

**DEVONPORT
FLY FISHING CLUB INC.**

NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 17 No 5

May 2010

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

Club Postal Address Club Inc.

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Please send articles to either of the following:

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BRONTE CAMP STARTS 9th January 2011

Office Bearers 2009– 2010

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<i>Bronte Camp Contact</i>	<i>Martin Hulsman</i>	6424 3648	
<i>Life Members</i>	<i>Mr. George Surman</i>		
	<i>Mr. Peter Burr</i>		

OUR NEXT MEETING DATE IS: June 24, 2010

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2010 / 2011

- June 10th Fly tying – Devonport Library 7.30 pm
- June 13th Casting session – Reid's dam 10:00 am ^{*1}
- June 19th-20th Fly tying weekend – Devon Lodge ^{*2}
- June 24th General Meeting-Devonport Lib. 7.30 pm
- October 2nd/3rd Casting Competition - Cressy
- January 9th Bronte Camp 2011
- Feb. 1st - 6th Fishing trip to Lake Burbury ^{*3}

^{*1} Contact Reid if you need information on the location of his dam.

^{*2} Roy offered a second casting session at the lake.

^{*3} Contact Max French on 64423272 for further information.

Note from the Editor

Good that I still receive fishing reports from members. This month you can read part 2 of the NZ trip from Norm, Athol, Anthony and Jim. I received a report from Rob Shaw from Melbourne. Rob and his partner Anne Reilly attended this year's Bronte Camp.

I also received a 1st year student update from Ralph Leslie who is from Melbourne too.

At our last meeting we had very interesting presentation on GPS by Darren Llewellyn. Darren offered a more detailed session on a weekend. I'll keep you informed.

Useful information and free software can be obtained at www.spatialeducation.com .

Guest speakers for the next three months will be:

Gary Castles, talking about the Western Lakes (June)

Ashley Artis, talking about fishing (July)

Wayne Bellette, talking about his NZ trip (August)

New Zealand Fishing Trip

February 2010

(Part 2: Excuse 6-8)

by Norm Day

We stayed at Tuai, where the power station below the big lake is located, and fished the small catchment below the power station. The first night just on dark Jim landed a 6 lb rainbow, so the next day we hired 2 small dingys and fished that lake with a number of fish rising. Jim and Athol in their dinky had all the luck each landing a fish in the 6 lb range. Anthony and I caught more fish, but luck was not with us as they were all small.

We next headed via Napier to fish the Mohaka River. As we approached the river we were caught up in a long line of cars for ½ an hour while workmen cleared the road of landslips caused by the heavy rains. Once we



reached the bridge over the river we found a swirling brown mass of mud (disguised as water) running a banker down this large river. There was no way it or its tributaries were fishable. Fortunately, the cabins we were booked into had stuffed up our booking (they had us arriving 2 weeks later) and were full up, so we were able to continue on to Turangi (on Lake Taupo).

Excuse 6: Cannot fly fish in mud.

The first night in Turangi I had just gone to bed when I felt the earth move. No, I was by myself. It was a small earthquake followed by

another later that night (which I slept through). Next day we fished the Big O lake. We fished the same canal area where we caught a number of big fish last trip. However, because of the drought (before the heavy rain in the 2 weeks before we arrived) the hydro lake had been drawn down leaving only shallow and weedy water in the canal. Anthony found a fish rising on the opposite bank, and after a number of casts, had him on. It was a big fish (said Anthony) but took him into the weeds and eventually Anthony had to break it off. Anthony then hooked an even bigger fish (he said it was as big as the 8 lber from Rotorua) but despite his best efforts it also took him into the weeds. Anthony was determined not to lose this one and spent ½ an hour trying to extract it, including wading out and almost drowning (bit of an exaggeration) in the attempt. Result, fish broken off again. At least he had action, the rest of us did not.

Excuse 7: Water level too low.

We also fished the Tongariro River but had no luck in the lower reaches (between the bridge and the lake). This was despite Athol's superhuman effort of wading across the fast flowing water to the other side, which took him over ½ an hour to do. We were so concerned for his safety two of us went further downstream ready to fish him out as he floated past.

I did learn that it is impossible to cast a Togariro bomb (a nymph with a big tungsten bead head to get down deep in the fast flowing water) with a 6 weight line.

We did have some success in the river in the town area, but nothing of any size except for a 3lb rainbow Athol landed virtually as a last cast before leaving the river.

