

The Fly Fishers' Club of Tasmania Inc.'



PO Box 460, Launceston 7250

www.flyfisherscluboftasmania.org.au

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Your Committee:

Peter Berne (Snr Vice President), Martin Hingston (Vice President), Graeme Frankcombe,
Lyndon Haines, Jack Barker, John Quarry, Sean Pridmore.

FFCT Newsletter: July 2020

July Meetings Cancelled:

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak there will be no General Meeting. The Committee will be conducting a SKYPE meeting to continue running the Club business.

Presidents Report June 2020

Hello again to all of our Members,

Another month down the calendar and another month closer to some level of normality within our lives.

Those of us in Tasmania are in the fortunate position of now having no active cases of Covid-19 within our borders. This has allowed the state Government to ease some restrictions regarding travel and group meetings which is a great outcome which I sincerely hope continues without any setbacks. This situation will certainly help us all to recover a bit of ground but we clearly need to continue with our vigilant approach to things. In respect of the FFCT, this has given the Committee a chance to meet together and press on with the task of working out our plans for the near future.

Our June Committee meeting was attended by all of the members, which enabled us to have some in depth and detailed discussions with confidence. So perhaps this is an opportune time to review some of those points of discussion. With the easing of restrictions it is looking like we can plan on having our August General Meeting at the Chant Street club rooms. The space itself is capable of seating 22 people and still meet the existing regulations and our hope is that restrictions may be further eased by August.

Obviously the safe and legal use of the shacks was also an agenda item, and we did manage to thrash out some ground rules for their reintegration into our activities. It is our intent to reopen these buildings ready for the start of the fishing season, providing we can get everything set up in time. Clearly the sleeping capacity within the shacks has had to be reduced, so we expect that day usage will increase. Unfortunately due to the size of the bedrooms at Penstock, each bunkroom can only safely sleep one individual, with the added possibility of sleeping another in the main area. Little Pine is just big enough to allow two people in each bedroom, with an additional space in the main room. While this is definitely not ideal for us, it is the best we can achieve under the current restrictions.

Setting in place some guidelines for the occupation and subsequent cleaning of the buildings was our next challenge. The club will need to provide sufficient and appropriate materials for each user to disinfect the building prior to their departure. Additionally we will be making some physical changes to our equipment and on site supplies. The existing store of pillows in both shacks will need to be removed as well as some of the mattresses. The supply of crockery and cutlery will also be severely reduced in order to insure regular cleaning by visitors, and to enable the next visitor the chance to do a quick pre-use cleaning routine with some confidence. The previously frequent routine of some users, has been to set a tea towel out to air on the back of a chair when they depart. I think it is obvious that this is no longer even remotely acceptable, so it is likely that paper towels will be introduced into the system. All bench tops, tables and chairs will also need to be sprayed and wiped down at each visit, and the bathroom and toilet areas will need close attention to detail. Hand sanitiser will be available throughout the buildings.

Signage will be put in place and a cleaning checklist will be on site as well as our usual logbooks. Under the current regulations, we will also need to be able to provide accurate information regarding visitors if we are unfortunate enough to experience an outbreak, so filling out the logbook is essential. I fully understand that all of these guidelines are frustrating and perhaps a bit discouraging, but as an organisation with a significant number of members in a high risk group, we simply must accept, that we need to improve our group hygiene in order to keep everyone healthy.

During a recent visit to Penstock myself and the First Lady completed the stone work on the verandah steps. It was the in the final days of autumn and the wind chill factor was pretty impressive indeed. There are some minor works still remaining to complete this project but they will likely now wait for the spring. This morning the snow on the higher elevations was clearly visible from my front deck.

The other important item of discussion at the Committee meeting was our budget for next year and our current financial status. In view of the changes to our shack usage we felt it was time to address some of our shack usage fees. Following a robust discussion the decision was made to put forward to the next General meeting two recommendations. The first will be to increase the visitor usage day rate from \$25 to \$30. It is hoped that this will provide some encouragement for frequent visitors to more seriously consider membership. To offset any negative impact on our existing Members, we will also be proposing that we introduce a Family rate whereby family members will be charged for shack usage at the Members rate. The intent being that our shack usage will become more affordable to larger family groups. So please put your thoughts together regarding these proposals in preparation for our next general meeting. Our overall view was that we needed to encourage as much as we can the regular usage of these buildings. I have already covered the changed circumstances regarding their usage and frankly...this all feels a bit like being on a ridge line with a bear on one side and a cougar on the other. On the one hand we want them used more, while on the other hand, circumstances have made that more difficult for some.

