

# FLY LINES



OCTOBER 2022

## Our Annual Auction

Members are reminded that our annual auction of fly fishing books and equipment will take place this year at our October meeting on Thursday, October 20, commencing at 7:30 pm.

Auctioneer Hughie Maltby assures us that he has been busy putting together the items to be auctioned. This year we have a very special array of art, tackle and books totalling 110 items to go under the hammer, including highly sought after framed Martin Simpson limited edition brown and rainbow trout prints.

There are also some limited edition Scholes and Jetson framed photographs, along with several high quality rods, reels, nets and flies. Some of the fly boxes contain flies tied by John Philbrick that you will almost certainly not see again.

The second half of the auction will be dedicated to books, including some of the usual treasures and a selection of high quality international titles.

In all it will be a great night, so bring a friend and snare a bargain. Due to the large number of quality items we will be starting the Auction at 7:30 pm sharp.

We would encourage all members to join us for what will be a great evening, and for those who would like to join us for a meal beforehand PLEASE

Thursday, October 20,  
7:30pm at the  
**Kelvin Club**

make a booking for dinner by Tuesday, October 18, by emailing Terry Rogers at [terryrogers@bigpond.com](mailto:terryrogers@bigpond.com) and leaving a message.

Members need to note that there will be no credit card facilities at the auction, so payment will be by cash or phone transfer or by a bill from the treasurer.



*Auctioneer Hughie*

# THE VICTORIAN FLY FISHERS' ASSOCIATION INC.

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

**info@vffa.com.au www.vffa.com.au**

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## **President**

David Hooke

Email: dhhooke@icloud.com

Phone: 0411 683 684

## **Honorary Librarian**

Bill Jeans

Email: b.jeans@bigpond.net.au

Phone: 0448 967 192

## **Senior Vice President**

Simon Joel

Email: simonljoel@gmail.com

Phone: 0419 368 391

## **Honorary Treasurer**

Tony Mitchem

Email: treasurer@vffa.com.au

Phone: 0407 309 797

## **Honorary Secretary**

Will Davidson

Email: secretary@vffa.com.au

Phone: 0418 160 020

## **Honorary Editor**

Lyndon Webb

Email: lgwebb@bigpond.net.au

Phone: 0488 555 724

## **Other Council members:**

Councillors:	Daniel Lovecek	(0407 291 200)
	Terry Rogers	(0438 553 326)
	Chris Gray (Immediate Past President)	(0408 256 525)

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*James Gray (Chris Gray's son) learning about our Australian reptiles*

## A Highlight of the 2022 AGM

Our September meeting was our Annual General Meeting – an important administrative gathering where the President gave a very detailed report on the activities of the past year, and the treasurer informed us about the financial health of the Association.

One other item of business is the election of any new Honorary Life Members, and this year it was our huge pleasure to elect Terry Rogers as a Life Member. This was a particularly popular choice enthusiastically endorsed by every member of Council.

Terry joined the Association in 2001 and since then has been a very active member, contributing in so many areas. He was

President in 2012 and 2013, has served on Council for several years, has personally supported all Association meetings and activities, and in recent years has taken on the vital task of keeping members fully informed of Association news and activities through his regular emails.

Terry has contributed so much over his years in the VFFA, and thoroughly deserved having his contribution acknowledged through his election to Life Membership. Well done Terry!



*Terry Rogers with Mrs Tamie Fraser at our Annual Dinner in 2019*

# President's Message

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## President's Report to the Annual General Meeting September 15, 2022

It gives me great pleasure to present Council's Report to the VFFA for 2022.

It has been a most successful year, albeit off to a shaky start. Due to Covid, our Annual Dinner scheduled to be at the Kelvin Club, had to be cancelled. Subsequently we amalgamated our Annual Dinner with our Christmas Dinner, and had a splendid evening in December.

Jim Allen, originally scheduled to be the guest speaker at the Annual Dinner, very kindly agreed to remain our guest speaker for the combined dinner and he entertained us mightily with what it means to have fishing in your DNA, particularly when growing up in the 1950s and 1960s. Many of us "Boomers" relate wistfully to the freedoms of those years, which have long since disappeared.

Other meetings encompassed a wide range of fly fishing topics and experiences. Who can forget the memorable photographs of Tony Stewart's *Season in the Otways* or Rick Dobson's travelogue of his fishing adventures here in Australia and around the world.

Our traditional Liars' Night disappointed on the upside - there were few embellishments identifiable, despite John Kenfield telling us about the VFFA week at Currawong Lakes, Will Davidson describing his first trip to Enochs Country Club, and Chris Gray reporting on the VFFA trip to Hayes on Brumbys, all



*Dr David Hooke*

of which were fertile grounds for the perpetration of exaggeration.

Other speakers during the year included Andrew Mossman, who took us through the changes he's observed in flies, tackle and, importantly, the environment over his lifetime as a passionate fly fisher and fly tier.

Kiel Jones shared his intimate knowledge of the mayfly, its lifecycle, when, where, flies, tackle, and seasons in a comprehensive review of required knowledge for the serious fly fisher.

Peter Morse gave a splendid two-part presentation on his discovery of the 'Blue Bastard' species, then switched tack to discuss the principles of good casting. Absolute gold.

>>>

Gavin Hurley presented on the new seasons kit and travel to New Zealand, with particular emphasis on the seasons as they relate to the different styles of fly fishing in New Zealand.

Peter Joseph, patron of the South Australian Fly Fishing Association, reminisced on the coincidences in his life of fly fishing, particularly as it related to other members of the VFFA, not to mention many other notable fly fishing identities.

Finally, to cap off the year, Josh Hutchins from the Aussie Fly Fisher was our guest speaker at the Annual Dinner and presented us with a kaleidoscope of adventures, with particular emphasis on saltwater fly fishing off our northern coast.

Covid has continued to present us with challenges. Unfortunately, the issues afflicting the whole of the hospitality industry also affected the Kelvin Club and manifested in a less than satisfactory offering at our April dinner meeting. Consequently, we rescheduled our May meeting with Peter Morse to the Botanical Art School of Melbourne, courtesy of Jenny Phillips, and a splendid evening as outlined above, was had by all.

The Kelvin Club has since been able to appoint a chef and catering has returned to normal. We have also, aiming to keep costs in check, purchased cleanskin wine and relabelled for the Association- 'VFFA Rouge' and 'VFFA Blanc' - very satisfactory, and I thank Simon Joel for taking the lead in negotiating this, and other matters, with the Kelvin Club.

Many of you will be aware that the VFFA library, cabinets, memorabilia and Honour Boards were stored in the 'Strategy Room' at the Kelvin Club and with the advent of new management we were asked to relocate these items.

However, the Honour Boards, many of our mounted flies and a slimmed down Library have been restored. My thanks to Bill Jeans, our librarian and ably assisted by Peter Clayton, for continuing the work of John Pilkington in bringing the library up to standard and culling many of the books of minimal value or relevance. Bill and Peter are both members of the Joseland Society, dedicated to the study and preservation of books related to fishing. All VFFA members are encouraged to make use of our Library.

After a two-year hiatus, we were pleased to be able to resume our program of fishing trips. In February the traditional trip to Hayes on Brumbys was ably organised by Chris Gray. In addition, in the week prior Jon Kenfield organised a trip to Currawong Lakes, which was also a great success, tempered by its proximity to the Cressy trip. Next year the visit to Currawong Lakes is likely to be in March, and organisation is in the hands of Hugh Maltby.

Our annual visit to Thorpdale, as guests of the Latrobe Valley fly fishers, went ahead and was a great day on their stocked dams, but the trip to Warrnambool was called off due to foul weather and Covid restrictions on social gatherings.

The Bairnsdale trip, competing for the Dudley Lee Donger, was a cracker, and the VFFA only lost because of a technical mishap with the measuring equipment! Our thanks to Bairnsdale Fly Fishers for hosting a most enjoyable weekend.

A highlight of the year for me personally, and I know for the regular attendees, was the VFFA trip to Enoch's Country Club as a guest of John Pilkington. The book *Where Time Stands Still* by Alan and John Pilkington is a wonderful distillation of the essence of this special place and

its importance in the history of the Pilkington family.

We have four allocated annual trips to Millbrook lakes which have been well attended and thoroughly enjoyed. The January trip had to be cancelled due to hot weather. However, Millbrook is also a great way to start if you are relatively new to fly fishing and to the VFFA. The guides are superb and very accommodating.

Casting days continued through the winter this year, and mostly we were blessed with clear weather. Again, this is an ideal time, in a very relaxed and supportive environment, to polish your casting or begin your casting journey. Our thanks to the Red Tag Association for accommodating us.

Fly tying was held this year at Aussie Angler and for this we thank Rick and Jo Dobson. A huge vote of thanks goes to our members who ran the fly tying demonstrations. In particular Richard Kos, who put in a recurrent effort, but our thanks also to Andrew Mossman, John Pilkington, Rob Bailey and Geoff Bloch.

Our Newsletter continues to be a source of great pride to the Association and again we thank Lyndon Webb for his tireless efforts maintaining a world class publication. You will have noticed we are advertising for an Assistant Editor, and I urge you all to consider whether there may be someone appropriate amongst your fishing buddies.

As we mourn the death of Queen Elizabeth II, we reflect on the fact that nothing is more certain than death and taxes. It is with sadness that I report the deaths of several of our members during the year, these being Andy Zarro, Duncan Milenkovic, Stan Lancaster, Kevin Hindle and Ray McDonnell. Tributes to all

have been, or will be, published in the Newsletter.

Your Council has been diligent and productive through the year and I thank them for their support of the Association and of me in particular. Chris Gray, our Immediate Past President, has been a great support and provided wise counsel as needed.

It is also appropriate to thank members, not necessarily on Council, who have approached me with ideas, most of which have been embraced and nurtured into being. These members include David Grisold, Dermot O'Brien, Peter Whitelaw and Hugh Maltby. I encourage all of you who have ideas that might enhance the VFFA experience to discuss them with me or another Council member.

Three members of Council will not be seeking re-election.

