

FLY LINES



SEPTEMBER 2022

The September AGM

The notice papers required for the AGM were emailed out by Terry Rogers in August, these being the Nomination Form, Appointment of Proxy Form, and Meeting Agenda. They are also included with this newsletter.

AGMs in the past have tended to be short meetings, and often did not attract many members to attend. However last year's AGM was a Zoom meeting (because of Covid restrictions) and it worked surprisingly well, with lots of members logging in to participate. So the decision was made that this year's AGM should also be a Zoom presentation.

Details are as follows:

Topic: VFFA Annual General Meeting

Time: September 15, 2022, 08:00 PM for Melbourne/ Australia

Join Zoom Meeting at: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87513326751>

One tap mobile

+61871501149,,87513326751# Australia

+61280156011,,87513326751# Australia

Meeting ID: 875 1332 6751

A few days prior to the AGM Terry Rogers will email all members with the Zoom meeting connection details. The easiest way for members to log on will

Thursday, September 15,
8:00pm and a
Zoom Meeting

be to simply click on the web address in Terry's email.

The AGM is an important business meeting for the VFFA, and all members are encouraged to join the Zoom meeting and be participants in this year's AGM.



Photo courtesy of Mark Weigall. Mark catches a lot of large fish

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The Little Steavenson, being shallow, is a fabulous dry fly stream, as Dermot O'Brien discovered

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 or 0488 555 724.

The ATF Report – Major Access Problem Looming

... from Terry George, ATF President

We need to fight this every way possible!

It's all about being denied access through Crown land water frontages!!

You may already be aware that the Lib Nats recently introduced legislation into the Upper House of State Parliament that would see public land river bank access by recreational fishers able to be prohibited if the adjoining landowner writes up a biosecurity plan for crown waterfront land under a grazing licence.

Currently a biosecurity plan cannot be written for public riverbank land. If this proposal got up it would be good-bye to statutorily protected riverbank access to 9,000 public land parcels across the state. The Liberal Leaders especially need to know how bad and crazy this policy is, and what an injustice it will cause to the one million plus Victorian recreational

fishers and other parties who are currently allowed to access crown water frontages.

Can and will the Labor party block this proposed bill?

It's due for a decision by parliament in the next fortnight!

I think we need a joint effort to get all of our members and clubs to write to all ministers and members of both parties, telling them that they must oppose this bill and it must be withdrawn.

We would also welcome your advice on any way to fight this crucial issue.

Members of angling clubs need to forward this information to the right people without delay; the clock is ticking!

Terry

President's Message

"The only constant in life is change".
(Heraclitus, 500 BC)

"Heraclitus, I believe, says that all things pass and nothing stays, and comparing existing things to the flow of a river, he says you could not step twice into the same river."
(Plato, 400 BC)

And so it is with the VFFA and fly fishing in general.

Who would have anticipated, when Chris Gray took on the Presidency in September 2019, that he would be negotiating one of the toughest periods of VFFA history through the pandemic. The VFFA wilted and ceased to exist in the early 1900s, but was reincarnated in 1932 as the Victorian Trout Fishing Association, and in May the following year was renamed the Victorian Fly Fishing Association.

We celebrated 90 years from that momentous day at our Annual Dinner on Thursday, August 18, and it was a splendid evening with the Kelvin Club back to its best. Significant funds were raised and for this I thank the members for their generosity. Particular thanks also to our sponsors, retail and wholesale, who provided the wherewithal after what has been a rather miserable period for the retail industry. Do thank them personally when next you stock up on that all important equipment.

It was a fun evening, and it was pleasing to note the number of wives, partners, girlfriends and female fly fishers who attended, and I'm hopeful that this is the beginning of a trend to increasing involvement by our female members and spouses.

The highlight of the evening was Josh Hutchins from Aussie Fly Fisher taking us on a virtual tour of numerous fly



Dr David Hooke

fishing venues in Australia and around the world. He spoke of both salt and freshwater fishing, and for those of us who haven't escaped the Melbourne winter this year it gave pause for thought. There was rapt attention from the whole audience. His detailed presentation appears elsewhere in the newsletter.

Continuing the theme of 'change'; the three pillars which support us as an Association are our Meetings, our Newsletter and our Friendships, all based around a common love of fly fishing.

We appear to have salvaged the Kelvin Club as a venue for our regular meetings, but with the advent of Covid and the government responses, we did develop a Zoom presence. This was very popular, particularly with members from the country, interstate and even overseas who were otherwise excluded by the tyranny of distance. We suspect there is a cohort of our older members who

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remain wary of large gatherings and would welcome a remote presence. As technology is rapidly evolving in this area your Council is actively looking at setting up hybrid meetings. Any member with expertise or experience in this area is earnestly encouraged to contact me, as unfortunately I'm a technological luddite.

The second pillar is undoubtedly our newsletter, *Fly Lines*. Since inadvertently taking over the editorship from John Philbrick some 15 years ago, Lyndon Webb has developed this into one of the finest fly fishing newsletters in the world. As Lyndon took over from John, so someone will take over from Lyndon in due course. But the world has changed. We now routinely communicate with over 2,000 fellow fly fishing enthusiasts each month via Facebook, whereas our newsletter is mailed to around 160 members and a similar number receive a pdf version.

Sitting down at another Fly Fishing Dinner this week, I went to introduce myself to the gentleman beside me ... "You don't need to introduce yourself; I know who you are. My son-in-law passes on *Fly Lines* each month and I look forward to reading it from cover to cover - the content is superb." QED!

Elsewhere in this issue you will see we are advertising for a deputy editor to provide support for Lyndon and eventually to take over the editorship when Lyndon eventually decides that change is appropriate. (This is not the Essendon Football Club!) If you are vaguely interested in assisting, do talk to Lyndon. He will tell you it is a most interesting and fulfilling activity, but to carry on without major change will require someone with writing/editorial skills, a love of fly fishing, and the ability to continue to foster Lyndon's connections with writers from all over

the globe. If we can't find such a person, change is unfortunately, inevitable.

The third pillar supporting the VFFA is the friendships we develop at the meetings, on the water, on the trips away - all based around an interest in, and passion for, fly fishing. We are a diverse group, or as Choco would say "a broad church", and that's what makes our friendships doubly interesting and rewarding. While ever this pillar remains strong, I think it unlikely that hybrid technology will detract from our Association. My hope is that it will simply make our meetings more inclusive and encourage more people to participate in the activities of the Association.

Speaking of friendships, it is with great sadness that we learned recently of the death of Kevin Hindle, our favourite 'Prof' entrepreneur, troubadour, fly fisherman and friend of many. We extend our condolences to Georgia and Joshua and the extended family. A tribute appears elsewhere in this issue.

September is a quieter month with our Annual General Meeting at 8:00 pm on Thursday, September 15. It will be via Zoom so as many as possible can attend and any contentious issues will be resolved by a show of hands. Terry has emailed the required documentation, and the Zoom link is given on page 1 and will be emailed to members closer to the time.

Council is keen to encourage people to nominate for a position on Council, particularly younger members and female members, to provide as broad a perspective on the running of the Association as possible. We will only remain viable while we remain relevant to our members.

Hamish Hughes has notified us that he will be standing down from Council. Hamish is a Past President and has served with distinction on Council for

well over a decade, holding the positions of Junior and Senior Vice President each for two years, before his two-year stint as President. The singular legacy of Hamish's Presidency will forever be the carefully managed and successful introduction of female membership. This issue had been visited twice previously with unfortunate and divisive results. The strong female attendance at our Annual Dinner this year is testament to this legacy. Thank you, Hamish.

Let me remind you of the VFFA trip to Millbrook on Wednesday, September 28, and our annual trip to Thorpdale as guests of the Latrobe Valley Fly Fishers on Sunday, October 9 - always a great day.

Some things remain the same, but change is always with us; the challenge is to manage that change appropriately.

David Hooke



Millbrook in Spring

Many of our members have now enjoyed the experience of fishing Millbrook Lakes, undoubtedly some of the best stillwater fishing in Victoria. The lakes we fish are very attractive and well-stocked, and our past visits have been thoroughly enjoyable. We remain very grateful to Mark Weigall for providing us with this opportunity.

The date for our next visit is Wednesday, September 28, with our scheduled fishing time 10:00 am until dark.



