


Calendar of Events December 2011

29th	30th	1st Dec		3rd One Fly Competition Penstock	4th	5th
6th	7th FFCT General Meeting: Fly Raffle and Social	8th		10th	11th	12th
13th	14th FFCT Committee Meeting	15th	16th	17th	18th	19th
	21st	22nd	23rd	24th	25th  Merry Christmas!	26th

A Note of Appreciation from your Committee and Editor

A special thank you to **Richard Hawley** for his excellent secretarial work, which ultimately makes the Committees work easy and seamless, and the job of Editor expedient and enjoyable. To **John Morwood** and other newsletter contributors who have given us great newsletter content so far. I look forward to publishing **Charlie Peck's** further notes, musings, experiences and vast knowledge of the Western Lakes and Blue Peaks. The newsletter is set up for print and for those who read it in PDF on line you will note that feature stories are colour coded and pages are numbered for you to follow with ease (See Pete's "**Theory of Intelligence**" p 15). Our newsletter will change in time as we move towards a web friendly format. The newsletter reflect the activities, commitment and dedications of its members and the Committee welcomes all contributions to it. The FFCT Committee wishes you all a merry, enjoyable and safe Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Club banking details for EFT payment of club subscriptions, shack rentals and other payments

Account: The Fly-Fishers Club of Tasmania **BSB:** 067-003 **Acct #:** 28057585

Please Note: All electronic correspondence to the Editor would be greatly appreciated in MS Word and photographs in JPEG Format. Deadlines for the newsletter next edition is 14 days prior to the next General Meeting.

The Fly Fishers' Club of Tasmania Inc'



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Your Committee: Graeme Frankcombe (Vice President); Chris Crawford (SVP); Joe Conti; Peter Hazelwood (Chief Librarian); Martin Hingston; Doug Lang and Nick Merrony (Editor)

December 2011

General Meeting

Summerdale Primary School on Wednesday

7th December; 7.30pm

Christmas Social Event

**December Fly Raffle; Four of your best and favourite fishing flies for the club meeting. Bring your own fly patterns along!
All welcome! Guests welcome! Come along!**

This Club Meeting

Light refreshment and finger food will be served for your enjoyment. Selected fishing flies from the night will be displayed for all to see and then raffled off for some lucky winner. There will be some tremendously good fly patterns tied by some excellent fly dressers. Come along and support your Club! Support your Committees initiatives.

Your Committee works hard for your benefit.

Don't sit around at home, be there! The only acceptable excuse is "I'm fishing"!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It's called the multiplier effect, I think, meaning that as we get into the fishing season, the year moves more quickly. Gone are the early season sub-Arctic conditions; upon us are cries that Bronte is about to go off with stonefly, that Penstock is alive with a trickle of duns and that good polaroiding days have appeared. I hope you are finding the time to get out amongst them.

If you're like me, you're starting to realise that our years of being capable of keeping up this very active fishing caper are not unlimited; while we are well and active, we need to get out amongst them. Q. "When is the best time to go fishing?"... A. "Now, while you can."

I was pleased to hear how John Morwood and Chris Crawford each bagged out, for several consecutive days, on Penstock. It's good to see a couple of dab hands fishing together for a start, enjoying good fishing and making good use of their well-earned early retirement years.

At our last meeting, members enjoyed Jack Windsor's presentation of his converted van and jointed dinghy. I get the feeling that he is a crafty one, that Jack.

Charles Peck's presentation at our November meeting was a trip down memory lane – revisiting some grand days of fishing, an overview of the lakes systems in our central plateau and a tribute to Charles' broad experience of fishing.

We enjoyed our November meeting.

FROM COMMITTEE MEETING

Gum trees all drop limbs; small limbs even, can cause a lot of damage to person or property (parked cars).

It is our intention to have suggested tree risks at Koongara resolved again. An arborist will be engaged to help assess then remove potential tree or limb risks. We will work towards a solution before we arrive at the busy time of the season, when shack occupancy rates are high and the duns are drawing members to this fishery. Shack users please note that the previously troublesome wood heater at Koongara will now function without smoking; if a good fire is set and if wood is well ablaze before damping down.

CLUB ACTIVITIES

The Macquarie River club outing was a success- socially, with eight or nine members having a good get-together. Fish were fairly safe on the day.

The Little Pine Weekend of 19th and 20th November will be reported on at our next meeting. I am sure it will have been enjoyable. What happens at Noonameena stays at Noonameena, but some version of events will be leaked at our December meeting.