Jo Dobson, as you all know, has been a stalwart supporter of the VFFA in lots of ways mentioned elsewhere and also including hosting fly tying, providing flies and raffle prizes for the Dinner, coaching casting days, and supporting women in fly fishing in general. However, she is finding herself over-committed so needs to stand aside from all her committee work. Our thanks to Jo for her valued support.

Frank Gadea was appointed to Council just prior to Cleola being posted to Sydney for work, and hence his contribution to Council has been limited. So Frank has decided to stand aside. We look forward to welcoming him back on Council when he returns from Sydney.

Hamish Hughes has been a member of the VFFA for 21 years and for much of that time has been on Council. His roles have included Junior Vice-President, Senior Vice-President and President. >>>

It was during his time as President that he was able to usher in the inclusion of women as members with almost unanimous support. A fine and lasting achievement; something which had failed twice previously with divisive results. As an aside, it was most gratifying to see so many female members, spouses and partners at the Annual Dinner this year, and I would hope to see increasing female participation in all our activities. Our thanks to Hamish for his service on Council and to the VFFA in general.

We are keen to recruit new people to the Council to replace those leaving, so if you feel you have the time and enthusiasm, do speak to me or one of the Councillors and you will be co-opted pending election next year. You will be made very welcome.

At the Annual Dinner we announced the award of Tenty-five year badges to John Pilkington, John Hall, Paul Benson and Ian Hill. Fifty year badges were awarded to Harry Hearn and Tony Lepper. Congratulations to them all on their marvellous support of the VFFA.

Finally, our thanks to the sponsors without whose help in raising money each year we would be in a parlous state. They are all listed in the Newsletter and I encourage you to thank them for their support when next you are availing yourselves of their products or services. A special mention to J.M. Gillies who, each year, supply us with a state-of-the-art Sage rod to auction - thank you!



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## Opportunity – Assistant Editor Wanted for Fly Lines

We're keen to find a passionate fly fisher and VFFA member to help drive the ongoing success of our highly regarded and popular newsletter, *Fly Lines*.

Our current editor, Lyndon Webb, has been editing *Fly Lines* for many years and has every intention of continuing with his excellent work. But the VFFA Council, with Lyndon's support, is keen to identify someone who can play a key role alongside Lyndon in preparing the newsletter each month and developing the skills and relationships to take on a bigger role if required in the future.

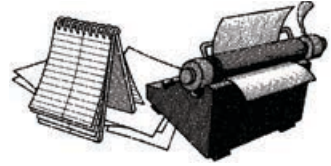
This is a great opportunity for a VFFA member wanting to put their passion for fly fishing into words, learn new skills, and rub shoulders with some of Australia's fly fishing luminaries to help inspire our members and supporters and influence decision makers for the good of our sport.

You'll get to work together with Lyndon in selecting, sourcing, and editing content from *Fly Lines'* illustrious roster of contributors and bringing your ideas to the table in terms of columns and articles that you think will resonate with our audience.

While the total commitment required would be less than 10 hours a month at this point, the Council is keen to identify someone capable of playing an increased role in the future as required.

If this strikes a chord with you, why not take the opportunity to have a chat with Lyndon about how you might be able to assist: [lgwebb@bigpond.net.au](mailto:lgwebb@bigpond.net.au) or 0488 555 724.

# From the EDITOR'S DESK



*"More than half the intense enjoyment of fly fishing is derived from the beautiful surrounds, the satisfaction felt from being in the open air, the new lease of life secured thereby, and the many, many pleasant recollections of all one has seen, heard and done."* (Charles Orvis, Founder of the Orvis Company, in 1856)

*"If an angler is observant birds can be helpful to his sport ... Generally where birds are plentiful fish food is also present in the form of moths, beetles, cicadas or land grubs."* (Greg Kelly: *The Flies In My Hat*)

*"Trout do not rise in the cemetery, so you better do your fishing while you are still able."* (Sparse Grey Hackle)

*"All the romance of trout fishing exists in the mind of the angler and is in no way shared by the fish."* (Harold Blaisell: *The Philosophical Fisherman*)

*"Certainly no aspect of fly fishing is as enjoyable as those which have a good, firmly based and well established myth or two for company."* (Conrad Voss Bark: *A Fly on the Water*)

Back in the 1970s, when I was living in Warrnambool, I went out one afternoon to fish a section of the upper Merri River. Near the end of my time I arrived at a long narrow pool, and while standing in the shadows spotted two large browns cruising past. They scooted off hastily when I raised my rod for a cast.

At this time I was teaching at the local Secondary College, and the following day, whilst sharing a coffee with fellow teacher Jim Blakeslee, I described where I'd been and what I'd seen. I told Jim that the smaller fish looked about 4 lb and the larger one possibly close to 7. A few days later Jim informed me that my estimates were a tad generous - the smaller fish was actually 3 lb and the larger one just over 5½. He had caught them both.

I didn't mind. Jim and I both knew this river well and there were plenty more up that way. The point of all this is that living in a country town with four quality trout streams nearby, and some good lakes too, is a huge bonus. Since moving

back to Melbourne in the 1980s I've found that good fishing is not so accessible.

As Richard Kos's report in this issue suggests, us city slickers do have access to stillwaters. There are a number of dams and reservoirs around the state that the Victorian Fisheries Authority stocks regularly. In fact the website <https://vfa.vic.gov.au/recreational-fishing/fish-stocking/school-holiday-trout-stocking> lists about 80 stillwaters in the state that are stocked as part of the 'school holiday trout stocking' program with 'ready-to-catch' rainbow trout. Of the 80 about a dozen are in or close to Melbourne city environs.

So us Melbournians do have access to some reasonable stillwater fishing. But the rivers are a different story. Those flowing through and close to Melbourne are not particularly attractive fly waters. The nearest reasonable fly stream, and it is good, is our Yarra up around Warburton.

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Most of the fly flickers that I know drive miles to reach their river fishing, and a day on a stream typically commences with a couple of hours on the road to reach, for example, those popular streams around Thornton. Then at the end of the day the same time is spent driving home. An obvious consequence of this is that rivers within reasonable driving distances of the city get very heavily fished.

Some years ago I had a habit of spending many pleasant hours sitting with Hubert Reichelt, watching him tie superb flies while I drank his coffee, and listening to countless stories of his stream fishing exploits. In those days Hubert often rose at 3 or 4 in the morning to drive three hours to the Howqua River. Then three hours on the road later, driving home.

There was one notable occasion when Hubert drove those three long hours to reach a favourite section of the Howqua, to then discover that his fly reel was still at home on the kitchen table. On another occasion he was racing back to Melbourne in the dark after a good day's fishing, and drove around a sweeping bend to discover the road ahead blocked by a large herd of cows wandering home. He only killed one.

In terms of my own fishing, if I'm going to commit myself to a day on one of our trout streams, with the associated costs of time and petrol, I'm keen to ensure that there's a reasonable chance I will catch, or at least see, some fish. So, how might I determine when to go and where to go? In thinking about this I flicked through a tub of notes I'd collected of articles on aspects of stream fishing. Here are some random thoughts.

I recall reading an article years ago on the findings of a research scientist who sat up all day in a tower beside a trout stream using binoculars to see when trout in the stream were feeding. He discovered that

smallish trout, if undisturbed, tended to feed all day.

We can also note that there is heaps of information confirming that sunrise and sunset are two well-established times when trout will feed.

In a podcast I heard some months ago a professional guide in the USA affirmed that the best indication of how likely trout in a river are to feed freely (and thus potentially get caught) is how long it has been since anglers last fished the river. The longer the better.

Here's a fascinating thought – Richard Goodall, the VFFA treasurer some years ago, always asserted that the fishing in the streams north of Melbourne improved significantly when the AFL football season commenced – “because all the drongos and twits cease fishing my favourite streams and go to the football instead”.

I guess, related to this, is my feeling that the spring fishing and autumn fishing in these streams is a lot better than the summer fishing over Christmas, for the obvious reasons that over late December and January the day temperatures and thus water temperatures are high (and uncomfortable for the trout), and lots of people are on holidays, so cars are parked at all the popular access points. In days past when I fished the Acheron River more frequently I often noted that the number of anglers along the banks started thinning out in the third week of January.

Associated with this is deciding which day is the best day in the week to head out. For us retirees - forget the weekends. Wednesdays and Thursdays are good days – the fish have hopefully recovered from the previous weekend's onslaught by then, and the early starters for the next weekend haven't yet arrived.



*The Ovens upstream from Bright – a very attractive trout stream*

I've not yet mentioned river conditions. Ideally we are heading out to fish a river that is at normal height, clear, and at a sensible temperature. My understanding is that water temperatures in the range 14°C – 17°C are ideal to see trout in the feeding mood.

The weather matters of course, and much has been written particularly on the importance of the barometer reading. Lots of opinions here, with many scribes recommending a rising or fairly high measure of air pressure for best fishing. But I also heard a podcast by a US guide and commentator suggesting that in his experience a slowly falling barometer produced the best fishing. Others say the important thing is that the reading is steady and not changing wildly. Who knows?

What about the sun? Sunny days give good polaroiding, but Mr Google (is he an authority on trout fishing?) tells us that both trout and insects become more

active under reduced light conditions and cloudy skies make the conditions perfect for trout to feed. So there you are.

There's so much more we could say but space is running out.

Two final thoughts to finish this elongated ramble. First, I subscribe to AFN's *Freshwater Fishing* magazine, and the latest issue (number 174), has on page 10 a table telling us the best fishing times for September and October. It tells me, for example, that on Wednesday, September 28, when I will be fishing Millbrook Lakes with other VFFA guests, the time in the day when fish will be biting best is about 12:50 pm. However, the likelihood of good fishing on this day is not rated particularly high. This reminds me of those Solunar Tables, popular years ago and still quite popular I think. I've met successful anglers who swear by these 'best fishing time guides' and others who swear at them.

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The underlying theory is that the feeding habits of fish, including trout, are influenced by the phase of the moon, with strong feeding times around the New Moon.

