

Summer

NEWSLETTER 2019

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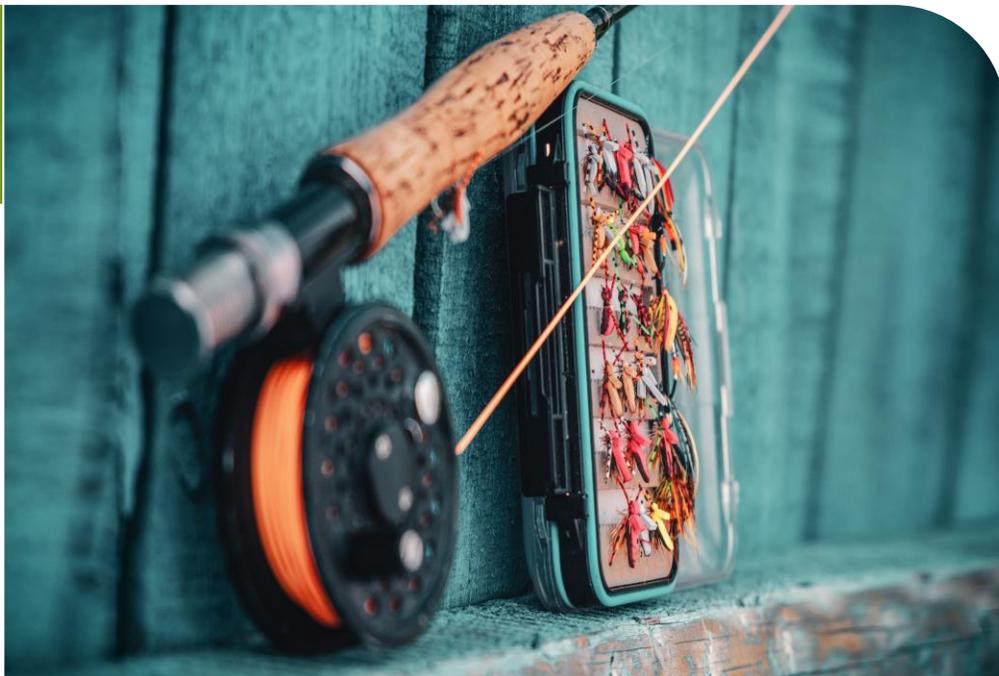
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Office Bearers

“Our aim is to
promote all
facets of fly
fishing and good
fellowship”



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From the Editor



SOMETHING FROM THE EDITOR

I guess one bonus of being Editor is that I can indulge myself by writing about women in fly fishing. It seems appropriate given that I am at my first year anniversary of taking up the sport.

Women are the fastest growing demographic in fly fishing. An article by John Clarke (not our John Clarke) New York Times 2017 says that *“Women make up about 31% of the 6.5 million Americans who fly fish which is why they are so crucial to cultivate.”* Equipment and apparel companies Orvis, Simms, Costa and Yeti have jumped on the bandwagon in acknowledging the lucrative female market, they have among their objectives a goal of an even gender split in fly fishing by 2020 – this seems very ambitious – but lets go girls!

Reminder

“Please send photos, articles and reports to:

newsletter.dffc@gmail.com

or hand in at the meeting.”

I have been fortunate to meet and fish with some incredibly talented and inspiring women. Every one has been so generous in sharing their knowledge with me.

I started off with a great foundation by attending Girls Gone Fly Fishing at Peter Hayes’ at Cressy. It was a great 3 days spent with some of the best female fly fishers in Australia – and Heather Hodson from the US.



The euro nymphing weekend with Casey Pfeiffer was outstanding. Casey is such a talented angler and boy o boy can that girl wade! Everyone caught multiple fish, I caught 8 over the two days and learnt so much.



My most recent trip to Milbrook Lakes was fantastic. What an incredible fishery Milbrook Lakes is. There are a total of 28 lakes spread throughout a relatively close distance, each holding some stunning brown and rainbow trout – the largest fish caught for the weekend was an 8lb rainbow.

I'm really looking forward to Bronte Camp in January and learning from members of our club.



