

**DEVONPORT  
FLY FISHING CLUB INC.**

**NEWSLETTER**



**VOLUME 17 No 2**

**February 2010**

OUR AIM  
“TO PROMOTE ALL FACETS OF FLYFISHING  
AND GOOD FELLOWSHIP”

**Club Postal Address Club Inc.**

Devonport Fly Fishing Club Inc.  
PO Box 956  
Devonport Tas 7310

www.devonportflyfishingclub.net.au

Please send articles to either of the  
following:

**Newsletter Editor**

**Stephan Muther**  
38 Morris Avenue  
Devonport TAS 7310

Email: hsmuether@internode.on.net

**BRONTE CAMP STARTS 9th January 2011**

***Office Bearers 2009– 2010***

<b><i>Patron</i></b>	<i>Ashley Artis</i>		
<b><i>President</i></b>	<i>Reid McLachlan</i>		6496 1768
<b><i>Senior Vice President</i></b>	<i>Athol McPherson</i>		64270568
<b><i>Junior Vice President</i></b>	<i>Anthony Maney</i>		
<b><i>Secretary</i></b>	<i>Trent Rigby</i>		0439 155 305
<b><i>Treasurer</i></b>	<i>David Best</i>		6424 6628
<b><i>Security Officer</i></b>	<i>David Best</i>		6424 6628
<b><i>Librarian</i></b>	<i>Malcolm Murray</i>	0408 130 092	64284071
<b><i>Newsletter Editor</i></b>	<i>Stephan Muther</i>		6423 6610
<b><i>Booking Officer</i></b>	<i>Barry Jacobson</i>	0409 947 185	6272 2597
<b><i>Bronte Camp Contact</i></b>	<i>Martin Hulsman</i>	6424 3648	
<b><i>Life Members</i></b>	<i>Mr. George Surman</i>		
	<i>Mr. Peter Burr</i>		

**OUR NEXT MEETING DATE IS: March 25, 2010**

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

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## 2010

- March 10<sup>th</sup>** Fishing trip to Brushy Lagoon 6.00 pm
- March 21<sup>st</sup>** Fishing trip Four Springs 3.00 pm
- March 25<sup>th</sup>** General Meeting-Devonport Library 7.30 pm
- April 8<sup>th</sup>** Fly tying – Devonport Library 7.30 pm
- October 2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>** Cressy Trout Expo

### NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

On January 12<sup>th</sup> Tom Cardlidge one of the founding members of our club passed away. Ian Shearing wrote an obituary which is printed on the next two pages.

Last month two interesting fishing trips took place. John Clark sent a detailed report on the Talbots trip hosted by the North West Fly Fishing Club. Thanks John. People who are interested in the activities of the NWFFC should regularly check on [www.nwffc.org.au](http://www.nwffc.org.au) where you can download the newsletter (Jassid) too.

Unfortunately I didn't receive a written report on the fishing trip to Lake Burbury. David Best gave a lengthy verbal report during our last meeting. Fishing at Lake Burbury can be very productive when the weather is right. We will make the Burbury trip an annual event in our fishing calendar. I was asked to choose a hopper or tadpole pattern for this month's fly tying page. I didn't, because I want to introduce the flies which are tied during our club activities. David might reserve a tying session for those two patterns for this year. Fly tying starts at April 8<sup>th</sup>. Information on material needed will be in the next newsletter.

I'm pleased to announce that the guest speaker of our April meeting (April 29<sup>th</sup>) will be Jan Spencer. More information on Jan will be given on our next meeting and in the next newsletter.

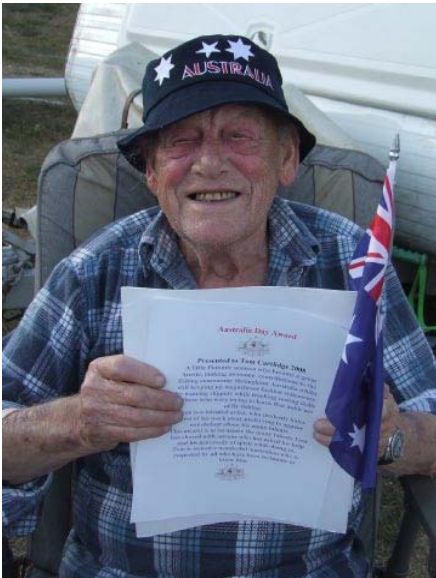
The Pirtek fishing challenge will be held on 11<sup>th</sup> April please check on: [www.pirtekfishingchallenge.com.au](http://www.pirtekfishingchallenge.com.au). We might be able to win the JVC camcorder for the club. Let's discuss it at our next meeting.

