



# Fly Fishers' Club of Tasmania Inc.

Founded 17th August 1955

Postal Address: PO Box 460, Launceston 7250

## Newsletter - February 2024

### Coming Up

#### Next General Meeting:

7:30pm 7th February 2024

1-3 Chant Street,

East Launceston

#### Next Committee Meeting:

7:00pm 14th February 2024

1-3 Chant Street,

East Launceston

### Club Night:

This is our casual night where members catch up with all of the news that has happened over the summer period.

Where the best fishing places are and what flies work the best.

### Next Club Outings:

Little Pine Lagoon "Cane Day" (21st January) - Refer Page 5

Little Pine Lagoon "Pine Plunder" (27th January) - Refer Dec NL

Four Springs Lake "Clean Up Australia Day" (9th March) - Refer page 13

## General Robert Hurley Wordsworth

I was born on 21 July 1894 at Collarenebri, New South Wales.

When I retired from the Indian army in 1947, I became a Tasmanian Liberal Senator in 1950 for 10 years then the Administrator for Norfolk Island from 1962 - 1964. I was a foundation member of the Fly Fishers' Club of Tasmania in 1955.

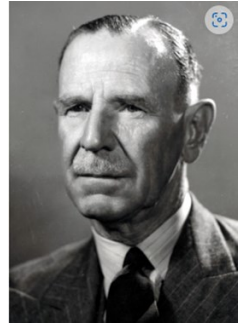
In India between the wars, I was a keen polo player, big game shooter and pig sticker. I have shot every animal in the Indian jungle, except an elephant. Then I took up small game shooting. I could go out on a weekend and get a hundred ducks, or partridge, or snipe from my own gun. It was a wonderful life in the Indian Army between the wars, and you lived like a millionaire on a poor man's income. But we were all fairly poor, you were all supposed to have a bit of money, especially in a cavalry regiment, I unfortunately never had any, so I had to make a bit of money training and selling polo ponies.

I started fly fishing in India following a bad accident playing polo. My old Colonel John Dick lauder took me up to the Himalayas to teach me how to fly fish and help with my recovery. Although my preference is fishing the dry fly, I have fished every sort of fly in every way you could think of. With the dry fly you can see your fish. And those that like wet fly fishing well - good luck to them.

My preference is to fish in the rivers. The atmosphere of walking up a river, the scenery, different types of water and it is much more entertaining than say the Great Lake. But in the old days I enjoyed the Great Lake and the Shannon Rise – I spent many years on the Shannon Rise. The water would run full bore in the Shannon, which caused a hell of a lot of drag very quickly and of course there was a lot of competition from the thousands of flies on the water. It was surprising that you ever caught a fish. To catch a fish, you had to pick out your target and cast very accurately amongst the millions of flies. Whether it was windy or not, the fish would rise. Only a southerly would cause the fish to stop rising, even though there was plenty of flies present.

I loved the Macquarie River, particularly when there is a southerly wind that would eventually die out. It was a beautiful river.

I remember one time fishing at Little Pine with Poly Clark. Poly was a great friend of mine who taught me how to fish in Tasmania when I came out from India. He was a great fly fisherman and a member of the FFCT. We had been fishing all morning with no success. The lagoon was low, so I wandered out to fish from the riverbank. I flicked a dry fly over the edge and hooked this tremendous fish. With the water low the damn thing got out of the river and was swimming round amongst the branches. I yelled to Poly who was some distance away for help. I said, "Come and help, I can't control this I've got a big fish on". Old



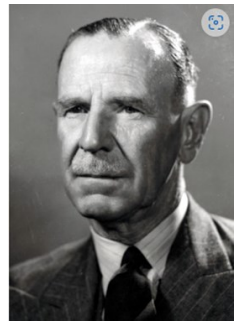
Poly came up and disentangled the line from the bushes and the fish was still on - and I got him up. I couldn't net him, he was too big to fit in the net, so Poly caught him a clip over the head with his donger, he always did that, he never carried a net, and that was him. That was a great memory.