Financially we, like many other organisations and indeed individuals are facing some challenges. Our next year will be carefully managed and we expect to begin to rebuild our reserves along the way. We have many opportunities in front of us for growth and I am quite confident that we will see another increase this year in our Membership.

There are some new and innovative plans for fundraising being explored and we are always looking for fresh ideas.

As for the upcoming season itself, I think we are in for a beauty.... Our rainfall figures and spawning opportunities have been fantastic. The northern and highland rivers are going to have a tremendous base line water flow and the highland lakes could well see a standout start to the season with good snowfalls over the next few weeks. My fly boxes are all filled. A vintage bamboo rod is completed and a cedar hexagonal rod case is varnished with care. I am ready and waiting.

As a final note, I would like to remind all the Members that our AGM is not far away. If anyone is considering joining in with the challenge of providing leadership and direction to the FFCT then now is the time to put your hand up. It is a fascinating experience, full of unforeseen rewards and fellowship.

Travel safely everyone and look forward to meeting as a group sometime in the near future....

Regards...Jimmy Ellenberger President- Fly Fishers Club of Tasmania

Annual Subscriptions are due on the 1st July 2020

To continue as a member, please get yours settled at your earliest opportunity.

Annual Subscriptions are: Amount

Ordinary Member \$72

Junior Member (Under 18) & Full time Student \$36

Eligible Pensioner (As defined by the Club Rules) \$36

Members who have not paid their annual subscription by 17th August 2020 will be deemed un-financial, requiring payment of the \$30 joining fee as well as the subs rate (\$72) for membership.

Information Only

Correspondence (since last meeting):

Outwards:

1. Paul Madigan (via President) – (email) Process in becoming a Club member.
2. Glenn Belcher – (email) Process in becoming a Club member.
3. State Revenue Office – (email) Payment of Noonamena land tax.
4. Gavin Chugg – (email) Membership forms.
5. MA funerals – (email) Condolences on the passing of Chris Morris.

Inwards:

1. SAFFA – (email) Club newsletters.
2. GFFC – (email) Club newsletters.
3. BOD – (email) Club newsletter.
4. VFFA – (email) Club newsletter.
5. TFTC – Club newsletter.
6. Wild Ecology – (email) Soil restoration trials at Lake Mackenzie.
7. Jeremy Ranicar – (email) Response from Glovers on grazing rights.
8. Bendigo Bank – Current statement.
9. State Revenue Office – Noonamena Land tax.
10. Mike Stevens – Tasmanian Fishing and Boating News issue 141.
11. Gary Long – (email) Appreciation for card.
12. Paul Madigan (via President) – (email) Interested in joining the Club.
13. Glenn Belcher (via Jeremy Ranicar) – (email) Interested in joining the Club.
14. Jeremy Ranicar – (email) New owners of Allan Miller's shack at Penstock.
15. Gavin Chugg – (email) Requesting membership forms.

Treasurer's Report for May:

Expenses: \$ 399.99

Income: \$ 647.09

Bendigo Bank: \$ 2,129.15

Would you like to nominate for Committee?

Prior to each Annual General Meeting, volunteers are called upon to nominate for committee. If you are considering standing for committee and feel slightly daunted, have a chat to an existing committee member. You may even attend, as a guest, at one of our committee meetings to see first-hand how the running of our great club actually works. It's great fun, you learn lots and get to see the results of our collective efforts - right from the outset.

There are plenty of diverse club projects each year and each requires a dedicated, close knit group to see them through to completion. The club survives on volunteers from all walks of life, sharing their various talents and experiences to reach a common goal - benefitting our members.

So if you believe that you can contribute a little time and offer your experience – please complete the nomination form below or contact a committee member to discuss your interest.

Great fly reels don't just 'magically happen', they are carefully crafted from various different parts and materials, assembled together purely to function as the angler intended.

No one part is more or less important than the other and the value to the angler of the whole unit, far exceeds the value of all the parts individually. That's how an effective committee functions.



Committee nomination form 2020/2021

I hereby nominate (please print)

as (position)

of The Fly Fishers' Club of Tasmania Inc, for the year 2020/2021

Nominator (signature) Date/...../2020

Secunder (signature) Date/...../2020

I hereby accept nomination

Call for nominations for the 2019 - 20 Club Awards

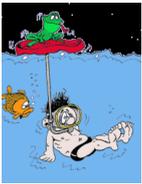


Max Christensen Award & Tanglefoot Trophy

In recognition of a member/s who have provided, over the last twelve months, a substantial and continued service to the club via many forms of contribution.