... and so, too, did Simon Joel



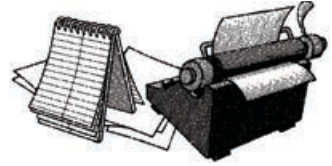
Rick Dugina enjoyed some great fishing in September at Millbrook ...

The invitation to visit Millbrook will be provided by Terry Rogers via an email to all members, probably arriving in mid-September.

Keep an eye out for this email.

Members need to be aware that those who haven't yet been will be given some priority over those who (like your editor) have been a number of times.

From the EDITOR'S DESK



"Carpe Diem does not mean 'fish of the day'."

"Luck affects everything; let your hook always be cast. In the stream where you least expect it, there will be fish." (Ovid)

"There he stands, draped in more equipment than a telephone linesman, trying to outwit an organism with a brain no bigger than a breadcrumb, and getting licked in the process." (Paul O'Neil)

"Of course, I talk to myself when I'm fishing. Sometimes I need expert advice."

"Fishing with a partner is a co-operative enterprise. I learned to say at the end of a good day: 'We caught a lot of fish.'" (William G. Tapply: Those Hours Spent Outdoors)

"Fishing tournaments seem a little like playing tennis with living balls."

A few years ago my granddaughter Hannah had a problem. She was fast approaching her 18th birthday and was very keen to obtain a driving licence as soon as she could. She had more than enough hours of daytime driving in her logbook, but was short of night driving hours.

So, yes, I happily went to the rescue. I picked her late in the afternoon and she drove me out to Warburton on the Yarra River. We had a coffee, and then I confessed to my reason for choosing Warburton as our destination. Yes, the Yarra there holds a healthy population of trout and they often rise just on dark. I promised we wouldn't stay long.

I dragged a rod and reel and box of flies out of the car boot and saddled up. Just behind the main township there are some nice-looking runs, and I spotted a few desultory splashes in one of them. So the Elk Hair Caddis sailed out and drifted down the run with Hannah watching keenly. But of course when you desperately want trout to perform they

never do. Nothing happened. So after ten or fifteen minutes of casting practice it was time to go. The gear was packed away and we set sail for home.

On the way out of town I asked my dear granddaughter if she could ever see herself taking up fly fishing. She thought for a few moments, then gave a fascinating response:

"Yes," she said, "It looks fun and I think I'd enjoy it." Then she added, with a smirk from ear to ear: "And I'd be much better at it than you."

"How so?"

"Well," she said, "I'm much more competitive than you."

A perceptive comment. Hannah certainly is competitive – she is very fit, trains hard, and had recently competed in two triathlete events. And she loves to win.

As for me, yes I'd played competitive squash and several seasons of cricket many years ago, and even spent one

season playing football in the Monash Uni reserves in my university days. And I'd certainly enjoyed winning. But as far as fly fishing is concerned, competing in a competition is not for me.

Fly fishing is a very attractive and addictive form of relaxation. I love the literature and have heaps of books, I enjoy tying flies, I especially enjoy casting, and a day on a stream or lake is always fabulous, fish or no fish. (Though much better with a fish or two, of course.)

But fly fishing competitively doesn't appeal to me personally. And here's the contradiction – while I have no desire to compete myself, I love reading about those who do. I'm fascinated with reports of those World Championships and how the winners went about it.

In 2019 the World Fly Fishing Championships were held here in Tasmania, and a UK competitor, Howard Croston, won. He was the world champion fly fisher. In several days of competition (much of it in appalling weather) he caught more fish than any of the other hundreds of competitors (all of them top anglers). So here was the best fly fisher in the world. He fished lakes in Tasmania that I had fished many times. How did he manage to catch so many more fish than I ever did?

Howard's technique and strategies were written up in the *UK Fly Fishing & Fly Tying* magazine, and I read his report with great interest. In session two of the Championships he fished Tasmania's Meander River. He writes: "My beat was number 4, a good draw as it turned out, with 400 metres of generally good fishy looking water."

That's one of the intriguing things about fly fishing championships – a river is divided up into sections of equal length,

and then there is a draw to allocate the competitors – one to each section. Obviously for it to be fair competition every section should have the same number of fish in the same range of sizes, and each section should also have the same physical attributes – depth, pools, runs, etc. But this isn't the case – some sections will inevitably be harder to fish than others, and if you draw a tough section - then stiff luck.

How did Howard go about it? He writes: "I had ample time to prepare, so spent a good hour walking the beat and formulating a plan. What we had discovered in practise was that the fly was not all that important, and - as is often the case - good watercraft and approach were the key."

To fish his section Howard had set three rods up. The first was a 9'9" 4-weight rod with a WF 4 floating line and an 11' leader that had a large indicator Sedge and a nymph with a 3.5mm silver bead at the end. His second rod was a 10'8" nymph rod set up as a Euro-nymphing rod. His third rod was a spare in case of any disasters with the other rods.

He then describes in some detail how he fished his section of the river. He quickly discovered that "although the water looked fantastic", the fish density was not as high as he had expected or not as well distributed as the water suggested. So he struggled to land his first fish. He did eventually and then worked very hard, moving up and down the river trying to land his pre-session target of ten or more fish.

It all sounds like a lot of hard work. My fishing is much more relaxed. This extreme pressure to out-perform all other anglers would certainly delete the pleasure of the day for me.

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But note, these world championships do have some spin offs for the rest of us more relaxed amateurs. Techniques developed by highly skilled competitors fishing under extreme pressure to catch lots of fish get passed on. An obvious example of this is the Euro-nymphing technique that has become so popular in recent years. Lots of us now own one of those long light nymphing rods and those special leaders made up for our Euro Nymphing. And it works too.

Years ago when I was working I mostly fished by myself. But in retirement I usually fish with a colleague. It's more fun with a mate, and there is an important safety factor in having someone else there in the unlikely possibility of an accident or snake bite. Fishing companions are useful for lots of other reasons, too. I've been given flies at critical times, and I've learned some top tricks and strategies by watching my competent mates. Then of course there is the teamwork aspect – spotting rises and sharing good water.

Of course the single most important measure of an angler's fly fishing

competence is given by a number – the number of fish caught. The more you catch, the better you are. This can occasionally add another component to a day out. I recall fishing many years ago with a friend who asked at the outset how I intended to fish. I indicated that I'd had success on this particular river fishing a nymph under an indicator. He said, well I'm fishing a dry fly, so I'll go up the river ahead of you. I'll catch the fish that are near the surface looking up for insects falling onto the river, and you'll pick up those feeding deep near the bottom.

As he was driving, I figured that these were the ground rules for the day. And yes, he caught exactly twice the number of fish that I did, so I conceded that he was the better angler. Twice as good as me, in fact. Not that we were actually competing. (Not much anyway.)

Tight lines and best wishes for the new season,

Lyndon



Joshua Hutchins at our Annual Dinner

This year's Annual Dinner on Thursday, August 18, was a delightful and very successful event. It was well-attended with over 50 members and friends present. Our guest speaker for the evening was Joshua Hutchins. Here is a summary of his presentation.

Thank you for having me. My name is Josh Hutchins and I run a company called Aussie Fly Fisher. Ten years ago I was travelling widely with my job, and this enabled me to fish in Patagonia, Europe, Asia ... in fact all over the world. And I got the idea that this might actually



Josh Hutchins speaking at our Annual Dinner



Josh's insights were well-received

be more fun than working. So I created Aussie Fly Fisher and have been doing this full time now for seven years. I love the world of fly fishing, and it is great to meet people all over the world who share this same passion. Fly fishing brings people together.

First, a bit about my personal fishing journey. I caught my first trout at the Harrietville trout farm when I was about three. We used to holiday at Porepunkah on the Ovens River. One year when we were there a Scotsman caught this really large trout. I was 12 at the time, and to me the Ovens was all about half pound to two pound fish. But this Scotsman showed me a seven pound brown that he had caught on a Sawyer's Pheasant Tail nymph.

As a 12-year-old that really intrigued me. I thought, "Wow, how did he catch such a large fish on this small fly?" So I asked my parents if I could have a fly rod for Christmas. I mowed as many lawns as I could to remain in the good books, and

I got my fly rod. Then I taught myself to cast and to fish. And it's been my passion and obsession ever since.

Since then I've fished in over 35 countries and have caught over 200 species of fish on a fly. I love photographing fly fishing and the environment that it's involved with. And I love meeting people who share this same passion.

So thank you again for having me here tonight. I thought I should cover a bit of Australian fly fishing and some of the different species around Australia that we can catch on a fly.