Lastly, who beside me has gone out on what looked like being a great day, full of confidence and keen anticipation, found the river in good condition, then fished hard all day and not seen or touched a single fish. Oh, the pain. And the critical question - why? Weren't they feeding?

Wrong fly? Wrong method? Had I put them down somehow? Was I fishing up the river behind another angler? Of course - it's obvious. There were no fish there. They'd all been caught by some lowlife fishing with worms!

Tight lines and best wishes for this new season. I hope you have a multitude of great days.

*Lyndon*



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## A Tribute to a Longstanding Member - Ray McDonnell

Again this month we pass on the news of the sad death of a fellow VFFA member.

Ray McDonnell joined the VFFA in 2003. He died recently following a long, drawn-out battle with cancer. He was first diagnosed in 2005, and from then fishing increasingly became a struggle for him.



*Ray was a passionate fly fisher*

He was unable to fish at all over the last three years.

Previously he had been a passionate fly fisher, fishing both salt and freshwater, and with two mates, also from Moruya (in south-east NSW), he founded what they called the "Northern Chapter" of the VFFA. They organised trips together and attended meetings in Melbourne when they could - no simple matter from Moruya. He was also a member of the Cooma Trout Acclimatisation Association, which made sense geographically, but he still maintained his membership of the VFFA over a period of just on 20 years.

Ray was a man of many parts – a mechanic, a teacher, and a businessman during his working life. His last business before retirement was appropriately a bait and tackle shop in Narooma. For some years he maintained a shack (perhaps a 'batch' in New Zealand language) at Turangi at the southern end of Lake Taupo. He also wrote fishing reports for a NSW fishing magazine and gave regular fishing reports on a local radio station.

Sincere sympathies and condolences from all VFFA members are conveyed to Ray's wife Jane and their family at this time.

## To the Editor ...

... from Andrew Mossman

Dear Lyndon,

I had hoped to come to the August lunch and catch up with Peter Joseph, but thought the distance a little far. I was in London with Margot at the time, visiting one of our daughters and her family, so sadly I had to send my apologies.

How nice it was to read in the August edition of *Fly Lines* Peter Joseph's presentation to the lunch, and to be reminded of that day some 13 years ago when Peter bumped into me on the lower Mataura. His memory is accurate, but he did not mention that I had said to him that I was working my way downstream and in the lovely run just upstream there had been three good fish rising. They had stopped rising as I approached so I was sneaking past them and walking

well below, so that I could fish back up to them a little later.

I had pointed out where the fish were and suggested he should fish for them if they were rising when he walked by. I knew the river well; there were masses of fish in that run in those days and I was confident that other fish would be rising soon after Peter had fished through "my run". I judged Peter to be an excellent fisher during our one-hour chat, and I had heard of his fishing group and knew where they stayed on a nearby farm. I was surprised when Peter thanked me but refused my offer and then walked right past much excellent water.

He was also a little vague in answering some of my questions, and so I immediately assumed this must >>>



*Andrew Mossman has had a lot of success fishing the lower Mataura River*

have been one of his favourite beats. I wrote in my Log "Peter Joseph's favourite water".

Thank you for the confirmation Peter. Oh yes, and I greatly enjoyed your contribution as written in *Fly Lines*. And by the way, when I did work my way back upstream I caught those three fish, 3 lbs, 3¾ lbs and 2½ lbs.

Sadly a number of severe floods and a huge flood a couple of years ago have changed the river significantly in many

places, and the lower Mataura has been badly affected. Some of my favourite runs no longer exist, but hopefully others will develop. Increased fertility and odd algae blooms have diminished the fishing also in the lower areas.

Thanks again Lyndon, and I'm hoping to bump into Peter on another of his favourite runs on "The River" one of these days.

*Andrew Mossman*



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## Season Opening at Dobson's on the Goulburn River

... from President David Hooke

There are some things with which it is impossible to compete. One of these is Father's Day! (Not to mention overseas trips, sick children and other commitments.)

Sunday, September 4, was a glorious day to celebrate the opening (on Saturday September 3) of our trout fishing on rivers. It was sunny with no wind, and the barbecue was running hot. The river was high and flowing quite strongly, and unfortunately the fish were hibernating and not interested in being tempted.

A very small group of us gathered on the banks of the Goulburn River, courtesy of Geoff and Bronwyn Dobson, and we had a splendid, albeit exclusive, few hours fishing, reminiscing, and enjoying a barbecue lunch.

The previous day Chris and Choco had put in a sterling performance at Eildon Troutfest and we had hoped that more members might make a weekend of it, and come for lunch on the Goulburn.

There is always next year; but not on Father's Day.



*David Grisold attended the season-opening Troutfest at Eildon and spent much time teaching keen youngsters how to cast a fly*

## Jennifer Phillips OAM

We are delighted to report that Jenny Phillips, VFFA member and the wife of our President David Hooke, was recently awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for her service to botanical art. The Medal is awarded for “service worthy of particular recognition.”

Jenny has been an art teacher, teaching Botanical Art classes, since 1992. Since 1996 she has been a Master Class Instructor in Australia, England, United States of America, Japan, France, Italy, Portugal, and South Africa.

Her awards and recognition include the Celia Rosser Award in 2008; a Gold Medal, Australian National Print Awards, in 1998; and Gold Medal, Royal Horticultural Society London, in 1993.

Jenny’s Professional Affiliations include:

- Fellow, Linnean Society of London, United Kingdom, since 2003.
- Honorary Member, Chelsea Physic Garden Florilegium Society, United Kingdom.

>>>



*Congratulations Jennifer on a well-deserved OAM*

- Honorary Director, American Society of Botanical Artists, current.
- Honorary Member, Brooklyn Botanic Gardens Florilegium Society, current.

Her Exhibitions and Publications make a long list.

All VFFA members would congratulate Jenny on her OAM and her considerable accomplishments in botanical art.



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## ATF Call for Volunteers

The Australian Trout Foundation is inviting interested and concerned fly fishers to assist with two important stream improvement proposals. These are:

**Saturday October 1** – Volunteers are needed to work with the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority to provide riparian maintenance on the Steavenson River. We will meet at the Maryton Lane Bridge at

9:30 am and should be finished by 1:00 pm.

A barbecue lunch will be provided at 1:00 pm.

The work involved is weed control from previous planting events and the removal of tree guards. (Whipper snippers will be provided.)

Volunteers should bring sturdy boots, gloves, work clothing, refreshments, and fishing gear.



*The Australian Trout Foundation has organized countless stream-improvement projects, many involving tree-planting along our better trout streams*

**Registration:** participants need to register for catering and OH&S purposes. To register please click on this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/HWEtAuXpiG>

**Wednesday October 19** – Volunteers are needed to work with the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority on the Delatite River for tree planting and riparian maintenance.

We will meet at the Delatite Lane Bridge at 9:30 am and should be finished by 1:00 pm.

The work involved includes planting additional trees, weed control from previous planting events, and the removal of tree guards.

Volunteers should bring sturdy boots (or gumboots), gloves, work clothing, refreshments, and fishing gear.

A barbecue lunch will be provided at 1:00 pm.

**Registration:** participants need to register for catering and OH&S purposes. To register please click on this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/yrFiC34JHH>

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## Fly Fishing and Military Service

... from Peter Whitelaw

As you might expect, amongst the hundreds of thousands of Australians who enlisted in WW1 and WW2 and later conflicts, there would have to be a few who were keen fly fishers. Endeavouring to link fly fishing with people who have served in uniform is a challenging task. However, here are a few snippets we have been able to locate.

In our internet searches we also found that fly fishing now features as a valid treatment for those suffering from PTSD. I suspect we can all attest to the calming benefits of a day or two on the water with a fly rod in hand.

**David Campbell DFC.** David (1915 to 1979) was awarded a Distinguished Flying Cross and Bar as an RAAF pilot based at Port Moresby and Darwin during WW2. He and his crew were seriously wounded in an action over Rabaul. His logbook read "Attacked by 2 Zeros. 268 holes in aircraft." He later won a bar to the DFC when he successfully resurrected 1 Squadron in late 1943 and had it operational within four months. He was a renowned poet and a keen fisher. He wrote and published an article titled *Trout Fishing*.

**David Churches.** David was born in 1942 and joined the Royal Australian Navy in 1961. He has had a number of fly fishing articles and stories published, including *The Hang-on-the-Wall Fish*.

**David Hooke.** WGCDCR David H. Hooke OAM served in East Timor in 2002 as part of UNTAET (United Nations Transitional Administration East Timor). Also, as Intensivist in Iraq 2005 as part of ADF Medical Detachment with 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group, Balad Air Base. Meritorious Unit Citation. Unlike Yemen, no fly fishing allowed under Australian command. David is our current VFFA President, and continues to contribute significantly to trout fishing in Victoria.

**Harold Down.** Harold was head of Grimwade House at Melbourne Grammar in the 1950s. He served in France and Egypt during WW2. His section was almost wiped out when they ran out of water in the desert. This may explain why he loved fishing in rivers and streams. He wrote *Out Fishing*.

**Sir Wilmot Hudson Fysh KBE.** In 1914 Fysh enlisted in the 1st Australian

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Light Horse Brigade and arrived at Gallipoli in May 1915. He was evacuated in 1915 after serving for 7 months in the AIF. He then served in Palestine and Sinai and in 1917 transferred to the Royal Flying Corps as an observer and gunner. He later served with No.1 Squadron, Australian Flying Corps. Engaging in battle as gunner in a Bristol Fighter against German and Turkish aircraft in the Middle Eastern campaign he shot down five enemy aircraft. He went on to become the founder and MD of Qantas Airways. He was a keen trout fisherman and wrote the book *Round the Bend in the Stream*.

**Kevin George Hindle.** Also known as 'The Professor'. Kevin Hindle was born in 1950, and after graduating from high school in 1969 he attended the Royal Military College, Duntroon, for two years. He was a member of the VFFA, an accomplished musician and writer of songs and poetry, and a very competent fly fisher. He passed away in 2022.

**Chris Hole.** Chris served with the Royal Australian Navy from 1952 to 1984. He was a keen artist and fly fisher who passed away in 1999. He wrote *Heaven on a Stick* and *Fly-fishing Across Russia, East Europe & Finland*.