Don't miss our Penstock One Fly Challenge on Saturday 3rd December. So that flies can be obtained etc., the closing date for entry has passed, but if you contact me immediately, I will make provision for some late entries, by leaning on our organisers: Martin Hingston and Peter Hazelwood.

The Theory of Intelligence



I don't think I've ever heard the concept explained any better than this!

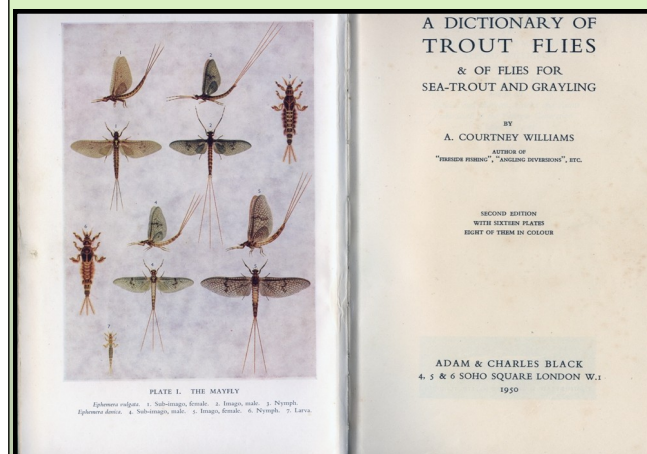
'Well you see, Norm, it's like this . . . A herd of buffalo can only move as fast as the slowest buffalo. And when the herd is hunted, it is the slowest and weakest ones at the

back that are killed first. This natural selection is good for the herd as a whole, because the general speed and health of the whole group keeps improving by the regular killing of the weakest members. In much the same way, the human brain can only operate as fast as the slowest brain cells. Now, as we know, excessive intake of alcohol kills brain cells. But naturally, it attacks the slowest and weakest brain cells first. In this way, regular consumption of beer eliminates the weaker brain cells, making the brain a faster and more efficient machine. And that, Norm, is why you always feel smarter after a few beers.' **Pete Hazelwood**

Those Exquisite Little Things: Genus Ephemeroptera

To fly fish for trout is to associate with and appreciate the "Mayfly". For centuries told it has been marveled at, written on, and now today is bought to you in HD DVD ("The Hatch"—Nick Reygaert). A Mayfly event is revered as the pinnacle of any days fishing and from the days of Walton "**The Complete Angler or the Contemplative Man's Recreation being a Discourse of Rivers, Fish-Ponds, Fish and Fishing: 1653**" to today; we still admire it, want it and wait for it in our days fishing. Our Tasmania blesses us with tiny *Caenid*, the delicates *Nousia*, *Baetis* and the larger *Atalophlebia*. Complicated Latin words to describe

to what the lay may think are little things. Nonsense! I doubt our lives would be complete as fly fisherpersons without the link between the natural world and our forlorn attempts to replicate its beauty. Fur, feathers, silk, synthetics, wire and wax skillfully fashioned into the likes Greenwells Glories, Dogs Bodies, Tups Indispensables and thousands of variants and inventions. Who knows what you might find at the December Club meeting?



One Fly competition at Penstock Lagoon 3rd December 2011

Keen club anglers can pit their stealth against Penstock's trout. Test your skills with the "One Fly Challenge".

The Rules of Competition, Gentlemen are as follows:

- Format: One fly only
- 6 fly patterns only selected and supplied by Alan Davie of Doo Gun
- Lucky draw with each fisher to draw from hat, resulting in one fly pattern/two sizes. These will be the flies to be used for the day
- Cost \$10 per person entry
- Two sessions: Fishing **Session 1** 9am - 12.00 noon **Session 2** 1.00 - 4.00 pm
- Mystery fish length: Each entrant is to write down length of each fish in mm to be drawn from hat at the end of day. The Winner will be the entrant with a caught fish closest to drawn measurement. Entrants are required to record catches in mm length. Photos are acceptable
- At club members discretion to participate in a BYO BBQ at end of the day with a possible Saturday overnight stay at Koongara and Noonamena for those members that wish too.

Contact Your Committee Man **Martin Hingston** on 0418 148 924.

