged 90 years. Dan arrived from Europe in 1950 to find a better life for his family, and he became a very skilled fly tier and fly designer. He tied professionally for many years and is probably best known for his Nobby Hopper (originally sold as Dan's Hopper). For much of his life he and wife Elizabeth lived in Blackburn, but in retirement they moved to Bribie Island, Queensland. Dan was, from all reports, a kindly, gentle and generous man who is sadly missed by his many friends in fly-fishing.

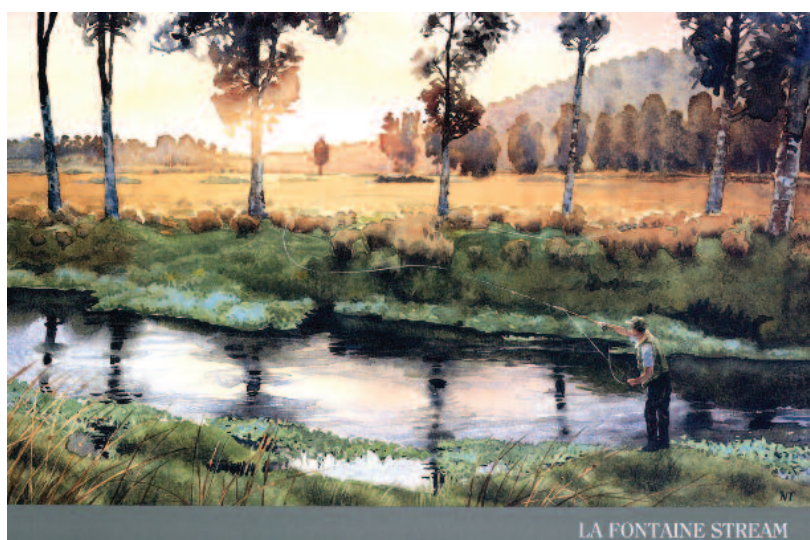
The VFFA library has lost an important volume. Volume 10 of the bound copies of VFFA newsletters has gone missing and librarian Peter Boag is most anxious for its return. This volume includes newsletters for the period 1998 – 2000. Peter would be very grateful if we all checked our bookshelves and the miscreant who has the missing volume quietly returned it.

The internet is so useful. I discovered recently that I could renew my Victorian fishing licence online – by going to <http://new.dpi.vic.gov.au/fisheries/recreational-fishing/fishing-licence>. It's quick and easy, and once you've paid your dues you can print your new licence.

Finally, great to see a couple of our well-known members appearing in a new fishing DVD. If you head to your local newsagency and part with \$14.95 you can purchase 'The Fishing DVD' number 28, which has a short but delightful segment on the trout fishing around the Omeo area. Peter Morse is the presenter, ably assisted by Trevor Stow and Hubert Reichelt. Some of the scenery and river views are simply glorious.

Tight lines (and don't forget to put them back)

Lyndon Webb



Nancy Tichborne watercolour – La Fontaine Stream

Congratulations David Grisold – now a Life Member

(note prepared by Peter Boag)

The VFFA Council recently passed a resolution to elect David Grisold as an Honorary Life Member. In the 80 years of the VFFA's existence there have only been 25 Honorary Life Memberships awarded, so it is not an honour that is lightly bestowed.

David joined the VFFA in 1998, and in the following year became a Council member. He quickly made his mark with his enthusiasm and 'can do' attitude to matters in general. In 2002 he suggested that the VFFA sponsor a 'Cane Day', and from 2003 to the present day he has worked tirelessly to make the annual Cane Day a significant event in the VFFA calendar. It has introduced many of our members to the pleasures of fishing with cane, and incidentally given our local cane rod makers a lot of business they would not otherwise have enjoyed.



David receiving his Life Membership from Peter Boag

David continued serving on Council, eventually becoming President for the two years September 2006 to 2008. Owing to the illness and premature death of our previous President, Bill Morgan-Paylor, David was effectively de facto President for the greater part of Bill's second year of Presidency, so David was in effect President for nearly 3 years. I was Senior Vice President during this period, and was privy to knowing how much he committed to this unforeseen situation without demur. During his Presidency David also had some health issues of his own, but did not let these get in the way of what he saw as his commitment to the role.

During his term he oversaw a number of initiatives. A number of subtle changes were effected with the Newsletter. He spent a lot of time with the then editor, John Philbrick, introducing more content with both text and photos. He provided significant support to John in what was the latter stage of John's editorship. .

For the Annual Dinner he promoted a larger raffle and followed up by personally approaching and contacting our members and other friends in the industry to donate gifts. We continue to rely on the raffle as an important source of funds.

He strongly supported the introduction of more organized trips during his office, and it is encouraging to see increasing numbers taking up the opportunity to enjoy these trips.

Critically, David badgered Tony Brothers to continue with the enormous amount of work he had already put into the writing of the history of the VFFA. Without David's prodding and encouragement, it may never have been written to a publishable form before Tony's untimely death. We are indeed very fortunate to have as our history, *The Country For An Angler*.

We also had the very successful Inaugural VFFA Art Show in 2007 during his stewardship.

The 75th Anniversary Annual Dinner in the same year was a huge success, with more than 120 attendees filling the Kelvin dining room.

David would be the first to acknowledge that all these things mentioned, and others not mentioned, were only achieved through the enormous assistance and support of fellow Councillors and other VFFA members. He has made a very significant contribution, whether personally or by engaging with other people, during a very successful period for the VFFA. He is what I would call an 'enabler' - someone who enables things to be done, and he has done it very successfully during his years of membership. I conclude with the following thought: this honour tonight was not sought after, but it is certainly richly deserved.

President Rick Dugina's Annual Report

- a reflection on the past 12 months.

The past 12 months of VFFA events and activities commenced with the October meeting last year, where Andrew Mossman gave a thought-provoking outline of fly tying developments over the past 50 years. In November Julien Thomas told us about fishing the French way, and of the wonderful Coq de Peche hackles that originated from his home region in France. Travis Dowling, the Director of Fisheries Management for Victoria, was guest speaker for the December Christmas dinner and his very positive presentation generated a lot of optimism for the future welfare of our trout fishing.



2012 began with the traditional February Liar's Night. The number attending was very small but we shared some great stories. However close to 60 members turned up for the March meeting to hear Mark and Philip Weigall talk about fishing in New Zealand and here in Victoria. It was about this time that Council began discussions on the possibility of finding a new home.

April saw the master fly tiers in action again, with Hubert Reichelt and Richard Kos demonstrating some favourite patterns and important techniques. The May meeting was the first at the Celtic Club and a good crowd gathered for the auction of some 90 books from the R.A. Brothers collection. Auctioneer Marty Rogers was in superb form with the gavel.

In June Time-Plus Communications brought along their latest equipment and told us about Epirbs and walkie-talkies and satellite phones. June also saw the cane rod makers meeting together, and we held our traditional Cane Day on Sunday June 11.

Peter Hayes drew a large crowd for the July meeting and had us enthralled with the depth of his knowledge on catching trout. The Annual Dinner in August was another very successful event with fine food, an excellent crowd, and a superb guest speaker in Mike Stevens, who told us about the new Australian Fly Fishing Museum being established in Tasmania. A special feature of this year's Annual Dinner was the presentation of a Jack Ritchie Medal to Mick Hall to honour his efforts over many years to defend and promote our Victorian trout fishery.

Trips and events included a trip to Wanaka in the South Island of New Zealand last November, where President Rick caught his largest ever brown trout – which was only bit over 12 lb. November also saw an enthusiastic contingent heading to Warrnambool where the members of the Warrnambool Fly-fishers hosted and guided us.

