

DEVONPORT NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY 2018
VOLUME 25 NO 2

OUR AIM
**“TO PROMOTE ALL FACETS OF FLY FISHING &
GOOD FELLOWSHIP”**

Club Postal Address Club Inc.

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BRONTE CAMP – 6th to 11th January 2019

Office Bearers 2017 - 2018

Patron	Ashley Artis, Geoff Winspear		
President	John Hepburn		64245113
Senior Vice President	Stan Laskey		64241678
Junior Vice President	Danny Thomas	0429027904	64354240
Secretary	Bruce Marshall		64282197
Assistant Secretary	John Leonard	0418567068	
Treasurer	Reid McLaughlan	0412636109	
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Librarian	Malcolm Murray	0408130092	64284071
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Newsletter Editor Asst.	Tony Scott	0409670399	64911874
Booking Officer	Barry Jacobson	0409 947185	
Bronte Camp Contact	Noel Walker		64242244
Life Members	George Surman, Peter Burr, David Best, Barry Jacobson, Wayne Bellette		

OUR NEXT MEETING DATE IS: MARCH 29, 2018

At the Devonport Library Meeting Room 7:30 pm (Side Entrance)

DFFC Event Schedule 2018

Please Note The yearly calendar was provided in January Newsletter.

Club Trips to Farm Dam Wednesday's 7th and 21st March at 6:00pm onwards

Mark Lamberts at 430 Sunnyside Rd Railton.

Enquiries to Reid McLachlan – reidmcl@bigpond.net.au, 0412 636109

Kayaks and wading are allowed

REMINDER NOTICE FOR AN UPCOMING EVENT

Only for the Ladies

A weekend of Casting Tuition for all levels and beginners

Hosted in Tasmania at Hayes on Brumby's

FULL ORIGINAL NOTICE WAS IN THE JANUARY NEWSLETTER

The weekend is catered for by the famous Jen Guerre.

Date: April 20th Friday 12md -22nd afternoon 2018

Launceston Airport pick up /drop off available

Web page to visit:

Peter Hayes www.flyfishtasmania.com Look under Courses and you will see GGFF

Also visit GGFF face book page

Address of the Location:

Hayes on Brumby's

1696 Cressy Road

Cressy 7302 Tasmania

Contact:

For any information please do not hesitate to contact VFFA member Judith Oliver IFF CCI

juditholi@bigpond.com

Draft Minutes
DEVONPORT FLY FISHING CLUB INC.
Ordinary Meeting held on 22nd February 2018

The Chairman, John Hepburn welcomed all members, new members and guests to the meeting and declared the meeting open.

Meeting Opened: 7.31pm.

Attendance: 21

Apologies: Tony Scott, Damien Hingston, Malcolm Murray, Rex Bramich and Tyson Marshall.

Previous Minutes: Moved Stuart MacAulay, seconded by Roger Hickson, that the minutes of the previous meeting as circulated, with the following amendments, were a true and accurate record. **Carried.**

Amendments. The trip to Lambert's Dam had an error in the address and the cost for returnees at the Bronte Camp in 2019 should have been \$80.

Business arising from minutes of previous meeting.

Appointment of Audit Committee. David Best and Stuart MacAuley have volunteered to be part of this committee.

Planning group proposal (see attachment). This was discussed in general business.

Lodge Insurance (see attachment). As there are still some details to be sought a proposal will be put to the next meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Moved R McLachlan, seconded by Norm Day, that the treasurer's report be accepted and accounts passed for payment. **Carried.**

Correspondence Inwards:

Central Highlands Council – rates instalment.

Roger Evans – membership inquiry.

Correspondence Outwards:

Thank you letters for donations as prizes for the camp raffle.

Roger Evans – membership details.