The motel owner told us that the fish are skittish for a few days after an earthquake.

Excuse 8: Earthquakes.

As I still have not mastered landing big fish in the fast flowing rivers of New Zealand, I will just have to go back and try again (any **excuse!**).

DEVONPORT FLY FISHING CLUB INC.

Minutes of General Meeting held on 27/05/2010

The meeting was preceded by our guest speaker Darren Llewellyn who gave a GPS presentation.

The meeting was opened by Senior Vice President Athol who welcomed members and guests.

ATTENDANCE: 36

MEETING OPEN: 9:10pm

APOLOGIES: R. McLachlan, M. Hulsman, G. Haas, E. Norman, C. Kuns, R. Stagg, P. Gardner, D. Urquart. Moved P. Burr Sec R. Bramich that the apologies be accepted. **Carried.**

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

BUSINESS ARISING: Held over until later in the meeting.

TREASURERS REPORT: Moved D. Best Sec M. French that the treasurer's report be accepted and accounts passed for payment. **Carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE INWARDS:

IFS	- 1 x Letter
Sport & Recreation	- 1 x Booklet

CORRESPONDENCE OUTWARDS:

- Max Davis - 1 x Letter
 - Jan Spencer - 1 x Letter
- IFS - 1 x Letter

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

BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE: Held over to general business.

REPORTS:

SHACK: It was noted that M. French, B. Jacobson, S. MacAulay, T. Scott, S. Muther are members of the shack committee. The new 42" television has now been installed. Moved S. Laskey Sec J. Kirkpatrick that the club look into having some contents insurance.

CAMP COMMITTEE: P. Burr reported that a camp leader and a camp secretary are still required.

FISHING: NIL

FLY TYING: D. Best reported that the next fly tying night will be on 10th June. Fly tying will be of black spinner and red spinner patterns. D. Best reminded members of the Devon Lodge fly tying weekend with guest Jan Spencer June 19th & 20th.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

It was noted that our insurance cover options require further looking into.

It was reported that our table at the Liawenee Trout weekend was a success.

It was resolved that casting competition practice will be held on Sunday 13th June 10:00am at R. McLachlan's property.

It was resolved that a letter be written in relation to land easements with Bronte and surrounding areas.

It was resolved that we hold our annual club dinner in October. Further discussions to be had next meeting in regards to date, venue, guest speaker etc.

It was reported that the Lake Burbury fishing trip will be held 1st – 6th February 2011. See M. French for further details.

TRIPS: NIL

MEETING CLOSED: 10:00 pm

Fly tying with Jan (19th - 20th June)

Please contact Trent Rigby or David Best if you intend to participate. George needs to know the numbers for the catering. George will be catering for lunch (both days) and morning and afternoon teas as well as breakfast on Sunday. Cost for meals is \$5 (Saturday only) and \$10 for both days. Saturday night we will have our meal at the Central Highlands Lodge.

The Lodge also has to be booked through Barry if you need to stay over night (usual fees apply).

Roy offered to have a casting session in preparation for the Cressy Championships while at the Lodge. Those who like to try their skills in casting need to bring their fly fishing rod.

Annual Dinner

Our annual dinner will be in October. Suggestions for a venue and a guest speaker are appreciated. The guest speaker must not necessarily talk about fishing. Any interesting or unusual topic will do. Last year we had Jane Shadbolt talking about her 'three peaks in three weeks fund raising challenge'. More information can be obtained on: www.3peaks3weeks.org

Bronte Camp

We are still looking for 2 volunteers who are going to attend the upcoming camp and who are interested in becoming trained first aiders. The Club will pay for the training. Please contact Trent.

We are also looking for people interested in taking on the roles of camp secretary or camp leader.

Members may be aware that the site we use for camp is being sold by Gunns. We are monitoring the situation as a central part of the arrangements for the 2011 camp but at this stage we wish to re-assure everyone that there WILL be a camp in January 2011. Hopefully the venue will remain the same. As in previous years.

Fly tying with Stan (10th June)

Materials needed for the red or black spinners are:

Size 10 or 12 dry fly hooks

Black or brown hackle



Fly tying



Shaving Brush By Stan Laskey

The shaving brush is based on a nymph pattern. By adding a bit of deer hair as a wing the nymph is converted into an emerger pattern. This pattern floats very well and is successful early in the morning before the sun hits the water or during a hatch.