In February a number of our members travelled to Tasmania to stay at Hayes on Brumbys for a week of trout fishing and socializing in style. A smaller number attended the Bairnsdale Annual Dinner and (unsuccessfully) attempted to wrest the Donger Trophy away from the locals. In April John Pilkington was our host at Enochs Point on the Big River, and in August a hardy bunch travelled west to try their skills at Lakes Bullen Merri and Purrumbete.

This past year saw significant upgrades to our website by our hard-working Website Administrator Kevin Finn, and also saw the range of items carrying the VFFA logo for purchase by members broadened by the ever-enterprising Hugh Maltby. The brochure promoting the VFFA was revised under the direction of Hamish Hughes, and Hamish also lead the team that completed our Risk Management pamphlet. Sunday casting continued under the leadership of Joe Haslauer, and in July Council held an all-day planning meeting which laid the foundations for changes to our administration over the next few years.

But of course, the single most important event for the last 12 months was our move to the Celtic Club – a move that has proven singularly successful.

Rick Dugina (Retiring President)

Fly Fish Baw Baw 2012

Come to Mt Baw Baw Resort, West Gippsland to learn and experience everything fly fishing



Friday 23 November
8.00 pm **Free**

- fly fishing information night about waters with local experts.

Saturday 24 November
All day fishing

- collect access maps from the resort to guide you to the top trout waters in the region
- family activities including casting at the resort for beginners.

Sunday 25 November
9.00 am - 2.00 pm **Free Trade Fair**

- fly tying demonstrations
- chat with fly fishing guides and identities
- check out the latest fly fishing equipment
- family activities with fly casting pond
- local food and wine stalls.

For more information visit www.dpi.vic.gov.au/flyfishbawbaw or www.flyfishbawbaw.com.au

State Government Victoria

DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES | fisheries

Two Great VFFA Trips

Warrnambool Season Opener Weekend & Dinner

It's on again – the Season Opener to Warrnambool and District on November 9 – 11. Following a magnificent visits to Warrnambool and district over the past two years we will do it all again for this year's opening weekend.



Accommodation has been booked at the Surfside Holiday Park. This complex is very comfortable and in a great location. The accommodation has been booked in cabins from arrival on Friday, November 9, until departure on Sunday, November 11.

We will fish a number of local rivers including the Merri, Hopkins, Mt Emu and Moyne. These rivers offer a wonderful variety of fishing - both wet and dry styles, depending on the height and clarity of the water.

The President and members of the Warrnambool Fly Fishers will again guide us, and host a dinner at Jim Blakeslee's Winery on the Saturday evening. Jim and his wife Tricia will be our hosts. Members will each share the cost of this meal and provide their own drinks.

This will be a great weekend, so reserve your spot now by reading the NOE (Official VFFA 'Notice of Event') which is included with this newsletter and then complete and submit the 'Event Registration Form' also included. (These can also be downloaded from the VFFA website). The Convener for this event is Hugh Maltby, contactable on: Mob - 0423 283 079 or by email - redntag@hotmail.com

VFFA 2013 Trip to Tasmania

VFFA members participating in this fabulous annual event will again be staying at Peter Hayes' fly fishing lodge at Cressy. The trip runs from Saturday, February 16, to Friday, February 22, 2013. Those attending need to make their travel arrangements, and the cost is \$650 which covers twin shared accommodation, linen including towel and face washer, bed, breakfast, dinner, evening drinks, including beer and wine. Waters fished include the North and Midlands streams and the Central Plateau lakes. Guides are also available for a cost of \$450 each per person per day with two anglers sharing a guide. A current Tasmania license is required, and these can be purchased online from www.ifs.tas.gov.au

Hamish Hughes is convening this trip, and those keen to participate need to read the NOE (Official VFFA 'Notice of Event') which is included with this newsletter and then complete and post the 'Event Registration Form' to Hamish at 22a Moorhouse Street, Armadale, Victoria 3143. Hamish can be contacted on mobile 0418 108 686, or email hthughes@bigpond.net.au.

This event is limited to 16 participants, so aspirants need to post their registration forms in promptly to ensure a spot.



The Italian Casting Style

(by Philip Bailey and Massimo Magliocco)

“You can have the perfect fly, tied with excellent materials, but if you do not present it in the right place and in the best possible way it serves no purpose”.

This is the motto adopted by Fly Fishing Masters, a team of enthusiastic, talented and dedicated fly-fishers from Italy.

Over the past few years, the FFM team has travelled to the United Kingdom to promote their style of casting. This style, born out of the “Tecnica di Lancio Totale” – Total Cast Technique of TLT and developed by the famous Roberto Pagliola, provides a different set of casts to meet demanding fishing conditions presented on the turbulent, clear and very overgrown streams in Italy.



The difficulty of fishing Italian streams is replicated on local waters

This new approach to casting began development in the early 1970's as early adopters studied the types of currents on the streams that they fished and strove to develop solutions to overcome the difficulties that these streams presented. While Pagliola gave Italian fly-fishers the modern Italian casting techniques necessary to meet these challenges others over the last 20 years have investigated ways to broaden the number and dynamics of those initial techniques.

Massimo Magliocco, one of Italy's most respected and talented fly-fishermen, was one of these. In 1985 Massimo met Pagliola and learned his techniques, ultimately becoming an instructor with the 'TLT' team. However Massimo decided that the techniques could be improved and over a period of years he further developed the original casts into the technique that is practiced by the Italian Fly-Fishing Masters team today. Massimo believed that people go fishing for pleasure and when they go fishing they should not have trouble with their casting. If casts can be made simpler then why not use them. A small but growing band of fly-fishers are now adopting this approach to fishing dry flies on streams here in the UK.

For those who have learnt to fly-fish using the 'classical techniques', adopting these new casts can be challenging. The FFM technique calls for high line speed using a short rod with light line weight. Typically the rod is 7'6" long, has a very stiff progressive action, and carries a 3 weight double taper line with a leader of 16.5 feet (5 metres). The use of light lines provides a more delicate and less fish scaring presentation, and when they are cast with greater speed and tension they offer the potential for greater accuracy. The better rods for this style of casting are purpose made using specifications developed through rigorous testing.

Massimo states: “If you can control the line speed of these rods then with practice you will be able to perform similar casts with longer and heavier rods. Master the line and then you can master the water whether it is a slow glide or a turbulent rapid”. The Italian style is a good example of ‘form following function’, as all casts have been developed with the sole purpose of improving presentation.

Like all casting techniques, the FFM approach uses some fundamental principles. These include the ‘axis’ in which the cast is made; the ‘casting plane’ for each cast; the ‘grip’; a ‘tight loop’ for each cast; ‘vibration dampening and ‘thrust’ during the cast; and the importance of the ‘left hand’.

What are immediately noticeable when looking at someone casting with the Italian style are the grip, the cast and the delivery. All of the principles above go into producing a very fast, narrow loop that delivers the fly, leader and line all at the same time. When executed well the fly just ‘appears’ on the water in front of the fish without any undue splash.

Gripping the rod in a particular way rather than another can make casting easier or create problems. This is certainly the case in the classical style and is critical in the Italian style. The normal grip used by the majority of fly-fishers is acceptable, but only if the grip is as low as possible towards the reel.