Moved Stan Laskey, seconded by Col Morley, that the inwards correspondence be accepted and the outwards confirmed. **Carried.**

Business arising from Correspondence

Nil

Reports

Camp committee: Noel reported that there are two expressions of interest for the 2019 Bronte Camp and two enrolments in the returnee program. The Camp Committee will meet on 23rd March.

.Devon Lodge Management Committee:

Phil presented a progress report on issues funded in November 2017. The rubbish heap has been removed and we are waiting on the invoice. Bryan Green has ordered the heating cables for the water pipes and Barry and Bryan will install them when they arrive. The water pipe was buried deeper 12 to 18 months ago and this should prevent it from freezing. John Hepburn is organising an electrician to install an outside power point to provide power to the gas water heater and the heating cables.

Fishing trips:

Lambert's Dam. Two trips 7th March and 21st March from 6.00pm onwards at 430 Sunnyside Road, Railton.

Talbots Lagoon at the beginning of March.

Fly tying for novices in March at Devon Lodge.

Bronte refresher weekends, the second of these weekends is in April.

Fishing reports:

The first Bronte refresher weekend had five attendees and was a successful weekend.

Danny reported that he had a trip to Woods Lake and Gunns Lake with success. The water in Gunns Lake was too shallow to launch his kayak.

Percy reported that Lake Burbury is going okay. The water temperature is high.

Newsletter:

Chairman, John Hepburn, indicated that he has a volunteer to be the newsletter editor and will be organising a contact with Stuart.

Fly tying: The monthly fly tying evenings will commence in April. Please check the calendar for dates.

General Business

The new Devonport Library will be open in August.

John indicated that a memorial trophy in memory of Max French had been discussed. Several ideas were put forward and members are asked to think about this and bring their ideas to the next meeting.

It was suggested a trophy or a prize be awarded for the fishing competitions that are listed in the calendar to generate more interest.

Chairman, John Hepburn said that he had 3 or 4 trophies or honour boards that had come with club equipment. One of these was used at the Bronte Camp this year and awarded to the youngest member to catch a fish. These may be put back into use if the club wishes.

Planning group proposal. It was moved by Stuart MacAulay and seconded by Laurie Baird that the club adopt the proposal of forming a planning group. The motion was carried.

Reid reported that the Fly Fishing museum is closed until further notice because the building is unsafe.

Danny suggested that the controllers from the recent fly fishing championships recount their experiences at the next meeting. Several other suggestions were made for guest speakers.

Joe Hasson thanked members of the club for their hospitality and company shown to him and Joanne during their visit this summer. They look forward to returning later this year.

Chairman, John Hepburn thanked all members for their attendance and closed the meeting.

Meeting Closed: 9.25pm.

Lodge Insurance

This year we paid \$1,003.25 to insure the lodge as follows.

Buildings	\$262,000.10
Contents	\$30,100.00
Defibrillator	\$2,350.00
Total	\$294,450.00

This has been the insured value for quite a while, well before the front extension was built. The contents may seem high, but a minimum amount is built into the premium and there is no point in changing the value.

Floor areas

Main area	109.02 sq m
Front Extension	11.20 sq m
Second bathroom	14.59 sq m
Total	134.81 sq m

Using the RACT suggested value for rebuilding of \$2500 per sq m.

Before the second bathroom and front extension. $\$2,500 \times 109.02 = \$272,550$

With the front extension and second bathroom. $\$2,500 \times 134.81 = \$337,025$

A verbal inquiry indicated that it would cost \$140 more per year to insure the lodge for \$340,000

DFFC Planning Group

The DFFC Planning Group is established as a subcommittee under rule 25 of the constitution. The tenure of the committee is to be ongoing unless decided to the contrary at a club meeting.

Purpose

The planning group is responsible for planning the yearly activities of the club.

Nominations and membership

The planning group is to be made up of the five executive members of the club, the immediate past president and four other members. (We would like to prescribe that some members come from the north and south of the state.)

The group is to be formed at the July meeting and their planning responsibilities would be for the next calendar year

Chairperson.