**Hugh Maltby.** Hugh served with AS2 Transport Platoon Royal Australian Army Service Corps in South Vietnam in the period 1968 to 1969.

**Ron McKenzie OAM.** Ron joined the RAAF in 1940. His Wellington aircraft was shot down over Holland. He wrote about his experiences as a prisoner of war in his book *An Ordinary War*. His Order of Australia was awarded in 1984 for his service to the sport of freshwater fishing. He was a keen fly fisher and a member of the VFFA, and wrote about the sport in his books *The Ratbag Mind of Dinas Vawr* and *Basic Fly Fishing*.

**Colonel Lindsay Morton.** Lindsay, from Williamstown, was in 2009 the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Australian Joint Task Force Headquarters, Afghanistan, and was responsible for the conduct of Operation SLIPPER. Operation SLIPPER was Australia's military contribution to international campaigns against terrorism, countering piracy in the Gulf of Aden and maritime security. In an article in *Fishing World* titled '*Kandahar - unique challenges for the intrepid fisherman*' he described 'Lake Kandahar' as a small freshwater repository smack bang in the middle of one of the world's busiest military airbases. He said, "Discovering this little-known secret, I coordinated a quiet time between Taliban rocket attacks and the next launch of Royal Air Force Tornado jets and ventured down to the lake to try my luck with my 4-piece fly rod, wearing combat body armour and carrying weapons and ammunition. It was to prove a frustrating day."

**Thomas Keith Pilkington.** Keith was born in 1908 (was John and Alan Pilkington's uncle), and he was an adept fisher. He signed up with the 2/22nd Australian Infantry Battalion in 1940 and in 1942 he was deployed to fight in the Battle of the Coral Sea. Lance Corporal Keith Pilkington was killed in action in the fierce battle following the Japanese landing at Rabaul. His family were devastated, particularly his pregnant wife Maisie.

**John Sautelle.** John served with the 6<sup>th</sup> Divisional Cavalry during WW2. He held several angling related roles in NSW-based organisations and played a major part in establishing the Commonwealth Development Bank. He wrote *Fishing for the Educated Trout*.

**David Scholes DFC.** David served in the RAF in WW2 as a Lancaster bomber pilot and flew operations with the 5 Group Bomber Command (the

Dambusters). He spent his 21st birthday dodging flak over Dresden and was awarded a Distinguished Flying Cross in 1944. He wrote *Air War Diaries - An Australian in Bomber Command* and was an accomplished artist and angler. He wrote eleven fly fishing and countless magazine articles. His first book, *Fly-Fishing in Tasmania*, was published in 1962, and *Trout & Troutling*, one of his last in 1993.

**Sir Lawrence James Wackett KBE, DFC, AFC.** Lawrence was born in 1896, attended the Royal Military College Duntroon, then joined the Australian Flying Corps. In WW1 he served in Egypt and France and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for flying his damaged biplane while photographing

behind the Hindenburg Line. After the war he built planes and flying boats at the RAAF experimental station at Randwick, NSW, then managed the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation in Melbourne. He wrote *Studies of an Angler* in 1950 which controversially proposed a theory about barometric pressure and trout feeding habits. He was knighted in 1954 for services to aviation.

Several of these vignettes were derived from *Great Australian Fly Fishing Stories* by Les Hawkins, 2006, published by Harper Collins.

Peter Whitelaw



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## Trophy Trout in Suburbia

... Richard Kos

Thanks to Victorian Fisheries stocking family fishing lakes with 'stonkers', there is no need to travel great distances from home to catch your PB Trout.

Just 3 km from my home in Melbourne's north-west suburbs is what I call my local 'stockie bashing lake' where I occasionally go to wet a line or try a new fly. I normally fish this lake with a four or five weight rod, but this time I took my six weight loaded with an intermediate line and 7 lb tippet, after hearing that two weeks earlier the lake had been stocked with 30 stonkers up to 7 kg in weight.

The fishing initially was very slow, with one bump and one hook-up that lasted for three head shakes before I retrieved my fly, sans fish. This was a big change from previous days when it was not unusual to land ten to fifteen fish (stockies) in an hour or two's fishing. I was thinking of calling it a day, but then

decided a colour change of fly was worth a try.

After about the third cast and a very slow retrieve, the line tightened and the water four metres in front of me erupted as the fish's first run took the line right out to the backing. A short but dogged fight ended with the hen rainbow bottoming out the scale on my weigh net at a fraction over the 14 lb mark. The fish was then gently returned to the water to revive, then it swam slowly out towards the middle of the lake.

Apart from the personal satisfaction of landing such a memorable catch, much interest and excitement was generated in the group of onlookers who gathered to witness the landing. In particular there were two young teenagers who were often bait-fishing in my vicinity. Both have subsequently made contact with me, asking for advice on fly fishing. In fact on the next day one of these >>>



*Kossy's Personal Best! The scales bottomed out at 14 lb, so how heavy was it?*

lads brought along his grandfather's old fly rod for me to check out and rig up. He and his mate are both keen to give fly fishing a try. (Some potential VFFA members??)

My PB trout was caught with the help of one of my most productive stillwater flies - the Kossy W.A.P. (What a Pearler). [This fly is our 'Fly of the Month' in this issue.]

So do yourself a favour and check out the Victorian Fisheries website for stocking information for your local lake, and go there to experience the thrill of catching your own PB Trophy Trout.

The Website for finding your nearest stocked lake is -

<https://vfa.vic.gov.au/recreational-fishing/recreational-fishing-guide/trout-and-salmon-regulations/trout-and-salmon-family-fishing-lakes>



**The Victorian Fly Fishers' Association Incorporated**  
Established 1932



PO Box 18423, Bourke Street  
Melbourne Vic. 3001  
[vffa.org.au](http://vffa.org.au)

## Notice of Event for VFFA February 2023 Tasmanian Trip



**The Event.** A week with fellow VFFA members at Hayes on Brumbys Fly Fishing Lodge, Cressy. Fishing in groups of two or more during the day and

sharing tales of the day's adventures over dinner.

15 positions are available.

**Dates:** Arrive Saturday, February 4 AM, and depart Saturday, February 11 PM.

**Address:** Hayes on Brumbys, 1696 Cressy Road, Cressy, Tasmania 7302.

**Travel:** You are responsible for making your own travel arrangements to and from Tasmania. You are also responsible for arranging your transport while in Tasmania.

**Cost:** \$1,020.00 per person for twin share accommodation.

**Accommodation:** Hayes on Brumbys has twin rooms, and you will be expected to bunk in with another member for the week. All facilities are shared for the week.

**Meals & Drinks:** You will be involved in purchasing the ingredients and cooking a meal for one of the nights, purchases will be reimbursed. Breakfast will be supplied with a range of cereals, toast, juice, coffee. Lunch is your responsibility each day. BYO wine, beer, spirits.

**Fishing license:** A current Tasmania license is required. Before departure to Tasmania, you may purchase one via the Internet on <https://www.ifs.tas.gov.au/the-rules/angling-licence>

**Members & Friends Dinner:** On Thursday, February 9, fellow VFFA members and friends living in or visiting Tasmania will be invited to join us for drinks and dinner from 6:30 PM. Dress will be smart casual.

**Guiding:** Peter Hayes is available for the week exclusively to VFFA members on the Tasmanian trip staying at Cressy. Peter has provided VFFA members with a special daily rate for this week. Please notify Chris Gray with your intended dates to be guided by Peter or one of his staff. Do not book with Peter.

**Event Registration Form (ERF):** Register by sending the Event Co-ordinator a

completed and signed copy of the ERF by email as an attachment or a hard copy via the post. "First in best dressed". Obtain your ERF from the VFFA website [www.vffa.com.au](http://www.vffa.com.au) or request a copy via email from the event coordinator.

**Event Co-ordinator.**

Christopher Gray  
mobile 0408 256 525  
email: [chris@graysmail.com.au](mailto:chris@graysmail.com.au)  
Postal address: PO Box 105, Mitcham, Victoria 3132

**Date of this Note of Event:** September 8, 2022

**What to do next:**

- 1) Please register your intent to attend ASAP as we have several interested people.
- 2) Chris will send you confirmation, trip & payment details.

**Do not book your travel to Tasmania until you receive VFFA confirmation from the event co-ordinator**

- 3) Book your travel to/from Tasmania.
- 4) Please let Chris know if you're taking a vehicle, we have a few people already taking vehicles and may like to share fishing time/transport during the week. It could also be a good way to get your gear across to Tasmania.
- 5) Pay your deposit to VFFA by end of December & balance in January.
- 6) Complete the Event Registration Form and email to Chris prior to arriving in Tasmania.
- 7) Let Chris know if you would like to be guided by Haysie during the week.

# Notice of Event - VFFA Event - Taupo New Zealand Trip March 2023

**The Event:** A week at Waitahanui Lodge, Waitahanui on the shores of Lake Taupo, NZ, at the height of the Brown Trout season. Nymph or wet-line fishing up and down the river, or on the lake in groups or individually during the day (and night) and sharing stories of the events of the day over dinner in the Boiler Room at the Lodge.

12 positions are available.

**Dates:** Arrive Saturday March 11, 2023 AM - depart Sunday March 18, 2023 AM.

**Address:** Waitahanui Lodge, 116 State Highway One, Waitahanui, Taupo RD 2, 3378 Waitahanui Lodge Lake Taupo, New Zealand

**Travel:** You are responsible for making your own travel arrangements to and from Waitahanui and arranging any travel insurance cover you feel necessary. Taupo Airport is 5 kms north of Waitahanui Lodge. Air New Zealand has daily flights from Auckland of about 1 hour duration. You are also responsible for arranging your transport while in New Zealand. 4WD vehicles are not required. By road, the lodge is approximately three hours' drive from either Auckland or Wellington.

**Cost:** A\$975.00 per person for shared accommodation, linen including towel and face washer, breakfast and dinner. 50% deposit (A\$487.50.00) is to be paid by January 13, 2023 and the remaining balance (A\$487.50) by February 17, 2023.