The Italian style of grip

Too far up the grip and the unwanted bending of the wrist will cause the line to move out of the ‘axis’ and ‘plane’. The Italians use what is called a ‘wrap around grip’ - very similar to the normal ‘thumb on top’ grip but with the hand wrapped around the reel. This grip helps to increase contact with the rod and facilitates the dynamics of certain casts, especially very fast casts. It may feel uncomfortable in the beginning but you become accustomed to it.

The Italian style of casting operates in an ‘axis’ and ‘plane’ of 30° to 45°. The ‘axis’ is from a vertical line drawn down the centre of your body and the ‘plane’ from a horizontal line drawn through the hips.

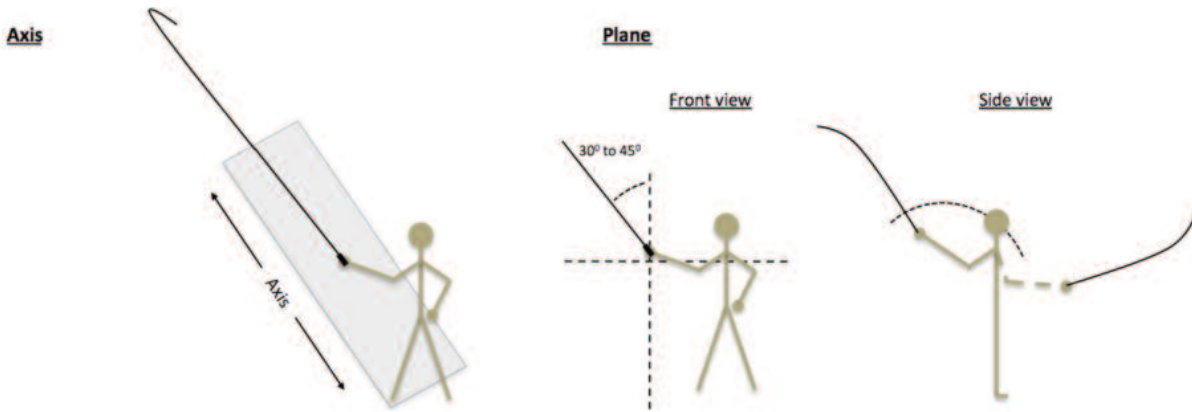


Diagram showing the axis and plane of the standard Italian cast.

These positions allows the person casting to have more space. The more space you have to carry out the cast the more acceleration you can produce. The Italian style does not include the abrupt stops on the back and forward casts of the traditional style. Instead the arm is allowed to drift 20 – 25 centimetre on either the back or forward cast, resulting in an almost seamless cast without any stop. This is what is termed ‘vibration dampening’ and the following false cast is commenced just before the line is completely extended. Casting this way provides a harmonious approach without forcing the rod too much. The result is increased line speed. For comparison (and slightly more exaggerated) think about how you cast a very long line – you drift with the line as it straightens out. This is a similar action but with no stop. Traditional casters find this the most difficult aspect to learn.

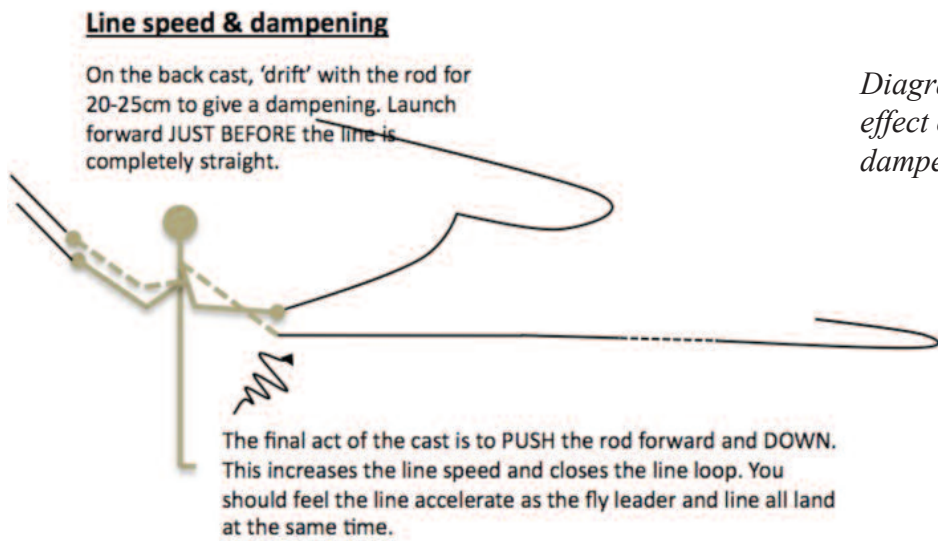


Diagram showing the effect of ‘vibration dampening’

One thing that is fundamentally different to normal casting is the application of power just before the application of ‘vibration dampening’. Known by the Italians as the ‘thrust’ it occurs in both the back and forward cast. The example below shows how it is applied in a forward cast. The ‘thrust’ is defined as “the precise instant during which the rod transmits a sudden increase in velocity to the line in a very defined space. The line goes forward over the rod tip and the loop is formed”.

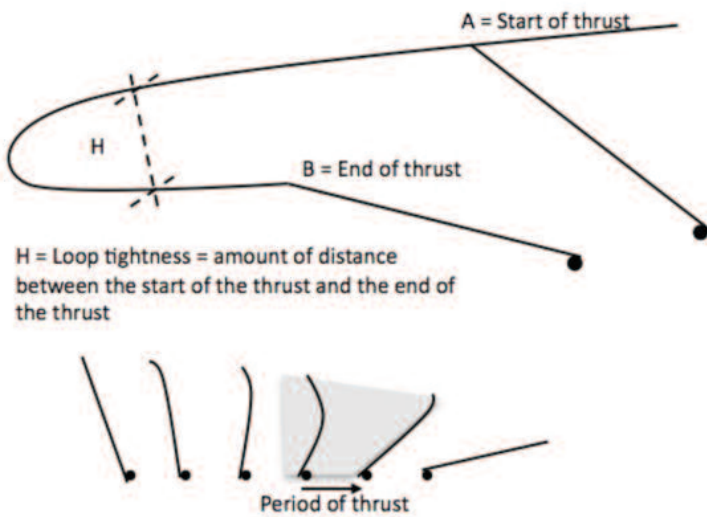


Diagram showing how the 'thrust' is applied

This is a constant and progressive increase in line speed which creates a sudden snap and a forward increase in velocity, thus creating a loop in front of the rod tip. In Italian casting this action is the second last stage of the cast (prior to the vibration dampening stage) and is quite different to traditional style where it is the final stage.

These are the basic elements that need to be learned. There are some other minor techniques, but these are best learned from an instructor. There is a range of casts that FFM has developed and all of them allow you to present the fly into difficult areas (such as under a bush or through a hole in overhanging vegetation) or to combat drag often encountered on fast flowing sections of rivers. All of them are extremely useful to learn.