FOR SALE

Fly Reel: Lamson Litespeed 2 JLS2 Fly

Reel: Anodised Grey : \$280

Fly Rods: Sage 3 Fly Rod RPL 960 2 piece
with tube: \$200

Sage 3 Fly Rod RPL 865 2 piece with
tube: \$200

Sage 2 GFLRP B686 2 piece: \$150

Contact **Joe Conti** 0419340226

Kilwell 9'6" 7w 3 piece Graphite Fly Rod
with soft case \$150

Contact **Fred Lunstroo** 0458127816

WANTED TO SWAP

Sage Fly Rod factory made 9 foot 7
weight 2 piece for Sage 6
weight rod (or similar).

Contact **Brian Carroll** Phone
63918465.



For Sale: Contact Peter Hazelwood 0418 132 231
New Snowbee Aluminium Rod Tube: To suit 9' x 2 piece rods: \$20.00
Used Rio Grande W.F. #7 weight: \$20.00
Slightly used Sharkskin W.F. #7 weight: \$30.00

SAGE

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Remember our rod and reel raffle, for \$5; you won't get a better purchase anywhere. You are guaranteed to win; (I'm just not sure yet which you it is).

Come along to our December meeting and social get-together. Our club goes into recess over the Christmas break, so there is a big gap between now and our February meeting. Light refreshments, at a couple of dollars, smoked trout on crackers, Christmas cake, hot drinks- all garnished with a sprinkling of fishing stories will make it a good shindig. Members' contributions of a couple of flies for the raffle and maybe a few additional small food platters would top things off nicely.

Fishing Wisdom

Q. How do you find feeding fish?

A. Look for, then head towards where you see the following:

Bob Binns 'Holden Captiva, parked in the Nineteen Lagoons; Alan Miller's green dinghy nestled on Penstock; Chris Crawford's moustached image wading up to his armpits on Little Pine.

You've gotta be cheeky to get on in this world.

Maurice H.

Minutes of General Meeting held at Summerdale School on Wednesday the 2nd of November 2011

MEETING OPENED: 7:30 pm.

Apologies:

Joe Conti, Corey Harris, Andrew Howell, Ross Frankcombe, Cliff Oliver, Craig Dolbey, Bill Pel, Tony Cash, Tim Cotton, Nick Merrony

Names of Guests:

Roland Batten, Greg Davis, Carol and David Cook

Guest Speaker:

Charles Peck provided members with a mouth watering tour of the Chudleigh Lakes and Western Lakes area. This talk, originally prepared for the VFFA for promotional purposes in the 1960's, has been updated to the present and included a slide show of the magnificent scenery on route to the many fishing destinations. The talk began in the Bar Lakes system, reached either from Meander or Lake Augusta. He believed that the fish, seen or caught, from Lake Ila were the best and largest from that area.

**Minutes of General Meeting held at Summerdale School on
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Charles also covered the Blue Peaks area, Christy's Creek, O'Dell's Lake and Lake Fergus.

Minutes of last meeting:

Acceptance of the minutes as appearing in the last newsletter is a true and accurate record was moved by Richard Hawley, and seconded by Simon Bland, and carried.

Matters arising:

President Maurice Hendley opened discussions on the issues of supplying a listing of names, addresses, emails and phone numbers annually in the newsletter. Members will now be given the option, via the newsletter, if they would like their details published in the newsletter. President Maurice Hendley also addressed the issue of the Club's details not being printed in the Examiner's "Club Corner", he stressed that it was an oversight by the Examiner and Ron Harvey has followed it up.

Correspondence:

Inwards:

- "Tippet Topics" – Greenwells Fly Fishing Club newsletter (printed version).
- Tasmanian Fishing News and boating – October/November edition.
- Letters of resignation from Wayne Butt and Steve Simmons.
- Letter from Charles Peck – Questions on the valuation of Noonamena and Koongara.
- Email from Scott Murphy – Issues with redevelopment of Koongara.
- Email from Phil Lebski – Response and agreement with Scott Murphy's comments.
- VFFA newsletter October 2011.
- V.K. Electronics – Invoice for LED lights.
- Branch Office – Invoice for printing newsletters and labels.
- "Tippet Topics" – Greenwells Fly Fishing Club newsletter (electronic version).
- AAT – Invoice for Public and Products Liability Insurance.

Outwards:

- Steve Simmons – acceptance of resignation.
- NRM South and the Hydro – Club's appreciation for guest speakers (Biosecurity).
- Peter Hayes – Investigation for FFC members to have casting tuition.
- Gary France – To purchase 4 disinfectant spray bottles to store at the club shacks.