Another memory was when I caught a platypus. It was on the Liffey River. I was fishing this big quiet pool with a coch-y Bonddu to fish rising and suddenly this platypus swam down and turned at right angles and swam over and grabbed the fly. Well, I landed him by running him ashore and I just cut the fly and let him go.

I think that the most memorable day or night that I had was fishing for mahseer in India. I used to spin for them with dead bait – a small fish called “chillwa”. We used to camp on the side of the river at night. One night it was a full moon and my pal sent word that the “chillwa” were still running and the fish were beginning to take. We fished all night till about 2 or 3 in the morning after about 2 or 3 casts I had a fish on. The fish was stuck behind a rock and the 2 of us could not move him. So, I put the rod down and ran in the water to spook him. It was hard work, but I landed the 50 odd pounder. With only 200 yards of line available he took 199 yards of it, luckily, I turned him at the end. It was a wonderful fish. When I came out to Tasmania in 1928 on leave from the army, I wrote to Hardys to recommend some fly gear to fish for trout. They sold me a split cane “Crown Houghton” which was a solid rod made for the Great Lake. I kept myself in Hardys rods, of course I still have 3 of them. Dick Wigram sold me 3 or 4. I have never brought any of the newer types of rods. I believe in fishing with a fine tippet, particularly at Brumbys Creek. And you vary your strike according to the water you are fishing, in a quiet slow water strike slowly, in fast runs strike quickly. When playing a fish, it is best to keep the rod tip well up.

I tie my own flies, all sorts, but I don't think there is any one in particular. The ‘*Senators’ Choice*’ was tied by Mark Jessup and just named after me when I was a senator. Mark did very well at Lake Pedder in the early days, I have never been there. The fly was a Caddis imitation, and it was tied with several coloured bodies, and as a matter of fact it was the quail body which was the normal one. It was very effective on the Shannon Rise, almost the same colour as the snowflake Caddis, but you could see it a lot better.

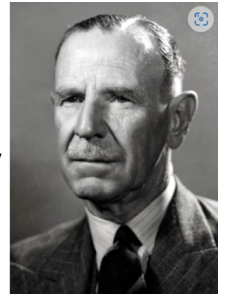
The main attraction to me of fly fishing is, well I like to catch fish. But that is not the main attraction. I love walking up a stream, the nice peaceful surroundings, you can sit down for a little while and watch the water and smoke a cigarette. You are at peace with everything, you can forget your worries. I think a lot of it is the atmosphere. I don't go out to catch fish I get annoyed when fellows say they are “fishing for a feed”. With the dry fly every fish sets a different challenge. You must approach each fish differently, cast differently, and use a different fly. Then how you play the fish and of course how you land the fish. And another great thing is that you can go on well into your old age with it. I'll be 86 in a few days' time and I'm still active and catching fish. It only has to be as strenuous as you make it in the old days, I thought nothing of walking around Little Pine, fishing the whole way, but now I wouldn't fish



more than a couple of hundred yards.

Robert sadly passed at the age of 90 on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1984 at Longford.

*This is based on a transcript from an interview of General Wordsworth by Tony Ritchie in June 1980. Some information and photograph were taken from the website of "The Biographical Dictionary of the Australian Senate".*



## Club Outings

The Contact coordinator for all Club Outings is now Graeme Frankcombe

Email: [graemef59@bigpond.com](mailto:graemef59@bigpond.com) ; Phone 0458 421 909

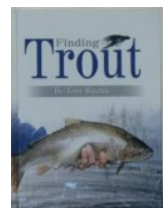
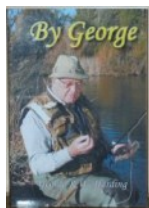
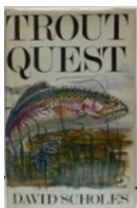
- **Little Pine Lagoon** : (21<sup>st</sup> January) "Cane Day" Refer Page 5
- **Little Pine Lagoon** : (27<sup>st</sup> January) "Pine Plunder" Refer December NL
- **Four Springs Lake** : (9th March) "Clean Up Australia Day" Refer page 13

## Club Library

Members are reminded to take full advantage of our comprehensive selection of books and DVD's that are available in the library.