The chairperson shall be the club president.

Activities, duties and responsibilities.

To organise a program of activities for the club for the next year.

To organise a guest speaker program for the year.

To publish this information in the form of a calendar.

To ensure that all activities have an event leader, venues are booked and that event details are published in the appropriate newsletters.

Meetings

The group is to meet in August, November, February and a fourth meeting prior to the July meeting.

The club secretary is to record the minutes of the meetings and prepare the calendar and meeting agendas.

Reports

The club secretary is to provide the minutes of these meetings at the appropriate monthly club meetings.

Newsletter Internet Links February 2018

How to Dub a Fly Body	http://tinyurl.com/y7l7xseq
Early Season Quill Buzzer	http://tinyurl.com/ydcw93ao
Fly Tying: Tube Flies Part 1	http://tinyurl.com/ydcjsors
Handling Trout in Cold Weather	http://tinyurl.com/y7xce5a7
How to Skagit-Cast with a Single-Hand Rod	http://tinyurl.com/y86k64vc
How to Get Started Tying Flies this Winter	http://tinyurl.com/y8gal3ns
Build Your Own Fly rod DIY 1	http://tinyurl.com/ybn24qps
Build Your Own Fly Rod: DIY Video #2	http://tinyurl.com/y847g6rj
How to Fish Streamers in Small Waters	http://tinyurl.com/ydcxkyva
5 Reasons People Don't Catch As Many Trout As They Should	http://tinyurl.com/ycxzcrku
How to Create a Neat, Small Head on a Fly	http://tinyurl.com/y9cmt3nl
Fly Tying: The Double Barrel Cicada	http://tinyurl.com/yc2rca9f
Loon Fly Tying Tool Kit Review	http://tinyurl.com/y8fqqsks
How Does a Trout Catch a Fly? Marinaro's "Edge of the Window	http://tinyurl.com/ybdbuifk
Video - Kamchatka - In the Words of our Guests	http://tinyurl.com/ybn7i9ld
PT1 Pheasant Tail Nymph	http://www.flytying.ro/
How to Store Wet Waders in Your Car	http://tinyurl.com/y96uacd7
Penny Knot, Step by Step	http://tinyurl.com/y7a3x6sy
Quick Penny Knot	http://tinyurl.com/y8s4r749
Pitzen Knot Tying Instructions	http://tinyurl.com/ybr6jo4s
Advancements in specific nymph rods	http://tinyurl.com/ycqhcdep
There is NO "Correct" Casting Style, So Find Your Own	http://tinyurl.com/y7d3s9ed
Picking the Perfect Fly-Fishing Leader	http://tinyurl.com/y9wg4j34

DEMYSTIFYING SPEY PART 1: LINES - SKAGIT VS SCANDI HEADS	http://tinyurl.com/ya6ov844
DEMYSTIFYING SPEY PART 2: TIPS AND LEADERS	http://tinyurl.com/ydcxah2y
DEMYSTIFYING SPEY PART 3: SHOOTING/RUNNING LINES	http://tinyurl.com/y9qjffg
Video: Learn to Double Haul in 5 Minutes	http://tinyurl.com/y8qoxvq4
Why You Should Always Reel with Your "Right" Hand	http://tinyurl.com/y7fcn2sw
Morphing Loops and Dolphin Noses	http://tinyurl.com/yaqadfve
The Demon Midge	http://tinyurl.com/ybjacq9w
Tasmania, Australia Fly Fishing by Todd Moen	http://tinyurl.com/yc9h2w4b
IS THAT FLY A NYMPH	http://tinyurl.com/y9qdpj5m
How to Cast Big Flies	http://tinyurl.com/yd9fbdyt
How to Catch Trout in Winter	http://tinyurl.com/ybdhwlyo
Fly Fishing Tasmanian Western lakes 'Early Season'	http://tinyurl.com/y9tz7yda
What Kind of First-Aid Kit Should You Carry?	http://tinyurl.com/y9v67qw8
3 TIPS FOR TYING BETTER FISHING KNOTS	http://tinyurl.com/y8vxbugn
Single Hand Skagit - How to Get Started	http://tinyurl.com/yb9hlc2
A Quick Way to Tie a Dropper Knot	http://tinyurl.com/y96utvmo
Whiting Farms: How the world's best hackle is made	http://tinyurl.com/y7ae53gw
CdC tutorial with Marc Petitjean part 1	http://tinyurl.com/y864je6u
CdC tutorial with Marc Petitjean part 2 The May fly	http://tinyurl.com/y6v2tr4k
Another CdC tutorial with Marc Petitjean	http://tinyurl.com/y9znfs7i