Hook: Mustad 9578 Size 10 or 12
Thread: Danvilles Fly Master 6/0
Tail: Brown hackle
Body: Mottled Nymph Blend, Brown
Stonefly
Ribbing: Thin copper wire
Wing: Deer hair



- Tie in thread behind hook eye and wrap the hook with thread down to the bend. Tie in the tail
 - Tie in copper wire.
 - Dub a tapered body about 2/3 of the hook shank.
 - Rib with copper wire and tie off.
 - Select a bunch of deer hair and align it using a hair stacker. Tie it in with the tips facing the eye of the hook. Make sure it doesn't spin.
 - Trim the backward section of the deer hair and seal this part with Flexi-cement to make the hollow hair waterproof.
 - Apply more dubbing.
- Bring thread to the eye of the hook, tie off and whip-finish.

**Fishing Report for Easter w/e April 1-3 at Swampy Plains
River, Old Geehi Hut, NSW.**

In attendance, Robert Shaw and Anne Reilly (Beginners)

By Rob Shaw

Anne's Lament:

There was movement at the campsite for word had passed around that fish were up and rising to the fly, and although it may be rumoured, of trout a rising there a splendid, it was not for me or Anne to see.

For all the wild bush camping, that we had for toiled so long, on dusty mountain track, to the Snowy and out back, it was time to break that curse which we held so long, that of many a fishing trip, with not one single fish.

There were now hoards along the river, where the Snowy Mountains meet the plains,

When Easter camping is the time to go out bush, but all the wild bush folk, with chainsaws and fire smoke, had now descended on this once forgotten plain,

And with the news still spreading , many campers were now readying, while others just looked and wondered why, what is all the fuss they said, as they skulled another beer, what's with these folk who "whip the water" so,

Now all the would be fishermen were heading to the streams, to cast a fly or worm to catch their prey, but it was not the place to be, for fishermen like we, we'll leave these fools to have their pleasure here,

We'll fish the Never Never of the Swampy Plains for ever, where bush campers seem not to want to tread,

So we fished that sunny day, on that stream so far away, but

only once again, it was that curse that will not end, it was simply chips for dinner; no fish; no luck; no winner,

Still a lovely day was had, it wasn't all that bad, it was nice just to be out in the cool clear mountain air,

So off we drove to camp, we had grown to know so well, with campers three deep as far as one could see,

But as we did drive in, I could not miss the grin, of the camper just right next to me,

With a VB in his hand, and shouting out aloud, he was pulling in a trout up to a pound, and to make it even worse, and drive home this wretched curse, he caught it on a Kmart rod with worms,

Then his Mrs caught another, as I said "Well I'll be buggered", does one really have to suffer, is fly fishing just for suckers, or is it me!

So the moral of this story, to catch a trout in all its glory, it's sometimes simply luck is all you need,

And up by the Snowy River, where the wild horses roam, there are fish a plenty there for me, it's just a matter of time till I get one on the line, and boy what a whopper that will be.

1st year Student Update

By Ralph Leslie

Well, its getting on to 5 months since the camp and with the rain falling outside I thought I might take a few minutes to let you know how I'm going with my fly fishing. When I left the camp in January I was enthusiastic and keen to come back next year. The proviso I set myself being that the rod didn't sit in the garage for 12 months. If I didn't get out to practice and fish, then perhaps I wasn't as keen as I thought.

I live in Melbourne – not far from Essendon airport. So I started by heading down to Napier Park in the next block and practicing my casting on the weekends. Not sure that my technique was that flash, but I was getting fewer wind knots and every now and again the line would lay out nicely. At this point I needed to find some water to practice on. The ornamental lake at nearby Woodlands Park wasn't going to pass muster. While my neighbours and passers-by didn't say too much when I was practicing on the grass, the thought of dealing with the curious folk at the much more popular Woodlands Park was a step too far. And, there was the blue green algae, with the warning signs advising not to come in contact with the water to consider.

After some research on the internet I decided that Lauriston Reservoir may be the place to go. It's an hour away and is one of three reservoirs in close proximity on the Coliban River near Kyneton. The other two reservoirs, Upper Coliban and Malmsbury have had very little water on them for several years because of the drought while the water authority was maintaining decent levels in Lauriston. More importantly, the Victorian Department of Primary Industries were continuing to stock Lauriston with brown trout. If I was going to practice casting, why not do it where I had some chance of catching a fish?