If you are intending to visit an unknown water, or after a particular fly pattern, or just researching our Club history you will find the answer there.

Contact our librarian - Jimmy Ellenberger.



## **Important Notice**

As all members are aware, we are currently living in difficult and unprecedented times. So, to keep all members notified on what is happening within the Club, either by our monthly newsletters or important notice issues.

It is therefore extremely vital that we have your current contact details.

If you have recently changed your postal address, or email address, or phone number,  
or are uncertain that we have your correct details, then please tell us.

By contacting the Secretary by email at:

[secretary@flyfisherscluboftasmania.org.au](mailto:secretary@flyfisherscluboftasmania.org.au)

## **Cane Day on the Pine**

Are you keen to get out your old or new cane rod and fish Little Pine for a Day  
in January?

**Sunday 21st January 2024**

Start at **10.00am** and conclude at **4.30pm**.

**Please register at the Fly Fishers' Club shack, at Little Pine by 9.30am**

A charge of **\$20.00** for entry will be made to help with catering and this year we will donate to **Women's Breast Cancer** through **Casting for Recovery**.

**RSVP 1 week before to:**

Chris Crawford at [clcrawford@netspace.net.au](mailto:clcrawford@netspace.net.au) or

Graeme Frankcombe, via email at [secretary@flyfisherscluboftasmania.org.au](mailto:secretary@flyfisherscluboftasmania.org.au)

# Do you want a tip - by Allan Ekert

In 1992, the US was experiencing an economic recession and the incumbent president, George HW Bush, was in trouble. James Carville, an advisor to Bill Clinton, suggested campaign staffers focus on the importance of the economy. He used the phrase "It's the economy stupid." This tip became a mantra for Bill Clinton's presidential campaign which he won in November that year.



I don't know much about politics but I do know a little about fly casting, and this month I'm here to tell you that you if you are having trouble with your casting, "it's the rod tip, stupid." Hopefully, I am not going to be as blunt as Carville, but if I can give you a tip it's that the fly line goes where the rod tip goes and if you don't understand that you will have great difficulty with your casting.

You may have noticed in my recent articles photos from our club casting group taken by Vaughn Hagelstein. Vaughn is a new member of the club and an excellent photographer. His photos manage to capture what the fly line is doing in the air with great clarity. Once we all got over the shock of seeing what our casts really looked like, we realized that we could learn a lot from studying these images. The photos made it very clear what our loops looked like and the results were not always what we had planned. As I looked at these photos, I was reminded that "it's the rod tip, stupid."

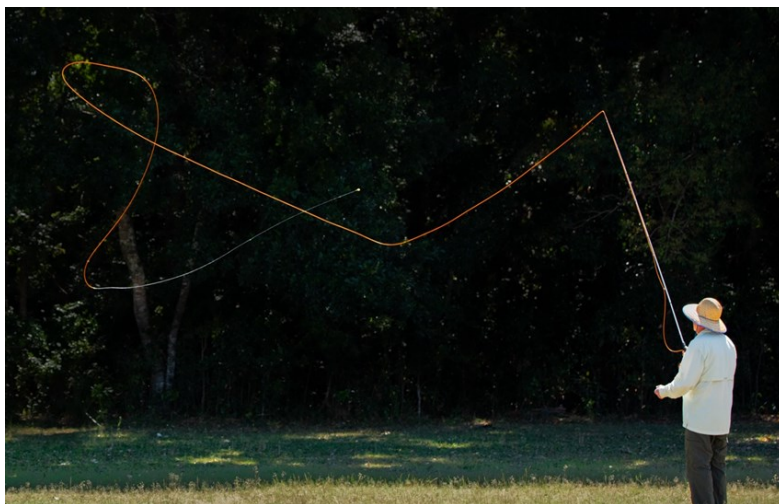




Through the wizardry of Vaughn's camera, you can see the path the rod tip followed in this demonstration of constant tension or oval casting. When the heavy fly caused the rod tip to bend and rebound suddenly, the line followed creating the jagged bumps shown in the photo. Memo to self ... I need to move the rod smoothly with constant tension if I want the rod tip to track straight and avoid the kinks in the fly line. "It's the rod tip, stupid"



Last month I wrote about casting knots and how they were caused by throwing tailing loops. There is some confusion about the definition of a tailing loop but most instructors, and the Federation of Fly Fishers, define a tailing loop as the fly line crossing over itself and back again. A single crossed line is not a tailing loop. This is a tailing loop.