Milbrook Ladies

Casting around with Allan Ekert



A Bit of Fluff

Now that I have your attention and have upset all the feminists I had better tell you that this month I am writing about what you tie on the end of your line when you are practicing your casting. That bright bit of wool or yarn is commonly referred to as “fluff” and every casting instructor uses it and so do you if you practice. The fluff is there to simulate a fly without the dangers that go with hooks. It’s highly visible and acts just like a real fly when you make a cast ... or does it?

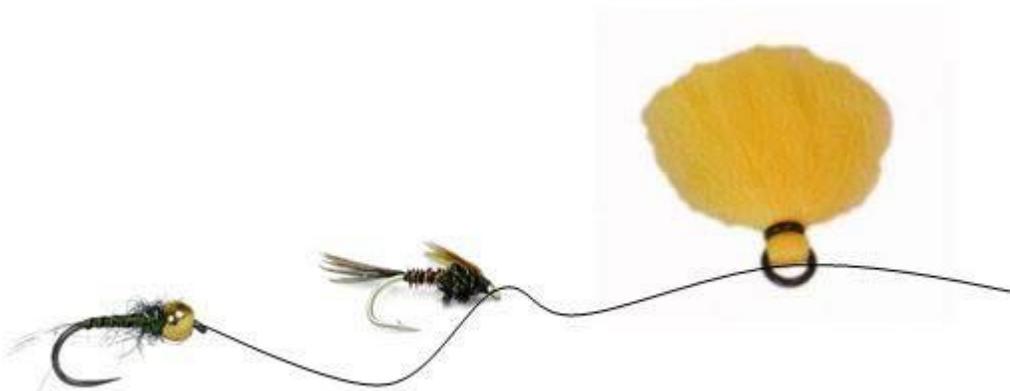
Fluff is not a fly. It may be the same size and weight as **some** flies and it may react the same way as **some** flies but it does not cast like **all** flies. It is a convenient and safe option to tie on your line when you want to practice. But when you are fishing you don’t use a fly just like your piece of fluff. Fishing flies have a metal hook inside and vary in shape, size, weight and aerodynamics. And therein lies the problem of practicing with a bit of fluff.



I'd hate to calculate how much time I have spent casting a bit of fluff backwards and forwards in the park. To pass the Casting Instructors exam I needed hours of practice and everything had to be done with a piece of fluff. Competition casting is done with a piece of fluff. Then there is the time spent practicing and enjoying the relaxing and therapeutic benefits of casting loops. Practicing with a piece of fluff can make you a great caster ... but not necessarily a great fly fisher. To be a great fly fisher you have to learn to cast **flies**.

Flies are imitations of natural food sources we cast while fly fishing. They are made with [furs](#), [feathers](#), [thread](#) or other materials tied onto a [fish hook](#). Artificial flies can represent all manner of [freshwater](#) and [saltwater](#) fish [food](#) including [aquatic](#) and [terrestrial insects](#), [crustaceans](#), [worms](#), [baitfish](#), [vegetation](#), [flesh](#), small [reptiles](#), [amphibians](#), [mammals](#) and [birds](#). So just as a fish's diet is varied, so too is the composition, size, weight and shape of our artificial flies. To be a great fly fisher you need to be able to cast a variety of flies.

All that casting a bit of fluff around is a good starting point but it doesn't prepare you for the range of flies that you have to cast if you are going to become a great fly fisher. Let me give you three examples of the flies you might want to cast and how you have to cast them differently to your piece of fluff. Don't despair, all that practice you have been doing with your piece of fluff will stand you in good stead. Being able to cast tight loops is still the cornerstone of all casting. But there are times when you don't want tight loops and my first example is one of them.



When I first went to Tasmania I had a lot to learn about fishing lakes. Watching and learning from others I soon found using a couple of heavy nymphs and an indicator to be an effective technique when there was nothing happening on the surface. In Tasmania you can fish up to three flies on your leader and when you



do the last thing you want is a super sharp loop – unless you like undoing tangles! The secret to casting multiple flies, including dry flies, is to keep your loops open. This works best when you have a following

breeze, or if you are in Tasmania, a following gale. Casting multiple flies into the wind should be avoided if possible. Casting into the wind requires tight loops and high line speed which is a recipe for disaster when

you are casting a multi fly rig. So next time you practice with a piece of fluff try tying on a few pieces and adding some weight. You will learn about making wide, smooth loops and be better prepared for catching those Tasmanian lake trout.