Picture of the 'Low Parallel Cast delivering a fly into a gap in overhanging bushes

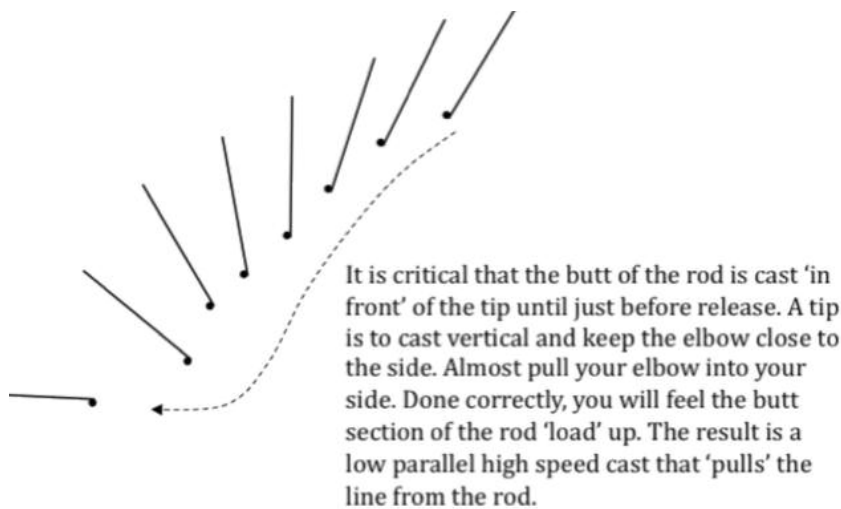


Diagram showing how to use the butt during false casting

One of the casts developed to get your fly into difficult situations is the 'Low Parallel Cast'. This is a spectacular cast to witness as the line travels at high speed perfectly parallel and low to the water. The result is a very tight loop which pushes the fly and leader through or under overhanging bush.

The primary element behind this cast is an extremely high line speed and to achieve the right speed you need to cast differently. To perform the cast you need to use the butt of the rod instead of the tip as in normal casting.

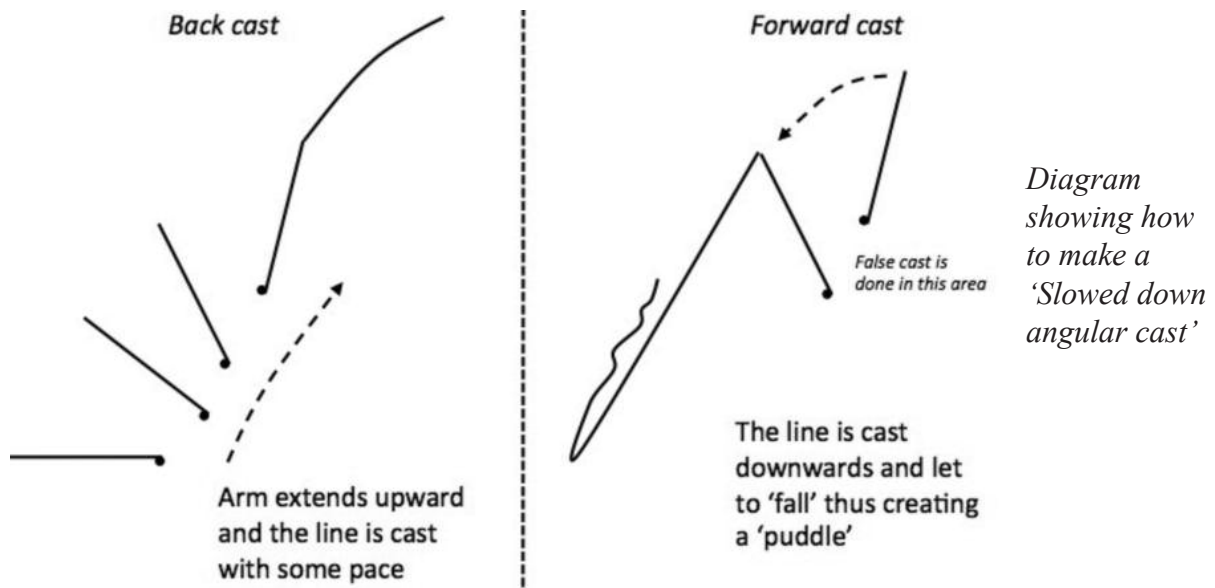


Executing the 'Slowed Down Angular cast'

You start with the rod quite high behind your head in a vertical plane and without any incline backwards. The rod is then moved down making sure that the butt and reel are kept forward of the rod tip. The reason for this is that you want the butt section to load up, achievable with a stiff progressive action. This is done through two false casts and you finish with the arm extended forward and with the rod parallel and low to the water. The line is released late (almost

when the line is completely turned over) and as a result the line and leader will continue to travel for a few metres further and easily penetrate overhanging bushes.

On fast flowing or turbulent water an effective cast is the 'Slowed Down Angular Cast', which is often referred to as a 'piled up cast'. This is a different cast to that of the same name in the traditional style of casting. This cast lets you place your fly in places where fish hold on the side of very fast currents by 'piling' the leader up and without having the line touch the water thus eliminating a lot of drag.



The cast is designed to get over fast currents and to pile the leader up in the slower part of the water. The cast is fairly simple and consists of slowing down the casting movement operating with the rod held very high and casting in a short arc.

It is important that you compensate for the piling up so you will need more line than if you were casting directly to the spot. The loop should remain very tight, and on the forward cast the speed is taken out of the line allowing it to 'free fall'. The line will continue down into the area where you want the fly, and the leader will 'pile up' resulting in a longer period where the fly is static.

These are just two of the range of casts developed by the Fly Fishing Masters team. The Italian Style of Casting, taught by a highly professional instruction team, is not a replacement for other techniques. It provides an alternative approach to the way in which you fly-fish and will be attractive to those who fish small streams or river sections where there is turbulent water.

Information

Massimo Magliocco is the Technical Director and founder of FFM Italy. Philip Bailey is the FFM representative and Chief Casting Instructor for the UK.

FFM-Casting Italian Style runs clinics for people to try the Italian Style in various parts of the UK. Ongoing casting days are run regularly for those who wish to continue the journey. Tuition is provided by approved FFM casting instructors.

Web site: www.flyfishingmasters.co.uk

Contact: Philip Bailey – admin@flyfishwithme.net

Report from Out West

(from Jim Blakeslee)

At the Warrnambool Flyfishers Club AGM last August Adrian Jacobs was re-elected President, Glen Fary re-elected as Vice President, Peter Hussey re-elected as Treasurer, and Hafey Rock agreed to take on the Secretary's role, a position held for some years by Jim Blakeslee.

The club had a recent outing to Lake Aringa at Port Fairy. In past years this small lake, which is a few kilometres north of the township, has produced some spectacular fishing, but on this occasion club members managed just one redfin and some small rainbows, all taken on nymphs. The water was still coloured after the winter rain and there was no surface action. No stick caddis were evident and no other bugs were moving.

Jim has taken a couple 3 lb browns from the Hopkins River in the section above the Falls. They were taken on large (size 4) weighted Spuddlers. The fish had spider crabs, mudeyes and large gudgeon in them when they were cleaned and autopsied. Jim also reports that two monster browns have recently been extracted from the lower Merri. The local word is that an angler fishing lures caught a brown of 9 lb, and another lure fisherman caught one of 8 lb. Great captures but not totally unexpected – the lower Merri is rich in shrimp, gudgeon and lots of other trout food.

The area hasn't had too much rain lately, so the river levels are dropping right back and the water is starting to clear.

Cheers, JB

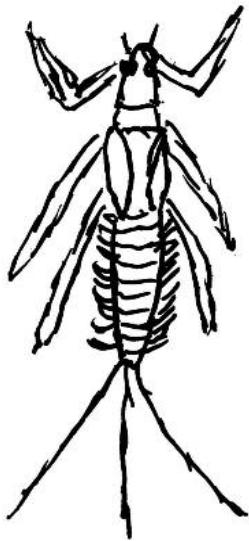
Mayfly Time in the Ballarat District

(David Martin)

Most years fly-fishers living in the Ballarat district have the opportunity during spring to early summer, and again in late autumn, to experience regular hatches of mayfly on local natural waters and impoundments. Ballarat is situated almost astride the Great Dividing Range in central Victoria, and its temperate climate and surrounding fertile volcanic land provides ideal weed in enriched waters, both natural and man-made, for the development and continuity of many mayfly populations. Mayflies, or 'Day Flies' as they are perhaps appropriately known at times here in Australia, are mostly aquatic insects belonging to the order Ephemeroptera, from the Greek "ephemeros" (lasting only a day), and "pteron"(wing).