A tailing loop is formed when the rod tip dips down and then rises back up again during the casting stroke. Dipping down isn't the issue, it's the rebound that causes the problem and the casting knot. Seeing the rod dip is not easy as it only needs a small variation for the fly line to magnify what happened as it goes on its way. You might not be able to see the rod tip go up and down but you will certainly see the results in the fly line. If the line crosses itself twice it is a tailing loop. If it only crosses once it is not a tailing loop but simply a crossed line or underslung loop. Whether it is a tailing loop or not, the shape of the loop is formed by the line going where the rod tip goes. "It's the rod tip, stupid." This is not a tailing loop.



There are many reasons why the rod tip rises and falls causing a tailing loop. If you are a beginner, you're probably not throwing tailing loops and have enough to think about without going into all this detail. If you are an intermediate caster, you have probably experienced tailing loops need to understand the cause and what to do about it. The most common causes involve:

- Shocking the rod with abrupt power application
- Too narrow a casting arc for the amount of line being cast
- Breaking the 180 degree rule (high back cast and high forward cast)
- Creep (beginning the forward stroke too early)
- Hauling too soon, too late or too long.
- ... and there are probably more.

If you want the Readers Digest version, tailing loops are caused by the concave path of the rod tip brought about by problems with power application. To fix your tailing loop, be smooth, back off the power and make a longer stroke.

The critical part the rod tip plays in casting has long been recognized as one of the fundamental principles in learning to fly cast. Over the years a number of people have attempted to distill the action of fly casting into its essential elements. However, it was left to a father and son partnership by Jay and Bill





Bill and Jay studied and watched great casters in an attempt to discover the essential elements of fly casting. The biggest difficulty they experienced was deciding what was the essential substance and what was just style. No two people cast in exactly the same way. How the rod is gripped, how the feet are placed, the angle of the rod, the position of the elbow, and the use of the wrist can all be different and still produce a



good cast. Each person develops their own style. Within that style, however, there are certain fundamentals that are common to all good casters. Distilling these elements to just five is what has made Bill and Jay Gammel famous and their method of teaching so well received. These five essentials are still the cornerstone of good teaching today, although 30 years later Bill would probably add a couple more if he were to re-write them.

Of the five (plus two) essentials of a good cast, there is one that stands above the others. The third essential in Bill and Jay's original five states: *"In order to form the most efficient, least air resistant loops, and to direct the energy of a fly cast toward a specific target, the caster must move the rod tip in a straight line."* This is probably the most important element of a good cast and the holy grail of all fly casters. A straight-line path of the rod tip will produce the tightest and most effective loops. "It's the rod tip, stupid."



It is a difficult concept to get your mind around as the rod tip cannot follow a straight path for the whole stroke. The rod starts low, finishes low and bends in the middle. The straight-line path occurs during that part of the stroke when the line is being accelerated by the rod tip. The secret to achieving a straight-line path of the rod tip lies in the other four essentials. To find out more about the five essentials you should watch the videos by [Bill Gammel](#) and [Carl McNeil](#) on YouTube.

The late, great Lefty Kreh was also aware of this when he put forward his four principles of fly casting. The third of those principles states: "*The line follows in the direction the rod tip speeds up and stops. Most casts call for the rod tip to follow a straight-line path.*" It couldn't be clearer that the line goes where the rod tip goes. Lefty's principles are not as widely accepted as the 5 essentials of the Gammels, but there is no doubt they are true for his style of casting. I can imagine that Lefty used the phrase "It's the rod tip, stupid" in his teaching to highlight the fact that the line goes where the rod tip goes.



The camera never lies and the line always goes where the rod tip goes. If you can control what the rod tip is doing you can control your cast and make the loop you want to make. You might not win an election with a tip such as this, but if you want to win a casting competition ..."It's the rod tip, stupid."