# Thomas (Tom) William Cartlidge

17/02/1925 – 12/01/2010

Tom left England and arrived in Australia in 1949 on board a serviceman's repatriation ship. He grew up in the pottery area of England, not knowing his father and living in hard times. Tom had little education and didn't learn to read until he was in the Navy – he became a self educated man of great knowledge and wisdom.

At the age of 16 he joined the Navy and had been sunk twice during the war before he was 17. Tom reached the rank of Leading Seaman but because of his rascal nature and lack of tolerance of fools he lost that rank and spent 3 periods in military prisons. One was for “teaching” a German U Boat officer manners while on a prison ship in transit to Canada. “Six months and the best time I had in the Navy, they treated us like royalty” the old fella said.



Tom was very modest, but during his time in the Navy he saw action in the Atlantic, Mediterranean and Pacific. He earned 3 campaign medals. At the Navy he also served in the submarine fleet. Clearance diving was part of his duties with the Special Operation Group. He never knew at times where he would be, but his chances of getting back to the ship were often rated at

2 out of 10. But I made, he would say with his cheeky grin, a lot did not. He mainly served of mine sweepers on escort duty, for convoys and he was active on D-Day on clearing the bays for the invasion.

Tom's trade was a master painter (not just a painter – a master painter, he would say). This trade he continued on his arrival in Australia.

He was a member of the Red Tag Fly Fishers Club in Victoria and fished with many leading fly fishers of that area, John Rumpf to mention one. Tom won the Red Tag Fly Fishers Club casting championships twice. If he had been here and able he would have certainly been in for one of the club

teams. I would have liked to be a “fly on the wall” with him and Roy together. No offence Roy but he was the “old tradition” 11 o'clock to 1 o'clock, straight arm, no deviation allowed.

The night the first meeting was held for persons in the Devonport area to form a Fly Fishing Club, Tom was the first person through the door of the library. The rest of this is history as we all know now. The Club has developed, is respected and the envy of many other clubs. Tom like most of us tied his own flies. “Bit rough but nature doesn't leave them pretty on the water” he would say. He had fly fished throughout England and Australia during his travels and had a wealth of knowledge for those who would sit and talk with him.

Tom's life ambition was to be an artist, but he was never able to take the lessons he believed that he needed. The Club is now fortunate to have a print of one of the “old fellas” paintings. Not bad for someone who thought he couldn't paint.



To write Tom's life history would take thousands of pages. I was one of the fortunate few, that Tom felt confident enough to open up and tell his stories. He remained a gentleman to his last breath.

(Ian Shearing)

# **DEVONPORT FLY FISHING CLUB INC.**

## **Minutes of General Meeting held on 25/02/2010**

The meeting was opened by President Reid who welcomed members and guests.

**ATTENDANCE:** 39

**MEETING OPEN:** 7:35pm

**APOLOGIES:** J. Romoser, G. Hayes, M. French, N. Day, G. Bourke. Moved M. Murray Sec T. Scott that the apologies be accepted. **Carried.**

**PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Moved P. Gardner Sec R. Wybrow that the minutes of the previous meeting as circulated was a true and accurate record. **Carried.**

**BUSINESS ARISING:** Held over to later in the meeting

**TREASURERS REPORT:** Moved D. Best sec T. Scott that the treasurer's report be accepted and accounts passed for payment. **Carried.**

### **CORRESPONDENCE INWARDS:**

- AAT - 4 x E-mails
- G. Bourke - 1 x E-mail
- Pirtek Fishing Challenge - 1 x E-mail
- Events Tasmania - 1 x Letter
- IFS Anglers Access - Brochures
- Jan & Chris Brennan - 1 x E-mail

### **CORRESPONDENCE OUTWARDS:**

- NWFFC - 2 x E-mails
- A.Taylor - 1 x Card
- Bronte Park General Store - 1 x Letter
- Central Highlands Lodge - 1 x Letter

- Spot-On Hobart - 1 x Letter
- A. Artis - 1 x Letter
- T&P Jeffrey - 1 x Letter
- M.Davis - 1 x Letter
- N. Button - 1 x Letter

T. Rigby moved that the inwards correspondence be accepted and the outwards correspondence be confirmed. Seconded: D. Thomas. **Carried.**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE:** Held over to general business

**REPORTS:**

**SHACK:** Nil.

**CAMP COMMITTEE:** A camp debrief is to be held on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February.

**FISHING:** D. Best gave a detailed report on the recent club trip to Lake Burbury. D. Best, R. McLachlan, P. Burr and S. Laskey gave reports on the recent NWFFC Talbots Lagoon fishing weekend.