This is an apt description of the adult insect, as most species live for only a day or at the most a few days. Their mouth parts are non-functional, so they do not feed and are solely concerned with reproduction of the species. Of our local Ephemeropterans, the dominant family is known as Leptophlebiidae (flattened nymphs), well represented by the species *Atalophlebia australis*. *Atalophlebia australis* is most prolific on many Ballarat district waters, except in brackish or salty areas where no species of Ephemeroptera are known to exist. During most aspects of its life cycle, whether it be larvae (nymph), sub-imago (dun), imago (spinner), or spent spinner it is responsible for predictable, seasonal and selective feeding by trout and other fish species in waters such as Lake Wendouree (in the centre of Ballarat city), Newlyn Reservoir (east of Newlyn Township) and Hepburn Lagoon (2 km north of Newlyn). These three waters have extensive areas of prolific aquatic weed growth to an average depth of 2 metres, thus providing bountiful aquatic life.

In addition we have impoundments under the jurisdiction of the Central Highlands Water Authority (public water sources) and I can list the following reservoirs where I have recorded mayfly activity: Moorabool, Dean, Cosgrove, Bostock, Wombat, Bullarto and Talbot. In the insect world the life cycle of Ephemeropterans is unique. Most insects have a pupal or resting



A sketch of the mayfly nymph

stage whereas mayflies have two post nymphal stages – a transitory non-sexual sub-imago (dun) which transforms to a sexually active imago or adult (spinner). Mating flights take place mainly at dusk when swarms of males rise up and down over water and females fly into the swarm and are seized by one or more males, copulate, then dip down to the water surface where masses of eggs (up to 500 each time) wash from their bodies and sink to the water bed. These eggs may hatch within days, or if water conditions are threatened (drought) may remain dormant (diapause) until conditions are again viable.

The tiny larvae (nymphs) grow and develop, shedding their exoskeleton up to 30 times (instars). As they grow they feed on algae and detritus on the bottom of the particular water. In past years I have collected nymphs from local waters to observe in an aquarium at home. They appear to be secretive creatures, apparently feeding mainly at night, and if disturbed they scurry

quickly to hide under stones, their olive-brown appearance and flattened bodies being ideal for this purpose. A characteristic of these nymphs are three tail filaments and pairs of gills situated on the ten abdominal segments. (Apparently these distinguish mayfly nymphs from all other forms of aquatic larvae.)

The anatomy of these gills appears to vary with each species (other Atalophlebiids are similar) and assists with their identification. Adjacent to the gills within the exoskeleton are a series of minute hollow tubes called spiracles which transfer oxygen from the water via the gills to maintain life.

During growth the nymph sheds its skin (exoskeleton) frequently and during later moults wing buds appear on the thorax and gills become more visible. When mature (at approximately 10 - 12 mm long), the thoracic area darkens, the nymph ceases feeding, empties its gut, takes in additional oxygen and floats or rises with a curious articulated motion towards the surface of the water. (*Atalophlebia australis* appears to be a poor swimmer).

This movement does not occur unless certain conditions exist, and I believe these are associated with water surface temperature and light intensity associated with cloud cover. The nymph may make several attempts before stabilising in the surface film (the meniscus). Here it behaves in a most remarkable manner, gulping in air to greatly distend its gut, thus increasing its buoyancy which is retained in the transformed insect. Then with great rapidity, using the tension of water surface film, the nymphal shuck splits and the sub-imago emerges. It then drifts or may fly immediately (very clumsily) waterside to await the final moult.



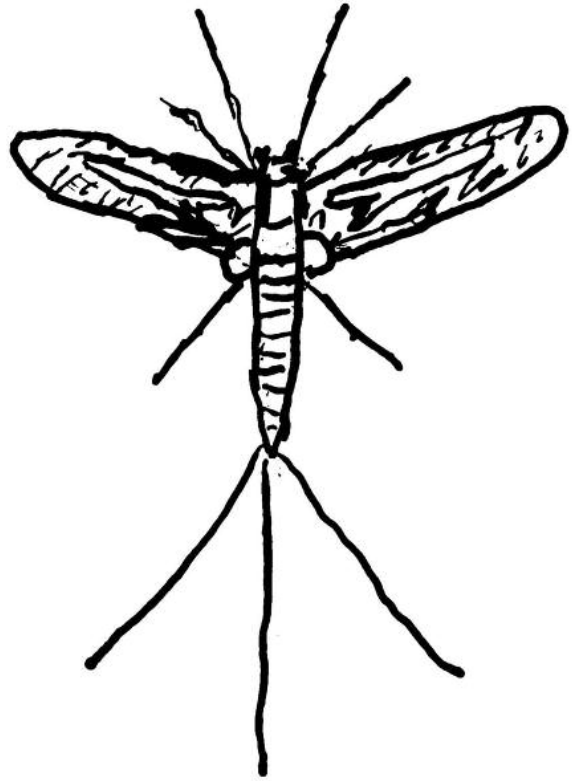
Mayfly nymph



Mayfly Spinner

The sub-imago of *Atalophlebia australis* has a uniformly greyish-brown body and possesses four wings held upright, the hind wings being approximately one third the size of the forewings (wingspan 25 mm). The wings have an attractive solid, opaque, mottled appearance and a feature which assists in distinguishing it from other species of Atalophlebiids – an area on each forewing of clear venation shaped like the letter “y” upside down. The sub-imago rests on waterside vegetation where it may transform immediately into the final imago, or rest for several days before transforming into the final imago

(adult). I will explain and evaluate the timing of this transformation later. The emergence of the imago or adult is a wonder of nature – a handsome insect 8 - 12 mm long with reddish-brown abdomen (glowing orange-red when flying into sunlight), glossy black thorax, dark prominent eyes, glassy clear wings held upright and yellowish towards the base with reddish venation, three reddish tails with black tips up to 25 mm long, black forelegs up to 9 mm (elongated in the male to assist grasping the female in flight). The imago is a strong flier, its flight balanced by the tails and outstretched forelegs. The fact the gut is full of air further assists buoyancy in flight. The flight of swarms may not last for long, as following mating most adults fall exhausted to drown and float in the surface film of the water (spent spinners).



Sketch of the mayfly spinner

Mayflies are attractive as a food to trout at all stages of the active development – as nymph, sub-imago, imago, and spent spinner. I have noted that in the Ballarat district rarely have I discovered mayfly nymphs in the gut content of captured trout other than when hatches are occurring.

In the district nymphal activity begins to occur during October of each year, usually about the middle of the month. If winter has been mild I have encountered nymphing trout at Talbot Reservoir in September, but it usually takes a week or two for trout to realise and feed on nymphs mid-water, the sub-imago on the surface often being ignored.

Initially most activity takes place during midday hours, usually about 2:00pm (Eastern Standard Time), and if the sun is overcast, so much the better. By November dry fly fishing may be commenced in earnest with trout realising that there is also food on the surface. It is usually the wily old browns that appreciate this first, while rainbows continue to chase nymphs through the water column. I believe that subtle rises in surface water temperature coupled with light intensity may coincide with the commencement of a 'hatch'.

