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THE VICTORIAN FLY-FISHERS' ASSOCIATION INC.

SEPTEMBER 2008

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**NEXT MEETING – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
AT THE KELVIN CLUB, 8.00PM THURSDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2008**

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



Bob Hart.



Peter Boag welcomes guests.

ANNUAL DINNER

We fly fishers know all about grizzlies – they're those neat little black and white barred hackle feathers we tie on our Adams and various other flies. Bob Hart had a different take on it – his grizzly was about 2 metres tall and was making an unwanted entrance into Bob's tent in the wee small hours. This was just one of the many tales with which Bob captivated members and guests at our recent Annual Dinner. Bob was in top form, and kept us enthralled and entertained as he described his fly fishing adventures in Alaska. Fishing with a shotgun or large bore rifle hanging from your belt is not the usual experience of VFFA members, and sadly, neither is fishing in a river full of 10-20 kg fish. But then night temperatures of -16°C and noon temperatures of 0°C are a little less appealing.

Bob told of his early years and the new holiday house on the river north of Brisbane where, on his first day, he caught a pile of very nice bream. He then discovered they were the pampered pet fish that his elderly neighbour had been feeding each day. Bob's mother decided against inviting the neighbour in for a slice of the delicious fish pie baked from Bob's catch.

Bob also informed us that recent research showed that men were attracted to women who wear leather clothing. The reason – the smell of leather reminds men of the inviting fragrance of the inside of a new car.

Some 110 members attended the Dinner, which included the presentation of the Jack Ritchie Medal to a very worthy winner – Howard Scrivenor. Howard, now approaching his 86th birthday, has given a lifetime of service to the Victorian trout fishery.





Bob Hart's attentive audience.

Donors of Items for the Annual Dinner

A special feature of the recent Annual Dinner was the raffle. Superb prizes were on offer, some valued at several hundred dollars. The retailers and commercial enterprises providing these prizes are to be thanked for their magnificent generosity.

Here is the list of this year's raffle donors:

- Pro Angler Tackle, 489 South Road, Bentleigh, ph 9532 1583
- Armadale Angling, 1125 High St, Armadale, ph 9822 3896
- Aussie Angler Pty Ltd, 30 Sherbourne Road, Greensborough, ph 9432 1501
- J.M. Gillies Agencies Pty Ltd, ph 8360 8191
- Mike Stevens, Tasmanian Angling News, Steven's Publishing, ph 03 6331 1278
- The Compleat Fly Fisher, 383 Flinders Lane, Melbourne, ph 9621 1246
- Mark Weigall & Darren Laver, Millbrook Lakes Lodge, Millbrook, ph 0419 101 636
- Bill Classon, Australian Fishing Network, ph 9761 4044
- Robert Sloane, FlyLife Publication Co, ph 03 6260 2409
- Mr Ray Brown, Onkapringa Flies, Tasmania, ph 03 6391 2019
- Mr Andrew Summers, Mayfly Tackle, ph 9899 0034
- Mr Nick Taransky, Bamboo Rod Maker, ph 02 6297 5134
- Mr Andrew Lowe, Lowes Furniture, ph 9459 8514
- Compleat Angler, 702 Station St, Box Hill, ph 9890 7439

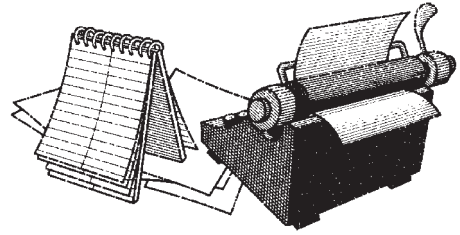


Hugh Maltby extracting raffle money.



Richard Salvardo greets Dr Bob Loch and Jim Blakeslee from Warrnambool.

From the EDITOR'S DESK



The Annual Dinner is undoubtedly a social highlight of the year. And a great occasion it was, too, as we acknowledged the significant contribution to our trout fishery by Howard Scrivenor, and were royally entertained by the scintillating skill and humour of guest speaker, Bob Hart. But perhaps the best aspect of our Annual Dinner is the opportunity it provides for us to share a meal together with colleagues and mates, and to catch up with old friends. Fishing is much more than just catching fish, as we all know, and the friendships we forge and the companions we share our angling experiences with enrich our lives so much. Fishing with a mate is always more fun than fishing alone, and occasions such as our Annual Dinner are a great opportunity to share those escapades again (with just the odd embellishment or slightly extended truth).

The September meeting is the AGM – the occasion when office-bearers are elected or re-elected. The VFFA is different from many other clubs in that the general meetings are given over entirely to angling-related matters. Guest speakers, auctions of books and equipment, fly-tying, reports on Christmas fishing experiences, ... these are the things that fill our general meetings. The management issues – financial reports, inward and outward correspondence, and all that other essential administrivia – are dealt with at the separate Council meetings.

It has been my privilege to attend Council meetings this year. I was an invited observer, and was able to observe at first hand the quality of work done behind the scenes. Annual Dinners, Art Shows, auctions and trips to New Zealand happen because a small group of committed and very hard-working Council members put in long hours to ensure that these events are well-organised and successful. We owe our Councillors a huge debt of thanks.

While it is unwise to single out individuals, I feel I should acknowledge my personal gratitude to out-going president, David Grisold. This year has seen me assuming steadily more of the editor's task, as John Philbrick has relinquished his long involvement in this role. Throughout these months I have been the recipient of countless emails and phone calls from David. While it wasn't his intention, these emails and phone calls revealed something of the workload that David undertook on behalf of the VFFA. It was massive. He was also a constant source of support, excellent newsletter material, careful proof reading, and sound advice. Thank you David – the job has been so much easier because of your friendship, encouragement and wise counsel.

The monthly newsletter goes through a few drafts before heading to the printers. Along with David's oversight, John Pilkington, as assistant editor, casts an eagle eye over the copy and invariably has a suggestion or two, John Philbrick has been a great mentor, and Peter Boag also gives the early drafts a careful check. My sincere thanks to you all. And behind the scenes, Anne Walters, at Spectrum Printing, does a magnificent job with the layout. Anne is a delight to work with – highly skilled, very obliging, and always on time with deadlines. After 11 years of work on our newsletters she must now be very well informed on all matters pertaining to fly fishing. Thank you Anne.

Which brings us to this issue, with reports on the Annual Dinner and President's Casting

Day, information on the work of the Australian Trout Foundation, details of upcoming trips, tying instructions for John Philbrick's fabulous nymph, and a delightful account from Julian Brown on his 'Dunny Brush'. In talking about trips, members should note that the Big River trip is now fully subscribed.

In future issues we hope to provide some up to date reports. Jim Blakeslee has kindly offered to provide regular reports on the Warrnambool district fishing, and Andy Zarro, who lives at Khancoban, has offered to keep us up to speed on the fishing in the North East. We look forward to their contributions.