Past recipients of our highest accolade have been recognised for their valuable contributions in a wide range of areas / fields, including (but not limited to):

- outstanding service on committee
- undertaking additional duties on behalf of the club (sub-committee)
- significant contributions on working bees, projects, etc...
- representing the club on external activities (Adult Ed, AAT, IFS, etc...)



Snorkel Award

Members who have witnessed some unusual activities over the last twelve months and are prepared to 'volunteer' information, leading to the successful prosecution of any member guilty of going the 'full dunk' as part of their fishing / boating activities.

Soil Restoration Project at Lake Mackenzie

"Wild Ecology" are undertaking in-situ field trials to test methods to promote the recovery, retention and rehabilitation of soils that were affected by fire in 2016. This work is considered important to protect the soils at high altitude which is critical to maintaining the natural values of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, water quality and nearby hydroelectricity generation. Although a Tasmanian company, they have undertaken similar works in the high country on the mainland and will apply that knowledge in their treatments.

These trials will include installation of biodegradable materials to slow water flows, provide shading of plants, capture seeds and protect the soil. Small treatment plots of approximately 50 sqm will be installed at various locations around the Lake Mackenzie environs. These treatments and project design have been reviewed extensively by a panel of specialists in DPI-WE and the Parks and Wildlife Service have approved the on-ground activities to ensure the natural, cultural or social values of the area are not negatively impacted.

They are working to minimise any impact the trials may have on visitor experience in the area by information. Whilst the materials used will not stand out visually, you may see some experimental installations/infrastructure and potentially some researchers in the area over the next three years. A helicopter may be required for a half to one day to transport materials to their most remote sites pending approval by the PWS.

Vale – Chris Morris

The Club notes with sadness, the passing of Christopher Morris, who joined the Club in August 1963 and resigned in July 2019 this year due to ill health. Almost 56 years of dedicated service to our Club.

Chris was one of the few interstate members but was a frequent visitor to Tasmania and user of the club shacks, leaving his mark at Noonameena where he helped in planting the gum trees- some of which - are still growing there.

Chris was born in Sri Lanka and spent his early childhood at school in the UK, later attending Naval College Pangbourne.

He arrived in Australia in 1954. His association with Tasmania stems from his marriage into the Gibson Family. He had a great affection for, and knowledge of, the Tasmania Highlands as a bush walker, fly fisher and birdwatcher. Chris was a past president of the VFFA. He was a Master Mariner and was instrumental in setting up the TT Line and was based in Melbourne and for some time in Tasmania.

Condolences to Helen and family.



FISHSTISTICS _ The world Fly Fishing Championship 2019

This article provides some more insights into the fishing results from the World Fly fishing Championships held in Tasmania last year. It is focused on the fish and fishing and the performance of the waters with no attempt to analyze the performances of individual competitors or competing countries

In five days of fishing under competition rules from December 2nd to December 6th 2019 a total of 2056 fish were caught by 123 fisherpersons in some of the worst weather Tasmania has to offer.

Two rivers: the Meander and the Mersey, and three lakes: Little Pine Lagoon, Penstock Lagoon and Woods Lake were fished for five sessions (days) each. The two rivers fished returned well over 500 fish each – Meander 574 and Mersey 551 - while the lakes were substantially less productive, Little Pine yielding just 236 fish, Woods Lake 295 and Penstock 400, all well below the totals of fish for either of the rivers.

The biggest fish caught was a monster of 616 mm length taken from Woods Lake but not having the weight of this fish it is possible to say anything about its condition. While some other quite large fish were also taken from Woods Lake, the second largest fish taken during the Championship was from Penstock, measuring 583 mm with a second fish from Woods measuring 680 mm. while the biggest fish from Little Pine Lagoon measured 576 mm. The biggest fish from the rivers, taken from the Meander, measured 491 mm while the biggest fish taken from the Mersey measured 461 mm. As would probably be expected most of the longest fish were taken from the lakes, the longest fish in any bag from either of the rivers was exceeded in length by at least 100 of the fish caught in the lakes.

The average size of all the fish caught in Penstock was 431 mm with Little Pine not far behind with an average size of 426 mm. While the largest fish for the championship was taken from Wood Lake, the average of all fish from this water was only 376 mm. For the rivers the average sizes were: Meander 285 mm and Mersey 269.