I'm more likely to be casting heavy clousers for flathead these days than multiple nymphs for trout. A clouser is just about as far removed from a piece of fluff as you can get. They are bigger and heavier so you have to make some changes to your casting stroke to stay safe and get your fly out there. The problem with really heavy flies is that as soon as they stop moving they begin to fall out of the sky. If you try casting them like a bit of fluff you will be in trouble. The answer is to keep the fly moving and don't let it stop long enough to fall. This involves keeping the fly under constant tension using a cast called the Oval or Belgian cast. If you don't know how to make a Belgian cast I suggest you take a look at some videos (or see a casting instructor). You can get the hang of it with your piece of fluff but to learn it properly you need to add some weight to your practice routine. Rig up your second best rod, tie on a sinker and wear a helmet! Make sure you practice the constant tension cast before you fish with heavy flies if you want to be a great fly fisher.



I'm off to New Zealand next month to get my fix of trout fishing. Despite all my practice with a piece of fluff I know the greatest difficulty I will have is judging where my fly is in the air so I can make that one perfect cast. If you have fished the crystal clear waters of New Zealand you will know how big trout like small flies and big trout don't like sloppy casts. If you don't get it right the first time your next cast is going to have even less chance of fooling that fish. Practicing with a nice big colourful piece of fluff can lull you into a false sense of security. My eyes are not as good as they used to be and being able to see a size 18 nymph at forty feet is no easy feat! I can't do much about my eyesight but I can practice with a small nymph instead of the fluff. I've learnt to try and false cast well away from the fish and maybe tick the water so I can see where the fly is and judge my length. Direction tends not to be the problem when you can't see the fly. It's all about the distance.



The other aspect of fly fishing in New Zealand is the need to fish long leaders. Not only do those wary trout require accurate first casts they don't want to see the fly line. Using an 18 foot leader can be a necessity for some fish. Now if you are like me, when you tie your piece of fluff on your line to practice, the leader is probably not much more than 9 foot - if that. When you come to cast a tiny dry or nymph on an 18ft leader all that practice in the park may not help. To be a great fly fisher you need to practice with fluff but vary the length of your leader to be prepared for all possibilities.



There are many more examples of how flies you use in the real world of fly fishing are different to casting a piece of fluff. Think fishing for bass with Dahlbergs or Permit with crab flies. You need to be anticipating how and where you will be fishing and practice accordingly. By all means tie on a piece of fluff and practice as often as you can. You cannot circumvent learning to control your fly line and making good loops. But if you want to be prepared for that special trip, that difficult fish, or casting unusual flies, cut off the fluff and try practicing to be a great fly fisher.

As I finish writing this I can hear the words of Joe Schmakapop ringing in my ears (remember Joe? aka Mel Krieger) *"I can't cast very well but I catch fish ... and I get all the practice I need when I go fishing."* Don't be fooled into thinking you can practice casting different flies **while** you are fishing. Great fly fishers practice **before** they go and make the most of their time on the water.



Tales from Bronte Camp – Anon

Over the many years since the Devonport Fly Fishing club was formed we have had some real characters involved with it and particularly up at Bronte after our club inherited the School for those wanting to learn the art of fly fishing. Quite a lot of our club members had been instructors for the Department of Sport and Recreation when they held this school over many years and were only too willing to step into the same roles for our club when we were approached by Wayne Gaffney to take it over from them.

I shall try to disguise the names of some of these characters so as not to cause any embarrassment to them or their families if they have since passed on or are no longer for whatever reason involved with our club.

One of these characters used to grow his own fur coat and was as tough as teak, he would arrive at the school in the middle of the night and you could hear the rattle of him coming for miles away as his wood heater would be rattling around in his aluminium dingy, which never ever seemed to be tired down to tight. He would set up camp in the dark and on one occasion when some of the other people involved wandered down to say G'day to him he was sitting on his bed wearing gumboots in about six inches of water eating a bowl of wheat- bix, apparently he had set up camp a bit too close to the lake which had risen during the night. On a real cold day he was known to load up the wood heater in his Tinnie and head to Lake King William, where he kept it burning all day and it would still be burning when he returned to camp.



© Georges Remi

There were also times when the camp finished that he pulled out heading for home with smoke still pouring out of the flue of his heater. He was always prepared to take learners with him fishing and had a true blue heart willing to help anyone at all.

