

**DEVONPORT  
FLY FISHING CLUB INC.**

**NEWSLETTER**



**VOLUME 17 No 3**

**March 2010**

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

**Club Postal Address Club Inc.**

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**BRONTE CAMP STARTS 9th January 2011)**

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<b><i>Life Members</i></b>	<i>Mr. George Surman</i>		
	<i>Mr. Peter Burr</i>		

**OUR NEXT MEETING DATE IS: April 29, 2010**

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

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## 2010

- April 8<sup>th</sup>** Fly tying – Devonport Library 7.30 pm
- April 13<sup>th</sup>** NWFFC Meeting – Burnie 7.30 pm
- April 17<sup>th</sup>** Fishing trip to Four Springs 2.00 pm \*<sup>1</sup>
- April 20<sup>th</sup>** Camp Committee meeting 7.30 pm
- April 24<sup>th</sup>** Fishing trip to Lake Huntsman 2.00 pm \*<sup>1</sup>
- April 29<sup>th</sup>** General Meeting-Devonport Library 7.30 pm
- October 2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>** Cressy Trout Expo

*\*<sup>1</sup> We will meet at 6:00 pm at the boat ramp to have tea together and talk about the fishing. Please bring your own food and drinks.*

### NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

What an easy newsletter to produce. This month I received four interesting fishing reports. In order not to exceed 16 pages, I had to cut Daniel Bowden's detailed report on four days in the Western Lakes. Day one and two are printed in this edition and day three and four will be published in next month's newsletter.

In April we will have the opportunity to listen to two interesting guest speakers. NWFFC has invited Julian Brown. Some information on Julian are in this newsletter.

Guest speaker at our next meeting is Jan Spencer. She is the only female who has represented Australia twice in the Fly Fishing World Championship, fished places in Tasmania a lot of us never did so far, is a well respected and neat fly tier and ties the flies for the Australian team. I'm sure it will be a very interesting meeting.

One of our members, David Martin, started his own business. If you need digging to be done, contact David. Details are on page 16. Good luck David in your new venture.

# ST HELENS FLY FISHING

By  
Graeme Bourke

Six members enjoyed a varied fishing expedition to St Helens. I arrived in Scamander on the Monday and settled into the caravan park. Tuesday was out for fishing due to the gale force winds, so we played the tourist, visiting books shops and antique stores.

By Wednesday the wind had settled somewhat and I went out onto Georges Bay with Michelle and caught nothing, save for a couple of wrasse on bait. I could find no salmon working. I then took the boat up into the upper reaches of the Scamander River where I cast around with the fly, managing a couple of small salmon.

To while away the time I did some bait fishing and managed to catch some nice bream up to 20 centimetres. The legal size is 25 centimetres.

On Thursday morning, early, I ventured out onto the bay and found the birds working. Several schools of salmon were chasing the bait fish. They were rather difficult to get onto as they were only coming up on the bait for about five minutes and then going down again. It was rather



frustrating, but I managed to lock onto a few salmon and some tailor. The wind got up around 9.30am and killed the action.

In the afternoon Craig turned up so we went up to the top end of the Scamander River. Craig managed to catch a nice bream of 31 centimetres on the fly.

The next morning we were up early and headed off to the bay where we found the salmon working once gain. The action at first was like the previous morning, until we had a good patch stay on the top for at least fifteen minutes, enabling us to catch successive salmon. It was fast and furious, even though the salmon were only about a pound in weight. Then as in the previous morning, it died completely and the salmon stopped working, although there was no wind.

The tide had turned which may have been the reason for their departure.

On the Saturday I met Max French and his two fishing partners at the Stieglitz boat ramp. Dark clouds were threatening in the skies and there was no sign of any working fish. Still, the water was calm so we headed out. Max joined me in my boat as we departed and headed down to the section of the bay where the salmon had been working on the two previous days. But there was no sign of them. Max managed to catch a



small flathead on a soft plastic and a strange fish that was later identified as some sort of wrasse whiting? Lightning, rain and thunder drove us from the water. The day was lost so we went for a drive out to Binalong Bay and admired the scenery amid the rain showers.

### **Binalong Bay harbour in the morning mist.**

That afternoon Colin Morely called in and we arranged to go fishing early the next morning, but I didn't like our chances. By seven o'clock we were heading out to the bay, we found the water calm and the wind slight, but of the salmon there was no sight. Colin hooked and lost a small salmon and I managed to catch another small fish. The old saying that us fishermen often hear and dread had come to fruition.