The largest bag in terms of fish numbers was taken from the Mersey River with 21 fish, the biggest from the Meander held 19 fish, while the biggest bag from the lakes was 13 fish in one bag from Little Pine, with bags of 12 and 9 fish being the best from Penstock and Woods Lake respectively. Not unsurprisingly, these same bags scored highest from each water in competition points.

While the weather must have had some effect on the performance of the various waters there does not seem to be any consistent pattern in the session returns which might reflect this. The slowest session on Little Pine was Session 3 with only 30 fish caught for the day compared with the best day, Session 1 which returned 65 fish. At Penstock Session 4 was the quietest day with only 48 fish caught compared with 97 fish on Session 1 and 90 on Session 2. Session 3 was also the quietest day on Woods Lake with only 39 fish compared with Session 1 when over 80 fish were caught. Returns on the two rivers was a little more consistent. For the Meander the best day, Session 4 returned 127 fish with a low of 109 fish on Day 1. Session 1 was the best day on the Mersey River when 153 fish were reported but for this particular water things went consistently down from there, each day producing fewer fish than the previous one to a low of 84 fish on Day 5. A result such as this on a river could be (and probably is) completely coincidental or it might suggest that the fish were being stirred up by the constant pressure and becoming harder to catch as each session passed. The other four waters had up and down days but session 5 was not the lowest scoring day for any of these.

Hopeful but often frustrated fishers such as the under-signed can take some comfort from the fact that not all competitors were successful in all waters. Our stories are legion but in this case the weather would have provided a good excuse, we would certainly not have been fishing in the weather which prevailed. But, 28 champion fishers failed to score from Little Pine Lagoon during the comp., 15 blanked out at Woods Lake, 13 on the Mersey, 9 on the Meander while only 5 rods blanked out at Penstock lagoon. Good old Penstock. There were blank rod days on all waters except Penstock where all those who fished there in the first 2 sessions caught fish. At Little pine 9 and 8 fishers blanked out on sessions 3 and 4 respectively. At Woods Lake 4 rods blanked on both of days 3 and 5. The worst day on the rivers was session 4 on the Mersey when 5 fishers failed to catch a fish.

And the Weather? Well, that is a story for another day!

John Stagg



An Inland Fisheries Service Report from Curries River Reservoir

Curries River Reservoir is located off the B82 road, between George Town and Bridport. The fishery serves anglers from the greater Launceston area. Over the years this water has produced variable fishing for both brown and rainbow trout. However, the fish are always of excellent size and condition.

During August 2019 we did a survey of Curries River Reservoir to assess;

- the number of brown and rainbow trout,
- the size of the brown trout population,
- the length structure of the brown trout population and,
- the condition of all fish.

In summary, there were very low numbers of both brown and rainbow trout. However, the resident fish we did catch were in great condition.

Before the survey, 1 175 adult brown trout with their adipose fin clipped were released into the reservoir. These fish weighed around 721 g and were on average 420 mm long. By the 2020-21 season they should be approaching 1.2 kg. The fin clip enables to identify the released fish and estimate the size of the brown trout population.

As a consequence of the survey, we plan to boost fish numbers in Curries River Reservoir with stockings of brown and rainbow trout over winter 2020.

Another Inland Fisheries Service Report from Bradys chain of lakes

In May – June 2019 3,500 adult brown trout were caught in the fish trap on the River Derwent at Lake King William. They were tagged with a numbered green tag, and released directly into Bradys Lake. During the 2019-20 season, a total of 95 of these trout were reported to the IFS as being caught by anglers. Of these fish, most were kept, with just 5 reported as being released.

As all tagged fish were transferred into Bradys Lake, we could look at where they moved to within the chain of lakes. Of the 95 tagged trout caught and reported by anglers, 27 were from Bradys Lake, 46 from Lake Binney and 22 from Tungatinah Lagoon. This indicates that 71% percent of these tagged fish had moved out of Bradys Lake, with 48% moving into Lake Binney and 23% travelling down into Tungatinah Lagoon. One fish was reported from the Bradys white water.

Tagged fish were captured throughout the season, although September seemed to be the most productive time, with a decline in reports until February 2020 when a increasing catch was reported. The low figure for March and absence for April are because of the Covid-19 restrictions being in place.

In relation to reported weight gains, the information reported was highly variable and was not able to be used to assess growth.

We would like to thank all those fishers that took the time to report their catch of tagged trout and hope you enjoyed the extra effort that we are trying to put in to understand these lakes and improve catch rates.