**WE NEED YOUR ARTICLES SO WE CAN FILL UP THESE
SPACES.**

**MY APOLOGIES THAT THE NEWSLETTER IS LESS FULL THIS MONTH & OF
COURSE I HAVE REPEATED OLD ARTICLES BUT I DESPARATELY NEED
MATERIAL TO WORK WITH. EDITOR**



Casting Repertoire

May 2014

Last month I wrote about the Oval Cast. It got me thinking about how many different casts there are and how many do we really need to know. Once you have mastered the basic overhead cast where do you go from there?

In his book "Casting Angles"¹ Mac Brown describes over 50 different casts. Some are familiar casts which we all know and use while others could only feature in a book written by a professor of casting ... which Mac was! I wonder if you have heard of all these:

Oval cast, reach cast, pile cast, tuck cast, bucket cast, Belgian cast, puddle cast, steeple cast, pendulum cast, positive C cast, negative C cast, S cast, negative hook cast, horizontal cast, angular rotational thrust C cast, angular rotational thrust pile cast, angular perpendicular thrust and reverse thrust pile casts, negative bucket cast, bounce cast, catch cast, the lazy U cast, line - release cast, downward pile cast, elliptical pile cast, figure-eight pile cast, figure-eight cast, the slack cast, the long-short cast, curve cast, hook cast, check cast, line-pull cast, stagger cast, reverse cast, Galway cast, the catch cast, bow-and-arrow cast, dapping cast, swing cast, wind cast, spey roll cast, distance roll cast, horizontal roll cast, the aerial roll cast, the steeple aerial roll cast, Z-method cast, water-load cast, hybrid-load cast, the triangle cast, altered force cast, the roll cast pickup, horizontal roll cast pickup, hybrid-roll cast pickup. It reminds me of something Lucky Starr might sing about (if you don't know Lucky Starr your music education is sadly lacking. Google is your friend!)

So faced with such a huge number of casts where do you begin? The first cast that most people learn is the basic overhead cast. This enables us to get a fly on the water, lengthen or shorten our line, dry the fly and make a change of direction. For many fly fishers the overhead cast is the only cast they ever use. However, the more you fish the more you realize that you need a greater repertoire of casts to catch a fish. This is why so many different casts have been developed. This month I want to suggest a pathway that can be followed to expand your casting skills. You may have already passed this stage in which case you can read Mac Brown's book and choose some of the more difficult casts to add to your repertoire. If you are just starting out, however, I suggest these are the steps to follow after you have learnt the basic overhead cast.

In some circles, instructors will suggest that the roll cast should be the first cast taught – not the overhead cast. The roll cast is really only the forward half of an overhead cast so logically it should be the first step in learning to cast. There are several more reasons why some instructors would want you to start with the roll cast. It enables you to lay out line ready for the pick up. It is a quick and safe way to get a fly on the water. Once you have mastered the roll cast you can cast without room behind, you can lift a sinking line from the water, and you can counter the wind. If you don't start your fly casting journey with the roll cast it should be first new cast you learn.