Australia is a beautiful country and it has some of the most diverse fishing. Our saltwater fishing is some of the best in the world. There is a place called the Wessel Islands in the Northern Territory of Australia. It's extremely beautiful and very exclusive. But we've had access to that island chain now for about five years. A lot of our fishing there is saltwater fly fishing. It's a mixture of clear water flats and blue water, and we also get up into some of the small mangrove creeks as well.



Kevin Finn pondering a future trip

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Permit are a special fish in the saltwater world. In saltwater fly fishing it is considered the Holy Grail, and people go their whole fly fishing life trying to catch one of these. Once you catch one you really appreciate it because it is such a difficult fish. There are four permit species in the world, and we have one that's endemic to Australia. It is becoming increasingly popular, and anglers from around the world come here to catch this particular fish, the Anak permit. The obsession with this fish is essentially due to the difficulty in catching it.

In the Wessel Islands there are a lot of species we can chase. We catch a lot of barramundi there. The mangrove areas and deep rocky outcrops there are great for chasing what I consider to be one of Australia's most iconic fish. You can put a tick in the box when you've caught a barramundi on a fly.

Queenfish are another very exciting fish. They grow large and they fight hard. One thing you'll discover if you've fished for

trout is that saltwater species pull very hard. In trout fishing the backing on your reel is essentially there to keep things looking nice for when you take a photo of your reel. But saltwater fish can run to the horizon very quick. Queenfish are an awesome fish.

There are lots of beautiful little creeks that we fish in the Wessel islands. One thing that makes the Wessels special is the clarity of the water, and that clarity makes sight fishing such good fun.

Giant Trevally are another keenly sought-after fish on a fly rod. They, too, are a very hard fighting fish, and they usually take a fly well.

When we're fishing in these very remote areas we usually take a mothership and try to fish new areas every couple of days. Right now it's cold down here in the south, so a lot of the trips we run in the north are from May through to September. We have a mothership sitting back at the base and we run three tenders,



The meal was delicious, and it was wonderful to have so many female members and guests enjoying the occasion.



Harry Hearn was congratulated on 50 years of VFFA membership

so six fishermen each week. It has that edge of exclusivity and remoteness.

Cape York is another one of those frontier locations in Australia. At certain times of the year we can fish the west side of Cape York effectively, and at other times we can fish the east. The West tends to have more yellow sand and probably a few more crocodiles, too. But lots of barramundi in the beautiful mangroves.

The east side has very clear water. It has a very diverse environment and is an incredible place to visit. One of the most sought after fish there again is the permit, and we've had some really good permit fishing in the last few weeks. If you are saltwater fly fishing in Australia's winter, you're going to have lots of 28 - 30 degree days and barely any humidity at that time of year.

A lot of people say you haven't seen an Australian sunset until you've seen it set in the north. We certainly get some really beautiful sunsets up there.

Who has caught a Murray cod? It is certainly one of Australia's most iconic fish, being endemic to south-east Australia. This particular fish here in the

photo is quite a large fish. I'd actually noticed it a few days earlier when I had a client, and when we came back later to do some filming we couldn't find it during the day. So we threw some surface poppers in at night, and we caught it.

A lot of people think that fishing for Murray cod is like blind casting in dirty water. But you can chase Murray cod in Victoria and New South Wales in beautiful places. And Murray cod are good looking fish. They have that really striking pattern and colours.

They really do stand out in the natural environment. We had arrived at the pool in the photo and saw this fish doing laps in the very clear water. So we waited and the fish kept cruising around the pool like a brown trout would do. And then it came back and we caught it.

We catch them on surface poppers. We throw these flies that have foam heads on them and when the fish hits this fly it is sometimes a bit like a shotgun. They're an aggressive predator fish, so we typically chase them using eight or nine weight rods, even a ten weight if it's a really big fish.

What about Tassie? It's a very beautiful place. We have a guide in Tasmania called Peter Broomhall who wants the very best for whoever he's fishing with. Peter loves Tasmania and he loves trout.

Most of the guiding we do in Tassie is in the northern area down to the central plateau. It's all very beautiful stuff.

Did anyone go to Tassie for the open weekend a week or so ago? Our guys went down there and caught up with Peter and enjoyed some awesome fishing. The lakes were on fire and the rivers were fishing well too. I think there is a misconception that you should only go to Tasmania in the summer period. >>>



Simon Joel, a member of Council, thanked Josh for his very informative presentation

But some of the early season fishing can be really good, too. You can fish for sea run trout close to Launceston, and this happens in September and October.

A lot of the little creeks fish really well early in the season, and if you can put up with a bit of cold then those high country lakes have a lot of untouched trout that haven't seen an angler for quite some time.

Sometimes the Tasmanian creeks and rivers don't get the attention they deserve. Most people go to Tassie to fish



the lakes, but there are some amazingly diverse creeks and streams down in Tassie that are really beautiful to fish. Obviously one aspect of Tasmania that's draws a lot of people is the fact that it is a wild fishery. The brown trout there are considered to be one of the wildest strains left in the world, and Tassie does offer some awesome dry fly fishing. I personally like the lakes of Tassie, but I love fishing the little streams and creeks as well.

There is plenty of good dry fly fishing through the summer months. We have a video of a little ferny creek where you could actually catch almost every fish in the creek without putting your fly in the water. Every single trout in this creek jumped out to eat the fly without it touching the water.

From now through to the end of the season we've got some great packages in Tassie.



John Pilkington (on the left) and Paul Benson (on the right) were congratulated on their 25 years of membership



Our Annual Dinner was well attended

If you want to try something different (or go there for the first time), try the Snowy Mountains in New South Wales. We've just been through some of the best years ever. We've had so much rain in New South Wales and a lot of that rain has been coastal, so the trout fishing has just exploded.

In 2018 and particularly 2019 we had extremely dry years in New South Wales, to the point where we wondered if any freshwater fish might survive 2019. It was dire. But come 2020 we had some big rain events. It's been great for our trout fishing and all of our New South Wales trout fisheries have come back on board in a good way.

In the Snowy Mountains we arrange trips from back country hiking through to even roadside stuff, and beautiful little creeks where you take in two or three weight rods and have awesome fun.

Has anyone been to the town of Tumut? It has one of the most consistent trout rivers in Australia. It's incredible how well it delivers. The Tumut is a tailrace river, so sometimes the water is high and can be difficult to fish on foot, so fishing from a raft is the way to go. And it has lots of great fish. We typically have those shoulders where we seem to catch more rainbow trout by nymphing - early season, late season, and in the middle of the summer. Then the grasshoppers are on and it can be really exciting with cold water coming out of the dam.

We've got really long grass and plenty of grasshoppers over the summer period, which is when we catch more of those bigger trout. From October onwards it's a consistent fishery for good numbers of fish. January to April is probably when you'd see more dry fly fishing. But on the shoulder seasons you can have incredible

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days catching lots of rainbows by nymphing through those waters.

I grew up in the Blue Mountains in the central west. I went to a boarding school there so got to know the farmers and could get onto all the good properties. We do quite a bit of fishing in the Blue Mountains National Park itself, though we don't advertise it. Sometimes in the winter we run trips there.

This season the fishing in the Blue Mountains is going to be incredible. We went from an almost drought-ridden state wondering if any trout would survive to just last season when it was amazing. I think that the average fish next year is going to be about two to four pounds. And there's plenty of them. A lot of people don't know that this is in the backyard of Sydney with some incredible Blue Mountains fishing. We sometimes run a helicopter into the backcountry out of Sydney.

Some of the winter lake fishing is also very good, with clear water sight fishing to big fish. When the drought eases they come back very strongly and the fish grow big. Typically most of the fish end up in that 1 - 3 pound range, which are good-sized fish for small streams. And lots of options are there. It really is good fishing and we're in this sort of period now with such good rainfall.

I understand that some people just love fishing for trout. For many, many years it was trout and only trout I fished for when I travelled. I remember the day I discovered marble trout in Slovenia. I'd never heard of this trout before. And I think that somewhere in the midst of all my travels I realized how much we had on offer in Australia because our species diversity is so very good. And a lot of times I think we ignore some of those



J.M. Gillies very kindly donated a top of the range Sage fly rod which was auctioned to help cover the production costs of our monthly newsletter

species and don't try to catch them on a fly.