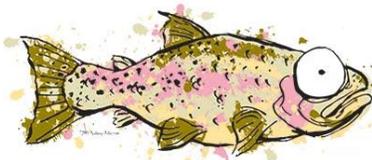
Stories were told of him by others that had known him for years of him hunting roo with hounds on the slopes of the western tiers and on one occasion lost his dogs and said he wouldn't go home without them, he supposedly curled up in the base of a hollow tree and spent the night there until finding his dogs next morning. He was a real character, which we were lucky to know, and have as a member of our club.



Another of these characters first attended the Bronte school as a student when it was run by Sport and Rec, another bloke with good old fashioned values, but could at times become rather ‘Pig headed’ and stubborn. He had worked with a chap that was apparently a very good fly fisherman and used to brag to our mate every Monday about the tremendous weekend he had catching heaps of fish. It was enough to inspire our mate to go and purchase a complete fly fishing outfit. He then went to work and said to his mate that he had bought the outfit with all the bells and whistles so he expected his mate to teach him how to use it. He was told that he would have to go and learn on his own as he and others had done, he never spoke to our mate again about fishing. This bloke had a fly that he designed in Max Stokes’s book about Tasmanian trout fly patterns too, so it would be reasonable to think he would have helped a mate that he had worked with for years.

Our mate had fished or poached the Western Lakes for years and was trying to turn over a new leaf and become reformed. Through the school he became a founding member of our club and still attended the annual Bronte school to help out in any way he could and was a real character around the camp where you would hear his booming laugh throughout the scrub at all hours back in the days when everyone camped up among the trees. His biggest wish was to catch a good sized trout to hang in his safe to show off to everyone else.

Eventually the opportunity presented itself when he and another member were invited to go around to Highland Waters with a couple of students, one of whose brother owned a block there. Away went the pair to have a crack around there and see how they went. Our mate was told that if he caught a rainbow he could keep it, but all browns had to be released and no landing nets could be used. Neither of the students wanted to fish but simply observe how our members went about it. As darkness began to fall one of our members spotted a fish moving and feeding and threw a fly out in front of it, which it sucked right into its mouth. After landing the fish, a Rainbow, he went to return to the water and spotted another fish moving within casting distance of our mate.



RAINBOW TROUT

He told told him by the hand of a clock where he should cast, which he did and consequently hooked it. All of the lessons our mate had learnt over the years about landing fish and not rushing them went out the window and he stared as fast as he could toward skull dragging the fish as he went and calling out “It’s a lovely Rainbow “. He would have had no idea what it was in the dark and put it into the back of his fly vest. He didn’t actually know that it was in fact a Rainbow until they got back to camp and cleaned them. He nearly tore his safe to pieces when hanging the fish in it. His fish was the bigger of the two and would have weighed over five pounds. When asked where they caught their fish, bulldust rolled quite easily off their tongues. Next Morning at the meeting our old mate poked his chest out telling the students and anyone else that would listen about how he had tricked and unloaded his fish, however upon returning to his camp the fish were gone and there were two cardboard cut-outs hanging in his safe instead. He was quite shattered, but on the day the camp finished, the fish just as mysteriously reappeared in his safe. The culprits have never really divulged that it was them but simply hinted at it.



Another of our foundation and very good members was known to drop off to sleep anywhere and at any time of the day or night, claiming it was because of shift work.

Well he purchased himself a float tube after trying out one belonging to another member the year before at the camp. He was advised by another of our members, who fished out of one on a regular basis, our mate took the information on board, so did what had been suggested. Now those among you that have never fished out of one may not know that to get into the water it requires walking

backwards wearing flippers until deep enough to float. Our mate was wearing a large sombrero and walked backwards before throwing himself backward into the water, where the float tube which was underinflated wrapped itself up around our mate until only the sombrero was visible above the float tube and water. Needless to say our other member that had advised him not to pump it up too tight had vanished. Not to be deterred our mate pumped it up tight and ventured back into the lake where everything worked perfectly, perhaps a little too perfect. There was no fish action and our mate lay back in the tube which is like sitting in an armchair and promptly fell asleep. While away in the land of Nod the breeze got up and gently blew him across the lake where he didn't wake until his feet touched the shore on the opposite side of Bronte Lagoon and the breeze by this time was too strong to attempt to go back into the water and try to kick his way back across the lake. I'm not sure how long he kept it before selling it off after this incident.