At first, in late summer Pam and I would drive up to Lauriston to spend a couple of hours in the afternoon if the weather was nice. OK for casting practice, but not the ideal time of day to catch a trout. Even so, I did learn something. If you are fishing a "woolly buggler", then you have to let the bugger sink if you want to catch anything. My thanks to

the small redfin that provided this lesson. After a few trips I hadn't seen any evidence of trout or other fly fisherman, until one Saturday in early autumn on a still, clear day we headed to Lauriston. I practiced casting for about an hour, and we were going to head into Kyneton for a snack before returning to see what the fishing was like in the early evening. Just before we left, another fly fisherman turned up and we struck up a conversation.

My new acquaintance introduced himself as John Lanchester, and he had been fishing for many years. I understood from our conversation that he had been a fly fishing guide for some time although I'm unsure if he was still doing this. John and I had quite a conversation, and I got a free lesson to tune up my casting. A wonderful bloke – and he epitomised the fellowship I have found in the fly-fishing community. John designed the “Tom Jones” Here's a link to the “Goulburn Valley Fly Fishing Centre” site that has the pattern that they describes as: *The Tom Jones has very humble origins despite the name it carries. Developed for use on Victorian stillwaters by John Lanchester it has set the benchmark by which all others are judged. A great blind searching pattern it is equally as successful when chasing active, sighted smelters in the lakes around Ballarat.* [http://www.goulburnvlyflyfishing.com.au/fly_bench.htm]

Pam and I had coffee and a snack in Kyneton which is only about 10 kilometres away and returned to the reservoir around half past three. By this time a group of fly fishermen on a club trip had arrived. By the end of the day I saw one nice sized brown trout caught – on a beetle pattern, I was told. There was evidence of more, with fish rising as the evening approached. Oh, and I caught a small tench – using a brown nymph around the reeds.

What did I learn that day? One - A few tips to help my casting. Two – There are still trout in Lauriston, and they can be caught. Three – the “Tom Jones” is a good fly for the lakes in Victoria and I should get some and give the pattern a try. More on this follows.

A fortnight ago, my eldest son James was visiting from Canberra and was keen to fish Lauriston. He brought his gear with him and just before 5:30 on the Saturday we headed off. The day was still, clear and cold, and we

were fishing shortly after first light. No evidence of fish rising, so I decided to use the Tom Jones and search around the reeds. Success! Around 8:30 a trout took the fly and after a few minutes I landed a well conditioned brown of between 30 and 35 cm. I released it, and have no photo – but you wouldn't doubt the honesty of a fisherman. That was the only fish for the day.

So the plan is to return to Bronte in January 2011. I have some ideas about how I can keep active between now and then, but reckon I'll pass my own "entry test" to come back. No dust settling on my gear between camps.



Mean time, Pam had taken to tying flies with a passion. In fact, you would be excused if you thought she was even more serious about that than I was for fishing. She bought a starter kit of tying tools and hunted down the shops that sold tying materials. And we didn't stop there. The odd furry or feathered creature that didn't quite get across the roads we travelled along didn't give their lives in vain. Once you start down this

path, things can get out of hand. Example 1. I bet that even the most keen collectors of fly materials in Tasmania haven't taken fur from a generous fox, "resting", "resting" on the roadside. Example 2. A few days after telling a cousin from Gippsland that Pam was keen on tying flies and talking about the materials she used, we got home from work to a message on the answering machine – someone had left a dead peacock on his porch and did we want feathers. Of course we did, but we weren't quite prepared for the quantity that arrived in the mail a few days later! I wonder if they would be useful in a pillow? Example 3. Can't tell you, because I don't know if it's legal to collect from protected critters even if they are dead. Some of my Canadian friends tell me it's not on, in their country. I'd best check.....

Just like casting practice, tying flies is not an end in itself even if they are all miniature craft items. The little red-fin I caught – a black woolly bugger tied by Pam; The tench – a brown nymph, possibly tied by Pam; The trout – a Tom Jones, definitely tied by Pam. And do you remember that fox I mentioned before? Pam used that for the wings. So, by any measure Pam has had success in her fly tying. I've attached a picture that shows some of the flies she has tied. These include those where she was learning techniques – and don't compare to those made more recently that I can select from when I go out to fish. A Tom Jones is shown in the inset.

Hope to see you in January.

Ralph

June 5, 2010