Lyndon Webb
lgwebb@bigpond.net.au

VFFA Meetings & Activities

SEPTEMBER 2008

18 **Annual General Meeting**

OCTOBER 2008

16 **General Meeting**

– Speaker Phil Bailey

24-26 Opening Weekend - Tranquil Rises,
Flowerdale

NOVEMBER 2008

7,8&9 Fishing Weekend – King River

20 **General Meeting – Book Auction**

21-23 Fishing Trip – Big River

23 Nov-5 Dec – Fishing trip to NZ

DECEMBER 2008

18 Christmas Dinner

– Speaker Michael Youl

FEBRUARY 2009

19 Liar's Night

MARCH 2009

7-13 Fishing Trip "Hayes on Brumbys",
Tasmania



Malcolm Elms, the VFFA's own Casting Expert.

WINTER CASTING...

...has now come to an end

With the new season just around the corner the program of Winter Casting, under the tutelage of Master Caster Malcolm Elms, is now finished.

On behalf of all members we would like to thank Malcolm for his commitment, hard work and very consistent contribution in running this valued program.

We would also take this opportunity to thank Nancy for her culinary contributions – those fresh-baked cookies were always welcomed and appreciated.

Well done Malcolm and Nancy.

David Grisold

President's Message

What a great night our Annual Dinner is! It's the one night of the year when we pack the Kelvin Club to the rafters and catch up with our mates. Just on 110 VFFA members and their guests were thoroughly fed and watered.

We had the great pleasure of being entertained by Mr Bob Hart, without doubt one of the finest after dinner speakers we have had at our Annual Dinners. Thank you so much Bob. Howard Scrivenor was the very proud recipient of The Jack Ritchie Medal. Howard had been holidaying with his family in Queensland and flew home to receive his medal. I found a great deal of pleasure in researching Howard's 60 years of working for our great Australian trout. I know Howard enjoyed receiving the medal as much as I did presenting it to him on behalf of all Australian trout anglers. Thank you so very much Howard!

Congratulations must also go to Gerard Driden, our longest serving member, with now 60 years of membership! Gerard I am sure there are many more dinners for you yet to come. Well done young fella.

I have been collecting gifts for our raffle table for the past 6 years and I have never had a knock back. All retailers have been only too happy to donate prizes. For this year's Dinner the prizes were exceptional. I urge all members to support our local tackle shops. There is nothing that beats a coffee and a chat at your local retailer, whilst getting the inside information on where the fish are rising and the fly that's doing the trick. Books, tackle and videos can all be purchased whilst there. Don't be tempted by the false economy of saving a dollar by shopping on the web. Please support your local tackle shop.

We had a great turnout for President's Casting Day. Some 40 members stumbled out of bed and were fed a hearty lunch by that master of the barbecue, Peter Campbell, who also prepared four of his very special apple pies to be consumed with our lunch. Thank you Peter. Congratulations to the winners of the casting – Glen Cox, Hubert Reichelt and Rick Innes. To Malcolm Elms, mate, thank you again very much for all your hard work and your love of the VFFA.

Council has prepared a full season of trips and activities. Please keep an eye on your newsletter and keep up-to-date with all the upcoming events.

John Philbrick is currently having great success on the San River in Poland, catching up to 30 trout a day on size 24 dry flies. After Poland he will move onto London to fish the Test and some other streams and rivers of England.

Paul Squires has just finished fishing England, taking brown trout to 5 lb from the Test. He is now on his way to some more fishing in France. Both boys will give talks with slide shows early next year. Phil from Poland, I cannot wait!

This is one of my last duties as President, a job that I have thoroughly enjoyed. I want to thank you, the members, for making me feel so welcome! To all the people who have helped and given me encouragement, especially last year when I had my brush with prostate cancer, I say 'Thank You'. The past three years have been three of the most enjoyable years of my life and I feel so very honored to have been the President of the VFFA and representing you, the members of this wonderful Association. I am also very happy with the work carried out over the past three years by Council and proud that I have helped to make it happen. Being on Council and part of a great team is very rewarding and I would recommend it to everyone. With Council elections about to take place, please consider joining Council.

From cock of the walk to feather duster, I have loved every minute of this wonderful journey.

David Grisold

JACK RITCHIE MEDAL

This medal is awarded to a recipient who has made a significant contribution to the conservation of catchments and the preservation of wild trout in the natural environment. The recipient of the Jack Ritchie medal this year is Howard Scrivenor.



Howard was a foundation member of the Victorian Fisherman's Advisory Council and the Victorian Anglers Council, which went onto become Vic Fish, the precursor to VRFish. Howard was also a foundation member of the Australian Freshwater Fisherman's Assembly, which met each year at Lake Eucumbene. He prepared all of the submissions that were subsequently presented to Government and Fisheries and was heavily involved in the face to face meetings with these bodies.

He was also involved in the early days of Southern Fly Fishers. He was on the committee, served as secretary and then as President, and during his time at Southern Fly Fishers was heavily involved in trout politics and environmental issues, preparing and presenting numerous briefs to Government and peak bodies.

Howard went on to become a foundation member of the Council of Victorian Fly Fishing Clubs, where again he served as a committee member and President. During his time as President, he was a regular contributor to Freshwater Fishing magazine on all matters relating to the environment and trout politics. In the late 1980's Howard was a major contributor to a four page special in the magazine, entitled 'Victoria's Trout Fishery – the Future'.

During his time at the Council of Victorian Fly Fishing Clubs he became great mates with Jack Kelly and Jack Ritchie. He also

became a member of the VFFA at around this time. Howard also spent time working with the Ballarat Acclimatization Society and the Ballarat Hatchery, stocking trout into Lake Wendouree.

Howard was also a member of the Mick Martin Syndicate, where again he

became secretary and treasurer. In conflict with government policy and in direct opposition to the Victorian Fisheries he worked with the Ballarat Hatchery in collecting wild trout eggs in an effort to maintain the genetic integrity of our wild brown trout. Along with Jack Ritchie and Jack Kelly, Howard spent many weekends installing gravel beds for fish to spawn over in the Goulburn and Acheron Rivers.

He spent countless days doing restoration work on the Steavenson River after a local farmer ran his bulldozer down the river and caused considerable damage.

Whilst President of the Council of Victorian Fly Fishing Clubs, Howard successfully led the fight against eductor gold dredging in Victoria. Rick Keam remembers going on field days sitting in the bus next to Howard, along with Government Officers and fisheries personnel, to inspect the Upper Goulburn catchment area. Rick said Howard was always progressive and one of the best back room boys in the business. When it came to research Howard was a perfectionist.

This year Howard celebrates 25 years as a member of the VFFA, and later this year his 86th birthday. Howard Scrivenor has spent 60 years working to ensure the sustainability of our environment and pursuing and fighting for the Australian Trout. A very worthy winner indeed.



Richard Goodall does well for a lefthander.



Hubert Reichelt tries a Taransky cane rod.