Has anyone managed to get to New Zealand in the past couple of years? I snuck in when they first opened up and had a little bit of a fish. I think April is probably a time when less people go to New Zealand anyway, being end of season. It almost seemed like the Kiwis were bored with their own fishery by then, because we did four or five days fishing and barely saw a footprint. The big trout were as dumb as they could ever be. I fish both the north and the south. I think they're both great fisheries.

But the South Island probably has my heart. I like walking those back country valleys looking for those bigger fish. I probably get sucked into bigger fish more than numbers. If anyone made it in 2020 there were a lot of big trout around. They had had a prolific mouse plague there. The trout eat mice and then grow to massive sizes. If you go down to some of these river beds on evening and shine a torch you'll see tiny little mouse eyes. They want to cross the river to the other side because they've eaten all the food on

the bottom of the beech forest on one side of the river.

New Zealand is a lovely place to fish with that gin clear water and bigger than average trout. But the South Island can be a hard fishery. You're chasing big smart fish in clear water, but it is very rewarding. We do have some trips coming up in February and we have some prime dates in the Mackenzie country which is a beautiful place to fish.

In the last few years we pretty much closed down the travel side of our business. It was difficult to get to the next state, let alone out of the country. But the

travel side is now become a lot easier. I think a lot of people are still fishing locally or thinking about New Zealand. Mongolia is a trip that we've run three times before and we're going back in 2023. For trout enthusiasts wanting to do a lifetime trip Mongolia is an incredible place to go. We've also got a couple of trips in 2023 to the Caribbean, chasing things like bonefish and tarpon. So if that's your interest, let us know.

Thank you very much again for having me.



A Final Farewell to Professor Kevin Hindle (15/10/1950 – 10/08/2022)

Kevin, the “Prof”, was well-known to many of us, and a very popular VFFA member. He was talented in so many areas, and always entertaining. He was also a keen and very competent fly fisher. Sadly, on August 10 he died. Here is a tribute to his life written by Georgia Hindle, his daughter.

Kevin George Hindle was born on October 15, 1950, in Paddington, NSW. He attended and was a high achiever at The Scot’s College in Bellevue, Sydney, and spent his spare time surfing, playing the guitar and roller boarding. He was given a Fender Stratocaster (an electric guitar) when he was 12, and as many people know, his talent and love for music never ceased.

In 1969, after graduating from high school, Kevin attended the Royal Military College in Duntroon for two years whilst simultaneously undertaking a Marketing and Business degree at ANU. After leaving Duntroon he decided to pursue a career in marketing and business.



Professor Kevin Hindle

He moved to Melbourne and found a job at the Comedy Club in Collingwood as their advertising agent. After a few years there he left with his two best mates Tim and Don to start life in Adelaide, where they attended Adelaide University together.

After completing his Masters of Business Administration Kevin worked in

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the advertising department for 5KA radio station. It was here that he met Joey Moore, who was the lead singer in an Adelaide Hills folk band. Kevin recognised Joey's talent and insisted on becoming her manager. They were married in 1978 and in the same year released their first album together, *"First Bite at the Big Time"*.

They eventually recognised their differences and separated amicably in 1980. The love that Kevin found for Melbourne in his comedy club café days hadn't disappeared, so he sold his Adelaide house and came back to Fitzroy after securing a job at Swinburne University as a lecturer in Business and Entrepreneurship.

Shortly after settling in Melbourne Kevin attended an AFL game and watched the South Melbourne Swans win a game with a goal after the final siren. He then became South Melbourne's (eventually Sydney Swans') number one fan.

In 1984 Kevin purchased a house in Kew. He also had a lifelong passion for vintage cars and purchased his first Rolls Royce. Along with his many other passions he loved French culture and became a regular patron at La Bretagne restaurant in Kew junction. It was here in 1987 that he met Kitty, the owner's daughter. After 12 months of courting they were married, and their first son, Joshua, was born in 1989.

Whilst lecturing on Entrepreneurship Kevin was deep into venture capitalism and made some wise investments that gave his life financial stability. His work in entrepreneurship was recognised widely and he travelled regularly to Europe and North America lecturing.

In 1992 Kevin commenced a PhD in Entrepreneurship. In 1993 he purchased



Kevin attended our Annual Dinner some years ago, and enjoyed eating a trout he had caught at Enochs Point last year



his most loved vintage car, a Silver Dawn Rolls Royce that he still owns.

In October 1993 his daughter Georgia was born. Only weeks after her birth, Kevin's father's health deteriorated, so the family travelled to Sydney to help care for his father. In January 1994 George Hindle passed away.

It was here that Kevin realized that most of his time was spent in an office or a lecture theatre, and having always had an interest in fly fishing Kevin committed himself to becoming the best fly fisherman he could be. He learned to tie flies, spent hours at the Yarra Bend casting pool, and studied every book on fly fishing known to mankind, thus starting his lifelong obsession with the beautiful art. From that point on Kevin aimed to achieve a minimum of 40 days on the river each year, and he kept a tally in each of his diaries which he maintained till the last few weeks of his life.

In 1998, after completing his PhD, Kevin was awarded a visiting professorship in France and moved there with his family for six months. Following this he was travelling more and more with his work, and always incorporated some fly fishing wherever he went. America, Canada, Slovenia, Switzerland, Scotland and New Zealand are just a few of the many places Kevin was fortunate enough to fish.

After separating from Kitty in 1999, Kevin raised Joshua and Georgia, and when they were old enough he taught them to fly fish and took them along on many of his fly fishing adventures. Much to his disappointment, neither of his children would continue with fly fishing as he had hoped, or play a guitar like Eric Clapton.

Over the years Kevin never stopped writing and playing music. Along with the guitar, he learned to play the ukulele



Kevin was a keen and skilled musician

and cigar box guitar, and recently got back into performing, maintaining a standing Friday night gig at a hotel in Port Melbourne. His music can still be seen on his YouTube channel, "Ukulele Troubadour".

Without a doubt, Kevin's most lasting legacy will be his academic work. His passion was to put an end to the poverty cycle for indigenous communities through business and entrepreneurship. He spent a lot of time working with Aboriginal and Native American communities, expanding their knowledge and ability to make a place in today's capitalist world.

He mentored countless PhD students, many of whom have stated that they owe theirs and their families' livelihoods to Kevin. He was adamant that all his students saw the very best version of himself, and nearly all became lifelong friends.

Kevin was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2014 but made a miraculous recovery. It was this scare that made >>>

him focus on more of his life's pleasures and interests. He retired from his official roles and invested more of his time in his greatest joys - procuring vintage cars, riding his Vespa, doing some recreational shooting, playing backgammon, fly fishing, and most importantly being a more present father and grandfather.

After the Covid lockdowns, Kevin was finally able to organise a long-awaited trip back to France and Slovenia. He also put down a deposit to accompany one of his great mates, Brian Cooper, to Mongolia in 2023. To ensure he would be in good shape for this next adventurous phase he went through some vigorous health testing. Everything appeared normal until the results of his colonoscopy shortly before his departure date.

In May 2022 Kevin was diagnosed with stage four colon cancer. Initially a prognosis of two to three years was proposed, so he cancelled his trip to France with hopes of starting chemotherapy and being well enough

to head to Mongolia next year. Unfortunately, unforeseen complications meant that Kevin was with us for much less time than initially expected. His last week was spent at home, surrounded by friends and family. He died peacefully in his sleep on Wednesday, August 10.

In his last weeks in hospital Kevin began writing a song, and although some may say an unfinished work, these four lines encapsulate a life fully lived, loved and forever eternal:

"My friends give me the strength to gently bend

My gracious children make me smile

Blessed with this love that never ends

I'll fish wild rivers till I die" Kevin Hindle

Kevin is survived by his children, Joshua and Georgia, and his two granddaughters Holly (6) and Zoe (12 weeks)



Kevin fishing at Millbrook two years ago

IN LOVING
Memory



PROF KEVIN GEORGE HINDLE

SATURDAY DECEMBER 3, 2022, 2:00PM

CELEBRATION TO BE HELD AT

40 YARRAVALLE ROAD
KEW, VICTORIA

**PLEASE JOIN US IN SHARING MEMORIES,
STORIES, SONGS AND LAUGHTER ABOUT OUR
BELOVED PROFESSOR**

**FOOD AND DRINKS PROVIDED
PLEASE INFORM ANY DIETARY REQUIREMENTS AND
IF IN NEED OF ACCOMMODATION**

**RSVP TO GEORGIA | NOVEMBER 21, 2022
0434 243 677**

President's Casting Day

The traditional President's Casting Day was held at the Red Tag casting pools on Sunday, August 21, the Sunday following our Annual Dinner.