After you have the overhead and roll casts under control I suggest the next thing you should learn to do is perform these casts over your opposite shoulder. In other words you need to be able to cast your fly and line on either side of your body. If you can't do this you will never cope with the wind. Of course, the alternative to learning to cast across your body is to learn to cast with either hand. It is not as difficult as it may sound and will provide opportunities to make casts no matter which way the wind may blow. Make sure you can deliver a fly from the left or right before you attempt to learn any other casts. The effort will be worth it.

If you fish moving water the next thing you should work on is mending. Mending is the repositioning of the line on the water or in the air after the fly has been cast. Technically, it is not a cast as it takes place after the rod has stopped. Whatever you call it, it is essential that you are able to perform these manoeuvres. By reaching out to the left or right as the fly is placed on the water a reach mend can counter the current in a river or even the movement of the boat on a lake. Dabbing or flicking coils of line on the water can extend a drag free drift or keep a nymph near the bottom. Learn to mend your line and your chances of catching fish will increase in leaps and bounds.

The next stage in the casting curriculum that I suggest you study and learn involves presentation casts. Mac Brown calls them “enlightenment” casts because we have to be “enlightened” to different ways to present the fly. These are not advanced casts but subtle changes to what you already do designed to present the fly to a fish without scaring the daylights out of it. The first thing you need to be able to do is get the fly, leader and line to touch the water gently. Practice this on the water on a calm day. Count the number of seconds it takes for the ripples to dissipate from your presentation. If you can still see a disturbance after about 5 seconds your line is hitting the water too hard. Next you need to be able to add slack to achieve a drag free drift. Learn the wiggle or pile cast. If you want to catch more fish you must practice presentation casts.

To round out your casting repertoire you need a cast to cope with those days when the wind is so bad you wished you had stayed at home. The oval cast is a good starting point. For any wind casting you must be able to double haul. In the casting curriculum the double haul provides the ultimate challenge. Once mastered you are on your way to becoming a complete angler. Practice the timing and the constant tension that will generate high line speed and you will make longer casts and be able to fish in any weather conditions.

You don't have to be able to make 50 different casts to be a successful angler. If you follow the pathway I have suggested you will be able to cope with just about every situation you will confront in a lifetime of fly fishing. When you are ready to learn more there are always people like Mac Brown with a list of new casts to add to your repertoire. Wherever you go next in your fly fishing journey there is always something more to learn and, as Lucky Starr reminds us, someone who has been there and done that.

¹ Mac Brown (1977). *Casting Angles*. Highland Press. Bryson City, NC 28713:

ISBN 1-890485-00-4



A Ilan E kert

International Federation of Fly Fishers

Certified Fly Casting Instructor

June 2012 Newsletter

How good is your casting?

Are you an expert caster? Most of what I have written in past issues of *Casting Corner* has been aimed at those starting out in fly fishing. This month I want to focus on the expert casters among us. How do you know if you're an expert? Well read on.


To find out if you are an expert the best way is to compare your cast to that of an expert. My definition of an expert caster is someone who can place the fly exactly where they want in any conditions effortlessly and consistently. Unless you fish regularly with a Master Casting Instructor you don't often get the chance to make that comparison. But if you want to know how good your casting is you need to test your skills against the experts.

This is where technology comes in. Thanks to the efforts of two American fly fishers we can use technology to analyze our cast and compare it to that of real experts. That technology is the *Fly Casting Analyzer*.



Bruce Richards of Scientific Angler fame and Professor Noel Perkins of the University of Michigan first developed the Sage FlycasEng Analyzer to be used by Sage fly shops. Now in a more compact form with a new name the [Fly CasEng Analyzer](#) is available for anyone to use and analyze their cast. The Analyzer measures nine parts of a fly cast: peak speed, casting arc, smoothness ratio, deceleration, stop, rod load, creep, drift and symmetry. The Analyzer then allows you to compare your cast in all these key areas with casters that are regarded as the best in the business.