A top chef in action.



Nick taransky's handiwork gets a close inspection..



Marty, Rick and David keeping an eye on proceedings.



Rick Williams and John Pilkington discuss the finer points of casting.



Chief adjudicators – Malcolm and Colin keeping score.

PRESIDENT'S CASTING DAY

The President's Casting Day was held, as usual, at the Red Tag pool, Fairfield, on Saturday 30 August, the day after our Annual Dinner.

The 40 members who attended were treated to a great fun day, with thirteen trying their hand at casting to the ACA Skish and Wet hoops. A swirling north-easterly wind made casting difficult with the light fishing gear used.

The Frank and Tom McDonough trophy flask was the major prize, with minor prizes for the ACA handicap Skish and handicap Wet.

Results: Tom and Frank McDonough Flask – winner – Glen Cox
ACA Handicap Skish – winner – Hubert Reichelt
ACA Handicap Wet – winner – Rick Innes

A special thanks to our chef, Peter Campbell, who has been chief chef for 26 continuous years, providing BBQ sausages, followed with Apple Pie and cream. Well done Peter!

Thanks to all contributors on the day, especially those helping with the running of the casting events, and to all who attended.

Malcolm Elms

TASSIE SEASON OFF TO A GOOD START

For those of us (and there are many) who have a keen interest in the performance of the Tasmanian trout fishery, the following information was from a recent (August) press release from the Tasmanian Inland Fisheries Service:

2008/09 Season Off To A Good Start

The weather conditions varied from light snow and cold winds in the highlands to beautiful sunny weather in most other parts of the State. During the opening weekend IFS compliance officers checked 596 anglers who had caught a total of 444 fish.

The most popular waters were the lowland lakes and lagoons such as Four Springs Lake and the newly formed Huntsman Lake. Some rivers were also popular, with the Derwent producing large searun brown trout up to 3.8 kg. In the Highlands Woods Lake was popular, with several anglers catching their bag of five fish. Many anglers also fished the Bradys Chain of lakes with large numbers of fish being landed. Penstock Lagoon produced rainbow trout of about 1 kg and in exceptional condition. On the North West Coast 40 anglers were checked at rivers, lakes and dams, with the best catch rate at Pet Dam.

Compliance officers in the North checked 128 anglers for 103 fish, the largest being a rainbow trout from Four Springs Lake of about 3 kg. Four Springs Lake also produced some well-conditioned brown trout up to 2 kg. There were large crowds at Four Springs, with some anglers driving in, turning around and leaving because of the numbers. Vehicles were once again parked up to 100 metres out along the road as the car park was packed with vehicles and trailers. Huntsman Lake performed above expectations with some superb brown trout being caught by boat and shore anglers. All in all it was a top weekend with anglers being very happy with their catch and looking forward to the season ahead.

RESTORATION OF THE GRAVE OF ALFRED RONALDS

On Sunday 17 August, members of the Victorian Fly Fishers Association and the Ballarat Fly Fishing Club attended a short ceremony to mark the restoration of the grave of Alfred Ronalds at the Old Ballarat Cemetery. It was the culmination of an appeal which was launched by the VFFA in 2000 for funds to restore his grave, which had been destroyed by vandals. The appeal was launched at the initiative of well-known fly fishing journalist, fly tier and VFFA member, Rick Keam, and followed an article by Mick Hall on the life of Ronalds which appeared in *The Flyfishers Annual* (Volume 6, 2001) of which Rick was the editor.

The Australian and international fly fishing community owe a great debt of gratitude to these two men, for Alfred Ronalds is undoubtedly one of the major figures in the history of fly fishing. When the appeal was launched, Rick wrote of Ronalds: He was born in 1802 in London, his father died when Alfred was four years of age, and he commenced an apprenticeship as an engraver and printer and subsequently moved to Staffordshire in the Midlands where he married. During his time in Staffordshire Alfred developed a passionate interest in flyfishing. He was close to the river Trent and its tributaries, the Blythe and the Dove, the latter already famous through the writings of Charles Cotton and Izaak Walton in *The Compleat Angler* and no doubt he was familiar with their works.

Alfred performed his own research on trout and their habits with insects. By the Blythe he built a small bankside fishing hut. It was clad with heath and designed to overhang a part of the river so that it could act as an observatory. The building was octagonal and contained only three windows, situated four feet or so above the river surface. The middle window commanded a view of a fast run, and each of the other two a small eddy or whirlpool. The



The lower inscription is: "Restored by the members of the Victorian Fly Fishers Association, July 2008".

curtains had peep-holes, so that the observers and their movements could not be seen by the trout. The bank of the river had also been built up so that one could approach without scaring the river's inhabitants.

Using his hut and his own astute observations, Alfred built up his knowledge of flyfishing and in 1836 his landmark book *The Fly-Fisher's Entomology* was published. This was a serious study of entomology as applied to flyfishing and contained numerous colour plates of insects and artificial flies to imitate them. It was decades ahead of its time and ran to many editions.

Alfred subsequently moved to North Wales and became involved in the production of trout flies, and following other relocations set up as a full time tackle maker and fly tier. His wife died in 1847 and seeking a fresh start, he migrated to Australia with six children. Landing in an infant Melbourne he soon set up as an engraver and the following year remarried. With the discovery of gold he set out with other hopefuls and tried his luck variously at Castlemaine, Bendigo and finally Ballarat, where he settled on six acres and ran a successful market garden on the banks of Lake Wendouree. Two years later he died suddenly of a stroke on 23 April, 1860.

Within four years of his death, trout were introduced to Australia and Lake Wendouree received its first stocking in 1871. He was a remarkable man and left a huge legacy to the sport of flyfishing. In an extensive commentary on Alfred Ronalds in his two volumes work *Trout*, Ernest Schweibert comments: 'Alfred Ronalds is one of the principal milestones in the entire history of flyfishing; with his *Entomology*, the rational basis of the scientific method had reached angling in full flower. The graphic work is beautifully executed and the copperplate lithography remains equal to most modern printing technology. Alfred



Top Inscription: "Sacred to the memory of Alfred Ronalds, Born 1807 – Died 1860, Brother of Sir F. Ronalds F.R.S., the First Inventor of the Electric Telegraph in 1816".

Ronalds is the prototypical mixture of angler and aquatic biologist that would emerge again after midcentury and continue to play a major role in fly-fishing theory.'

Rick Keam carried out a lot of the initial groundwork obtaining stonemasons' and placquemakers' quotes, corresponding with the Cemetery Trustees and chasing up Ronalds family members. Clive Allison provided useful advice. However, the project could not have succeeded without the subsequent help of Rick, Jim Allen, who together with the VFFA made a substantial financial contribution towards the restoration of the grave, and John Pilkington who spent many hours discussing the restoration with Ronalds' relatives, negotiating with the Cemetery Trustees and organising the replacement of the monument. On behalf of the VFFA, John Philbrick presented an inscribed copy of a limited edition copy of *The Fly-Fisher's Entomology* in recognition of his efforts.