This year was slightly different, as we had invited the Snakeman, Raymond Hoser, to come along. He demonstrated and discussed snakes, particularly those venomous snakes which we are likely to come in contact with while fishing. The Association supported this new activity and we encouraged everyone to attend, and particularly youngsters. Pleasingly, many kids and grandkids came and thoroughly enjoyed the morning.

There was an excellent turn out, and as you can see from the photos, people were able to handle the snakes, the baby crocodile and the terrapins. We all learned a little about each of these reptiles.

Ray had tiger snakes, brown snakes, copperheads and red belly black snakes,

the four venomous snakes found in Victoria. He was able to discuss some of the characteristics of each of these snakes and in particular how to avoid disturbing them. His main message was if you let the snake go on its way it will very likely leave you alone as well. Pain and distress is what precipitates an attack, and they are very fast!

Ray clearly has an encyclopaedic knowledge of reptiles, not just those in Australia but around the world, and has published widely in the area, having described many new species. And not just about snakes, but other reptiles and wildlife including frogs, possums, turtles, terrapins and monitor lizards.

The weather was very kind to us; plenty of sunshine, although a bit chilly. Members also took the opportunity to bring a rod and have a cast. The barbecue was flat out cooking 60 snags, and we got



Our current President David Hooke and Past President Hubert Reichelt tangling with some compliant reptiles

through four loaves of bread, all washed down with copious cups of tea and coffee.

This brings us to the end of Winter Casting days, as many members will

shortly be finding their way back onto the streams, as the season opens on Saturday, September 3.



Raymond Hoser, the Snakeman, told us lots about our Australia snakes, especially the dangerous ones we need to avoid

Report From Way Out West

... Jim Blakeslee

It's wintertime in Warrnambool. August is cold, wet and windy most of the time. Better to sit inside by the fire with a good fly fishing book, maybe have a snooze on the couch and dream about a tropical saltwater fly fishing trip to Weipa, Hinchinbrook Island or Christmas Island, or wander into the fly tying room and crank out a couple of dozen dun emergers for the Tassie trip in December.

Maybe it's worth having a look at the Weather zone app to see what the weatherman predicts for the coming week? HALLELUJAH!! There is a period of settled weather coming. Only a light breeze and it may even warm up to 10°C. I'll call Graeme and organize a bit of fly fishing on Tuesday.

So, here we are, in the tinnie on the Lower Merri River. It's sunny, no wind, and the water is still fairly clear in spite of the last bit of rain a couple days earlier. We're slowly cruising along with the electric motor looking for fish feeding on galaxias

and minnows, and sure enough, we've found a quiet corner where a little side creek of coloured water runs in. The minnows are dimpling the surface where a film of brown spreads out over the river. Then more and more are there, schooled up.

Maybe they think they can hide in the dirty water? The minnows become more and more agitated and it's almost like raindrops are hitting the surface when SMASH! A big brownie charges up from the depths and is into them! Graeme quickly lifts his Green Matuka out of the water, turns towards the spot where the brown rose, makes two false casts and drops the fly into the ring of the rise. Strip, strip ... and BANG! He's into him. The brown dives away, peeling line from the reel and then jumps, and then jumps again, and a third time! Eventually, he's brought to the net.

While admiring his catch I suggested to Graeme that it would be generous of him to donate the fish to be smoked for >>>

the WFFC Annual Fish and Game Dinner in early September. His brows are knitted. After a moment's consideration he figures: "That's a very good idea," then dons the handsome buck on the head and drops it in the esky.

A few minutes pass and then another fish is into the minnows a bit further up the river. I motored into casting position. We both cast our flies into the general area where the fish last showed - mine to the left and his to the right of the rise. I let the fly sink for 5 seconds. Then a few strips of the line and WHAM! This time it's my turn for a hook-up. After the fish is played out and landed Graeme looks at me very seriously and says, "You know Jim, I think that fish would look amazing smoked and presented on a platter at the Dinner." I couldn't disagree, so DONG! And into the esky.

For the next hour we motored around and stalked fish that were chasing minnows in that section of the river. If we were close enough to a moving fish and one of us was able to cast the fly and drop it within a couple seconds right where the fish last rose, then there was a good chance of a take. So eventually we hooked, played and landed five. Then the action stopped. No more rises. No targets to cast to. No takes. Time to go home.



Graeme Hays, Professor of Marine Science at Deakin University, with one of the five smelters he and Jim caught on the Lower Merri

The following week there was heavy rain and the local rivers rose and turned a dirty brown. Maybe good for the lads with spinning rods hurling lures that rattle and wobble, or soft plastics rubbed with scent to get the fish's attention in dirty water. But not so good for fly fishermen relying on fish being able to see the fly. So, our attention turned to the lakes.

A couple of weeks later there was another break in the weather. It was still and sunny, and the water crystal clear at Lake Purrumbete. But there was absolutely no surface action. We settled on using the electric motor on the tinnie to lurk around amongst the weed beds. Occasionally we



Graeme Hays casting on a very calm Lake Purrumbete.

would polaroid a trout swimming past, have a cast at it, and get ignored. Mostly we would drop our flies in the pockets in the weeds, let them sink, then strip, strip and hope for a take. Nothing, nothing, nothing.

Eventually I got a nice tiger trout on a black Woolly Bugger and Graeme landed



Jim Blakeslee holding a silvery Purrumbete tiger trout.

a fat torpedo of a rainbow that fell for the Green Matuka. It jumped several times, ran him into the backing, put on a tremendous display and finally, exhausted, came to the net.

We speculated why there was no surface sign of feeding fish. When the fish were cleaned the autopsy was conclusive - stomachs full of SNAILS. It's hard to get a fish's attention with a fly when they are head down/ass up bottom feeding on snails.

So, now as Spring is upon us, we are hoping for a bit of warmth and for the stick caddis to appear and turn the fish's gaze upward. Maybe even some insect activity on the surface.

At any rate, we will be glad to see the backside of winter.



Tasmanian Fishing Report - Brown Trout Season Opening

... from Chris Wisniewski, Tasmania Inland Fisheries Service

The brown trout season opened on Saturday, August 6. Despite the poor forecast the weather was kind to us across the state and anglers were out in numbers. Lowland waters were most popular, as would be expected early in the season.

Four Springs Lake was very popular as usual, with anglers launching their boats in the dark to be on the water at first light. The lake fished well for anglers pulling wet flies on type 3 sinking lines. Fish caught were a good mixture of recently transferred adult brown trout from the Central Highland fish traps over winter and fish that had made it through the past seasons. As expected the recently transferred fish are still putting on

condition and the older fish were in super condition. Fishing will only improve as the water warms through into October/November and the mayflies arrive.

South Riana Lake – An irrigation lake in the hills south of Burnie. The lake was brim full due to recent rain. The fish were in around the flooded edges tailing, providing exciting visual fishing to well-conditioned trout.

Talbots Lagoon – Because everywhere is fishing well Talbots hasn't drawn a lot of attention yet. But don't worry - with the arrival of the duns in November anglers will be out in force. This is a fantastic fishery and should be on all visiting anglers hit list.

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Blackmans Lagoon – Good water level for the start of the season. Brown trout to 3 kg have been caught. Fish have been seen rising at daylight and were willing to take a dry fly.

Lake Leake and Tooms Lake – With the east coast low pressure systems that dumped a heap of rain in the past month, both are spilling. They are coloured up and have started slowly but are both set for a good season.

Lake Crescent – Is chock full and spilling. Good brown trout are being caught on small, slowly retrieved wet flies on floating lines around the front of the wetlands. As mentioned in last month's report, now is the time to fish this lake.

Penstock Lagoon – A slow start with the cold water in the highlands. A recent survey showed the number of fish in the lagoon is still very high despite the reduction in the number of adult brown trout transferred to the lagoon over the



A well-disguised Simon Joel fishing Little Pine Lagoon a few weeks ago

last few years. For more details on the survey [click here](#).

Little Pine Lagoon – With the rain there was a big spill that was timed nicely with opening weekend. The trout were back in the grass and bushes. Fish were everywhere and willing to take any well-presented fly. The 'untouchables' were easily caught. Anglers that were 'in the right place at the right time' caught lots of fish and the visual fishing was outstanding.