This is how it works. A Palm Pilot gathers information from a gyro attached to the fly rod. The gyro measures the rate at which the rod rotates while false casting. Results can be read straight from the Palm Pilot or downloaded to a computer for further analysis and printing. The reports can pinpoint how close all aspects of your cast are to those of the experts. Here is part of an Analyzer report.



CASTING ANALYZER

CAST SUMMARY

Allan Ekert
(633) 419-48

Rod model:
Reel model:
Line:
Cast: 40'

Cast Name: TCR28_6_2

	Forward Cast			Back Cast		
	YOU	EXPERT	COMMENTS	YOU	EXPERT	COMMENTS
Cast Symmetry	90	100	Excellent			
Cast Arc	59	66	Needs work	65	66	Good
Creep	0	0	Good	0	0	Good
Smoothness Ratio	3.2	2.4	Excellent	3.2	2.4	Excellent
Peak Speed	233	260	Good	-210	-260	Needs work
Deceleration	-2137	-2200	Good	1696	2200	Good
Stop	10	30	Excellent	-52	-30	Needs work
Rod Load	40	25	Excellent	20	25	Good

Symmetry

Cast Symmetry

Your Score: 90

Expert Score: 100

Result: Excellent

Your cast exhibits 90% symmetry. This is very close to the expert's symmetry of 90% or greater. Symmetry this high is often a good indicator of good technique and casting efficiency. Peak rotation speed is 233 degrees/sec on the forward cast, -210 degrees/sec on the back cast.

Cast Arc

Forward Cast

Your Score: 59

Expert Score: 66

Result: Needs work

Your rod arc is 59 degrees, the expert's arc is 66 degrees. Your arc is significantly smaller than the expert's arc indicating you may be throwing a trailing loop. Rotate the rod more to open the casting arc significantly.

Back Cast

Your Score: 65

Expert Score: 66

Result: Good

Your rod arc is 65 degrees, the expert's arc is 66 degrees. Your arc is slightly smaller than the expert's. Try to rotate the rod just a little bit more to open up the casting arc slightly.

Creep

Forward Cast

Your Score: 0

Expert Score: 0

Result: Good

No creep detected.

Back Cast

Your Score: 0

Expert Score: 0

Result: Good

No creep detected.

Smoothness Ratio

Forward Cast

Your Score: 3.2

Expert Score: 2.4

Result: Excellent

Your smoothness ratio is 3.2. The expert's smoothness ratio is 2.4. This indicates very smooth power application, usually an indication of good loops and efficient power application. Working to make your smoothness ratio even lower will yield worthwhile results. Very good.