NEW ZEALAND TRIP – FINAL OPPORTUNITY

Rick Dugina has just discovered that it will be possible to fit another two desperados into the team travelling to New Zealand. Several members have indicated they would like to go, so if you are quick finding the phone you might be able to wangle either a last minute Father's Day gift or an early Christmas present from a doting family.

Subject to seat and vehicle availability, the dates are 23 November to 30 November, and the cost would be \$1500 or \$1650, including a full day's professional guiding.

Contact Rick immediately on 0401 963 601, or email edugina@iprimus.com.au

THE AUSTRALIAN TROUT FOUNDATION

The following thoughts on the ATF were provided by current President, Geoff Hall:

The Australian Trout Foundation is a national organisation, established for the purpose of protecting, promoting and enhancing the Australian trout fishery. As such it complements and works co-operatively with all other angling clubs and organisations. There are 550,000 freshwater anglers in Victoria alone, and these anglers need a voice. The ATF provides this voice.

In a few weeks' time, in mid-October, the ATF will be holding elections, and is looking for keen and articulate people to step forward to continue the work of the organisation. Interested anglers can become involved at several levels. As well as vacancies at the executive level, there are committees needing dynamic and energetic members to raise funds, look after the membership, prepare grant applications, and continue the work in a number of other areas. The ATF is also looking to establish local chapters in strategic areas to look out for the interests of local trout fisheries.

The strength of the ATF structure is that if an issue arises in a particular area the local chapter can immediately call in the National Executive to provide support and a prompt response.

For a number of reasons (with drought, bushfires and floods providing obvious recent environmental challenges) the

Victorian trout fishery appears to be in decline. Evidence for this is indicated by falling catch to effort ratios experienced by numbers of competent anglers, particularly for the rivers flowing into Eildon. So the fishery needs intervention. To wait on natural recruitment to make up the shortfall may take 8-10 years, assuming ideal conditions in the interim, and this is far too long to wait. Trout are a tenacious species, and will survive all manner of physical setbacks, but we need to ask, "How good is the current fishery?" and "How good could it be?"

To benefit all stakeholders the fishery needs to be managed to run at its peak. This requires "intelligent stocking" along with work on habitat improvement. Streams need to be surveyed to determine both the current trout populations and the optimum carrying capacity. Then "slot stocking" of mixed fish sizes need to be dropped in to bring the stream up to its full potential as a recreational fishery.

Victorian anglers need a body to work towards achieving these ends, and the Australian Trout Foundation is such a body. If you are interested in being part of the solution to our trout fishery problems, then consider becoming involved. Phone Geoff on (03) 5773 2513 for further information, or Lyndon Webb on 9801 6151.

VFFA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The next general meeting will be the VFFA Annual General Meeting, to be held on Thursday 18 September. This meeting sees the changing of the guard – with the election and installation of a new Council and office bearers.

After 3½ years as President, David Grisold will step down, and Senior Vice-president Peter Boag will assume the role.

The agenda for the meeting is detailed on the enclosed insert.

All members are welcome to attend.

AUSTRALIAN TROUT FOUNDATION

(Mick Hall, past President of the Australian Trout Foundation, has provided the following summary of the achievements of this organisation in the past four years)

ATF Achievements – The Past Four Years

Mick Hall was President of the Australian Trout Foundation from August 2004 to March 2008. During this period the following achievements were realised, some of which are ongoing. Mick played a vital role in the ATF Executive team effort to achieve these successes. He has submitted this précised report for publication.

1. Membership

Just on four years ago the membership at the start of the rebuilding of the Australian Trout Foundation was around 10 to 15 people. This was due the fact that the Foundation had been inactive for around 3 to 4 years.

The need to build this membership was regarded as being a major priority, and with the backing of many leading fishing tackle companies and retail outlets, a major advertising campaign was undertaken. This campaign, together with the Rotenone poisoning scare and the proposed plan for the removal, eradication and extermination of trout in many of our streams, helped increase the membership to such a level that the Australian Trout Foundation is now regarded as one of the biggest organisations of its kind. **Currently the membership fluctuates around the 1200 mark.**

2. Cessation of the use of Rotenone in Streams and Rivers

It was brought to our attention that certain individuals within DSE were planning and seeking support to use Rotenone as a one-off

trial to remove trout from a number of streams in Victoria. This, coupled with some statements within the Transportation of Live Aquatic Organisms Protocol, calling for the eradication and extermination of trout in many of our streams, led to another major media campaign. It should be noted that at a later date the Council of Victorian Fly-fishing Clubs joined us in this campaign.

After a turnabout by DSE they finally admitted via The Weekly Times that they had wanted to use Rotenone to poison our rivers. The outcome of this campaign was the introduction of government policy banning the use of Rotenone in Victoria and a review of the Draft Translocation Protocol.

The most important action from the Government, apart from banning Rotenone, was to release a policy statement supporting Victoria's trout fishery. This statement alone was considered another major win for our trout fishery.

3. Inclusion of Classified Streams into Government Policy

Prior to the last elections the ATF lobbied a number of Government and opposition officials about the possibility of introducing a new system of Stream Classification, where streams would be classified as either Native, Trout or mixed species and be managed as such. **Again, this campaign was so successful that both the Labor and the Liberal parties adopted our proposals.**

4. Participation in Classified Stream Committee

With the advent of Stream Classification becoming policy, the ATF made an approach to Native Fish Australia to align and form a working relationship to work with the Government in designing a working model for Classification. VRFish was also invited to work with the ATF and Fisheries to develop this model.

It is now in place and near completion, and the draft model can be seen on the DPI website. This project is still in process and further developments will be available on this site as they develop.

5. Inclusion of “Adopt a Stream” into Government Policy

Again, in lobbying the political parties prior to the last election, we were able to get an “Adopt a Stream” proposal in place within the Labor policy. The idea behind this proposal was that individuals, fishing clubs, Landcare groups, etc., could work with Fisheries and allied agencies to work on our streams, cleaning up rubbish, planting trees, improving river habitat, and so on. **The Department of Primary Industries is currently drawing a plan to instigate the proposal.**

6. Victorian Government Recognition (Fisheries)

The ATF and Fisheries Victoria have developed a strong working relationship. In fact it is currently stronger than at any time in the ATF history. The ATF now has a permanent seat on the Round Table. It could also be stated that the ATF is now represented in all policy-making processes regarding trout within Victoria.

It should be noted that the ATF is an independent Australia-wide organisation and it will stand alone, or work closely and/or jointly with any credible like-minded group or organisation on issues relating to our Australian trout.

7. Working Liaison with ATF and NFA

With the inclusion of classified waters as government policy, it was imperative that a good and transparent relationship should be established between the ATF and Native Fish Australia. This working relationship is currently achieving more than was originally thought. It has become evident that there are more issues in common than first thought and the future of this alignment looks very promising and secure.

8. Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Nomination

This was another campaign by a group within DSE to eradicate trout and other predator species from our streams and again called for Rotenone to be used on our streams. This time, instead of trying to get permission to use this poison in Victoria where it had been banned, they tried to get Federal approval for its use. Again the ATF, aligning with a number of the leading NSW groups such as the Cooma Trout Acclimatisation Association, the Monaro Acclimatisation Society and the Council of Freshwater Anglers, issued a number of submissions and strong objections to this Nomination. Our combined impact was so positive that the Federal Minister for Conservation and Environment sent two of its officers to Melbourne to meet with ATF officials. During the meeting we were told that they had never received so many objections to a Nomination before.

We were pleased when we were told the Nomination had failed.

9. Industry Acceptance of the ATF as the Voice of Trout in Australia.

Bill Classon, Australian Fishing Tackle Association Board member, has acknowledged that there is a widespread agreement among its membership that the Australian Trout Foundation, because of its hard work and achievements, is widely regarded as the **Voice of Trout in Australia.**



10. Willow Eradication

The ATF is not singularly against the removal of certain species of Willow. What we are strongly opposed to is the wholesale removal of large sections of willow at any one time. Our call has always been “Take a few and leave a few” and repair as you go. Wherever possible we have continuously monitored this removal work. It would seem that there are now a few changes to their policy of scorched earth and in some instances they have left the root balls. The problem is they say they will do one thing, then do what they want. The problem with vast removal is the habitat damage, not only to fish and other aquatic species such as platypus and water fowl, but also the animal life that inhabits bank side vegetation such as snakes, water rats (now listed as an endangered species), frogs, and the list goes on. They say it will only take a few years and it will be back to normal. Try up to thirty years is closer to the mark. **And the fight goes on.**

11. Social and economic impact policy

At a recent progress meeting at Eildon in Victoria it was announced by a representative from the Berry Street Foundation that this small holiday town had the highest poverty rate in Victoria. A newspaper article in the Herald Sun, 2nd July 2008, wrote of the financial gloom and doom in Bright, a major tourism town in North East Victoria. The introduction stated, “A Victorian High Country tourist Mecca is

one step away from economic disaster”.

The impact of drought, so-called climate change (that is still to come), bushfires, the development of National Parks, closure of access, high cost of petrol and other restrictions, plus the winding down of our trout fishery are all starting to have a major impact on the economical structure in Country Victoria.

The ATF has been working with Fisheries for the past two years to acknowledge the impact of their decisions on the social and economical structure of small communities. **Fortunately, under the guidance of Dr Peter Appleford, Director of Fisheries and Travis Dowling, Inland Fisheries Manager, Fisheries Victoria is now recognising the importance of social and economical impact. It is now being considered in future policy development.**

This impact policy needs to be a major statement and implemented by all government agencies. It is the hope of the ATF that this impact statement be adopted as government policy. We will be lobbying for this prior to the next elections.

12. Howqua River Rehabilitation and access project

The executive of the ATF was successful in obtaining a grant of \$55,000 to implement the start of some major rehabilitation work along this river system. Under the management of Merv McGuire and Geoff Churcher, with the assistance of a number of individuals, including Graeme Stoney, Charlie Lovick DSE, GBCMA and members of the Mansfield Fly Fishing Club and Southern Flyfishers, some 14 kilometres of old mining tracks that criss-cross this river system have again been opened to public access. Another grant for further funds has been applied for to complete further works on the Howqua River. Hopefully this is the start of many such projects. All we can say at this stage is, “watch this space”.



WHITFIELD KING RIVER WEEKEND 7-10 November

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

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

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

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

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

We look forward to your company.

VFFA OPENING WEEKEND

Friday 25th & Saturday 26th
October, 2008

Ray Butterworth's 'Tranquil Rises'

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

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

\$25 per night

Convenor: Peter Boag

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

Don't miss this magnificent weekend



AFFILIATION WITH LATROBE VALLEY FLY FISHERS

The Latrobe Valley Fly Fishers have made a very kind offer. They are inviting interested VFFA members to become Affiliated Members of their club. At a cost of \$35 per year VFFA Affiliated Members would have access to the Latrobe Valley Fly Fishers' stocked dams (more than 20 in total, located around the Thorpdale area). They would also receive club newsletters and flyers, and would be welcome at all club meetings and events. However they would not have the same voting rights as full local members.

LVFF annual Membership commences in September of each year and runs for 12 months.

Affiliated Members would need to wear the LVFF badge when fishing the dams, and display an LVFF sticker on their cars, so that property owners will know that they are bona fide members. Once a VFFA member has paid his joining fee, he will be supplied with a cloth badge and car sticker, along with guidelines and phone numbers of LVFF Committee Members. It is stressed that only VFFA Affiliated Members will be allowed to fish the dams – guests will not be permitted.

Affiliated Members wishing to fish a dam will need to phone one of the LVFF Committee Members, who will arrange to meet them and take them to one of the club dams. (LVFF members living locally know which dams are fishing well, and also which dams are temporarily unavailable for fishing).

While the money raised from the \$35 annual fees will be used to stock the dams, all anglers are encouraged to practice 'catch and release'. (Visiting anglers are also invited to make a financial contribution to the funds used for stocking the dams so that a good head of fish can be maintained in all dams. Local members regularly contribute to the 'stocking fund'.)

VFFA members wishing to join LVFF as an Affiliated Member should fill in the enclosed Membership Form and post it, with payment of \$35 plus a donation to assist stocking, to Dave Egan, President of Latrobe Valley Fly Fishers, PO Box 180, Churchill, Victoria 3842.

(Note – to ensure that only financial members apply we ask that applicants have their application endorsed by a VFFA Council Member).



GOULBURN RIVER IMPROVEMENTS

A recent Goulburn Valley Fly Fishing Centre report carried news of river improvements in the Goulburn:

After the great success of the first boulder fields, upstream of the corner behind our property and upstream from McMartin's Lane, the Catchment Management Authority has installed two new boulder fields.

Extending downstream from the first field on the corner behind the GVFF Centre, boulders have been planted in a random pattern up to half way across the river. The field is about 80 metres long and is made up of large and small granite boulders, each providing hydraulic features in otherwise flat, fast water. Each boulder accelerates and slows the water, tearing up the gravel and loosening the cobble, making holes and gutters around each boulder.

In a complex set of currents there are neutral places where trout can sit without effort. On the surface the food is deflected into concentrated bubble lines that trail behind the boulder for many metres. The second field is at Thornton beach and consists of about 25 boulders, big enough to hold in the current. They reach from the north bank across to the caravan park in the fast tail of the pool. Further downstream, just below Thornton Bridge, a new rock groyne now deflects water flows away from the bank.

Willow clearing has been extensive below Thornton Bridge. This has opened up a wide expanse of gravel beds. The willows on the Thornton side have all been removed and piled up. At the moment it looks very bare and severe but it will soon recover as spring rains and warmth trigger extensive re-growth.