These were good times with very good people and the school has benefited greatly with some of the past students becoming extremely good members of our club.



Just one month until the next Bronte Fly Fishing School.

Our Bronte camp provides a friendly atmosphere where stories are shared, knowledge is acquired and the instructors who donate their time are more than approachable and willing to help. This is the only school/camp of its kind in Tasmania and has been held for a number of years. The school/camp is designed for adults and supervised children from 8 years young who wish to learn the art of fly fishing. Families are especially welcome.



**ANNUAL BRONTE
FLY FISHING
SCHOOL®
BRONTE LAGOON
Sun 5th to Fri 10th JAN 2020**

This Fly Fishing Camping School is for 6 days and designed for Novice and Intermediate Anglers.

Based at Bronte Lagoon, all aspects of Fly Fishing are taught with a team of experienced tutors and administered by the DEVONPORT FLY FISHING CLUB INC.

CLOSING DATE 15/12/2019 OR 30 STUDENTS ENROLLED, WHICHEVER COMES FIRST.

For further information and details contact any of the following: -

Noel Walker	(03) 6424 2244
David Best	(03) 6424 6628
Wayne Bellette	0418 138 672
Barry Jacobson	0400 930 528

or Devonport Fly Fishing Club Inc.
PO Box 956, Devonport 7310

Email: nwal4560@bigpond.net.au

Web Site: www.devonportflyfishingclub.net.au

CLASSIC TAKE - A PROVEN FISH TAKER – Stuart MacAulay

The fly was the Bassano Hi -Vis Emerger as pictured and tied by Yours Truly.

Tom Harrison and myself went up to a local hotspot of mine a week or so ago during mid-week to ensure we had this idyllic locale to ourselves, we were not to be disappointed.



The red spinners were up and the fish cruising close in and spasmodically rising to porpoise to an unsuspecting victim.

I decided to give Tom some space as he was zeroing in on a nice Brown



which was working it's beat and go to other side of water where we knew there was a good Rainbow lie from previous visits.

On arrival at this spot sure enough there was a good rainbow of healthy proportions patrolling other side of channel and with the wind blowing straight in my face and the steep embankment not affording me a good cast, I decided to wait, but not for long as I sighted another rise not far up the same bank I was on, I waited and watched to determine the feeding pattern of this fish.



After determining pattern, I moved into position and waited. I was expecting this fish to show itself to my left but low and behold it appeared on my right side. I froze so not to give myself or position away. I got a great look at



fish, A brown of good healthy proportions, once he had passed and continued making spasmodic rises further up shore I watched intently expecting it to do a large circular beat, no it didn't, it turned and commenced retreating back towards my position.