You should have been here yesterday!

**DEVONPORT FLY FISHING CLUB INC.**  
**Minutes of General Meeting held on 25/03/2010**

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

**ATTENDANCE:** 31

**MEETING OPEN:** 7:38pm

**APOLOGIES:** R. Wybrow, R. Stagg.

Moved D. Thomas Sec S. MacAulay that the apologies be accepted.  
**Carried.**

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

**BUSINESS ARISING:** Club stickers have arrived and are for sale at \$5.00 each.

**TREASURERS REPORT:** Moved D. Best sec J. Burr that the treasurer's report be accepted and accounts passed for payment. **Carried.**

**CORRESPONDENCE INWARDS:**

- AAT - 6 x E-mails
- A. Taylor - 1 x E-mail
- NWFFC - 2 x E-mails

**CORRESPONDENCE OUTWARDS:**

- NWFFC - 1 x Letter

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

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

**REPORTS:**

**SHACK:** Nil.

CAMP COMMITTEE: A camp debrief was held on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February at the Devon Lodge. The next meeting is to be held on Tuesday April 20<sup>th</sup> at B. Jacobson and G. Surman's houses.

FISHING: G. Bourke gave a report on the recent St Helens club trip. R. McLachlan and D. Best gave reports on the recent Brushy Lagoon and Four Springs Trips. G. Leary reported on some good fishing that was had at the Great Lake recently. A member also reported on some very challenging fishing on the Leven River at Gunns Plains.

FLY TYING: The next fly tying night will be 8<sup>th</sup> April. The night will focus on tying nymphs. No.12 hooks, fine copper wire, brown dubbing and thread.

#### GENERAL BUSINESS:

- It was resolved that the club make contact with the Devonport Anglers Club and Marine And Safety Tasmania for the purpose of arranging a date and venue for an informative presentation held by MAST.
- It was noted by a club member that some research should be done in regards to the Australian Salmon caught along our coastal waters. Information to be discussed next meeting.
- It was noted by club members of the importance to ensure that everything is turned off at the Devon Lodge prior to leaving.
- It was resolved that the use of general household items such as toilet paper, dish washing liquid, soap etc within the Devon Lodge be put to the shack committee for consideration.

#### TRIPS:

- Four Springs Sat 17<sup>th</sup> April 2:00pm
- Lake Huntsman Sat 24<sup>th</sup> April 2:00pm

**MEETING CLOSED: 09:30 pm**

# Beyond Mackenzie (Day 1 and 2)

By  
Daniel Bowden

After much discussing and planning, myself and a workmate, John, finally found time to venture to the more remote Western Lakes. We had both fished the 19 Lagoon and Blue peaks on a number of occasions but we had not fished any of the lakes further inland between these areas. We decided on a week in late February to head out to the more remote trackless Western lakes in the search of fish. This is a day by day account of what we saw, caught and where we went.

## Day 1 Mackenzie to Halkyard- quality not quantity

We were dropped off at Lake Mackenzie at 8am and were greeted by overcast conditions and a cold southerly wind. The walk from Mackenzie to Halkyard firstly traversed around Mackenzie and over Explorer creek. It was laborious walking into the wind and the wild, cold weather made the walk largely uninspiring. We gave Lake Explorer, Johnny Douglas and Chambers a cursory glance without getting out the rods and set up camp on the shores of Halkyard. As the day wore on the sun emerged



from behind the clouds and the southerly winds eased. My mate and I split up and fished Halkyard and the surrounding tarns. Only a few fish were sighted for the day, fewer than we had hoped to polaroid. They were spooky too. Most fish not only refused flies but bolted in fear at the sight of our offerings. We ended up at a lake near Halkyard where John put an

exploratory cast out over a deep drop off and a large fish rose from the depths and it was game on. I saw the tussle from a distance and John managed to land the fish just before I arrived. We were both surprised by the size and condition of the fish. We estimated the fish to be around 6.5lb. It was one of the biggest fish I had seen taken from the area and certainly the largest John had caught out of the Western lakes. It was a great way to start the trip. We continued to fish the lakes till late with the closest I got to a fish was one that took the dry and spat it out all in the

same motion. Needless to say he's still there.