SOME ANGLERS HAVE BAD LUCK!

Professor Kevin Hindle has just forwarded us the following note and photo:

The Skjern is Denmark's best salmon river and almost completely unknown outside this country. I went up to the Skjern yesterday, (Saturday September 6), with my friend, Erling Skov, and, third cast, on my six weight trout rod, I caught a beautiful jack salmon. Not huge (61 centimetres) but glorious none the less. I seem to be getting OK (for which read 'more consistently lucky') at this salmon caper now.

Of course, I think it would be fairer if I had caught five salmon (which was the number I had set myself to catch as we drove to the river in the morning). Still, this fish was the only one caught on the river on the day.

My mate Erling thinks I'm completely tinny. Modestly, I think my skill and graceful streamcraft were under-rewarded by four fish! So, you can't beat bad luck, can you!

Tight lines.

Kev

Artificial

by Greg French

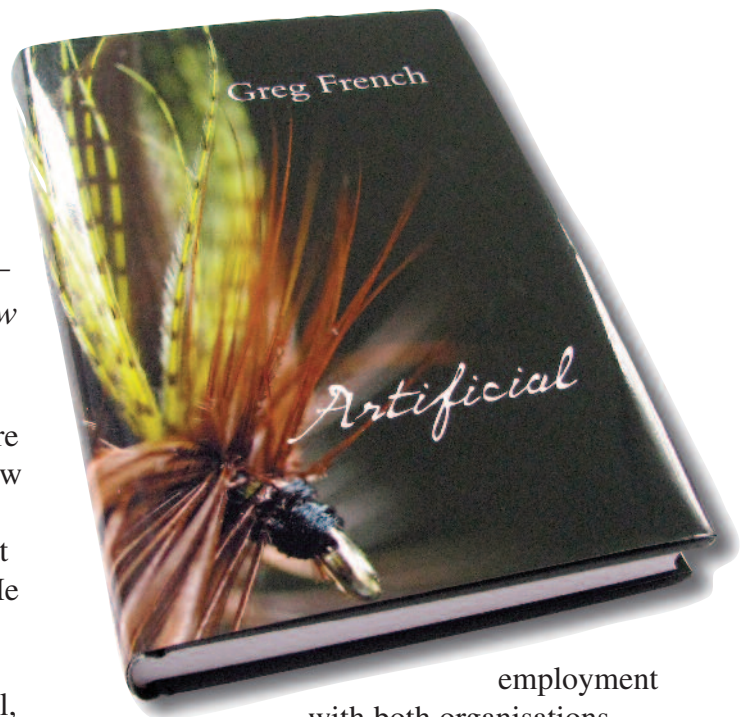
Mike Stevens – VFFA member and well-known book publisher – has provided the following review of Greg French's latest book.

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

Greg French is best known as a writer of where to fish and how to fish. His book *Tasmanian Trout Waters* is 'The Bible' for trout waters in Tasmania, and has been in production in various forms for many years. *Artificial* though is a short story book, much along the lines of *Frog Call*. Greg French stories are real and incredibly dynamic. He doesn't embellish them, because there is no need. He has real people, real places and best of all, real fish. Some are little more than a paragraph, and all are complete on their own. Yet the characters and places arrive and depart many times within the pages.

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

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



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

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

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

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

VFFA 2009 TASMANIAN TRIP

Boating on Brumbys Creek.



Having had a fabulous time in March 2008, the VFFA will return to Cressy next year for the period Saturday 7 March to Friday 13 March.

Hayes on Brumbys has been booked. Bed and breakfast will be provided, along with linen and towels. We will self cater for lunch and get together for a barbecue at dinner time. Peter Hayes and his guides will be available to take you to the streams or lakes of your choice.

Accommodation is limited so if you are interested in being part of the team please contact Hamish Hughes on 9822 6811 or hthughes@bigpond.net.au



SPECIAL OFFER

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\$70.00 each

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\$40.00 each

POLARFLEECE SLEEVELESS VEST/LOGO

\$35.00 each

To order a shirt or two contact
Hugh Maltby on Work: 9455 9000
Mobile: 0400 887 065

TIPS FOR CATCH AND RELEASE:

A family friend recently returned from Portland, Oregon, in the USA, bringing with her a copy of the latest “Fishing in Central Oregon and Beyond” – a beautifully presented and very detailed guide to trout fishing in this region. One of their major rivers is the Deschutes, and it was interesting to read that for the section ‘below the Benham Falls, wild rainbow trout of 7 to 11 inches, occasionally to 14 inches in length, dominate the river’. Perhaps this gives a quite positive perspective on our Yarra at Warburton, where brown trout from 7 to 14 inches are present in abundance.

From the same “Fishing in Oregon” guide were the following guidelines for releasing trout:

- Use barbless hooks, and use hooks that biodegrade quickly.
- Play fish briefly, land them quickly. Don’t play the fish to exhaustion. This is especially important during spawning season and as water temperatures increase.
- Use appropriate size tackle. Gear that is too light can force you to play a fish long enough to kill it from exhaustion.
- Wet your hands before touching a fish and if possible try not to touch the fish at all. If you must handle a fish, wear a wet glove or rag to hold it.
- Keep release tools handy, and release a fish as soon as it is landed.
- Keep the fish in the water if at all possible. Every second out of the water decreases its chance for survival.
- Remove the hook gently.
- Turn a fish on its back or cover its eyes with a wet towel to calm it.
- Avoid squeezing the fish, and keep your fingers out of the fish’s mouth, eyes, and gills.
- Do not remove mucous or scales (a fish’s outer body protection).
- Don’t let it thrash around on rocks.
- If the fish is hooked too deeply to safely remove the hook, cut your leader quickly. The hook will work its way out of the fish in a short time.
- If possible, don’t use a net. Otherwise, use a cotton net and wet it before touching the fish. Do not use a nylon net.
- Revive the fish carefully before releasing it. Grasp the fish in front of the tail, support it underneath, and point it into a slow moving current, holding it gently until it is strong enough to swim off under its own power. Make sure the gills are working before letting it go.
- To resuscitate an exhausted fish, move it back and forth in the water to force water into its gills.
- If the fish does not swim away, recover it and try again.
- A fish handled carefully and released properly has a great chance of survival.

JULIAN BROWN'S "DUNNY BRUSH"

Julian is an enthusiastic and engaging VFFA member, and was in fine form at the recent Annual Dinner. Among his many other attributes, he features in Pieter Zaadstra's superb book *"The Artist & The Fly Fisher"*, and in the now classic *"Australia's Best Trout Flies"*, Jim Allen describes Julian's creation – the Dunny Brush – as 'a famous fly among my circle of fishing friends, and without doubt the deadliest evening fly I have ever encountered'. High praise indeed!