From my records, best fishing days often occurred in relation to weather changes across Southern Victoria. At that time of the year (October – November) the passage of a low pressure system across Ballarat followed by an approaching High will generate cold winds from the south coupled with intense cloud and frequent showers (locally called "Ballarat drizzle"). Nymphal activity will increase during daylight hours, with an emergence of duns during early to mid-afternoon. Water temperature may only alter half a degree for this to occur.

If the High is slow moving good fishing may persist for several days, but if it is fast moving the approaching fine weather will herald the transformation of duns to spinners resulting in late afternoon fishing to nuptial and spinner falls.

Some of the better fishing I have experienced occurred in November during snow and sleet. As the months progress duns emerge earlier as the days pass. Early morning dun hatches are followed by a lull in the middle of the day, then a late afternoon hatch and a spinner fall at dusk. Even with this advice, some days are unpredictable: a carpet of duns and not a fish up! A bright, sunny day and fish up everywhere! My only advice is if you have the opportunity - go fishing!

I have written at length about our dominant mayfly – *Atalophlebia australis*, or “red spinner” as the imago is known. Over the years I have collected a number of other nymphs, duns and spinners. Some closely resemble *Atalophlebia australis* but occur much less frequently and some years not at all. They can hatch at the same time as *Atalophlebia australis* and I have never found the need for a special emerger. Just match the silhouette of the dun on the water and ensure it floats **in** the surface film.

I must mention one other mayfly, the “black spinner” (*Atalophlebia albiterminata*). You will rarely see the dun, as the nymph crawls out of the water to transform waterside. The imago is an impressive spinner -blackish colour with white tipped tails and approximating the size of the red spinner. Often encountered in a swarm of reds at dusk. Trout love them - frequently jumping to catch them in mid-air and apparently ignoring the red spinners. Always carry a pattern in your box.

Recent stockings in Ballarat waters (May, June & July this year):

Hepburn Lagoon	5,000 rainbow trout and 5,000 brown trout
Lake Wendouree	11,000 brown trout
Cosgrove Reservoir	1,000 rainbow trout and 1,000 brown trout
Dean Reservoir	500 rainbow trout and 500 brown trout
Wombat Reservoir	1,000 rainbow trout and 1,000 brown trout
Newlyn Reservoir	4,000 brown trout

Tight lines, *David*.

Need Some Peacock Feathers

John Pilkington has just received a substantial quantity of fresh high quality peacock feathers which he is keen to share with members. As he says, ‘free to a good home’.

They come from adult cock birds from Chateau Tabilk and hence he can vouch for their provenance. If you would like some of these superb feathers then ring John on 9225 8616 (work); 9489 2186 (home) or 0407 356 676.

Thank you John – a very kind offer.

An Elder Statesman – Bob Roles (Part 2)

In the September newsletter we heard from Bob Roles who has been fly-fishing for more than 50 years. He gave a wonderful insight into his technical approach and the thought patterns that go to make up an elite fly-fisherman. This is part two of that interview.

(Questions 1 – 9 were Bob’s responses in the September issue)

Question 10: Who or what has been your greatest fly-fishing influence over the years?

Two experiences have changed the way I now approach a day on the stream. The first of these was my introduction to the small streams of the Monaro region, prompted by reading John Hedge’s very informative book, *Trout Fishing in NSW*. When I first visited the region with Jim Allen in 1964, we found the small basalt waters rich in pond weed and the trout very spooky. From 1970 onwards, spring and autumn visits produced phenomenal mayfly fishing and our successes were paralleled by our new learning curve. Fishing was not just fishing any more, it was “hunting” - seeking out the quarry first.



Today this is called “sight fishing” and engages the fly-fisher like no other method. A revelation at the time was my first use of polarised sunglasses. David Scholes wrote about the advantages these glasses give the angler. I remember we all purchased the first fishing glasses to come from the UK, a make called Searle, in about 1963. They were circular with a heavy tortoiseshell frame ... giving the wearer a John Lennon look. But, I now realise it takes time and practise to become an accomplished polaroider. John Philbrick and Jim Allen have demonstrated their polaroiding skills in the lakes and lagoons of Tasmania, wading and spotting trout in the waves on cobalt blue-sky days. Very impressive indeed! What I have described above can become addictive, almost to the exclusion of everything else with perhaps the exception of pursuing grasshopper trout on a perfect summer Corryong day.

Question 11: What are your thoughts on modern flies and the available range?

The late Warryn Germon, from Acheron near the Goulburn River, once generously gave me a box of his own assorted flies - all floaters, all exquisitely tied. Like G.E.M. Skues on the Itchen River, Warryn observed the insects along the Goulburn that trout were partial to and he would tie flies to match. Warryn would then create a name for anything new; e.g. ‘Tan Para Dun’. All his dry flies were tied with parachute hackles, often on grub-hooks to create a fly body that floated in the water surface film. He used mostly modern synthetic materials for bodies and especially wing posts of Hi-Vis. Warryn’s flies were very modern compared to mine and caught swags of fish in the Goulburn area. He was convinced his flies were superior to traditional patterns and was always looking for a new insect to imitate. Just before he died he was thinking his way through designing a willow grub fly that was convincing to discerning brown trout ... not an easy task! I think with dry flies, replacing traditional quill feather wings with Hi-Vis posts, parachute to replace conventional hackle and careful selection of hooks for different insect types is a progressive and modern approach.

Of particular interest is the evolution of emerger flies that span all manner of insects that hatch

near or at the water surface. These flies seem superior to all patterns used previously and fly-tiers are constantly searching for body materials that will have the edge. Tasmanian possum fur seems to be popular at the moment. I well remember the outcome of a frantic Lambda Dun hatch at Little Pine Lagoon in Tassie in 1966. My mate Graeme used a #14 Twilight Beauty floating fly and got six good-sized trout. Meanwhile, I chose a Dick Wigram-made Pot Scourer Brown nymph #12 with the leader greased right to the fly. The result was six and I *know* the trout mistook my nymph for a hatching natural fly. So, is the modern emerger better credentialed than Wigram's nymph? A question like this could lead, yet again, to the presentation versus pattern debate. From what I have read in our newsletter, Andrew Mossman has an excellent understanding of modern fly development; being a skilled fly-tier helps, too!

Question 12: Favourite flies?

Keam's Autumn Hopper, Summer Beetle, Wigram-style Black Spinner, Booth's Willow Sawfly Grub, Lodge's Highland Dun, Greenwell Glory (pale #16), Marabou Green Damsel Fly, Philbrick's Nymph, Sawyer's Pheasant Tail Nymph (#16 & #18) and Lodge's Emerger.

Question 13: You touched on presentation versus pattern in question 11; what does your vast experience tell you?

It puzzles me as to why there is still debate about this. As if one could add to what none other than the brilliant G.E.M. Skues, probably the best-ever fly-fisherman, had to say on the subject. His tactics were always the same - determine the fly the trout were taking (often the hard part) and then present the simulation to the trout in a natural way that caused no alarm to the trout. In other words, Skues placed equal importance on pattern and presentation, and with his skill and knowledge the results were incredible. He called this good "good medicine."



Former VFFA President Fred Stewart, a fishing companion of David Scholes, wrote a number of articles for the VFFA Newsletter on streamcraft and tactics. Fred was very observant, always striving to recognise what the trout were taking. He placed more emphasis on getting the fly to the trout "the right way," that is, the fish seeing the fly first as it drifted into the trout's "window." So, like Skues, Fred believed both factors were equally important.

Question 14: What are your views on Tasmania, New Zealand and Victoria as fly-fishing destinations?