### Day 2 Halkyard to the Pillans headwaters- the one that got away

Day two started with a frost and was sure to be a sunny day. We packed up the camp and poured over the Pillans 1:25000 mapsheet and hatched our trekking and fishing plan for the day. We headed south toward Pillans and fished a few tarns along the way. The first lake we saw nothing. The second lake had a high hill on the southern side. The substrate was sand and the water shallow. It was from the side of this hill we spied a fish from at least 80m away. As John saw it he had the shot to catch it and out went the shaving brush and it was another 3lb fish for the ledger. It was great to watch it all from high up from a distance. The next lake we came to had a minor mayfly hatch. We took a side of the lake each, me south John the northern side. I saw a fish rise, presented the para spinner and another frustrating refusal and fleeing fish. The lake turned and we met in the middle of two lakes where there were a few fish rising to the odd



mayflies present on the water. I finally managed my first small fish for the trip and it was also where I snapped off what was a very sizeable fish. Despondent, I was a bit hard on the strike. John also managed a fish from this lake. We kept moving on over the hill to the next lake. At the next lake straight away I polaroided another fish a long way from the shore. This lake

was shallow, calm and easy to see fish in. I crept around in front of the fish and put out the fly to one side of the fish. I was certain before even casting, that this fish would see the fly land on the mirror surface and spook for sure. Amazingly it glided over and gulped it down like its last ever meal. No missed strike or snapped off fly on this one. A nice 4.5 pounder caught and released. We moved on and made camp at a dead end lake which had 2 trophy sized fish in it. It was a lake less than the size of a football oval and could all be polaroided easily due to its shallow depth and silty bottom. As much as we wanted to nail the fish that inhabited the lake it was not to be. We did give it some effort till dark.

*(to be continued)*

## ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER

In an effort to make it easier for those members who make use of Devon Lodge to pay for their accommodation, it has been decided to accept payments via Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT for short).

For those Club members with internet access to their bank accounts who wish to avail themselves of this service, the Club's account details are:

BSB No:	807009
Account No.	51164930
Account Name	DFFC Inc
Bank	MyState Financial

When making an electronic transfer, it is **IMPERATIVE** that members include a reference for the payment to allow our Treasurer to easily identify who the payment is from and what it is for; i.e. when paying a Devon Lodge invoice members should use their surname and their invoice number as the reference, e.g. *Jacobson DL101*. If making some other payment such as membership use an abbreviation for the payment such as *Mship* (but still include your name) instead of the invoice number

For those members who are also MyState Financial customers, you will be presented with three options when you open the "Transfer" option on the MyState web site:

### Funds Transfer

- Transfer to:  Another account within this customer number  
 Another customer number and account at MyState Financial  
 Another Financial Institution

You **MUST** use the **THIRD** option ("*Another Financial Institution*") otherwise you will not be able to enter a reference for the transaction. Failure to do so will mean that your payment is not identifiable by our Treasurer. As a consequence, your payment will **NOT** be recorded correctly (i.e. You will still be shown as owing a payment).

**NB: If references are NOT included with your payments the EFT facility will be withdrawn**

# Brushy Lagoon

By  
David Best

A trip to Brushy Lagoon with no success, but a good time was had by the people who attended this outing chasing the big one's.

Noel and I arrived at Brushy at approximately 5pm. We got the boat on the water and caught a perch each. Then went to the dam wall where we met Reid, had a little talk and then started fishing for the big one's.

Around 6pm we saw our first salmon rise close to the dam wall drifted over closer hoping he would rise again, but no sign. As the evening started to close and the sun was going down there were many salmon breaking the surface but they were only rising once, on an occasion you would see them chase something just under the surface and then a mighty splash, very likely they were catching perch! Don't know you couldn't quite see. Noel and I changed flies several times trying to attract a big one, but in vein no fish at this stage.

At about 9pm we decided to give it away and we arrived back to the loading ramp. On arrival at the ramp we were talking to an aged man from South Australia. He was telling us there were plenty of fish up the northern end of the lake, fish around two pounds, he had just caught a fish in very good condition, he cleaned it and drove off. Ten minutes we were packed up and drove off. As we were travelling up the road I noticed a fish on the road. I stopped Noel got out sure enough it was the fish that the person from S.A. Had. So we brought that fish home, thanks to that person who lost it.

The moral to this story, always keep your eyes open you never know where you'll get a fish.

# Fishing Four Springs

## By

### Justin Rigby

I am not sure who made it to the fishing afternoon at four Springs, I only saw Jim Midson, Dad and myself.

I thought I would let you know how things went.