**FLY TYING:** The next fly tying night will be 8<sup>th</sup> April. Further discussions to be had next meeting.

**PRESENTATION:** Ian Shearing presented a painting to the club that was done by the late Tom Cartlidge. The painting is to be displayed in the club shack.

**GENERAL BUSINESS:**

1. R. McLachlan presented some shack suggestions that came from recent E-mails. A brief discussion was held.
2. It was resolved that the club look at designing a member survey form over the winter months.
3. M. Murray moved a motion that the club acquire 50 of 250mm x 150mm colour vinyl club logo boat/vehicle stickers at \$7.70 inc GST each, to sell out at \$10.00 each. Sec. S. Laskey. Carried.

5. It was resolved that a letter of thanks be sent to the NWFFC for their weekend of competition and hospitality. Their efforts during the Talbots lagoon fishing weekend was appreciated.
6. It was resolved that competitive fly casting practice will be held over the coming months.

**TRIPS:**

Brushy Lagoon 10<sup>th</sup> March 6:00pm

Four Springs 21<sup>st</sup> March 3:00pm

**MEETING CLOSED:      09:30 pm**

# Devon Lodge Notes

Over recent weeks a couple of minor problems have occurred which need to be brought to the attention of members.

On the first occasion, a member reported that there was no toilet paper at the Lodge. Members are reminded that it is their responsibility to provide their own consumables such as toilet paper, washing up liquid, fly spray etc, at the Lodge. If you have found these things there in the past, it has only been because some other members have been kind enough to leave their excess behind. The Club only supplies water, power and gas (for the water heater); Lodge users are responsible for the supply of all other items they might require during their stay.

On the second occasion, the gas bottles were changed over BEFORE the bottle that was in use was empty. Please do not change over bottles unless the in use cylinder is empty. To make it easier to determine which bottle is "In Use", a tag will be hung on the in use bottle. When first arriving at the Lodge, this is the ONLY gas bottle you need to turn on (i.e. the other bottle may be left with the valve closed) If you change over bottles, please change over the tag.

If you are at the Lodge and you change over gas cylinders would you please take the empty bottle AND a Gas Cylinder Purchase Order form (now kept in a plastic folder near the Lodge Register) to the shop and obtain a replacement cylinder. If you are unable to do so for any reason (vehicle not big enough, no suitable spanners etc), would you please inform the Lodge Booking Officer at your earliest opportunity of the need to obtain a replacement cylinder? NB, please ensure that bottle is empty before returning it to the shop; if you are uncertain, just inform the Lodge Booking Officer who will get it checked out at the first available opportunity.

Finally, members are reminded that the gas must be turned off at bottles when you vacate the shack.



# Fly tying



The F Fly was created by Marjan Fratnik from Slovenia. Marjan's F Fly was first publicised in the Slovenian fly fishing magazine Ribic in 1983, in an article written by his friend Dr Bozidar Voljc, followed in 1984 by an article in the German magazine Fliegenfischen, this time written by Marjan Fratnik himself. The name F Fly stands for "Fratnikova puhovka" which means "Fratnik's Simple Fly". Originally it was tied by using CDC feathers.

## F Fly (Elk Hair Caddis Style)

By Trevor Berne

Hook: Kamasan 405 or 170, Size 14  
Thread: Danvilles Fly Master 6/0 Olive  
Body: Blue-winged olive  
Wing: Brown Possum Guard Hair



- Tie in thread behind hook eye and wrap the hook with thread down stopping at the height of the barb.
- Build up a straight body about 2/3 of the hook shank by using a loose dub.
- Build up a pad on the remaining 1/3 of the hook shank by winding the thread several times backward and forward.
- Select a bunch of possum hair and remove the under fur. Tie in the fur on top of the pad, with the tips facing towards the bend.
- Tie off with a few turns. Lift the head and put a few wraps in front of it to hold it up. Whip finish.
- Trim head to about 2 mm length.
- Trim tips of the possum fur level with the back of the hook.