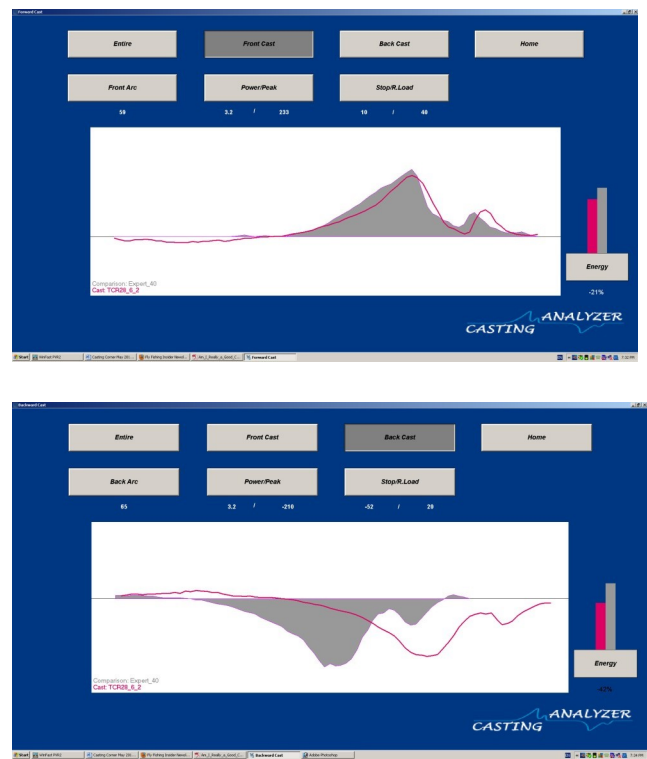
Back Cast

Your Score: 3.2

Expert Score: 2.4

Result: Excellent

Your smoothness ratio is 3.2. The expert's smoothness ratio is 2.4. This indicates very smooth power application, usually an indication of good loops and efficient power application. Working to make your smoothness ratio even lower will yield worthwhile results. Very good.



looks complicated but when examined carefully the reports allows a fly casting instructor to quickly analyze all aspects of a person's cast and by comparing the data to that of the experts quantify how good the cast was. Now we can answer the question: are you an expert?

For those not yet in the expert category the report can also be used to help spot flaws that are not always visible to the unaided eye. Once pinpointed these faults can be worked on and the Analyzer can be used to map progress. Casting skills will improve if you understand how a good cast is achieved.

I have a Fly CasEng Analyzer which I use to check my casting. When you practice on your own it is good to be able to know how well you are casting and where you can improve. I don't use it all the time but often enough to have come to the conclusion that I am not an expert. I come close at times but the Analyzer always seems to find some aspect of my cast that needs work.

If you would like to know how your casting compares to the experts or if you would like to find ways to improve your casting the Fly CasEng Analyzer might help you. I am happy to make this technology available to members of our club. If you would like your cast analyzed all you have to do is email me at allan.ekert@yahoo.com.au and I will arrange a suitable time. For more information on the Fly CasEng Analyzer you can go to: <http://castanalysis.com/>



Five steps to Becoming a Better Caster

February 2015

No matter how well you can cast now there is always room for improvement. You might not realize it or be prepared to admit it but no one's casting is perfect all the time. Once you can cast well enough to start catching fish the emphasis shifts from learning to cast to learning how to catch. In the rush to study when to strike, how to play a fish, flies, fishing lies, weather patterns, river levels, and all the other essentials to catch a fish, improving your casting often gets neglected.

It's only when we start not catching fish that we recognize the importance of improving our casting. When we find ourselves in situations where we can't present the fly or our casts spook every fish we see our attention returns to casting. It should never have left. Casting requires constant practice and refinement. Even the best fly fishers work on their casting. So here are some important steps to take to improve your casting. Follow them carefully and your casting and catching is sure to improve.

Step 1. Get motivated.

In my first ~~Casting~~ **Casting Corner**¹ article I wrote about my first trip to New Zealand. I thought I could cast until I experienced the dreaded winds of the South Island and had to give up my chance to cast to fish because I couldn't put my fly on the water. On my return to Australia I was determined to improve my casting – and to go back to New Zealand. The motivation generated from this experience eventually lead me to becoming a Certified Casting Instructor.

When you find yourself out of your comfort zone and confronted by new challenges you have to improve your casting skills to cope. Once motivated it is amazing what you can do. If you want to improve your casting you have got to **want** to improve your casting.

Step 2. Get instruction.

I don't know how many people I've met who have told me that they taught themselves to cast and it has taken them years to get to where they are now. When you watch them cast you can see why. Casting is a complex skill. You can learn it yourself but if you want to learn quickly and as painlessly as possible you need the right instruction. This can come from a friend, club instructor, books and videos or a professional. If you are serious it should come from a qualified instructor. Not all great fly fishers are great teachers and if you are looking for someone to improve your casting you need a great teacher. Whether it is learning the basic casts or how to use a double handed rod you need proper instruction. It's hard enough to learn new skills without having to “unlearn” bad habits first.

Step 3. Get out and practice.

All the instruction in the world won't improve your casting unless you get out there and practice. This is where the motivation comes in. You have to make the time to practice and be committed to put in the hours. I've already written about practice in two previous articles² so I won't labour the point here. Needless to say, if you want to improve you **must** practice.