Inward correspondence accepted and outward moved by Richard Hawley and seconded by Simon Bland and carried.

President Maurice Hendley discussed the emails from Scott Murphy and Phil Lebski and indicated that the committee's proposed upgrades are following along their thoughts of basic needs – water, hygiene and safety.

Budget Camper and Piggy Back Boat

If it won't, then it will only be a short distance to walk.

Next we will reload the boat and get it all ready for the road once more, so set your stop watches.

If anyone wants' to ask any questions, then old Jack will answer them if he can. He is willing to help anyone with advice about building a similar van for themselves; what to look for in the beginning and what pitfalls may lie in wait for the unwary.

FFCT January Event: Blue Peaks

In preparation for the Blue Peaks Walk the Committee strongly advises that members who are planning to walk in to this area achieve a reasonable level physical fitness. This includes "Pack" fitness and tolerance. The walk into Blue Peaks is not overly difficult at a reasonable walking pace and would take in the vicinity of 2 to 3 hours with comfort and rests. The young and the restless would have achieved it much less time. The walk in is approximately 6 km and the first part of the walk is up hill. This is a Wilderness Fishery and it is advisable to take the appropriate equipment. A walking pole is recommended as the return trip is downhill and two points of contact whilst walking is the safer option.

You are most likely to injure yourself when you are fatigued.

See Tas Maps 1:25000: Lake McKenzie 4437 and Pillians 4438.

**For a Cause: Back to Pedder Fishing Competition Charity Event
26/01/ to 29/01/2012**

A mate of mine who is running the "Back to Pedder" fishing competition put out some info on the 2012 comp today which may interest some members.

Although it is a competition open to all methods of fishing, there is an interclub challenge as well as it being a charity event for Camp Quality and another charity. Sounds like a good trip, and they have some great support for Camp Quality in the past.

It would be good to see the Tassie fly fishers take out the teams challenge too.

Just thought some of the members may be interested in thinking about supporting the competition. <http://www.sportsfishtasmania.com/phpBB2/viewtopic.php?f=29&t=11995&sid=foa8dbb98f57d1ed98ef5360164fced6>

Andrew Howell

Budget Camper and Piggy Back Boat

the small sink made from an old pressure cooker body, (\$3 from Echo Salvage), and the water pump from Tamar Marine, \$23.

On the port side just inside the door, there is the little work bench, suitable for the fly tying vice to clamp onto, with a large size Esky underneath.

Under the starboard berth there is a roll out drawer for the cooking and eating utensils.

Under the port berth is the rollout tucker box for non-perishable foodstuffs.

The port and starboard berths, made from old bed frames salvaged from the Salvation Army shop for \$ 4 each, are ready for either sitting or sleeping on.

There are two king size quilts with covers, purchased from the City Mission for \$20 each, which serve as sleeping bags.

The little old car radio, purchased from the Mount George Wreckers, for \$20, also plays CDs.

Above the bulkhead, which separates the rear cabin from the drivers cab, there is a library shelf storing a variety of reading matter, with books on flora and fauna, birds and fish etc.

Under the port berth is storage space for the porta loo, which is only for extended camps.

And under the starboard berth there is a spare gas bottle, spare wheel and kindling wood bags and fire lighters for starting the campfire in wet weather.

You will notice that all the fishing tackle is stowed away ready for use when required. Fly fishing gear to port and other tackle to starboard.

There is no unnecessary space taken up with large fixed space consuming built in furniture.

Inside the starboard side door there is a tool compartment and on the port side a spare battery to provide greater battery capacity for limited use of the interior light and radio.

The rear interior has been lined where possible with plywood to help reduce condensation in cold weather.

At the front we have the drivers cab.

No power steering, no automatic transmission, no fuel injection, no air conditioning, but a very good heater.

Very comfortable driving position with lamb's wool seat covers for tired old long distance travellers.

Above the windscreen we have an extra shelf for road maps, hats and gloves.

Behind the seat we have the toilet tent for longish over night stops.

Outside we have the painted on garage, a liberal coating of Taubman's Solaguard to help prevent rust and improve the appearance.

Also you will notice the airstream enhancer over the front cab. This is where the solar panel will go some day when one falls from a truck.

All in all a pretty tidy little unit, don't you think?

It is quite acceptable and very suitable for the elderly fisherman.

There is another hidden advantage in keeping this unit at home; it is a welcome place to hide away in when things get too hectic around the house.