## **A letter to the Club**

Jan and I would like to convey our appreciation to the Devonport Fly Fishing Club for the fantastic week we had at the Bronte Fishing School. We really appreciated the time and effort your members who attended the school put into the week. We can now both cast (although still a bit inconsistently) and are both looking forward to getting into some real fishing although fly selection is still a bit of a mystery.

Please also thank Athol for forwarding the casting practice tool which arrived last week. We both use it every day and have also started some of our friends off on casting practice using the tool.

Once again, we had a great time and all going well hope to attend next year.

Regards

Jan and Chris Brennan

## **Good News**

Alan Taylor and Dave Warnes, we wish you well and are glad to hear that you are now home. We hope that you are going to be fishing soon.

## **Fly tying DVD**

The DVD from our fly tying weekend in June 2009 is for sale now. Trevor Berne tied several flies with us and did heaps of explanations. The DVD covers five dry flies (Duck fly, F Fly, Lodge Emerger, Shuttle cock buzzer, Shaving brush) and 4 wet flies (Cat fly, Green machine, Woolly bugger, Woolly worm) plus some bonus material.

Contact David Best ([davidjb@westnet.com.au](mailto:davidjb@westnet.com.au)) if you wish to purchase a copy. The price is \$ 8.00 plus postage.

# **NWFF Brian Viney Comp Weekend (Talbots Lagoon) By John Clark**

## **Friday night.**

The Burnie boys had caught a number during the reasonably warm and mostly sunny day on red spinners (see pattern in November Newsletter), so the evening session looked promising. The wind was coming from the north and was dropping out, so Nathan Bishop and I elected to fish the dam wall with Cubits Mudeye patterns after dark. Nothing rose until well after sundown right in the corners of the dam wall. By the time the fish were working well, it was pretty well dark and visibility virtually zero so putting a fly in front a fish was based purely on imagination rather than skill! Nathan had a couple of fish go at his mudeye but didn't hook up. Afterwards we learned that the dam wall gets a lot of fishing pressure with bait fishermen ripping a fair few fish out on live mudeye's during the day and having spoken to a couple of them, they said the fish were finicky even on live ones.

On the way back Nathan and I stopped at the closest shore to the boom gate where there is a small picnic area on the western shore to check out a location for the morning. Oddly, down that small track (that leads straight into the lagoon), we found two blokes gutting a roo they claimed to have run over. Their headlight stretched across the water, so I waded in to check the bottom and found it was gently sloping and since the wind was blowing in there, found dead spinners and loads of insect life on the surface. The breeze had set in telling us that food would be concentrated on that shore by the morning. We returned to the Gunns Training Centre to glean as much "local" knowledge from the opposition who had managed to rip a few out at night.

## Saturday

The comp commenced at dawn with Nathan and I poking around the picnic area we had cased the night before. This area of the lake is covered with standing trees, logs and stumps. Indeed the entire lake being surrounded by timber resembles a beavers log dam around the edge making wading very tough on the body and a wading staff would have been absolutely invaluable. We worked around to the right as the wind was swinging and leaving pockets of water between trees and logs calm and still. It didn't take long to find fish working in less than a foot of water. They would mooch about, not grubbing on the bottom, nor sipping from the top, then bow wave about, then hide for a while and come out and do it all again.

We spent hours casting to several of these without even looking like catching one. After the sun came up and we'd crawled all over these fish eventually they tired of our antics and thought the better of it and disappeared for a rest. Wading a little further on through the dead trees I came across a slick that was blowing right onto shore loaded with food on top. I stood still on the edge of the slick waiting for the fish that surely would be tucking into breakfast, but after waiting patiently, not a one. We decided to retreat back to the Centre for a caffeine fix and a debrief. After describing the behaviour of these fish we were told they were most likely on tadpoles and the best way to catch them was a small black fur fly and a greased leader to within 8 inches of the fly. Put this well in front of a fish and let it slowly sink down without moving it. Watch the leader and the fish will pick it up static. Tuck that one in the memory bank for next time. David Best tangled with a decent fish south of Silver Plains that he hooked on a #16 Red Tag but it got the better of him and did him on a log. With all the sticks and logs about, the options are to go up in tippet and try and muscle them (which reduces your takes) or one tactic was to use a straight 4lb tippet straight from the fly line because the theory is, it's the knots that jam around a snag and allow the fish to bust you off. I heard of one old timer that uses 3lb there. He hooks a lot and loses a lot but at least he lands a few.