Direct debit to: VFFA bank account: BSB 182 512, account number 9605 47289

Include your name and "NZ2023" or post cheque to Tony Mitchem, VFFA Honorary Treasurer, PO Box 18423, Bourke Street, Melbourne, 3001.

**Accommodation:** Four 'Kiwi Bach' cabins at Waitahanui Lodge are available for accommodation, each with several bedrooms and 3 or 4 separate beds. You will be expected to share a cabin with several other members for the week, and depending on numbers, you may be required to share a room. All cabin facilities are shared for the week.

**Meals & Drinks:** It is expected you will be involved in purchasing the ingredients and cooking a meal for one of the nights, purchases will be reimbursed. Each cabin has cooking facilities. Breakfast will be supplied with a range of cereals, toast, juice, coffee. Lunch will be your responsibility each day. BYO wine, beer, spirits.

**Fishing locations:** Waitahanui Lodge is located on the lakefront of Lake Taupo, and is 120 metres from the mouth of the Waitahanui River ('the Rip'). Upstream of the river mouth this river offers some 5 to 6 kms of fishable waters, all readily accessible on well-defined tracks, with few sections of terrain more than 'moderate' in difficulty.

Other well-known trout waters within a 30-minute drive include the Hinemaiaia River (12 Kms south), the Tauranga-Taupo River (25 Kms south), the Tongariro River (40 Kms south). For those wishing to travel a little further, Lake Rotorua (and associated waters) are 75 Km north, Lake Otamangakau is 65 Km south, the headwater of the Whanganui River (100 Km south-west), and the Rangitikei River (135 Km south).

**Fishing license:** A current Taupo District fishing license is required. Before departure to Taupo you may purchase one via the Internet on Taupo fishing



*Those New Zealand North Island trout do grow large*



licence options: Taupō Trout Fishery ([doc.govt.nz](http://doc.govt.nz)). Those wishing to fish outside of the Taupo district will need to acquire a separate fishing license for adjoining fishing districts - see Fish & Game website General Fishing Licence Info ([fishandgame.org.nz](http://fishandgame.org.nz)). Note - there is a separate category of licence for non-residents of New Zealand.

**Mobile phone:** Coverage is good in most townships and on major highways. However, it may be poor/non-existent in more remote angling areas.

**Strongly recommended personal equipment:** Waders/wading boots (Hard sole wading boots ONLY permitted – felt/absorbent sole boots are not permitted), gaiters for wet waders, brimmed hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, wet weather gear, warm clothes, insect repellent, wading staff, Personal Locator Beacon (PLB), torch, mobile phone in waterproof container, handheld UHF radio, first aid kit. For those interested in fishing the Waitahanui River delta (the Rip), given the currents and shifting surface materials, a lifejacket is strongly recommended.

Note - all fishing gear (particularly waders and boots) will need to be clean and dry before it will be allowed into NZ.

**Essential equipment if intending to fish out of direct sight of other participants:** UHF radio.

#### **Essential equipment for Remote**

**Locations:** UHF handheld radio, water, prescribed medicines for those with a medical condition which could re-occur, mobile phone if coverage available.

**Weather:** Varies from very hot to very cold, can be windy and wet. Updated forecast will be at the lodge every morning.

**Guiding:** Alex Waller of 'Trippin on Trout' (check out his videos on YouTube

and Instagram) has arranged for one of his guides to be available for the week exclusively to VFFA members on the Taupo trip staying at Waitahanui. Alex and his guides have access to a huge variety of water, depending upon conditions on the day – from local waters to back country streams.

Alex has provided VFFA members with a special daily rate for this week (which is in addition to and independent of the costs set out above). Please notify Rodger Muir with your intended dates to be guided. Do not book with Alex.

**Event Registration Form (ERF):** Register by sending the Event Co-ordinator a completed and signed copy of the ERF by email as an attachment or a hard copy via the post. "First in best dressed". Obtain your ERF from the VFFA website [www.vffa.com.au](http://www.vffa.com.au) or request a copy via email from the event co-ordinator

**COVID:** At the time of preparing this NOE (mid-September 2022), the New Zealand Government had removed substantially all domestic restrictions related to COVID (other than those associated with the healthcare sector). However, travellers to New Zealand must still fill in a 'New Zealand Traveller Declaration' (<https://www.travellerdeclaration.govt.nz/>), which can only be completed within 28 days of departure and after you have made a flight booking.

Should any COVID-related requirements change, the Event Coordinator will communicate with the participants.

#### **Event Co-ordinator.**

Rodger Muir  
Mobile 0414 253 890  
Email: [rodger-muir@bigpond.com](mailto:rodger-muir@bigpond.com)  
Postal address: 71 Kent Street, Millers Point, NSW 2000

**Date of this notice of event:** October 25, 2022.

**What to do next:**

- 1) Please register your intent to attend ASAP as we have a number of interested people.

**Do not book travel to New Zealand until you receive VFFA confirmation**

- 2) If you are intending to participate, please check your passport will be current for travel as of March 2023. If not, begin the renewal process now – in recent times there have been lengthy delays in obtaining a new Australian passport.
- 3) Book your travel to/from New Zealand/Taupo – once you have received VFFA confirmation.
- 4) Pay your deposit to VFFA by 17 January & balance in February.
- 5) Complete the Event Registration Form and email to Rodger prior to arriving in New Zealand.

- 6) If interested in participating, please indicate on the ERF your intention with regard to:
  - a. Local transport: Do you intend to hire a vehicle or do you have access to a vehicle in NZ? We have a few people with access to vehicles in NZ and they may like to share fishing time/transport during the week. Others may wish to share the cost of hiring a vehicle.
  - b. Using the services of a fishing guide: Do you wish use the services of a Fishing Guide on a daily twin share basis, and if so, for one or two days over the week? (Pricing to be determined).
- 7) VFFA will then advise if you have been successful in obtaining a place in the group trip



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## Recent Reports

**... from John Douglas, at Thornton**

(As many of us know, John lives on the Goulburn River at Thornton, and is often out casting into the local best bits. He responded to your author's request and provided the following short report on his fishing.)

Hi Lyndon,

I've not got much to report. I've been fishing a bit but without early success. I think I've fished the Goulburn four times after the season opened, and blanked each visit. It's only in the last week that I started to catch fish!! I was getting concerned I'd lost my mojo!

The Goulburn has been up and down a lot as they balance the inflows and outflows. Eildon Lake is getting very close to full. In the Goulburn downstream I've only seen the odd fish rising throughout the day and nothing to get excited about. The cold wet weather seems to be limiting insect activity, but it is still early in the season. For me, fishing a smallish size 16 beadhead nymph under an indicator has been the best. The fish have come from the quiet edges and seams. My son Scott got a nice brown stripping a Woolly Bugger through the same areas.

In some of the Goulburn tributaries, fishing small weighted nymphs or a squirming worm has been picking up >>>

fish. But not all the streams have yielded me fish. I've found them hard work as these smaller streams flow hard after each rain event. But they do settle if there is an extended break in the wet weather. Again, like the Goulburn, fishing in the quiet softer areas close to the banks or on the inside of the bends has seen a few

fish eat the nymph. While I've only had limited success, other fly fishers I know have been doing much better than me fishing similar methods.

JD

**... from Brian Eddy, at Harrierville on the Ovens**

There is very little report from here, too. As you can see from the attached photos, we've had a lot of rain and there's no chance of putting a foot into that flow.

I missed fishing on opening weekend (Father's Day clash) but I did see a photo of a nice brown taken on opening day when the water was still high but clear. I believe there has been some very good fishing further down, particularly in the Goulburn district with very high but clear waters.

Fishing, other than edges here and there, might still be a month or two away yet for us here up high in the catchment.

Cheers, Brian Eddy



*Brian's photo of the current condition of the Ovens River. It will be some weeks before it clears and drops and becomes fly fishing friendly*

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## My First Trout On The Fly

... Graeme Hays (Professor Hays is a lecturer at Deakin University's Warrnambool Campus. He describes how he took up fly fishing in Warrnambool, aided and abetted by master fly fisher Jim Blakeslee, and commenced with a stunning first trout.)

The journey to catch my first trout on the fly started in one of those seemingly endless Victorian stay-at-home Covid lockdowns in 2021. Like lots of people, I was thinking of ways to fill the time.

There had always been a romantic appeal of fly fishing. My brother-in-law's grandmother, knowing my fishing aspirations, had left me lots of her fly fishing gear when she passed away. Most of her gear – reels, lines, flies, etc – had

remained unpacked in boxes in my garage. It dated from the 1950s.

What better time to try and learn to cast a fly. So, there I was, 15 minutes every day in my back garden trying to cast a fly with a 7 foot, 4 weight rod. Endless tangles, the fly getting caught in bushes and trees, a comedy of errors. Chris Yates, the famed English angler and writer, had once written that being an enthusiastic novice is perhaps the happiest state to



*Jim (on the left) and Graeme Hays at the Warrnambool Fly Fishers' Annual Dinner where Graeme's very first trout caught on a fly won him the 'Arthur Hogan Memorial Trophy award for the largest trout caught on a fly from local waters'*

be in. Well, that certainly described me. Occasionally, between tangles, I could get the fly close to the end of the garden, and even sometimes over the neighbour's fence.

Weeks later we were finally allowed to leave our homes. I'd explained my faltering first steps to Jim Blakeslee, fly fisherman extraordinaire, and Jim kindly invited me to join him in his tinnie on Lake Purrumbete.

So there I was trying to cast a fly into the water rather than into my neighbour's garden. Then I discovered that in my sheltered back garden I've never had to contend with wind. Oh dear, the shambles. More tangles, or the fly frequently hitting the back of my jacket. Even worse, sometimes hitting the back of Jim's jacket.

I can't understand how I managed to hook Jim when he's standing behind me at the other end of the boat. How did I get the fly over there? Jim offers gentle encouragement, while keeping the hood

of his jacket up to protect his head from my wayward casts.