So how did the Dunny Brush come about, and how should you tie it? Julian has provided the following notes:

Fly fishers are often asked how they came to be fly fishers and the answers are many and varied. Almost all had some experience in fishing previously. In my case I did fish a little as a child in Western Australia in the early days of the war. We moved to Tasmania a few years later and I fished from what was called the Cattle Jetty, with little or no result. After I completed school our family shifted to Melbourne, where I started an apprenticeship as a chemist. After graduating I took a job in Mount Beauty and then decided to make a life in Falls Creek. During the first few years I was too busy to consider fishing of any sort, but noted that trout were being caught locally.

During my second year in Falls Creek I established a small pharmacy as there were no drugs or equipment available locally to treat injuries. One day two ladies came in, and one asked for some Aspros. I didn't have any, but did have Disprin, which I recommended. She replied that she preferred Aspros as her husband made them. She was Shirley Nicholas, the

second wife of George Nicholas, who had started the Aspro Company. She came back again a couple of times during the week and before she left she said she had noticed I had started to build my own lodge, and asked what I

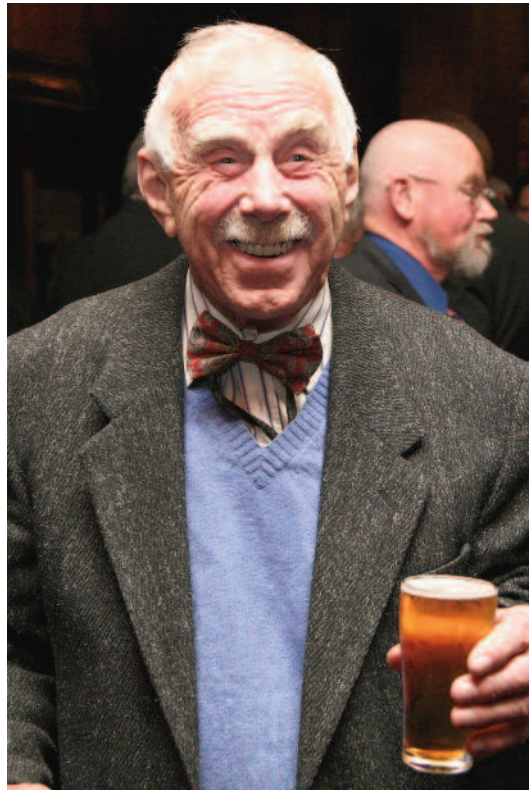
"was doing about money". I replied, "not much, as I don't have any". She then said she would lend me some money. I was flabbergasted. She affirmed that she was serious, so I suggested that if I couldn't obtain finance from the bank I might approach her in a few months time.

As it happened, with no track record with the bank and no lease (just a permit) for the land I had started to build on, the banks were not too obliging. So I phoned her and she loaned me a thousand pounds at 2.5% interest. When I sent her the first quarterly

payment she wrote back to tell me she didn't really want the interest, but if she sent her son Michael up would I look after him.

Michael was then just 18, and arrived soon after in a brand new Land Rover. He was a keen fly fisher and off he went fishing. One day I went with him to Pretty Valley Stream to see this fly fishing in action. It was a marvellous spectacle, but again I had no time to take up this pursuit, so a few more years rolled by. Michael and I remained good friends and he often came to Falls Creek in both summer and winter. I deduced that his mother had seen an opportunity for Michael to enjoy the outdoors through her helping me, so the arrangement was beneficial to us both.

One day in Coles at Albury I saw fly rods for 30 shillings, so I bought one. On Michael's next visit I showed it to him. He waved it about and



pronounced it a “lovely stick”. Still no fishing, as by then I was married and had a pharmacy in Sydney, so only travelling to Falls Creek for July, August and September. The marriage was not working out and I decided to sell the Sydney pharmacy and move back to Falls Creek. By then five years had passed and I called on Shirley Nicholas with a cheque for 1000 pounds. She was delighted, and said that I was one of the few people who had ever paid her back.

The pharmacy was sold and my wife and I moved back to Falls Creek, but by then there seemed no chance of the marriage lasting. I needed to get out and away from the incessant matrimonial disharmony, so I went to Mount Beauty where the store had a few flies and an Aircell fly line, which I put on a 10 bob bakelite reel. With my new rig I went each day to Rocky Valley Dam, where I discovered I didn’t know how to cast, so just sat and watched the water. In retrospect this apprenticeship did me no harm as I learned to observe and read the water.

I had come to know John Brookes, who was a skier, and I had seen some of the fish he had caught at Eucumbene; fish that were much bigger than our trout. He stayed in Falls Creek for a few days so I asked him if I might tag along to watch him fishing during the afternoon. He readily agreed and very generously gave me my first lessons in fly casting. I was ecstatic, and soon after caught a trout of almost two pounds. I didn’t know quite what to do, so to keep tension on it I ran backwards up the bank.

Another gentleman I had known for some years was a catholic priest – one Father Foster. He was a right character who hated a drink. He was a frequent visitor and I fished with him in his boat at times on Rocky Valley. During the day we trolled, but on evening we fly fished the evening rise. One evening after fishing he opened his fly tying box and showed me how to tie flies.



Now the wall of Rocky Valley Dam was earth filled but covered with large basalt rock. Bogong Moths had colonized this vast expanse of rock and flew about on dusk. I had seen trout leaping up and taking them on the wing. Some of the locals caught the moths and using a bubble float and a moth with a hook stuck in it, but the trout were not fooled and were very rarely caught this way. So I asked Father if I could have a go with his fly tying kit, as I reckoned I

could tie something to look like a Bogong Moth. I tied a horrible monster and next evening caught two trout with it.

Soon after, on the good Father’s advice, I visited J. M. Gillies, who were then in West Melbourne. I met the owner, Andrew Giles, and purchased a proper fly reel (a Condex for four pounds) and a Veniard fly tying kit. I then went about refining my Bogong Moth pattern. It was a huge success and I caught four or five, and sometimes six trout during the evening rise. As flies go it is huge, as is the Bogong Moth.

Mike Nicholas came up a few weeks after this and asked if I was catching any. I replied in the affirmative, describing my average evening’s catch. “What on?” he asked incredulously. “I’ve got this fly I tied that imitates a Bogong Moth”, I said. “Give us a look”, he replied, and when I showed it to him he nearly fell over. “Shit”, he said, “that’s not a fly, it’s a (flipping) dunny brush!!”

And that’s how it got it’s name.

Father Foster used it too, and one day we went trolling. He caught seven I recall, and I caught about five. Later in the evening with a Dunny Brush tied on he caught another three in quick succession, making 10 in all. “Well”, he cried, “that’s my bag limit, and that’s where a gentleman stops. But I’m no gentleman”, as he waved his rod, catching another.