To the surprise of many, I haven't fished New Zealand or even visited, despite hearing all about the great wilderness rivers. Maybe one day. Tasmania was once an annual pilgrimage, with my first trip with four other keen young anglers in 1965/66. I regret having missed the famous Shannon Rise, which I think ceased to exist from 1964. Over the years Tasmania gradually became "the destination" for mainland anglers, especially for people with 4WDs towing boats to once isolated waters like Little Pine, Penstock and Arthurs Lake to mention a few. It became crowded and more difficult to find peace and quiet in a day's fishing and it was about then I began to focus my interest on Victorian and NSW locations.



*Bob fishing a favourite north-east stream
in 2003*

As I mentioned previously, Victoria's North-East can be rewarding, especially through summer and autumn. I find the more I explore the area, the better the fishing experience. Likewise with the Snowy Mountains region in NSW. It's not as good as it was through the 1960's when Lake Eucumbene and Tantangara Dam were filling over new ground, but exploring the mountain rivers and creeks can provide satisfying fishing and without the crowds. The drought-breaking rains of 2010 - 2012 saturated South-East Australia, producing autumn and early winter stream flows, ideal for early spawning runs. I'm told the catchment from the Upper Eucumbene River during May

2012 was the best in recent memory, with brown trout reportedly to 11 pounds!

Question 15: The importance of mates in the fly-fishing community?

It is sometimes said that angling is a solitary pursuit, where a person is immersed in the outdoor experience in a personal and private way. Fishing solo has its own rewards for some, but I prefer to share a day's fishing with a friend, a mate. It's the little things you remember later, helping each other through a nasty fence. A good mate will spot a fish first, but then say: "You try for it." A good friend may be competitive by nature, but will not allow a day's fishing to turn into a competition. A mate is happy to take time off from fishing so you can have lunch by the river together. There are countless reasons for sharing your fishing with someone else; it is a good thing. Through doing this you invariably get to meet other like-minded people, which contributes to expanding the "brotherhood of the angle." In the end you find you are part of a community of people driven by the same passion, their love of fly-fishing for trout. Nothing beats it. Many of the people I know and fish with I've known for forty years and more. Marty Rogers reminded me last year that we have "put up with each other" for fifty years. I took that to be a compliment too. Marty has said to me more than once: "Make new friends by all means, but keep your old mates in good repair." Sage advice, I would say.

Question 16: On the resurgence of split cane rods - are they for real or just a passing novelty?

I used split cane fly rods for 14 trout seasons from 1962 to 1976 and have no desire today to rekindle that interest. It should be noted that the modern split cane is a much shorter and lighter product than rods of yesteryear, which were on average five to six ounces in weight and two-piece construction. Those rods were glorious and sweet when new, but with regular fishing soon developed a "set" or banana-like bend through the top joint section. When this happened, rods developed a "loggy," unattractive feel, and rod performance dropped right away. Only a new replacement top joint could restore the rod to its former glory - an expensive option.

The VFFA Cane Days have shown that modern six to seven foot lightweight split cane rods have much appeal to many fly-fishers, because of the distinctly pleasurable "sweet feel" they display in casting. At the shorter lengths and lighter weights these rods are much less likely to take a set. The undesirable "loggy" feel is less likely to occur as well.

One drawback with little split cane rods is lack of versatility; they are simply not suited to places that require quick and lengthy casting. However they are perfect for small stream or upstream creek fishing in a leisurely fashion without encounters with streamside vegetation. The quickest way to ruin a beautiful split cane rod is to get caught up in a bush or tree, then tug and pull in an attempt to free the fly, only to find the rod is not straight anymore!

So, is split cane a novelty? I think so, because of the limitations of the little rod. As Jim Allen says: "Each to their own". It's a matter of personal choice.

Question 17: Double taper lines versus weight forward, what's best for fishing?

When Marty Rogers ruled the counter at 'The Compleat Fly-Fisher', I once phoned him wishing to renew my Cortland double taper. His reply was to the point: "Roles, there are a million fly-fishers on the planet, but there are only two still using double tapers - you and David Scholes!" I took that to be a compliment!

I've given time to trying weight forward lines but it's hard to teach old dogs new tricks. They say the weight forward casts further (probably does) but the double taper goes as far as I want it to. To me, distance is not the aim. I don't like the thin "running line" of the weight forward in my fingers, no feel. The weight forward twists more easily because of this. I hate line twist.

The double taper delivers my fly with delicacy and accuracy, which I find harder to do with a weight forward. The double taper roll casts much better (for me) and as a bonus, you get two usable ends with the double taper.

Question 18: What advice do you have on leaders?

Possibly the most important part of a fly-fisher's equipment is the leader. The tapered leader contributes to putting a fly to a trout in the correct manner. A good leader will have a heavy butt section in relation to the diameter of the end of the fly line. The tippet section should be 30 to 36 inches and should be replaced once it reduces to 20 inches or less. Likewise, when a wind knot (usually from poor casting) occurs. A monofilament leader should be straightened prior to fishing. It should be stretched between the hands for a short time section by section, and then released *slowly* to avoid coils or "pigtails" which will hamper good presentation.

I still use the same leader design as when I started out, but instead of Water Queen mono, I now use Maxima Ultra Green.

Charles Ritz design: (modified to longer from 9'2" to 10'9"):

GENERAL STREAM 10'9":

25lb	20lb	15lb	12lb	8lb	5lb (.20)
43"	29"	9"	9"	9"	30"

For flies smaller than size 14, reduce 5lb to 9", then add 30" of 3lb (0.17mm).

For small overgrown creeks or hard to fish places (6'11"):

25lb	20lb	15lb	12lb	8lb	5lb (.20)
24"	17"	6"	6"	6"	24"

Mono joins are made with three turn blood knots, but four and five turns for the final two knots. Some anglers prefer the Surgeon's knot for connecting the tippet. It's a matter of choice and confidence. For the leader to fly line connection I use a neat compact nail knot. To achieve

this I use an Innovator nail knot tool, which does a nice quick job. Should you require the leader to sink fast, simply use riverside mud and rub it up and down the whole leader length. Mud also removes the new shine from monofilament.

Question 19: When did you join the VFFA?

Marty Rogers signed me up in either 1962 or 1963. My membership lapsed at some point after 1973, when I lived in South Australia for a number of years. VFFA stalwart Jack Maddon resigned me in 1977.

Question 20: Are you a supporter of catch and release?