Trip after trip to Purrumbete I flail about while enjoying watching Jim catch fish after fish on his Matukas, Woolly Buggers and Stick Caddis flies. There are clearly fish about, but I begin to doubt that I will ever catch one.

But with glacial slowness my casting gradually improves. Jim is even, sometimes, lowering his jacket hood. Often a whole hour goes by without me hooking him.

One month after our first trip together and here we are fishing amongst the weeds in shallow water. "Try to cast along that weed edge," Jim says, indicating a nice linear edge of weed. "Right, yes, in my dreams," I think. But lo and behold, it is one of my 1 in 40 casts where unbelievably the line shoots out just where I want it to and the fly lands just by the weed edge. For the first time ever, I hear Jim say: "Good cast." Well, if the day had ended then, I'd have been happy.

Let the line sink a little, pretend that I know what I am doing ... strip, strip, pause, strip, strip, pause ... like I've seen Jim do. Then I feel the fly stop. Damn, I must have snagged that weed. It's snagged solid, an instinctive jerk does not free the line. But then what's this ... I feel the line moving and heavy lunges. Surely not! Jim is still watching. "Have you got a fish?" I can hear the incredulity in his voice. Even Jim doesn't believe it.

"I think so." Now I am sure ... this must be a fish!

I suspect Jim is looking skyward to see if pigs are flying. But I can't look across as there is more chaos to sort out. There are coils of fly line at my feet. And it's

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tangled! Always tangles. Surely only an octopus has enough arms to fly fish.

Hold the rod, keep the pressure on the fish, sort out the tangles at your feet. Five minutes in and I'm relieved to see I've got all the excess line on the reel. Total utter chaos has subsided to just chaos. I still don't really know what I'm doing ... "Keep the pressure on, try and keep the fish out of the weed, cushion the big lunges and head shakes!" Well, that's what I should be doing, but actually I'm just holding on and praying.

Five minutes turns to ten, ten minutes turns to fifteen.

Jim tells me that all the anglers on the neighbouring boats have stopped fishing and are just watching. "You're putting on a good show for them," he says.

Well perhaps a good comedy show, I reckon!

Jim says that maybe it just a big redfin, sulking deep. I don't care. It's a fish.

My 4 weight rod remains bent over, the line singing in the wind. Jim had told me before that I could be outgunned with that little rod on Lake Purrumbete. Now I think he's right. But after 20 minutes, I can see the knot joining the fly line to the leader. We're slowly winning. The fish can't be far away now. Jim sees it first.

"It's a big brownie!" Aha, so not a redfin.

I still haven't seen it. Jim has x-ray vision with those fancy polarising glasses. I make a mental note to upgrade my dark glasses, which were \$5 from the Reject Shop. But now the fish is closer and even I can see him. Blimey he looks huge. And even I can see the big hooked jaw. I'd read somewhere that most big fish are lost at the boat. Please no. Not after this long battle. Jim has the landing net ready.



*Graeme with his first trout caught on fly - 7.3 lb!*

I'm putting as much strain on the fish as a I can. If the hook pulls out now, I'll likely fall backwards. I can see the headlines: "Novice angler pulls the hook on big fish and falls backwards overboard". Some of the anglers on the nearby boats have their phones out. It'll be captured on video if I fall in. Enough of these distractions; focus on the fish I tell myself.

The big brownie doesn't like the boat or the net. Just as Jim reaches over, the fish makes a big lunge and dives out of reach. Damn! So close. Please, please, please, don't come off now.

Coax him up again. Take your time, lift the rod tip up, draw him toward Jim.

Jim moves in front of me and leans over with the net again. I can't see what's happening. Lots of splashing. Have we got him? Jim steps back. And he's got him. Our big brownie is the net!

My first trout on the fly – a brown trout that weighs 7.3 lbs. Later that year, the fish wins me the trophy for “The biggest trout caught on a fly in local waters” at the Warrnambool fly club’s annual dinner.

I still can’t believe it.

(A note from Jim Blakeslee: “It’s all true. After Graeme landed his fish I told him that he had to join the WFFC on the spot so he could weigh it in for the Arthur Hogan Memorial Trophy for the biggest trout caught on a fly from local waters.)



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## Excerpts from the Kydra/Kybeyan (NSW) 2022 Newsletter

... from Rod Whiteway

The words unprecedented and extraordinary have been heavily utilised in recent times, mainly in relation to one form of disaster or another, and I have great sympathy for those that have been affected by flood, fire or pestilence. But these terms can be equally applied to events leading to more beneficial outcomes, and this has generally been the case with the rainfall that has fallen over the Monaro, Snowy Mountains region over the past two years.

At Kydra we received 1233 mm for the year to June 30, the highest since I started recording in 1988/89, and this follows on from the 1101 mm that fell in the previous year. Every month from November until April had over 100 mm of rain, some months closer to 200mm - unprecedented to be sure.

While the wet conditions may have caused some inconvenience the benefits to the trout fishery have been immense, and should last well into the future. The Kydra and Kybeyan rivers have had some big floods and have run out of their banks for most of the year. The result is great fishing and a continued build up in fish stocks. The effect on the Bobundara and Maclaughlin has been harder to assess, as floods have led to extended periods of dirty water, which makes it hard to gauge

fish numbers. But I am confident that in the coming season, given more stable water levels, we will see some exceptional fishing in these streams also.

However, we should not take this rainfall and the likely angling bonanza it should provide for granted. The overall outlook for the Monaro is for higher temperatures and lower but more volatile rainfall as climate change tightens its grip.

This was brought home to me by a statistical analysis of my rainfall figures for 1988 - 2021, undertaken by founding member Fred von Reibnitz this past year. The main findings were a downward trend in annual rainfall over the period, dropping below the long-term average since 2004. The spring rainfall was just under 25% of total rainfall and was showing a statistically significant downward trend. Summer rainfall was around 30% of total rainfall and while the trend has stayed close to average, there has been a marked increase in its volatility and variability in the past decade.

Fred also analysed temperature figures. Air temperature is important because rising temperatures can exacerbate the effect of even small reductions in rainfall through increased evaporation, as well as increasing water temperatures. >>>

In this regard increases in minimum temperatures are as important as rising maximums, as they reduce night-time cooling. In summary, over the past three decades there have been statistically significant increases in average minimum temperature for the annual series and for spring, summer and autumn, with trend lines rising by about one degree. There have been statistically significant increases in mean maximum temperatures for the annual series (by close to one and a half degrees) and, most notably, for spring (by two and a half degrees).

These figures are disturbing, but not unexpected, and generally in line with forecasts of the effects of climate change. Of particular concern for the Monaro fishery, apart from the overall downward trend in seasonal rainfall and rise in temperatures, is the coincidence of the statistically significant fall in spring rainfall and increasing spring temperatures, and the observed increase in summer and autumn rainfall volatility and intensity. Hotter, drier springs reduce the ability of streams and fish to withstand hotter and drier conditions later on.

### **The Fishing**

Last season was one of my most enjoyable in the fifty or more years I have been fishing the Kybeyan and the Kydra. There were few blank days and most days the air was full of columns of mating black spinners and duns floating down the riffles, providing interesting and challenging fishing. And it was not all small fish, although there were plenty of those around. Some large drought survivor browns showed up, and the rainbows and browns we stocked were reaching 3 lb and over.

Two factors in particular contributed to the exceptional fishing - the constant

high and mainly clear flows, and the re-emergence of significant black spinner hatches. Stretches of both streams resembled the spring creeks of New Zealand, the US and England. So rather than setting traps for fish cruising around static pools, quite often we were casting to fish holding on station in runs taking duns drifting down, or leaping under clouds of spinners. This required more attention to casting, and some fish were inevitably put down by a clumsy or misplaced cast.

Even in the bigger pools such as the Golden Mile there were sections of flow where fish were concentrated taking duns drifting off weed beds, though in the quieter sections you could still find fish cruising around mopping up duns or trying to lock onto clouds of spinners. And this activity continued over the summer, aided by the cooler air and water temperatures and the fact that there were no real heatwaves.

The re-emergence of mayfly, particularly the large duns and their black spinner, was the other major feature of the past season. In past newsletters I have spoken about my concern that mayfly numbers were in serious decline. Back in the 1970s and 80s and into the 90s it was common during spring and to some extent in autumn, to encounter pools covered with duns of the black spinner or the smaller creamy/grey pale wateries. In following days if conditions were right you would get successive hatches of duns as well as vast spinner falls.

Over the past 20 or so years it has become increasingly rare to see large dun hatches of any species, although black spinners, and less often the large red spinners, were sometimes present in large enough numbers to elicit some interest from the trout. The small pale duns that like to hatch in rough north-westerly conditions,

and what I assume are their small orange spinners, have been non-existent.

But this past season was different, at least on the Kydra and Kybeyan. There was a strong reappearance of the large black spinner, and clouds of spinners were evident on any suitable day, and throughout the summer, which is unusual as they normally taper off from December until autumn. Duns, as you would expect, were more prevalent as well, particularly on the Kybeyan. But strangely, still not seemingly proportional to the numbers of spinners.

Also, I did see a reasonable hatch of the pale wateries one day in the pool above the Hall, which led to a fantastic hour's action when I landed four fish. Most of the fish rising were around 2 lb browns and rainbows, but my catch included a beautiful brown of around 4 lb in the pool's run out, that sipped down my size 14 Greenwells Glory, my go to fly for these small duns on the Kybeyan.

I was lucky to get this fishing. It was late afternoon, and I was driving along the road above the pool on the way home, having waited fruitlessly for something to happen on the pool below the Hall. As usual I kept an eye on the water as I drove past, and saw a fish rise on the opposite bank. I stopped, and when it rose again I gave up the idea of going home. By the time I got my gear together and negotiated the fence there were probably 8 to 10 fish rising, and I could see large numbers of the small duns on the water. After an hour the hatch stopped as quickly as it had begun, but it showed the attraction these small mayflies have to the fish.

While I cannot confirm it, I suspect that the increased mayfly activity extended to the Maclaughlin and Bobundara. Both these streams were coloured for much of

the season due to the constant rainfall, so I did not fish them much. On my only session on the Bobundarra the water was quite dirty, but there was a very good hatch of black and red spinners and duns. Unfortunately, I did not see a fish move.