This unit is well within a family man's or retiree's budget.

It is quite easy to do without a lot of fancy fittings, four wheel drives, air conditioning units, two way radios etc.

This vehicle will go practically anywhere that a vehicle will get to in Tasmania.

Minutes of General Meeting held at Summerdale School on Wednesday the 2nd of November 2011

President Maurice Hendley also indicated that discussions with Charles Peck, club asset valuations, were continuing.

Treasurer's Report:

Outgoings of **\$277.42** and income of **\$1,010.15** processed this month.

Account balances: CBA **\$3,208.83** & TPT **\$6,403.31**

Acceptance of Treasurer's report moved by Keith Watson and seconded by Martin Hingston and carried.

General Business:

New Member:

President Maurice Hendley welcomed Stewart Dick as a new member.

New Committee Member:

President Maurice Hendley welcomed Doug Lang as a new member of committee.

Adult Education:

Chris Crawford reports that on the 23rd October 10 students were introduced to a well prepared morning session of theory followed by casting tuition. Chris expressed his gratitude to John Dekkers, Maurice Hendley, Graeme Frankcombe and Jim Ferrier for all of their help.

Works Schedule:

Penstock:

Works to be undertaken soon is the feed connection from the tank to the toilet system and to install a tap and stand-pipe on the tank. A tentative date has been set on the 3rd December. An assessment of the heater and or flu's condition is a priority. Terry Horan has a replacement heater if required.

The trees and limbs that are unsafe are to be assessed for removal after discussions with the "tenants in common" committee.

Little Pine:

President Maurice Hendley expressed his thanks to both Keith Watson and Simon Bland for removing the remaining rubbish near the woodshed.

**Minutes of General Meeting held at Summerdale School on
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Club Outings:

Macquarie River:

On Sunday October 22nd, club members experienced a difficult day at Stewarton on the Macquarie River. The river was low, weedy and cloudy. Some small fish were present but the spinners were kept at bay by the ever-present breeze. The spinners, and larger fish, did rise for a short time after 4pm.

Nick Merrony and Gary France left early to tackle the Isis River, each making connection with a number of the elusive trout.

Martin and Maurice completed the day fishing the Brumbies weirs, where the "magnet" attracted another fine fish.

Future Club Outings:

Little Pine: Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th November. This is a good opportunity for members to try their luck at catching "tailing fish" during the early dawn and evening. During the daytime take a trip to either Penstock or the Western Lakes. Members can also stay at the Penstock shack. Contact Maurice Hendley.

Penstock: Saturday 3rd December. Test your skills with a "one fly challenge".

Interested members must contact Martin Hingston, or the Secretary, at least 2 weeks prior to the date, to enable the number of flies to be prepared.

Blue Peaks fishing adventure: Leaving on Saturday 28th January and returning on Tuesday 31st January. Contact Maurice Hendley.

Lake Fergus: Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th February.

President's Lead:

Following the October meeting, the club has purchased 2 disinfectant spray bottles to be placed at each shack for members to use. (Biosecurity)

President Maurice Hendley praised the works of both Jim Ferrier and Phil Lebski for placing marker buoys on the submerged hazard in Four Springs Lake.

From the Floor:

John Stagg, and other members, was very much relieved after finding out Tony Ritchie was holidaying in France the last few weeks.

John also suggested that the club write a letter of support to the Inland Fisheries Service. The committee will follow up.

Chris Crawford asked if the items for the new 'fly fishing museum' at Clarendon House were

Budget Camper and Piggy Back Boat



Well now everybody! How often have any of you arrived at the lakeside and wished you had a boat; or had to park a trailer in the city somewhere; or been caught out in a sudden squall without shelter, or wished that you could stay the night somewhere instead of going all the way home?

Old Jack and young John will now demonstrate the method of removing and assembling the boat. Set your stop watches and stop laughing.



Firstly we will hook the keel together and then insert the two gunwale bolts.

Place the rear floor into position, load the revolving seat and place the oars into the rowlock holes.

Oars? The Egyptians invented oars over 4000 years ago and we are still using them today in the twenty first century. They are extremely reliable and with a little practice, anyone can use them.

We now have a whole boat ready to go.

This Twenty year old van was discovered in a car yard in Mowbray Street, tucked away right at the back amongst all the other wrecks.

At the time, June 2009, vans were very scarce, and this one, although in a very sad state, was the only one available in my price range, as close to nothing as possible.