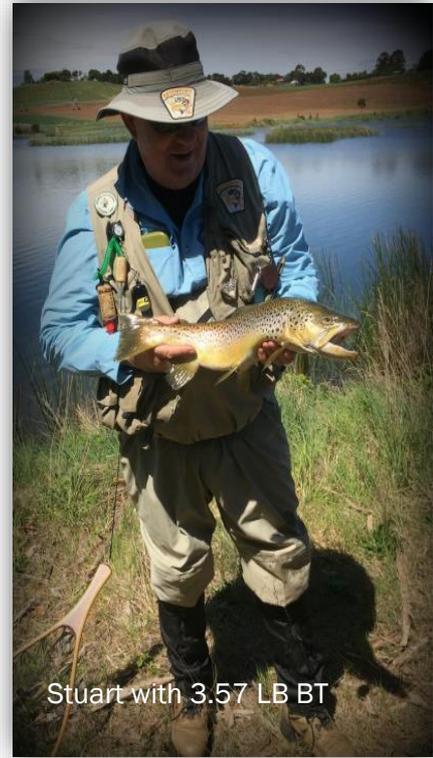


Red Tag

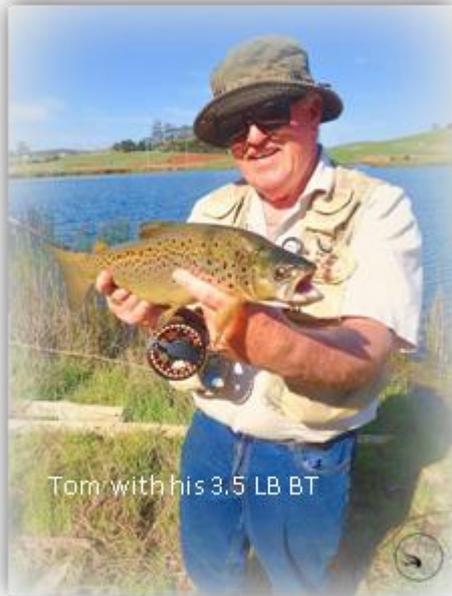
I carefully laid my Hi-Vis Emerger out about 1.5 metres from the bank and waited in anticipation. My heart was thumping and almost leaping out of my chest, the feeling unbearable.

What exuberance you feel though when you see your prey sight your fly, the one you have tied lovingly yourself on a

Barbless Hook taking time to detail/perfect and this trout sights it from 1 – 2 metres away and commences ascending to the surface then at the last second breathtakingly you see that lovely white flash of mouth and inevitable water disturbance and he engulfs that fly confidently and turns downward, I waited a millisecond before gently lifting the rod tip on my Sage One 6 Weight to set the hook ... success the battle was on.



Stuart with 3.57 LB BT



Tom with his 3.5 LB BT

I was acutely aware that I was only using 5LB tippet

and of course a Fulling Mill Barbless Dry Fly hook so knew I had to take my time and keep contact with fish at all times and of course the embankment was very steep and water too deep to enter below me so best opportunity was to tire this fish out and beach him on the matted strap weed on surface near shore. We had a great game of tug and war and unfortunately for the fish after about 8 minutes or so I won this battle as you will see from photograph Tom took of me proudly holding this fish weighing 3.57LB. I would have released this fish had the opportunity availed itself, but the fight had been

too long to ensure the survival of this fish.

I mentioned above the words “Fish I won this time” I’m very happy with the success of late of the flies I have been tying for my FB page “Flies at 45”. Tom has caught his first 2 fish in Tasmania since November 2018 on Dry Flies, a Red Tag & a Red Spinner pattern. Myself I have had success with the “SPUN” other spirited takes on both the “CDC Emerger” and the “Possum Parachute Emerger” and the “Possum Emerger with the Pink Hot Spot” (Photographs all included with Link to Flies at forty-five). 2 other quality fish landed and 4/5 either busted off due to mistakes I have made, or the Trout have simply won because they know the terrain so well such as location of every snag or get under thick weed and use to advantage. <https://www.facebook.com/flysatfortyfive/>



I would like to say a special thanks to my fishing buddy Tom Harrison who is just as much a Tragic! or passionate about fishing the fly as me and will spend hours upon hours out there pursuing this wonderful sport, not driving means I do not get out without the likes of Tom and others from the DFFC who have assisted me in the past.

To coin the phrase made by a notable Fly Tyer and former trout guide on a YouTube that he was demonstrating the Tyng of many flies, he made the point that he was not a smart guy and therefore plagiarised many flies, I share that point of view in so much as I have not created a pattern of my own or can I call any my own and as you all know there are 10's of thousands of patterns and variants out there in this world and the internet and the use of You Tube and Facebook has brought us all much closer so again in my opinion it's great to share in this fashion.

I acknowledge the work and efforts of Fly Tyers such as Chris Bassano, Neil Grose, Brian McCullagh Ashley Artis and many others too numerous to mention who have tied flies and acknowledging the origins perceived or true of that particular pattern. Because time is so precious in this fast-moving world, I have not as consequence approached specific Tyers before placing flies on my Facebook page for sale or otherwise. If anyone takes offence at this practice, then I apologise in advance. Many who I have spoken to also follow same practice as I so I'm not alone here. I would also like readers of this article to understand that not to receive some meagre amount of money to replace materials will jeopardise continuance in my Fly-Tying journey as I'm not in receipt of any other form of income since late 2015 and still not on a pension until next year.

Thank you for reading and hopefully your understanding.