The day was warming up well and a fire danger was issued so we knew the northerly was going to ramp up. Red spinners start to go around 11ish, so we headed out parking at the northern dam wall with the game plan to head down the western shore and look for pockets and bays sheltered by logs where the spinner feeders would work. As walking the

bank is virtually impossible, and casting from the bank just as hard, the technique was to get in the water, wade south and fish parallel to the shore. Polaroiding wasn't an option as there was haze in the sky to the south putting a cloaking sheen on the water. We managed to find a handful of feeding fish in a few hundred meters of tough shore line. Nathan managed to get a take on a hopper, and I decorated a fish with a rust coloured parachute CDC Dun that I hadn't tied on properly. The second take was on a fish coming straight at me and I pulled it out of its mouth. There were a number of very small fish on the red spinners and the odd bigger fish on damselflies but it was tough going and we ended up with another donut. A few of the Burnie boys snaffled a couple around Bosses Hole on the western shore (we did turn down that track to check it out and found about six cars down there so we headed somewhere else).

The Devonport lads had only the evening session left to get on the board. It was going to be tough to win, so now we were fishing for pride. We pulled out all the stops and with the wind dropping out after a very warm day, it looked very promising. The tactic, we were assured, was to find a log that runs out into the water, sit on it, and wait for the fish to come in. It's too dangerous to wade about after sunset with the holes, stumps and logs making it tricky. We selected our logs or stumps up at silver plains and waited. And waited. And waited. The wind that had blown all day died out. Red spinners were working. After they retired, the caddis came out. Food was all over the calm surface as the sun set.

Annoying little fish were leaping on the red spinners but no fish of size. Large fat fish were belly flopping some 150m off shore, giving us hope they would make their way in on dark. The night had all the hallmarks of a session that was going to "go off" but it wasn't to be. I had worked a pair of nymphs, then a deer hair emerger, the paradun I had used earlier, then finally the cubits mudeye without any success. I didn't even have a fish to cast to on my stump. Peter Burr on his log next to me couldn't illicit any interest and Peter Bonney had dropped a good one around the corner (I could hear the groan from where I was standing). Only a few fish were caught that night and one of them, going over the two pound mark went to Reid who had managed to dredge one out by dangling a nymph under a dry. At least we weren't going to be humiliated.

We descended on the Centre after a disappointing night, but the company made up for it. After a weigh-in, Len Radford from the Burnie Club was awarded the inaugural NWFF Brian Viney and will have his name inscribed on the fantastic giant plaque handmade by Chris (club president). My consolation prize was the Garmin Etrex GPS that I won in the raffle.

## **Sunday**

The next morning still desperate for a fish, we were out around 6.30, this time on the eastern shore, where the NW winds had blown up foam the previous day. We knew the food was there, and now that the wind had dropped out, we hoped the fish were mopping up. After arriving just north of the stockyards the two Peters were on the water, having been there since dawn. They informed us that between them, they hadn't so much seen anything resembling a fish, so we cleared out of there, heading just around the lake a little further to the stockyards and climbed out. We were met with a slick just offshore that looked like a piscatorial smorgasbord heavily laden with anything and everything a trout could ever want to eat. The gently sloping shore had a beautiful weedy firm bottom and we scoured the water for any sign of our speckled prey. Once again, with perfect conditions, an abundance of food, and a sun still about to break the horizon, we were stunned not to find feeding fish. Reid flogged a slick, while I bombed a fur fly in likely places without interest. The tally remained at one for DFFC.

Talbot is a beautiful water with plenty of weedbeds, logs for shelter covered in mudeye's shucks, tadpole feeders and decent red-spinner hatches. The water is very clear and the abundance of logs make it possible to get up and polaroid the water. The lagoon is the sort of place where you can almost always find a sheltered pocket in virtually any wind.

The majority of the fish caught (with one exception) were in great nick with fat bellies around 1.5 pounds to over three pounds. A big fish is probably 4 pounds in that water. On the downside, access is limited with the Gunns boom gate locked unless you request a key as the Burnie club had done and after spending two nights on the water, our experience was that it was "inconsistent" in that perfect conditions doesn't

necessarily mean the fish will be moving or feeding. Local knowledge is obviously a massive benefit and it seemed that the Burnie lads that did well had not just favourite "spots" but favourite logs! I overheard one of them trying to work out who had "stolen" his log earlier in the day. The accommodation is absolutely fantastic. It's around 20 something years old and was built by APPM as a training centre. It has two large dorms sleeping around 20 in each, in very comfortable beds. We'll put this trip down to reconnaissance and information gathering, and hopefully be back next year fielding a few more anglers and be a little more competitive.