It had seven months of rego left on it, a new windscreen, four passable tyres and an engine that was going.

Given the fact that I did not know how much longer I would be spared, I decided there and then to make the most of the situation and the price was only \$999, I therefore plonked down the bankcard on the counter and had it delivered to a friends place at Newnham, from there I drove it home the next day.

On the way home I noticed it had an erratic petrol gauge, a blinking oil pressure light and what seemed like a stuck temperature gauge.

Later, my mechanic found a cracked distributor cap and a tappet assembled upside down. All these little things have now been fixed, and although the odometer shows 410,000 kilometres, the engine is a very willing unit and wants to go all the time.

Several months later, John and I took it to Lake Huntsman for the day, where John caught a fish and I noted all the future improvements.

This evening you see the finished result before your eyes. (November meeting)

Next we will open the rear door and demonstrate the full headroom area behind the rear axle where the spare wheel used to reside, being held in position by a complicated and difficult to remove metal basket thing.

On the starboard side just inside the rear door, you will notice the two burner gas stove and

TROUT ROOTS Part 2: John Morwood

While waiting for something to happen we tried the obvious spots, anchoring up and searching to weed beds, islands and reed edges with various nymphs and wets. We saw a few swirls of what appeared to be large fish which excited us to work those areas thoroughly but all to no avail. In the meantime I enjoyed the scenery and the abundant birdlife particularly the mute swans which are brilliant white, a contrast to our black ones.



After lunch and still fishless, it got noticeably warmer and humid. Bill noted "something's going to happen." Not long after a few small mayfly duns started to lift off the water with the odd bulge and swirl in the ripple. It looked like a classic case of fish on emergers so a quick change to small grey CDC emergers was made, up anchor and drift trying to get within casting range of a working fish. Most of the fish were only "oncers" that wouldn't take a second time and certainly weren't interested in our

emergers, clink hammers or dries. It all reminded me of Four Springs and Penstock! Sometimes on those home waters a weighted nymph cast to the rise and allowed to sink a little then pulled back had worked, might it do the trick here? Gave it a go and it worked! Although the only result was bust-offs on the take! So we increased the tippet strength to 8lbs and the next fish stuck. One of Castron's larger rainbows and strong, no wonder we had some breakages.



While the activity lasted we had fun boating a couple each and losing contact with several more. We left then as our sport ticket was only for six hours at a cost of about twenty five dollars each. I thought value for money in English terms and challenging fishing. The company and scenery were excellent, so I was satisfied. There was also the anticipation of still more fishing on the trip and I would be going after wild trout.

The exciting adventures of John Morwood continues on in February's edition. John is an international fisherman, fishing in prime fishing waters, not only in the UK, but in NZ as well. Pat Statham, Nick Merrony, Karen Turnbull and Sean from Sydney will be joining John in NZ in February. More on that in later editions. Others have reputedly been/fished in the USA recently and we wonder if there is a story to share!

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relocated from the Salmon Ponds. The general belief is that the items will be collected or donated from other sources.

Vince Bannon discussed the recent success of a fly fisher at Four Springs using a brown shaving brush.

Club Raffles:

Fly Rod: Stalker Rod Master Plus (9ft 4pce 5 wt) with tube, Reel, WF6 floating line and backing, value \$600. Cost of tickets to be \$5, it will be drawn once 200 tickets are sold.

Lucky Door Prize - Gnarly priest donated by Charles Peck.

Lucky door prize was drawn by Carol Cook and won by Bill Greensmith.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be on the 7th December.

This meeting is intended to be of a social format, the club will supply light refreshments, and hors d'oeuvres supplied by club members.

Notes on Hygiene. Your responsibility to yourself and others!

There has been discussion recently regarding the "Hygiene" of Koongara and it has been suggested that the lack of facilities is the reason for the incidence of illness with gastrointestinal complaints after a stay at Penstock. It is important to make it understood and very clear that hygiene is **simply a practice of keeping yourself and the things around you clean, in order to prevent illness and disease**. Koongara has only basic facilities; tank water and a flushing toilet. It is basic hygiene practices that will prevent you and your companions from becoming ill. The transmission pathogens (bacteria and viruses) in a communal setting such as Koongara is by contact either person to person, surface to hand (then ingested), or worst still, faecal-oral. The proven and most effective way of limiting the spread pathogens and the contamination of you and others is to **WASH YOUR HANDS after sneezing, coughing, toileting and before food preparation**. Food preparation surfaces and utensils must be cleaned with hot water (70° C) and detergent to ensure sanitation against bacteria and viruses. Keep your food stuffs and preparation equipment covered and away from flies. Gastrointestinal bacteria is viable for up to 12 months in certain conditions and outbreaks of enteritis are common. Fabric hand and tea towels (inanimate objects that carry bacteria and/or viruses are known as fomites) can be responsible for the transmission of disease. **It is your responsibility to bring clean sanitation items, clean as you go and then take them home to wash.**

Penstock is not dirty; we are!