My experience on the Maclaughlin was more positive. Towards the end of the season I fished the lower Mac, and the landowner commented on huge numbers of black spinners that had been evident in the valley during the season. I caught a nice brown of about 2 lb that was taking small duns in a current line, saw a couple of others of similar size, and a heap of small browns that I think had come from a recent Fisheries liberation.

Undoubtedly though, the highlight of the season was my attendance at the landing of a 9 lb trout from the Kybeyan, the largest fish I have seen from this river. The previous largest was a 7lb 15oz fish I caught, I think back in the 1970s. This was the fish that I exchanged with Wendy Rose for a leg of lamb. Libby was a bit surprised that I caught a leg of lamb.

This time though the successful angler was Kerry Pfeiffer, our esteemed President. It was in the spring, and according to Kerry it was partly cloudy but not too windy. The river was up a bit, and we were on a section of the Golden Mile that had a bit of a channel of moving water running over and off some bordering weed beds. Every time that the sun came out a few black spinners appeared over the water, and some large turkey duns slipped downstream from the weed beds.

And every time this happened, a nice fish would appear heading up into and crisscrossing the flow, snipping down the duns and occasionally lunging with its head out to take a spinner. At this stage we had no idea of its size except >>>

that it was a good one. The fish was made difficult because its feeding was interrupted by the waxing and waning of the hatch, and the fact that it was hard to predict where over the nearly 100 metres or so of flow it would pop up next.

I could see Kerry was really transfixed by this fish, and seemed to be totting up the kilometres wearing a track along the bank in his attempts make a good presentation. At this stage I headed downstream a bit and caught a medium-size rainbow and brown taking black spinners. But Kerry was still working on his fish, so I went back to watch. Not long after I sat down I heard an exclamation from Kerry and saw that the fish had taken his size 12 Greenwells Glory.

It was a fairly long fight, as Kerry soon realised it was a big fish. He didn't want to lose it, and there were thick weed beds everywhere. Finally it was in the net, and from its length we thought it might be a good 6 or 7 lb. So when the scales were attached to the net imagine our surprise when they showed it was 9 lb (and yes we did subtract the weight of the net). Looking more closely at the fish we saw that it was exceptionally deep and thick. Kerry had no hesitation in slipping it back into the water after a couple of quick photos. He did extremely well to catch this fish, as he had fished for it for close on an hour without putting it down with a careless cast.

Interestingly, I think that I may have missed this fish on the strike the week before Kerry's capture. Fishing in the almost identical position I saw a fish right on the bank two metres below me suck down a couple of duns. I flicked my Twilight Beauty in its path and watched as it slowly rose, and I looked down its throat as it took my fly. I thought that I waited, but when I lifted my rod the fly came straight back at me. I fished the

same area a number of times after Kerry's capture, hoping to get another chance at it, but without luck. This fish must have been a drought survivor, but it did not look too old so it could be there this coming season. If it is, it could well be 10 lb.

I also had a couple of wonderful days on the Kydra, with sun, warmth and prolonged spinner and dun activity. While I caught a couple of nice browns, the real feature was that the rainbows we had stocked were still present and some were getting up towards 4 lb.

### **Stocking, Spawning and Fish Numbers**

Last season was an exceptional one for trout recruitment in the Kybegan and the Kydra, and large numbers of small fish became evident in the second half of the season, particularly rainbows. There were small browns there as well, though not so many. This confirms what I suggested in last season's newsletter - that the rainbows may spawn, and that brown trout spawning numbers were down following the drought. The ability to spawn at a younger age may have conferred some advantage to rainbows coming out of the drought. Most of the browns coming through were most likely from our stocking and thus not yet old enough to spawn.

We carried out our normal brown fingerling stocking in late February in perfect water conditions, putting roughly a thousand in each of the Kydra, Kybegan, Maclaughlin and Bobundarra. We had the opportunity for further fingerlings later in the season as the hatchery was left with a small excess, but I turned these down for the Kydra and Kybegan, figuring we did not want to overstock. But some went into the Bobundarra and the Maclaughlin as well as other Monaro streams. Late in the season I had a quick look at the

Maclaughlin at the Bombala/Dalgety (Caldwell) bridge and saw a lot of small fish upstream. So I suspect NSW Fisheries had released some at the bridge.

Conditions have been perfect for spawning this season. There has been excellent spawning in the Kybeyan, well up on the previous year and evidence that our stockies had come of age. The Kydra was more patchy, with good numbers on some redds but fewer or none on others. Paradoxically, this may be because the water levels were too high at some spawning sites, or maybe the high levels allowed spawning fish to travel and concentrate on the best spawning sites.

Towards the end of July I saw the first of the rainbows on a redd in the Kydra, and it was a redd that had been used by a pair of browns earlier on. This causes me some concern, given the number of rainbows in each stream and the fact that they spawn after the browns, they will over-spawn and disturb existing brown redds. If this does occur it is fortuitous that we will be able to augment brown numbers with our annual stocking, and hopefully over time we will strike a "better" balance between browns and

rainbows. (Late news: I had a look at the Kybeyan in August, and sure enough I saw at least a dozen rainbows spawning on the redds around the top of the Golden Mile and they were ripping up the brown redds.)

### **The Coming Season**

You will gather that I am optimistic for the coming season. We have water and more is forecast. It is highly likely that we are entering a third consecutive La Nina and the Indian Ocean Dipole is negative, a strong indicator of above average rainfall for S.E. Australia. Fish numbers are good in the Kybeyan and the Kydra, and I'm confident that the results of our stocking will show up this season in the Bobundara, Maclaughlin and other Monaro streams. Lake Eucumbene fished magnificently last season and I can see no reason why this will not continue. I have also had good reports on the alpine streams. I am keen to get back to New Zealand and Tassie again after the Covid break, but cannot help thinking that I could be leaving good fishing locally. Nice to have so many options.

Yours in angling,

*Rod Whiteway*



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## **Home Waters - A Short Essay**

... Alan Pilkington

The idea that there is a stream or stretch of water that connects with us so deeply we consider it a part of us is not new. It has biblical undertones going back to the Sea of Galilee, and to the English rivers Dove or Lea in the days of Isaac Walton, and few angling writers since have not sung the praises of some stream, or lake, or stretch of beach, or ocean current. The Campbell River on Vancouver Island inspired much of Roderick Haig Brown's writing, and his home by it has become

a shrine for many Pacific northwest anglers. Or, closer to home, David Scholes writings of his days on Tasmania's Break O'Day, or earlier of his fishing the Upper Yarra or the Woori Yallock Creek, suggest they had a special place in his heart.

The significance of home waters to our fly fishing cannot be overestimated. It is by proximity and observation, over time, that we come to understand a particular river and its trout's behavior, and this

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simple fact has given rise to learning most of what we know about angling with a fly. If we are diligent, we can start to know a river's soul, and if we are lucky, it can get to know ours.

Home waters have inspired and informed anglers ever since Dame Juliana Berners, when she fished the English chalkstream rivers Colne and Ver, and later, in 1496, wrote *A Treatyse on Fysshynge Wyth an Angle*. The rivers Dove and Lea framed Walton's writing in *The Compleat Angler* (1656). Alfred Ronald's, *The Fly-Fisher's Entomology* (1836), the first comprehensive study of entomology related to trout and grayling, derived principally from observations on his favourite stream, the Blythe, and later the Dove, the Wye and the Derwent.

The list goes on: H.M. Halford, *Dry Fly Fishing in Theory and Practice* (1899), based his observations and experience on the Test and Itchen; G.E.M. Skues wrote (at first controversially) about the new angling style of nymphing, in 1910 in *Minor Tactics of The Chalk Stream*. Frank Sawyer, a friend of Skues and for many years riverkeeper on the Hampshire Avon, is credited as being the father of modern nymphing and inventor of the Pheasant Tail Nymph and based his knowledge on his close observations of trout feeding behavior, and in doing so significantly changed the game. His 1958 book, *Nymphs and The Trout*, is as useful today as when it was written.

It is not a stretch to believe that these historic figures in the development of our angling avocation, along with many others, owe their knowledge to their intimacy with their home streams. And all of us, in some way or another, have benefited from that. Their home streams have informed our own development as fly fishermen, and become, in a way, our home waters too.

In my own and my brother John's case, our fly fishing was ignited by our early days on the Big River in north-eastern Victoria. The foundation of our angling lives was built there. The lessons we learned from the river served us well as we fished other waters, but our hearts always return there, not surprising after having fished the River Big for over seventy years. In time, our home stream took a bigger dimension than just angling, enveloping our families and their growth, as recently told in our book, *Where Time Stands Still*.

A characteristic of home streams is forgiveness – we forgive them when the fishing is off, knowing how good it can be when it is on. And they forgive us when we are off, and can't accept their bounties, whether through fishing the wrong time of year, or day, impatience, lack of concentration, poor casting, or selecting the wrong fly after the river had for so long given us lessons on the right one.

I count myself lucky to have two home streams, if that is not an oxymoron. While I have fished many rivers I'd happily build a cabin by, I became captivated by Montana's Rock Creek late in my life as a fly fisherman, and adopted it as a sort of 'home away from home stream'.

This was after spending years fishing Michigan's Ausable River, Utah's Green River, and Montana's Big Hole, all legendary streams in their own right. Rock Creek rises in the Sapphire Mountains of south-western Montana and is at the heart of some of the finest fly fishing country in the world - the Blackfoot (of *A River Runs Through It* fame), the Bitterroot, the Clark Fork and the Big Hole rivers are all within an hour or two's drive of it.

As with all home streams it is unique, while sharing features that are common

to most. It happens to suit me, the beauty of its valley, its abundant and varied wildlife, its manageable size, the variety of trout found there – rainbow, brown, brook and bull trout (which like the char trout is a member of the char family), as well as the native cutthroat, which love to come up to a floating fly. The river has a rich variety of insects which appear regularly through the year, sometimes in astonishing numbers, and best of all for an ageing angler, it is kind to those who like to walk to the river from our cars and cast from its gravel bars or shallower edges. And, in my dreams and if the river's magic is working, I am Paul in *a River Runs Through It*. What is not to like?