Bronte Lagoon – The rain came at the right time and Bronte was rising steadily in the lead up and through the opening weekend. The fishing was fantastic and lots of superbly condition fish were caught on wet flies.

Nineteen Lagoons – Those keen to go for a walk from the closed gate at Lake Augusta found lots of flooded water. The water has been very cold with few fish seen moving. They are sitting along the slightly deeper edges and will take a slow-moving wet fly fished blind. Takes are slow and subtle.

The northern rivers have been in flood for the past month and there has been



An early season buck brownie from Lake Ada

good backwater fishing in the Mersey, Meander, Macquarie and South Esk. Timing around the rain events and freshly flooded ground has been the key.

Southern rivers have not been as flooded and the Tyenna fished well to euro

nymphs on the opening weekend. There have been schools of whitebait in the lower Derwent and Huon estuaries.



Thorpdale Dams - October 9

Our Latrobe Valley Fly Fishing colleagues stock a number of large dams on private farms around the Thorpdale district. Trout up to 9 lb have been caught. The LVFF members are particularly hospitable and they invite all our members to join them at the VFFA Dam Day on Sunday, October 9. The LVFF members will be our guides. After a morning's fishing we get together for a BBQ and then set off again for an afternoon fishing.

Location

Meeting place is the Thorpdale public gardens opposite the Bakery.

Date and Timing

Sunday, October 9. Meet at Thorpdale at 9:00 AM for 9:15 departure for the dams.

Catering

The LVFF will put on a BBQ in the Thorpdale gardens at lunchtime. BYO drinks, if required.

There will be a raffle. While we are guests of the Latrobe Valley members,

a donation to help with the stocking of their dams would be greatly appreciated.

Equipment

Six weight rod and reel. Full waders not required. Sunglasses, brimmed hat, sunscreen and wet weather jacket just in case.

Registration

Please book by emailing Terry Rogers by Friday, October 5, so our hosts can arrange guiding and catering for all VFFA guests.

Event Co-ordinators

David Hooke and Terry Rogers

Date of this notice - August 28, 2022



A rainbow from one of the Thorpdale dams



David Wakefield catches some fine browns from those dams

The Bruce Whitehead Challenge - October 14 – 16

This event is now a fixture in the VFFA calendar. For years VFFA members have travelled to Bairnsdale to compete against the Bairnsdale Fly Fishers for the famous Dudley Lee Donger trophy. Then a few years ago a second 'friendly competition' between the VFFA and the BFFC was established with some winter fishing in the lakes around Ballarat. Again this year members of the two clubs will gather in Camperdown in Western Victoria and try to extract some sizeable trout from Lakes Purrumbete, Bullen Merri and surrounding fisheries.

Details of the arrangements for this event are given in the NOE on the next page.

Four cabins have been reserved, two of which have shower and toilets, and the others are close to an amenities block that is very comfortable and spotlessly clean.

We encourage you to bring your boats as the launching and mooring facilities are first class.

There is plenty of fishing available for bank anglers and our friends from Warrnambool Fly fishers will be joining us on the Saturday, so there should



Hugh Maltby (VFFA) and Trevor Stow (Bairnsdale Club) sizing up the Bruce Whitehead award



Fishing Purrumbete – boats and jetties both give good access

be a seat available in a boat for all participants.

Purrumbete has received a lot of support from Fisheries and is well-populated with brown, rainbow and tiger trout, as well as Atlantic salmon and of course redfin. Purrumbete is one of our premier fisheries.

Don't hold off booking as this trip will fill quickly.

Contact Hugh Maltby on 0423 284 079 or at redtag@hotmail.com to make an enquiry or a booking



The Bruce Whitehead trophy was designed by Trevor Hawkins

VFFA Notice of Major Event (NOE) - Western Lakes, 2022

Date of this NOE – August 26, 2022

Event: Weekend trip to Lakes Purrumbete and Bullen Merri on October 14 - 16.

Event Co-ordinator (EC): Hughie Maltby.

Event date: Check in on Friday October 14, check out on Sunday October 16.

Event location & address: Lake Purrumbete Caravan Park, 540 Purrumbete Estate Road, Camperdown, VIC, 3260, Phone: 03 5594 5577.

Accommodation: Sharing a cabin, cost: TBC - cost based on the number sharing a cabin.

Sleeping requirements: Bring your own bedding and towel.

Catering/ food and drink requirements: Breakfast/lunch: self-catering or in Camperdown.

Friday night: BBQ at Caravan Park - bring your own food. Saturday night: dinner with Bairnsdale members at the Camperdown Hotel.

Description of fishing areas: Lakes, so fishing out of boats or from the shore.

Mobile phone coverage: Whether within mobile phone coverage areas, or otherwise within mobile phone range.

How physically challenging: Comfortable fishing around lake edges, though quite a walk if fishing from the quarry car park on Lake Purrumbete. Warrnambool fly fishers have offered to provide boats to fish from on Saturday. Participants are encouraged to bring their own boats, as the launching and resting facilities are excellent.

Fishing license required: Yes, if applicable.

Strongly recommended personal equipment: Waders, wading boots, wading staff, gaiters if wet wading; brimmed hat; glasses/sunglasses, sunscreen; wet weather gear, warm clothing; water and food for lunch, UHF/VHF radio, torch at dusk onwards, mobile phone.

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Optional but advisable equipment when fishing out of sight of other participants: UHF radio.

Event Registration Form (ERF): To be completed and returned to Hughie Maltby at redntag@hotmail.com or posted to 14 Diane Crescent, Viewbank, Victoria, 3084, by October 10. Any inquiries - phone Hughie on 0423 283 079.

Date of issue of this NOE: August 26, 2022

Event Registration closing date: when full

The Event Registration Form (ERF) can be downloaded from the VFFA website or obtained at the next meeting.



The November Meeting

This is early notice of our November meeting on Thursday, November 17. The meeting will be a lunchtime meeting, commencing at 12 noon. It will be preceded by a trip to the Shrine of Remembrance. Peter Whitelaw, well known to many of us as a longstanding VFFA member and regular attendee at our meetings, is also a Lifetime Trustee of the Shrine. He has very kindly offered to give us a guided tour of the Shrine.

Accordingly Peter suggests that we arrive at the Shrine by 10:15 am (the Shrine opens at 10:00 am).

Peter was appointed as Trustee of the Shrine of Remembrance in 1995 and then as a Life Governor in the year 2000. He is one of only two remaining Governors that were appointed for life. His military involvement was as a National Serviceman for two years, commencing in 1966, and during that time he graduated as an officer.

His support for veterans arises from the service of his two grandfathers who served in WW1, his father who served in WW2, his peers in the Vietnam War, and his son, Major Michael Whitelaw, who served with Special Forces in Timor Leste, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Peter recently retired as President of Woodend RSL and in 2020 was awarded RSL Life Membership. The 13 Shrine Governors share the responsibilities of hosting the 200 ceremonies held each year.

The Shrine commemorates the service and sacrifice of a wide spectrum of Australians, and amongst those it is quite likely that there were some keen fly fishers. If we do some searching in our VFFA history we might well identify members (past and present) who have served their country in uniform. We can extend the scope of this search to any Australian fly fishers who served. The intent would be to publish an article on a few prominent people. One that springs to mind immediately is Sir Lawrence James Wackett KBE, DFC, AFC, who wrote *Studies of an Angler*). There must be others.

Interested members should check this website: [Anglers at War - American Museum Of Fly Fishing \(amff.org\)](http://Anglers at War - American Museum Of Fly Fishing (amff.org)). The article from the 'Fishing Gazette' is particularly poignant.

Celebrating the Life of Robert Roles

Friends of Robert have organised a Wake to celebrate his life.

This will be on Saturday October 8, from 10:30am to 2:30pm, at Bringenbrong Station, NSW and Corryong. His ashes will be scattered on the station, courtesy of the Nankervis family, at one of his favourite fishing spots.

At 10:30 am we will scatter his ashes at Bringenbrong Station at Geoff's campsite on Sleepy Pool on the Swampy Plains River. Then at 12 noon we eat, drink and party at Riley's Restaurant, Corryong Country Inn, Corryong.

Then we will have a party – lunch and drinks provided. Robert will contribute three dozen bottles of his red wine.

Please bring your memories of Robert, and please RSVP Murene for catering purposes.