TROUT ROOTS Part 2: John Morwood

After four days of rain most of the rivers in the region were colored and not suitable for fly fishing, negating my preferred option of fishing running water, so my mate Bill suggested we fish Langley Dam. It's a lake of about 50 acres in a picturesque setting on the Northumbrian moors; it was built in Victorian times to supply water to the former lead mining industry. We used to fish it many years ago and I remember it was a seemingly endless bus ride of about one and a half hours from town. Funny how the journey to the fishing has remained always so much longer than the return!

We used to fish for the brown trout that had naturally stocked from the small feeder stream that ran into the lake. Plenty of them and free rising if there was a hatch of midge or a fall of "daddy long legs" from the surrounding moors, often dour otherwise. A fish over a pound was a good one! Bill said the browns were still there but not as many as before. The water has been run as a 'put and take' fishery for the last 15 years or so with rainbow trout being stocked and available up to 4 or 5 pounds. So now I was going to pay for the experience of 'big fish'. Still it would be good to visit Langley once again.



We took "sport" or catch and release day tickets which along with boat hire cost us about 25 dollars each [more if you wanted to keep your fish], Bill reckoned 'reasonable', I thought a bit expensive if you want to fish as often as I do. It was still ok for a nostalgic holiday treat. Langley used to be free way back when you only had to ask the farmer. There was no limit on our tickets but barb free hooks were required. We crimped down the barbs with our forceps on the flies we used that day.



The weather was difficult to start with being quite bright and only a light ripple. However it got better later with cloud, showers and a good breeze, that's when we started to see fish showed in the wave taking something near the surface. Bill had it taped saying 'use black buzzers about size 14' and that's what they took, mind you we couldn't prove that's what they were actually eating! Who cares?

The rainbows were like 'peas in a pod' in the two and a half to three pound bracket typical of 'stockies' but they pulled well and even jumped but most importantly they were seen fish cast to, which satisfied my particular eccentricity. We caught several each while the activity lasted and were bust off by larger fish.

TROUT ROOTS Part 2: John Morwood

All the time I was looking for something else, a smaller, more subtle movement in the wave which might signal a wild brownie, like the ones I used to catch. I cast to several and missed them before speeding up on the tightening. The reward was to catch my first Langley brown in long decades. It was a distinctively marked little beauty.



Well what did I think of it all? The lake was as pretty as ever but somewhat crowded, you'll note you can always see other fishers in the photos, that was a negative. I would have preferred browns only but hey the rainbows were still fun to catch in the company of an old friend. My wish would be to leave it as nature intended with native browns only and accepting modern economic times perhaps a few quid to fish it. There again I think my views are probably not what some other fishers would want.

Bill heard my rants over a pint on the way home and suggested that as he was off overseas shortly and the rivers were still out of order, that we try a certain lake he knew. He claimed this one was a real tester with difficult large trout albeit still stocked but with an abundant food source making them hard to catch. Why not I said, thinking any stocked fish couldn't be that elusive. I must admit though I'd never fished the lake before.



Two days later we were off to fish Castron Lake in Coquetdale. It's about 60 acres being a former gravel pit, not that you'd guess that now as it's irregular in shape with willow covered islands, lots of water birds and a picturesque setting.

It was mid week and we had the place to ourselves just the way we like it. As Bill was loading up the boat, I looked in the shallows and as the old saying goes "the ponds teem with life." There were shoals of minnows, water boatmen, stick caddis, snails and damselfly nymphs. Plenty of trout goodies!

Bill was pleased with the conditions of full cloud and breeze saying a bright day was a killer when you'd have to wait until evening for fish to show. I'd told him about polaroiding in Tasmania but he didn't seem impressed as he'd never done it before. I then recalled that the prevalent cloudy Northumbrian days and insect hatches would usually provide plenty of rising fish opportunities.