Step 3. Look behind you.

Some of you may remember the Punch and Judy puppet shows. Audience participation is encouraged and the characters are often warned of what is happening behind their backs by loud cries of “look behind you!”. When I am watching people cast I often have to bite my tongue to stop myself from calling out to “look behind you!” The backcast is where a good cast is made and faults and errors are generated.

Everyone should look at their backcast. When you are fishing you don't want to be watching your backcast all the time but it pays to take a look every now and then to make sure things are happening back there as they should. When you are practicing you should watch your backcast all the time.

Now looking at your backcast can be difficult and not good for neck muscles so you need to take care how you do it. Having an open stance and rotating the whole body will help. When you are choosing an area to practice your casting make sure you can turn and watch your backcast without looking into the sun. However you do it, looking at your backcast will lead to improved casting.

Step 4: Do less.

With nothing on TV over the holiday period I spent some time watching fly fishing videos. As is my want, I spent more time looking at the casting than the fish. These videos usually feature excellent fly fishers catching big fish in beautiful locations. Despite this, I found myself thinking about how they could improve their casting. A common thread in most of the casting was that they could have done what they did with less- less false casts and less power. By reducing the number of false casts and the force applied you reduce the chances of spooking fish. By reducing the number of false casts and power you save energy. If you think about the great casters you know the words "smooth" and "effortless" spring to mind. This comes about through the use of less power and less strokes. To improve your casting, do less.

Step 5: Compete

I am a bit ambivalent when it comes to competition and fly fishing. I could never become a competition fly fisher partly because my skills are not good enough but mainly because I go fishing to enjoy myself. Fish put me under enough pressure without worry about competing with others. On the one hand you can learn a lot from competing with others. The inter-club casting challenge is a great way to get motivated to practice and improve. Watching others cast and trying to match their skills can teach you a lot. You don't need to get involved in serious competition to reap the benefits. A little friendly competition can do wonders to improve your casting.

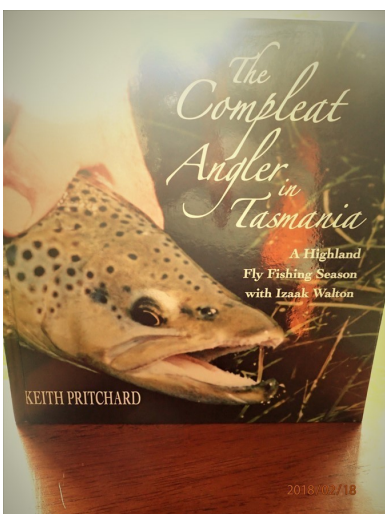
If you want your casting to improve, motivate yourself to practice, get some good coaching, analyze what you do, think less is more and have a go at friendly competition. We never reach perfection but follow these steps and you will get closer and closer every year.

¹ Casting Corner October 2011 available on the Corralinn web site at <http://corralinn.weebly.com/casting.html>

² Casting Corner November 2011 and April 2013 available on the Corralinn web site at <http://corralinn.weebly.com/casting.html>

BOOK REVIEW

I recently read for the second time the book entitled "THE COMPLEAT ANGLER IN TASMANIA" A Highland Fly Fishing Season With Isaak Walton. By Keith Pritchard (Deceased).



I guess we all have a few questions as to why we pursue Fly Fishing in the manner a lot of us do and it can become quite expensive if we allow it to.

My first read I thought it was sort of trending a bit towards religious overtones and of course Keith Pritchard was an Anglican (Priest) however on the second read I was unable to put the book down and a lot of the added in quotes were from the original Compleat Angler book published in 1640'ish by Isaac Walton. (I believe this book was one of the Classics & treasured.)

Anyway it answered a lot of my questions and it also provided a report month by month of a years fishing in the highlands, so it is a worthwhile read.

Stuart MacAulay

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