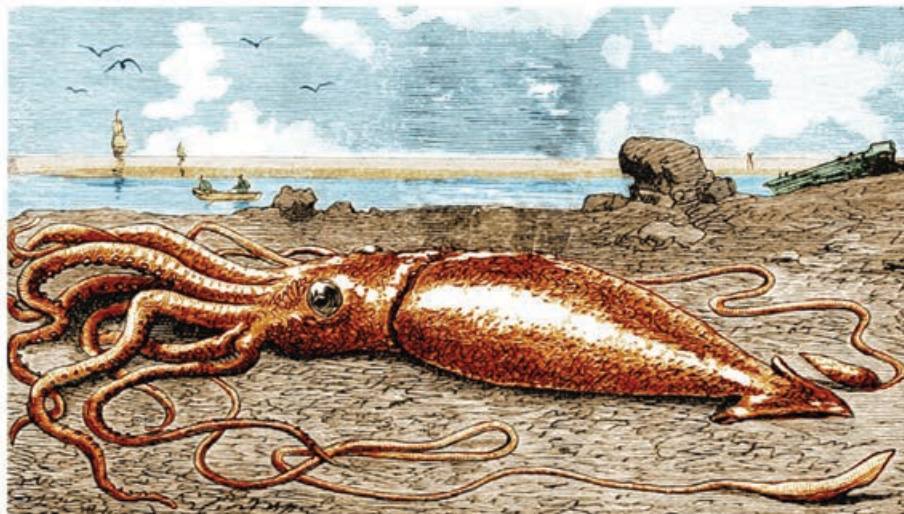
Robert Roles as we remember him



A young Robert Roles – already a keen and skilled fly fisher

Wanted!

Reward Offered for effective Squid Fly



Woody and Gadget have been chasing Squid in the Bay and, despite their best combined creative efforts, have been forced to the *Dark Side* to achieve success. Not good. We can bring 'em in, but we can't hook 'em up.

Required: 3 x effective flies with which we can catch squid with reasonable reliability.

1st Prize: 1x 700mm bottle of Ardbeg Corryvreckan cask strength malt whisky. Valued @ \$170, or \$150 Dan Murphy Gift Card.

Runner Up Prizes: 2x \$50 Dan Murphy Gift Cards.

Contest: Open until 5.00pm on Friday, 30th September 2022.

Entry: Send entries (3 flies) to: Jon Kenfield, Unit 5, 122 Anderson Street, South Yarra, VIC 3141.

Rules: We make 'em; we break 'em. No appeals.



Joe Blakes

... by Dennis Carter

It's a simple fact that where we find trout in Australia, we find snakes. The two go together. Trout eat tadpoles and snakes eat frogs and both are voracious predators. And the snakes found near, or in trout water in this unruly land of ours, can be deadly. Which is why even on moderately warm days we may meet amongst the tussocks, wombat holes and warm rocks, other anglers sweating profusely in waders up to their armpits.

Our snakes are amongst the most poisonous in the world. A bite, while angling in a remote area, and again, that's where our quarry can be most likely discovered, could be deadly. So could driving your vehicle from home to your fishing spot, if you get my meaning.

What is needed is that 'sixth sense', intuition, built on experience that always keeps one eye on the ground while the other searches the stream. Like the old cliché about chewing gum and walking at the same time, only more dangerous.

I have many, many snake stories.

I was fishing with Scott some distance from civilization many years ago, when we were both younger, on a favourite small stream in country not far from Oberon, beyond the Blue Mountains in New South Wales. You could call where we were fishing 'remote'.

Scott is my cousin, although 30 years younger than me. We have a lot in common, including our inherited passion for angling of all kinds, and more particularly fly fishing for the wily trout.

Scott had taken good cover behind a small bush, all his concentration absorbed on a spotted fish, when I heard a

resounding yell. In the instant of spinning around I glimpsed Scott in the air with a snake climbing his waders. He who had a real phobia for legless reptiles had no eye for them.

Naturally the snake abandoned Scott as soon as it realized that Scott's waders were not for climbing.

Scott was convinced that he had been bitten. Off came his waders, and sure enough on his leg were red marks that could have been a snake bite.

Scott went pale, felt ill and started sweating profusely. "Scott", I said. "We're a long way from anywhere. I'll wipe down your leg. Put your waders back on and we'll walk back to the car slowly. If you were bitten through your waders maybe only a small amount of poison got through."

Scott was feeling worse and the perspiration was dripping off his pallid face.

Step by step we started walking, slowly. I kept talking, and talking, until I noticed Scott's colour returning and no perspiration. "How are you feeling?" "What ... Ok", as the car came into view...

The following day on a really snaky stream, the renowned Duckmaloi River near Oberon in New South Wales, bounded by wombat holes and tussock grass, you guessed it. Scott trod on another snake. Less drama this time, but that was decades ago and Scott is still with us and still fishing. I must ask him how many near misses he's had since.

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Dad had a fearfully close call once on the very snaky Goulburn River, downstream from the Breakaway in Victoria.

Clambering down the steep hillside to the river from where we had parked the car, he burst through scrub into a small clearing to be confronted by a very large and upset tiger snake, its head raised and ready to strike. Dad took a backwards jump, spinning around at the same time to be confronted again by not one, but two more striking tigers. His primal scream must have been of pure terror – somehow three frightened snakes found their way out of the clearing, leaving Dad shaking and descending with great care.

When in my twenties I found ‘Allenvale Dam’ high in the hills behind the Victorian coastal resort town of Lorne. Discovered by map reading and exploring again. It was reputedly fairly snaky, but also fishy. I had many successful sessions.

Then came the snake day. Me, in shorts and sandals, out of the car and starting

the short walk in to the water. It took but a few steps to spot the first snake. Another few to the second, another few to the third, and so on. I’d only covered about fifty or so metres and yes, I did turn around and walk very carefully back to the car on what I suspect might have been my last visit.

Not so long ago I was fishing with Greg Kelly on a very small stream not far from Omeo in Victoria. Greg was searching the water for a fish when I heard, “Den, come and look at this”. I did and what we saw lying on the shallow stream bed was a very bright orange snake with a white belly about 40 cm long. Extraordinary. We poked and prodded it for some minutes, but there it stayed. All of our later research led nowhere. A rare freak of nature?

I could go on, but suffice to say that they cause me no bother - as long as I see them before they see me. And if there are some that I haven’t spotted, well, it doesn’t matter does it?



The Liawenee Open Day - yingina / Great Lake, Tasmania

... Simon Joel

Finally, after being cancelled for two years due to Covid, the open weekend at the Inland Fisheries Service (IFS) field station at Liawenee was held over the weekend of May 21 and 22. So friends and I took the opportunity to investigate this interesting event.

For those who don’t know, Liawenee is on the western shore of yingina/Great Lake just north of Miena, and the field station is on the Liawenee Canal about four kilometres above the lake. The canal was created by Hydro Tasmania to divert the water coming out of Lake Augusta into the Great Lake. Not far below the Augusta dam wall, the river

Ouse is diverted. Hydro Tasmania has constructed a weir and deviated the river into a canal that drains into the Great Lake at Liawenee, the canal being a major source of water for the Great Lake which supplies the Poatina hydroelectric power station, and the power produced is exported to Victoria via an under-sea cable.

My mission on this weekend was to visit the Liawenee canal, it being the prime spawning water for two of my favourite fish - brown and rainbow trout. The trout population of the Great Lake is actively managed by the Inland Fisheries Service

(IFS) and the Liawenee field station is a major player in that process.

I have attempted to attend the open weekend on several occasions, but life just kept getting in the way. Finally this year I flew across to Launceston, collected my car that conveniently resides at the Airport, and drove up to my shack at Mienna. After a delightful evening meal at the local pub I headed back to the shack to await the arrival of my Tassie friends who were due to arrive later that night. As the thermometer dropped below zero I stoked the fire and retired for the night.

Saturday morning dawned cold with a thick frost and a bracing minus five degree temperature. There was no wind and not a cloud in the sky. If you are familiar with the central plateau of Tassie you'll know those crisp clear conditions are a rare treat at this time of the year.



The Weir across the Liawenee Canal and the run up to the fish trap on the left

After coffee and breakfast we set off for the field station which is an easy fifteen minute drive from Mienna. The lower car park was at capacity, so we parked above the road and walked down to the field station, passing puddles of water that had turned to ice in the sub-zero temperature and were still solid in spite of the warm late autumn sun. We walked past a few exhibition tents, following the canal for about two kilometres till we reached the fish trap and the main event.