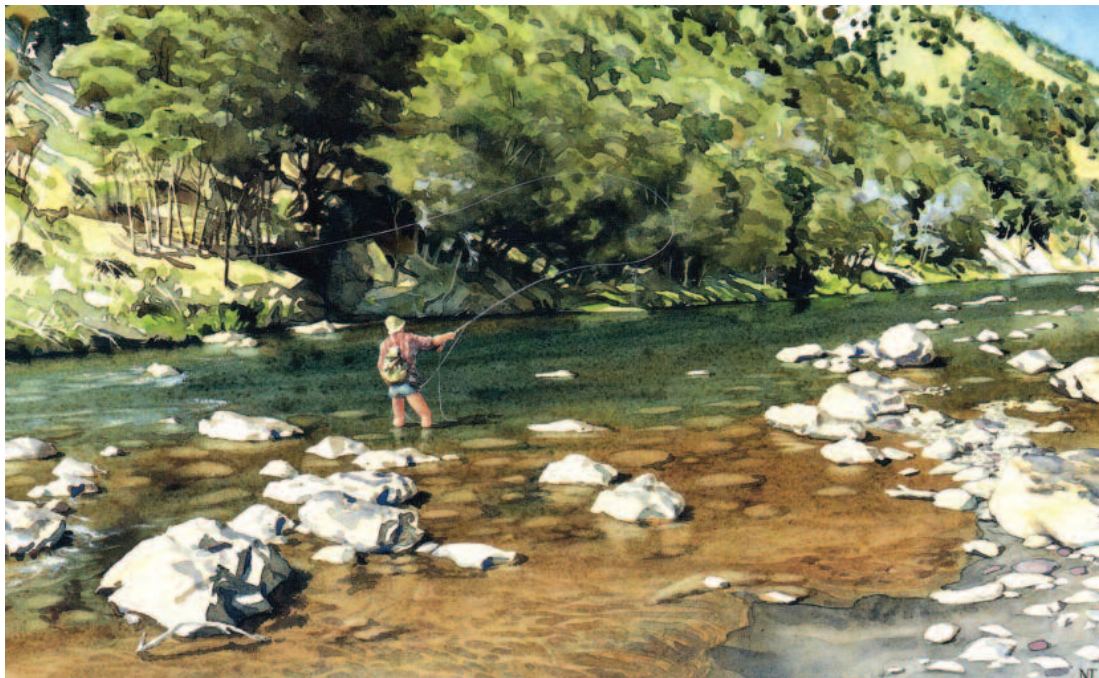
I've fished through the period where we kept everything we caught and there are even waters where nothing can be taken. There's nothing wrong with eating a fish, especially if you like them and it does not impact adversely on the fishery.

For example, the Eucumbene River above Lake Eucumbene has massive runs of rainbow trout each year. The lake is regularly stocked and contains millions of fish; the keeping of trout from a place like this is not harmful in any way. Many mountain streams contain large numbers of small fish, too many in many instances for the available food supply, so keeping fish to eat from a high density population is not detrimental.

But, there are streams and creeks that hold trout (often of good size) but are poor in gravel beds for trout to spawn successfully. Often these streams are in areas prone to prolonged dry periods as well. Resident populations of trout in fragile environments should be nurtured and the keeping and killing of mature fish should be discouraged. It's common sense.

(Coming up in the November Newsletter :

For the VFFA November Newsletter Bob Roles has written about the intriguing invader species the Willow Sawfly. Only reaching Australia in 2004 the Willow Sawfly is now an important part of the trout's diet and therefore of great interest to fly-fishermen in Victoria and Southern New South Wales.)



Nancy Tichborne watercolour – Waiau River

FLY OF THE MONTH

David Featherstone's Caddis Nymph – the DF Special



This month's fly is one of David Featherstone's – and it's a pattern that has caught him a pile of fish, including the three superb browns in the photo below.

David tells us that this fly was first tied in the early 1960s to represent a Caddis 'nymph' (i.e. caddis larva, such as a stick caddis). In one form or another caddis represent up to a third of a trout's diet, so caddis patterns are both important and effective. And right from its inception this pattern has been singularly successful, with David's records showing a multitude of trout falling to it. These include ten fish of 10 lb or better with the largest a thumping 14 pounder. So this is a fly that really works and it will be well worth your while keeping some in your fly box.

But David hastens to add that the method used to fish the fly is equally important. He frequently uses this fly in rough conditions in the shallow waters of lakes or large river pools. He fishes it with a very slow retrieve on a leader of at least 5.0 metres with a 1.0 metre tippet. He tries to spot the fish before he casts to it, and then doesn't cast straight at the fish anyway – the correct procedure is to cast well ahead and let the fish find the fly. The end result? Here are three fish taken on this pattern in September 2012:



Tying materials:

Hook: a wet fly hook such as a Mustad R72, sizes 10 or 12.

Tying thread: Fine copper wire (plus some olive 6/0 tying thread for those not too confident of tying the fly using copper wire as the tying thread).

Tail: A tuft of black marabou feathers.

Body: Dyed medium olive wool (David dyes his own wool). The wool is tied over a base of one or two layers of fine copper wire which is tied along the hook shank to add just enough weight to cause the fly to sink very slowly.

Rib: Fine copper wire.

Hackle: Three turns of soft black hen hackle.

Head: Two layers of fine copper wire, to which David adds a drop of Araldite.

So there it is – David assures us this fly could well come with a money-back guarantee if it doesn't catch you a trophy.



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 Peter Boag will be available prior to each general meeting to assist members wishing to borrow books or videos.

The library is divided into three parts.

Part 1 Books available for loaning to members.

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

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

OVERDUE BOOKS

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

V.F.F.A. ITEMS FOR SALE

The Association has the following quality items for sale:

Book "The Country For An Angler" (the History of the VFFA).....	\$70.00 each
Book "Geehi to Great Lake"	\$45.00 each
Columbia Shirts	\$70.00 each
Polarfleece jacket with VFFA logo.....	\$40.00 each
Association ties (blue or maroon).....	\$35.00 each
Wine glasses and whisky glasses inscribed with VFFA logo, set of 6.....	\$45.00 per set
Cloth badges	\$7.00 each
<i>The Australian Trout</i> by Jack Ritchie.....	\$20.00
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 2012 Annual Dinner:

Aussie Angler Pty Ltd • Armadale Angling • Australian Fishing Network • Flyfisher Magazine • FlyLife Magazine • Hayes on Brumbys • Hookup Bait and Tackle • J. M. Gillies Pty Ltd • Mayfly Tackle, Mick Hall Flies • Millbrook Lakes Lodge • Nick Taransky Bamboo Rod Maker • Pro-Angler Tackle • Ray Brown Onkaparinga Flies • Stevens Publishing Pty Ltd • The Compleat Angler Box Hill • The Flyfisher Tackle Store • The Fly Fishers Rod and Creel in Thornbury • Vision and Pisces Fly-Fishing Tackle

VFFA Meetings & Activities

October 2012

- 18 **General Meeting - 8:00 pm at the Celtic Club. Speaker – Jon Kenfield, who will discuss aspects of angler safety, particularly in regard to the use of the Garmin Rino 650 UHF radio / GPS unit**
- 24 Council Meeting – 7:30 pm at the Celtic Club

November 2012

- 9-11 Opening Weekend Trip – to Warrnambool again this year, with Convenor Hugh Maltby looking after the arrangements.
- 15 **General Meeting - 8:00 pm at the Celtic Club. Speaker - Gavin Hurley from Pro Angler, who will give details on the many trips Pro Angler organise for fly-fishers**
- 21 Council Meeting – 7:30 pm at the Celtic Club

December 2012

- 5 Council Meeting – preparation for Christmas Dinner
- 13 **Christmas Dinner – 6:30 pm for 7:00 pm at the Celtic Club. This will be a celebration of 25 year and 50 year members, including the presentation of special badges. Speakers will include some of our most respected long-term members.**

February 2013

- 13 Council Meeting – 7:30 pm at the Celtic Club
- 15 - 17 Bairnsdale Dudley Lee Donger Weekend and Bairnsdale Fly-fishers' Annual Dinner
- 16 – 22 Annual Trip to Tasmania – staying at Hayes on Brumby's
- 21 **General Meeting - 8:00 pm at the Celtic Club**

March 2013

- 21 **General Meeting - 8:00 pm at the Celtic Club**
- 27 Council Meeting – 7:30 pm at the Celtic Club
- (29 Good Friday, 2013)

April 2013

- 12 – 14 Big River trip – staying at Enochs Point
- 18 **General Meeting - 8:00 pm at the Celtic Club**
- 24 Council Meeting – 7:30 pm at the Celtic Club