So here is the original tie:

Hook: A No. 7 long shank fine wire limerick (no longer available) so the next nearest will have to do. No 6 or No. 8 lightest you can find

Tying Thread: Black or dark brown 6/0 thread

Body: Four strands of peacock herl

Wings: Dark speckled turkey tail feather

Hackle: Two large natural black cock – generous number of turns

Method: Bind the shank and cement it using the thread.

Tie in four strands of peacock herl at the gape end of the shank, and wind them hackle-wise up the shank and then back again to form an abdomen. (I use fingers but hackle pliers are OK too). Tie them off near where they are attached and trim, leaving 1/8th inch of ends proud at the rear.

Wings: take two pieces of turkey tail about 6 to 8 mm wide and overlap at about 20 degrees. Tie these on in front of the abdomen so that they lie flat over the abdomen.

Hackle: two large black ones as stiff as you can get. Tie them in so curves are opposing. Wind one on toward the eye then back through itself and tie off. Now tie in the second hackle feather, wobbling it through the first one to build a dense hackle. Then wobble the silk through both hackles and tie off behind hook eye finishing with six or eight half hitches and cement.

Trim ends of wings into a V, angled at about 140 degrees. I usually trim the hackles a little below the hook so the fly will float barb down. (N.B. If you use very stiff turkey feather these flies can behave like a ‘bull roarer’ in the air and put the leader in a terrible twist. If this occurs rub the wings in you fingers to separate the filaments. This will not affect its catching ability. Good Luck!)

FLY OF THE MONTH

John Philbrick has edited our VFFA Newsletter for 13 years; the September AGM will mark the official end of his time in this role.

He is currently overseas, fishing in Europe. Before he left he gave us the following details on a nymph he devised for fishing the Tasmanian high country lakes – a pattern that has proven singularly successful. As a tribute to John’s contribution to the VFFA, and to his renowned skills as an angler, we are including his nymph as our Fly of the Month.

(We were going to give details of the tying sequence of Hubert Reichelt’s Foam Hopper this month, but will hold Hubert’s fly over until the October issue).

Philbrick’s Nymph

The Central Plateau of Tasmania is a bleak, windswept place. The flora consists mainly of alpine herbland, tussocks and tundra-like vegetation. In winter it is covered in snow, and snowfalls occasionally occur in summer. Yet the area provides what is undoubtedly the finest stillwater fly fishing in Australia. For the plateau is studded with over 3,000 gin clear lakes, tarns and lagoons, most of which hold wild brown trout weighing generally between two and four pounds, though much bigger fish are caught each season. It is the proverbial ‘angler’s paradise’.

The trout of the Central Plateau love to cruise in the shallows, feeding on nymphs, stick caddis, isopods, water snails and the like. On dull days they will venture into water that is so shallow that their tails protrude. We call this “tailing”. And, when the sun is shining and a breeze is up, the skilled fly fisher adept at spotting trout with his polaroid glasses can have the most wonderful sport.

Sometimes these cruising fish will rise to a dry fly, but on other occasions they prefer a sub-aqueous approach. In order to deceive such trout with a sunken fly it is usually essential to “ambush” the trout by casting the fly well ahead so that the fish does not see it land and discovers it naturally. It is important to use a fly which does not make a significant disturbance when it enters the water, and which sinks slowly. A disturbance can spook the trout, and a heavy nymph will sink to the bottom before the fish gets near it. On the other hand, care must be taken to ensure that the unweighted fly is not dressed in such a way that it doesn’t sink immediately – it is very frustrating to make a perfect cast at a large trout gliding through the shallows, only to have the nymph float. And above all the fly must appear to be natural.

Philbrick’s nymph was developed to meet these very basic requirements. It is a nondescript but natural looking fly and will usually deceive these cruising trout if it is presented properly. This can be easier said than done, as the wind is usually blowing and you generally only get one chance!

This nymph was evolved for the very specific purpose of stillwater polaroiding, and does not work on the fast flowing streams of the South Island of New Zealand, as it will not sink down to the level of the trout. However, it comes into its own in the



backwaters of these rivers, on the flat, slower flowing streams and around the shallow margins of lakes. A water that I have fished in New Zealand that is similar to the lakes of Tasmania is the South Mavora Lake, where this fly can be very effective. During a recent trip to this lake the fish shied away from the nymph if it was moved. However, they took the nymph convincingly if it was fished inert.

Philbrick's nymph is not a super fly – far from it. The real secret is to know when to use it and how to present it. It is a useful fly for the New Zealand angler to keep in a corner of his fly box for special situations when weighted or bead head or weighted nymphs will not work.

TYING

Hook: Sizes 12 or 14.

Tying Silk: Brown.

Body: A mixture of equal parts of black, brown, yellow and red seal's fur and two parts each of olive and brown seal's fur. This gives a very natural appearance to the fly.

Rib: Extremely fine tarnished copper wire:

Whisks: Brown cock.

This fly should be tied so that it is quite thin but with a noticeable but not unduly pronounced thorax. The silk should be well waxed and the fur dubbed on tightly to eliminate minute air pockets. I use fine tarnished copper wire to rib the fly as I have found on bright sunny days in Tasmania that trout will sometimes shy away from a fly ribbed with bright tinsel. Once the fly is tied, carefully clip off all the excess seal's fur so that it is a very tight, compact fly. This ensures that if it is kept moist it will sink, but at a slow rate.





LIBRARY NEWS

All members should remember that the Mick Martin Memorial Library is one of the most extensive collections of fly-fishing literature in Australia. It is valuable in its own right but is a great asset to members wishing to expand their knowledge or who simply enjoy sitting by the fireside and vicariously enjoying the exploits of others. In addition, the library boasts a number of videos on trout fishing. Our librarian Marty Rogers will be available prior to each general meeting to assist members wishing to borrow books or videos.

The library is divided into three parts.

Part 1 Books available for loaning to members.

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

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

OVERDUE BOOKS

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

V.F.F.A. ITEMS FOR SALE

The Association has the following quality items for sale:

Columbia Shirts.....	\$70.00 each
Polarfleece jacket with VFFA logo	\$40.00 each
Association ties (blue or maroon)	\$35.00 each
Cloth badges.....	\$7.00 each
Diaries	\$2.00 each
<i>The Australian Trout by Jack Ritchie</i>	\$20.00
<i>(Special offer – buy one, get one free!)</i>	
V.F.F.A. car stickers	\$2.00 each

Members wishing to purchase any of these items should contact Hugh Maltby prior to the monthly General Meeting on telephone 9455 9017.

VALUED DONORS

The following made donations for the raffle at the 2008 Annual Dinner:

• Armadale Angler • Aussie Angler • Australian Fishing Network • Balwyn Newsagency • Compleat Angler Box Hill • Compleat Flyfisher • Fly Life Publications • J M Gillies • Lowes Furniture • Mayfly Tackle • Michael Steven’s Publishing • Millbrook Lakes Lodge • Nick Taransky - Bamboo Rod Maker • Pro Angler Fishing Tackle • Ray Brown, Onkaparinga Flies & Cane Rods