Brown trout were initially introduced to Tasmania from Europe (in 1864) where they spawn in late autumn to mid-winter, with the winter rains providing the stimulus for the brown trout to spawn. The trout need running water and a gravel riverbed to spawn, and the Liawenee canal provides an ideal spawning ground. Some of the trout spawn below the trap, but most make it to the trap. There is a weir built across the canal and the picture above shows the run up to the fish trap to the left of the weir. The fish trap is located about 20 metres up the run.



The Fish trap from below



The entrance to the fish trap from above

In 2021 an impressive 10,095 brown trout were captured in the Liawenee trap and another trap at Sandbanks Creek, and on the east side of the Great Lake 2,077 brown trout were caught. There are >>>

also traps at Arthurs Lake, Lake Sorell and Lake King William.



Stripping anaesthetised brown trout

The trout enter the trap through a narrow entrance that points down stream and are then moved into a series of pens. They are then netted and taken up to the field station to be stripped and placed in tanks to be relocated to other systems.

The stripping process starts by placing the trout in a tank of water dosed with oil-of-cloves. The oil-of-cloves is an anaesthetic agent that allows the trout to be handled with minimal trauma. The process is slow and great care is taken with each fish.



Brown Trout eggs before fertilisation

First, an anaesthetised female brown

trout is taken by hand and the eggs are stripped into a stainless-steel bowl. She is then returned to running water and the process is repeated with a second female into the same bowl.

Then a male trout is stripped of semen into the same bowl with the eggs. Some water is then added and the eggs are left to fertilise. We found the process fascinating to watch as the bowl becomes effervescent as the fertilised eggs go from soft to firm quite quickly.

The brown trout once stripped are returned to the running water to recover and allow the anaesthetic to wear off. They are then placed in large tanks on trailers and relocated to other systems that have limited or no natural recruitment. The IFS is very coy about what systems are stocked with mature trout for obvious reasons, but I think it's safe to suggest that many of the trout I catch (and release) at Penstock Lagoon originally come from the Liawenee fish trap.

In 2021 two thousand eggs were collected and fertilised. The eggs were incubated at the New Norfolk Hatchery and then transferred to the Salmon Ponds on the Derwent River. The fry (weighing about 1 gm) were then used to stock club dams, and public and private waters in October and November. They are only fed once with fish food at the Salmon Ponds, making the transition to the wild easier (as they're not looking for feed pellets).

The rainbow trout were originally introduced in 1898 from the west coast of North America and they spawn in spring, the catalyst for their spawning being the melting winter snow. IFS manage the rainbows very differently to the brown trout. The rainbows spawn in the Great Lake from late August until late September and into early October,

and like the browns they need running water and gravel to spawn successfully. Liawenee Canal is ideal for this.

The rainbow trout enter the fish trap the same way the browns did earlier in the season. Any browns that enter the fish trap at this stage are excluded as they will eat the rainbow trout eggs. The gates above the fish trap are then opened to allow the spawning rainbows to access the long channel above the fish trap and the ingenious system of “Zig Zag” channels where the rainbow trout can spawn naturally.

The “Zig Zag” channels are designed to allow the greatest length of spawning gravel in a fixed area of land within the Liawenee field station. The channels are maintained during the off season with new gravel added to aid spawning, and in early October the gates at the bottom of the “Zig Zag” channels are opened to allow the fish to return to the main canal and the Great Lake at their leisure.

In 2016 some 143 male rainbows were placed in the “Zig Zag” channels, and 112 females and 90 males were placed in the long channel above the fish trap.

After returning from the fish trap and watching the brown trout stripping, we walked around the field station visiting the various exhibitors. The IFS and Hydro Tasmania have provided a number of really interesting displays and giveaways, as did the Anglers Alliance Tasmania, and the Longford Fishing Club ran a sausage sizzle.

Warmed by the clear sunny skies we returned from the open day display in the early afternoon, cut some wood and prepared a delicious roast lamb shoulder for dinner.

Good food and good friends made for a perfect weekend in one of my favourite places. And it was good to see how fish management happens so I can keep doing what I love best - fishing.



The view of the yingina /The Great Lake from the Shack

FLY OF THE MONTH

Olive Stimulator



Stimulators are great flies. They're a largish dry fly, and being large and buoyant are thus excellent as an indicator fly with a nymph suspended underneath. Being big they're easy to see. And being big they're an attractive mouthful for a hungry trout. One site tells us that the Stimulator is commonly thought of as an attractor or searching pattern, "because it can resemble many things while imitating nothing in particular".

Stimulators also come in a variety of colours. The Royal Stimulator, with its red body and white wing, is the most common version, and a justifiably popular fly. But other colours are useful too. A yellow variety is a great hopper pattern, and the olive fly shown in the photo is a good evening or caddis fly.

The photo of this fly given above was provided by Anthony Boliiancu at the Goulburn Valley Fly Fishing Centre, and we thank Anthony for this great image. We also used Anthony's tying notes as a guide to tying the fly.

So how do we tie it?

Materials:

Hook:	Barbless Dry Fly hook in sizes 8 – 12
Thread:	6/0 or 8/0 Olive green Uni-thread
Tail:	Olive deer hair
Body:	Two sections of peacock herl and one section of olive dubbing
Body Hackle:	Olive grizzle
Rib:	Thin wire – copper or gold
Wing:	Elk hair
Thorax:	Peacock herl
Thorax Hackle:	Olive grizzle

Tying Procedure:

1. Wrap an even base of thread from just behind the eye to just before the bend.
2. Take a small clump of the olive deer hair and tie it in as the tail. As a guide the length of the tail should be about equal to the hook gape.
3. Next take a length of the ribbing wire and tie it in just before the bend of the hook.
4. Take a length of good quality peacock herl and tie it in just above the ribbing wire.
5. Take a short length of olive grizzle hackle feather and tie it in at the same point.
6. Wind the thread forward a short distance then wind the peacock herl forward so that it covers about a quarter of the length of the hook shank. Tie it off and trim away the excess.
7. Add some olive dubbing to the thread and wind a few turns of this along the shank toward the eye.
8. Now tie in another piece of your peacock herl and make two or three wraps to complete the body of the fly. At this point about two thirds to three quarters of the hook shank should be covered by the body.
9. Wind the hackle feather forward in spaced turns over the body materials and tie it off. Then wind the ribbing wire forward in evenly spaced turns and tie it off at the front of the body.
10. Take a clump of the olive deer hair and measure it off by holding it over the body. This deer hair will be tied in as the wing so should, when tied in, extend just past the end of the hook shank.
11. We will now tie in the wing. First, pinch the measured clump of deer hair in between your thumb and first two fingers of your left hand. Now make three or four loops of thread around the hair (but not around the hook). Then pinching very tightly to stop it from spinning, attach the hair to the top of the hook, starting with a looser turn at the rear and getting progressively tighter as you move forward. Try to prevent the deer hair from flaring.
12. Take another grizzle hackle and tie it in so that it extends towards the rear of the fly and the shiny side of the feather is facing you. Trim off the excess.
13. Tie in a short length of peacock herl at the start of the wing and wind it forward to construct the thorax.
14. Now wind the hackle forward and tie it off behind the eye of the hook. Add a couple of half hitches and your fly is complete.

VFFA 2022 meetings & other activities

(... all events subject to Covid restrictions)

September

- 1 Thursday Last Fly Tying session at Aussie Angler Store, 30 Sherbourne Road, Briar Hill, at 7:00 pm.
- 3 Saturday Trout season opens again for Victorian rivers.
- 3 Saturday Warrnambool Fly Fishers' Annual Dinner.
- 4 Sunday Season Opener at Dobson's property on the Goulburn.
- 15 Thursday 2022 Annual General Meeting – 8:00 pm, Zoom meeting.
- 28 Wednesday VFFA members visit Millbrook Lakes for some early Spring fishing, 10:00 am till dark.
- 28 Wednesday Council Meeting – 7:00 pm, Zoom meeting.

October

- 9 Sunday Annual trip to Thorpdale to fish the Latrobe Valley club's stocked dams as guests of the Latrobe Valley Fly Fishers.
- 14 Fri - 16 Sun Competition for Bruce Whitehead Trophy vs Bairnsdale FFC on Western Victorian Lakes.
- 20 Thursday General Meeting – 8:00 pm at the Kelvin Club:
Our Annual Auction.
- 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

- 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.

February 2023

- 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.