I am in my fourth year of fishing it intently through the late spring, summer and autumn months and feel I am

starting to get to know it. Certainly well enough to consider it a home stream, not just for its fine angling but for what it does to my being. I still camp out by the lovely river when the weather is mild, beneath giant Ponderosa pines and under a tarp in an Australian canvas swag, wrapped in a merino woolen blanket and with a can of bear spray under my pillow. I nod off listening to the river's song and the calls of great horned owls as they gently hoot to one another across the valley. If the weather is iffy, or too cold, I rent a small cabin, or stay with my mate, a retired doctor from Missoula, in his log home overlooking the river. Wherever I lay my head, or cast my fly, the river brings me peace, contentment, and fulfillment. Home is where the heart is!



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## Notice of Event for Trip to Currawong Lakes, Tasmanian 11 - 18 March 2023

**The Event:** A full week's fishing at Currawong Lakes, near Lake Leake, Tasmania. The event provides access to all three Currawong lakes, and includes on-site accommodation. Limited to 10 places. Currawong Lakes is an exclusive private estate of 2,000 acres set in State Forest in Tasmania's East

**Address:** 1204 Long Marsh Rd, Lake Leake, Tasmania.

**Travel:** Please make your own travel arrangements to, from, and within Tasmania. 4WD vehicles are not required. The lodge is about 90 minutes from Launceston and 2¼ hours (190 kms) from the Devonport Ferry Terminal. If you plan to travel by Spirit of Tasmania, book early to ensure you get a car space and cabin.

**Cost:** \$1,250 per person for plush accommodation, with all facilities, and

access to glorious fishing in all three lakes. BYO food and refreshments.

\$625.00 deposit to be paid on registration. Balance payable by January 31, 2023.

Direct debit to: VFFA bank account: BSB 182 512, account number 9605 47289.

Include your name and "Currawong2023" or post cheque to Tony Mitchem, VFFA Honorary Treasurer, PO Box 18423, Bourke Street, Melbourne, 3001.

**COVID Policy:** If the trip is cancelled as a result of government restrictions relating to Covid, or due to the reasonable expectation of the Event Co-ordinator that such restrictions are imminent, full refunds will be provided for any accommodation monies paid.

**Meals & Drinks:** This trip is entirely self-catered. There's a commercial kitchen in the Lake House and full facilities in >>>

the Hunters Cabin. Fire pit and barbecues are also provided. We'll co-ordinate cooking arrangements nearer the time, and may request Richard and Merryn for a meal. All wines and whiskies must be of good quality.

**Fishing locations:** Three lakes, on the property - Currawong, Long Marsh and Macquarie. All teem with self-sustaining populations of browns, and stocked rainbows, reputedly to 7 kg (15+ lbs). Serious chance of catching a 10 lb trophy during the week. Activities include a nightly exchange of notes around the fire plus serious bragging rights (judges will be appointed to check facts).

**Tasmanian Fishing license required:**  
<https://www.ifs.tas.gov.au/the-rules/angling-licence>

**WiFi and Mobile phone:** WiFi is available. Phone coverage is poor.

**Strongly recommended personal equipment:** Waders/ wading boots, gaiters for wet waders, brimmed hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, wet weather gear, warm clothes, insect repellent, wading staff, Personal Locator Beacon (PLB), torch, water carrier, mobile phone in waterproof container, handheld UHF radio, prescription medicines.

**Essential equipment if intending to fish out of direct sight of other participants:** UHF radio.

**Weather:** Should be warm but it is Tasmania! Notwithstanding autumn, weather can be cold, windy and wet. Updated forecast will be at the lodge every morning.

**Guides:** Guides are available on request. Book direct through Currawong, in advance.



*The top lake at Currawong has a very large trout population*

**Boating:** boats may be used on the lakes, with electric motors or oars only. Although unnecessary, a small boat will greatly expand your fishing opportunities.

**Event Registration Form (ERF):** Register by sending the Event Co-ordinator a completed and signed copy of the ERF by email. Please don't use snail mail, as the Co-ordinator rarely checks his mailbox. "First in best dressed". Download forms from the VFFA website: [www.vffa.org.au](http://www.vffa.org.au).

**COVID:** COVID rules and restrictions trump everything. They may change at any time. We'll do our best to keep everyone informed.

**Event Co-ordinator.**

Hugh Maltby, mobile 0423 283 079 - please always leave a message.  
email: [redhtag@hotmail.com](mailto:redhtag@hotmail.com)

**Date of this Note of Event:**

September 26, 2022

**What to do next:**

- 1) Please confirm interest to me ASAP, as we already have several registrants and there are only 10 places available.
- 2) Book your travel to /from Tasmania.
- 3) Please let me know if you're taking a vehicle, we have a few people already taking vehicles who may have extra space available for people and /or gear.
- 4) Pay your deposit to VFFA, immediately. Balance due by January 31st.
- 5) Complete the Event Registration Form and email to me ASAP.

Please get in touch if you have any questions.



*Currawong is a very attractive and arresting trout fishery*

# FLY OF THE MONTH

## *Kossy's W.A.P. (What a Pearler)*



Richard Kos is one of our keenest fly tying members and demonstrators. He is a regular instructor at our fly tying evenings. He is also one of our members who consistently catches trout released by the VFA in the dams and impoundments within Melbourne city.

In describing this fly he writes as follows:

Variations of this fly have become my number one go-to fly for lake fishing when there is little or no surface activity. Photos of the colour variations I use are shown on the next page.

I first tied the Sculpin Olive colour which produced a 4 lb brown trout on its debut. Then the Root Beer, Tan and Orange colours were introduced. The only colour which has yet to catch a fish is the Orange fly, but then again it hasn't been tied on as often as the others.

When tying the fly I initially used some clear monofilament thread as a rib to strengthen the body of the fly. But then I found that if I tied the chenille on very tightly and used very close turns, the monofilament was not required. One less step.

The fly is tied with and without added weight.

Another of my preferences is to set up a production line to seat the bead with tying thread and a drop of super glue. (I hate wobbly beads on flies.)

Then I wind the lead wire just ahead of the bend of the hook, place a drop of super glue along the shank, then slide the wire to seat it behind the bead. This gets the fiddly bits out of the way.

**Materials:**

- Hook:** Fulling Mill 5085, barbless 2x long sizes #8 and #10.
- Bead:** Flouro orange, either brass or tungsten. Use a 4.0 mm bead for size #8 hooks and a 3.5 mm bead for size #10s.
- Thread:** 140 denier UTC FL Fire Orange – tan for the tan version.
- Tail:** Marabou plumes – colour to suit.
- Body:** Wapsi medium pearl chenille – brown, root beer and tan
- Hackle:** Hungarian Partridge Natural – brown for the darker coloured flies.

For weighted versions, use ten turns of 0.20 mm lead wire on #8 hooks and ten turns of 0.15 mm on the #10 hooks. If using tungsten beads, halve the turns of lead wire. The brown spot on top of the bead or head of my flies is code for a weighted fly.

**Tying Procedure:**

1. Place the bead on the hook and seat it behind the eye of the hook, then wind on lead wire if tying a weighted version.
2. Wind thread onto the hook at the bend, opposite to where the barb would normally be on a barbed hook.
3. Tie in the marabou for the tail, 2 to 2½ times the length of the hook shank.
4. Tie in the pearl chenille, first stripping some of the Mylar to expose the core.
5. Wind the chenille forward and tie it off, leaving enough room behind the eye to tie in the hackle. Stroke the chenille backwards as you tie it on.
6. Tie in the hackle - two turns should be enough.
7. Apply some Super Glue or nail polish to the thread then whip finish to complete the fly.



## VFFA 2022 meetings & other activities

(... all events subject to Covid restrictions)

### October

- 1 Saturday ATF Project - Steavenson River Riparian Maintenance: 9:30 am – 1 pm  
8 Saturday Celebration of the life of Robert Roles –  
10:30 am at Bringenbrong Station, NSW.  
9 Sunday Annual trip to Thorpdale to fish the Latrobe Valley club's stocked dams  
as guests of the Latrobe Valley Fly Fishers.  
Event Co-ordinators - David Hooke & Terry Rogers  
14 Fri - 16 Sun Competition for Bruce Whitehead Trophy vs Bairnsdale FFC on  
Western Victoria Lakes.  
Event Co-ordinator – Hugh Maltby (0423 283 079)  
20 Thursday General Meeting – 7:30 pm at the Kelvin Club:  
Our Annual Auction. (Note the earlier start!)  
26 Wednesday Council Meeting – 6:00 pm at the Kelvin Club.

### November

- 11 Fri – 13 Sun Annual Trip to Warrnambool.  
17 Thursday Guided Tour of the Shrine of Remembrance – 10:30 am. Peter Whitelaw.  
Then, general Meeting – 12 noon at the Kelvin Club.  
Speaker: Mark Turner - Goulburn Broken Catchment Management  
Authority  
30 Wednesday Council Meeting – 7:00 pm, Zoom meeting.

### December

- 3 Saturday Celebration of the life of Professor Kevin Hindle –  
2:00 pm at 40 Yarravale Road, Kew.  
9 Friday Christmas Dinner at the Kelvin Club.  
Speaker: Alan Pilkington

### January 2023

- 11 Wednesday VFFA members visit Millbrook Lakes, provided day summer  
temperatures are not too high.  
Event Co-ordinator – Lyndon Webb (0488 555 724)

### February 2022

- 1 Wednesday First Council Meeting for 2022 – 7:00 pm at the Kelvin Club.  
04 Sat -11 Sat Tasmanian trip to Hayes on Brumby's. Event Co-ordinator – Chris  
Gray (chris@graysmail.com.au.)  
18 - 23 World Recreational Fishing Conference – Jeff's Shed  
23 Thursday General Meeting – 8:00 pm at the Kelvin Club:  
"Liars' Night" – reports from members on their summer fishing.