Stuart MacAulay

Recipe – Trout with Herbs, Mushrooms and Papperdelle

INGREDIENTS

- 1 large trout fillett, skinned and boned
- 3 Tablespoons olive oil
- 1 medium brown onion, diced
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 4 Swiss brown mushrooms sliced or other veg of choice
- Rosemary, oregano, sage sprigs and flat leaf parsley
- 2 cups white wine (one for the recipe and one for the chef)
- 250g Parmesan cheese
- Ground pepper and salt to taste
- 1 packet papperdelle (wide ribbon pasta)
- ½ cup cream (optional)
- Water for boiling pasta

METHOD

Cut trout fillet into bite sized pieces. In heavy pan, heat olive oil and saute garlic, onion and mushrooms. Add torn herbs. With high heat, add half wine, stir and reduce the heat. Add pasta to boiling salted water. As the wine is reducing add parmesan and fish, add more wine if too thick, season. Strain pasta and add to the sauce.



The Art of Polaroiding

Tasmania's summer months are synonymous with polaroiding. We have more sunny days, therefore many more opportunities for success.

The sky

The sun is obviously an important factor that affects the number and distance at which you can spot fish. More sunlight gives greater vision, whilst overcast conditions reduces the distance of effective polaroiding. Another important factor is the angle of the sun. Early in the day the sun is low and doesn't penetrate the water as much as when it is overhead.

Between 11am and 3pm is when the sun is at it's best for perfect light penetration.



Try to make sure you are on the eastern shore in the morning and western shore in the afternoon, this will ensure the sun is behind you at all times.

The water clarity

The dirtier the water, the more difficult the fish are to see at a distance, but then it is also difficult for them to see you. In dirty water the fish will often get close before spooking and don't so much mind poor presentation.

Colour of the bottom and depth at which the fish are cruising will also affect your ability to spot them. A sandy bottom is an ideal backdrop but has less food for the fish to feed on. A weedy or rocky bottom usually has more food and so more fish, but has less contrast between the fish and the bottom, making them more difficult to spot. The deeper the fish are cruising, the more difficult they are to see and rainbows generally cruise deeper than browns.

Gear

The most important piece of equipment are polaroid sunglasses. Colour is a matter of personal preference, however they should fit your face snugly so as not to let light in at the sides, above or below. Glass lenses are more superior than plastic and dark lenses are more suited to saltwater. A broad brimmed will enhance the impact of your polaroids.



Most fish are caught at short range, therefore a lighter, faster rod allows for better presentation. Many advocate a high floating weight forward fly line which will enable you to load the rod much more quickly. You are aiming for speed and accuracy!

Keep fly selection simple, various size Red Tag when the beetles have fallen and emerger or spinner patterns. Generally presentation of about 1 to 1.5 metres out in front of the fish enabling the fish to swim onto the fly is ideal. If the fish happens to be swimming directly at you and is close, the best presentation is to cast slightly to one side so it detect the fly land and has to turn away in order to eat it.

Finally degrease your tippet and avoid false casts, shorter is better.



Club Calendar

December

Sunday 15 th	End of year BBQ	Winspears Dam
Wednesday 18 th	Club event – 4.30 – late (Reid McLaughlan)	Sunnyside

January 2020

Sunday 5 th Fri 10 th Jan	Bronte Fly Fishing School	Bronte Lagoon
Sunday 19 th Jan	Club Event 4.00 – late (Danny Thomas)	South Riana Dam
Wednesday 22 nd Jan	Club Event 4.30 – late (Reid McLaughlan)	Sunnyside
Sat/Sun 25/26 Jan	Euro Nymphing with Casey and Lubin Pfeiffer (if sufficient numbers a second group will be guided by Lubin) email shessofly@outlook.com	Mersey River

February

Saturday 1 st	1 Fly Competition	Penstock
Sunday 2 nd	Club Event	Nineteen Lagoons
Saturday 15 th – Sun 16 th	Tying saltwater flies, Jeff Cassidy	Devon Lodge
Mon 24 th Feb – Sun 1 Mar	Talbots Lagoon trip	Guilford Lodge

March

Saturday 29/Sun 29 th	Club Event – limited numbers	Lake Fergus
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Club Office Bearers

Office Bearers 2019 - 2020

Patron	Ashley Artis, Geoff Wispear		
President	Stan Laskey	0409525492	64241678
Senior Vice President	Max Jones		
Junior Vice President	Damian Hingston		
Secretary	Bruce Marshall		64282197
Assistant Secretary	Vacant		
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Life Members	George Surman, Peter Burr, David Best, Barry Jacobson, Wayne Bellette		