I travelled up from Swansea that afternoon knowing the forecast wasn't looking promising. As we have recently purchased a boat, I was keen to put it in the water.

Four Springs hasn't been fishing too well of late, possibly due to the warm water and the fish being lethargic or just sitting on the bottom. Mind you I have seen activity over the past few weeks with many fish chasing water boatman in the shallows.

When we arrived, the wind was blowing NW straight down the middle with considerable white caps visible.

By the time I put the boat in, the wind swung around a little to the SW while still coming from the NW. This caused a no mans land opposite the Jetty on the eastern shore which was relatively calm apart from the boat swinging about in all directions. It was quite bearable mind you the sun was shining and about 18-19 degrees.

Now I must mention that due to a problem with my back at the moment and having physio, I am unable to fly fish, so I did flick about a soft plastic due to the ease of casting, and Dad fished with a black Woolly bugger he had tied. We saw the odd fish rise but not much surface action except for the many swallows feeding on the odd dun rising. About 4:30pm I saw a beauty of a fish porpoise not far from the boat. I quickly

retrieved my plastic and cast over toward his direction. He took it within a second of it hitting the water, the next 15 minutes seeing a struggle of epic proportions as we could not seem to turn or bring the fish to the surface. When finally landed, the hook had nearly straightened and was lodged in the hard corner of his mouth, explaining why he was difficult to turn.



This beautiful specimen weight about 4.5lb and when cleaned was full of water boatman.

Jim Midson who has not long moved to the area is excited about spending future afternoons chasing the large and somewhat elusive

Four Springs trout such as this fine specimen.

I believe Four Springs, although slow of late, will provide some terrific fishing until the end of the season as the water cools down.

This fish will not be placed on the Club Web site due to the catch method.

# Invitation to join the next meeting of NWFFC

NWFFC will have Julian Brown as a guest speaker on their next meeting. Julian, who is based in Victoria, developed the Dunny Brush Fly. He started fly fishing in 1965 and spends a good deal of time in the highlands of Tasmania each year. Julian has also fly fished for steelhead in Canada, bone fish in Mexico, tiger fish in Zimbabwe, trout in Argentina and several times in New Zealand. He also has experience in game fishing with trips to Elizabeth reef, Middleton reef, Cato reef and the Rowley Shoals. His biggest Marlin was an estimated 800 lb and his biggest Yellowfin weighted 86 kg.

It would be good if many of our members could attend this interesting evening.

The venue is at Coastlands Baptist Church, 43 Mace Street Montello. The meeting will start at 7:30 pm on 13<sup>th</sup> April. Contact Trent, to organise car pools.

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## 1<sup>st</sup> Fly Tying session in 2010

Stan Laskey will host the fly tying night on 8<sup>th</sup> April. As we will have quite a few novice fly tiers attending, the flies we will tie are going to be nymphs.

Materials needed are: Size 12 hooks for nymphs, brown dubbing, copper wire and brown or black thread.

You don't need to have a vice and tying tools to join. Just come around, have a look, try yourself and get hooked. The club has a few spare vices and tools that can be used for the night. There will be heaps of experienced fly tiers around who are more than willing to help you getting started in a new fantastic hobby.



# Fly Tying Woolly Worm

By Trevor Berne



This woolly worm was tied by Trevor during our fly tying weekend in June 2009. Woolly worms can be tied in any colour combination. Try different retrieves like a slow figure of eight, three short pulls and a break or anything that makes it look like a yummy insect or fish for the trout.

Hook: Kamasan 175, Size 8  
Thread: Danvilles Fly Master 6/0 Olive  
Head: Yellow or red thread  
Tail: Rooster fibre  
Rib: 32 Gauges, Gold Beading Wire  
Body: Medium Olive Chenille  
Hackle: Soft Genetic No. 8



1. Tie in thread behind hook eye and wrap the hook with thread down to the bend. Tie in the tail (Length about  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the hook shank)
2. Tie in ribbing wire.
3. Tie in chenille and bring thread to the hook eye. Wind the chenille close to the hook eye. Tie off and trim excess.
4. Tie in hackle with the shiny side facing towards the hook eye. Wind hackle towards the tail, beginning with  $1 \frac{1}{2}$  turn.
5. Tie off hackle by starting to wind the ribbing wire towards the eye of the hook.
6. Zig-zag the ribbing wire through the hackle fibres tie off and trim hackle and Ribbing wire. Whip finish.
7. Add the hot spot by tying in a few turns of bright thread

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