*The Essentials of Fly Casting, Bill and Jay Gammel. Copyright 1993 by the Federation of Fly-fishers. Published by the Federation of Flyfishers.*

To find out more about Bill and Jay Gammel's 5 Essentials of Fly Casting you can watch this video:

[https://youtu.be/Pkh9mcCaQkg?list=PLsAamPhXiLq\\_o9rCKA-SlqaZf-RX52iQJ](https://youtu.be/Pkh9mcCaQkg?list=PLsAamPhXiLq_o9rCKA-SlqaZf-RX52iQJ)

To find out more about Lefty Kreh's 4 Principles of Fly Casting you can watch this video:

<https://youtu.be/tSUz8HdJlSIM?t=32>

Thanks to another father and son partnership in Vaughn and Brett Hagelstein for producing the photos for this article.

Reproduced with thanks from Allan Ekert's "Casting Around"

*Watch for Allan's next issue.*



## CURRENT MEMBERSHIP LISTING 2023/24

First Name	Surname	First Name	Surname
Gary	Allen	John	Dekkers (Life)
Gary	Baird	Dan	Dempsey
Katie	Baird	James	Doherty
Vince	Bannon	Peter	Donati
Jack	Barker	Peter	Duffy
Glenn	Becher	Allan	Ekert
Laurence	Belchambers	Jimmy	Ellenberger (Life)
Peter	Berne	Jim	Ferrier (Life)
Bob	Binns	Tim	Fitzallen
Keith	Blewett	William	Fox
Paul	Boer	Gary	France
Thane	Brady	Graeme	Frankcombe (Life)
Michael	Burgess	Ross	Frankcombe (Life)
Tim	Butcher	Martin	Gilmour
Ian	Button	Peter	Godfrey
Don	Cameron	Barry	Gough (Hon.)
Robin	Camilleri	Darren	Green
Jesse	Campling	Bill	Greensmith
Peter	Castles	Andrew	Grubert
Steven	Charles	Garth	Haas
Gavin	Chugg	Lyndon	Haines
Christopher	Cohen	Phil	Harker
Michael	Collins	Don	Harkness
Joe	Conti	Corey	Hariss
Ray	Costello (Life)	Ian	Harrison
Chris	Crawford (Life)	Richard	Hawley (Life)
Jean	Crocker	Jason	Herr
Gary	Cullen	Stephen	Hill
George	Dale	Martin	Hingston
		Bill	Hodgetts

## CURRENT MEMBERSHIP LISTING 2023/24

First Name	Surname	First Name	Surname
Patrick	Horan	Peter	Radford
Terry	Horan	Marcus	Rae
Andrew	Howell	Peter	Rasmussen
John (Dr.)	Hughes	Peter	Ray
Kathleen	Humphris	Andrew	Richman
Bruce	Inwin	Tony	Ritchie (Life)
Scott	James	Peter	Rumney
Alistair	Kerr	Tom	Seppala
Norm	King	Chris	Smart
George	Kismanis	John	Stagg
Phil	Lebski	Matthew	Stagg
Tony	LeFevre	Mike	Stevens
James	Leslie	Doug	Stingle
Gary	Long	Alan	Styles
Robert	Lowther	Gary	Sutcliffe
Phil	McKendrick	Don	Sweatman
Nathan	Merriman	Alan	Taylor (Life)
Nick	Merrony	Roger	Taylor
Alan	Miller (Life)	Bruce	Tole (life)
Rob	Moreton	Ian	Town
John	Morwood	Geoff	Towns
Scott	Murphy	Alec	Tuff
Geoff	Nixon	David	Walker
Colin	Nye	Keith	Watson
Thomas	Parker	Philip	Watson
David	Patmore	Des	Wheellon
Charles	Peck (Life)	Ron	Whittington
Les	Perkins	Steven	Williams
Frank	Pomogacs	Andrew	Wood
John	Quarry	Robert	Wolf

## Four Springs Lake – Clean up Australia Day

As part of Clean up Australia Day, our Club traditionally 'do our bit' at Four Springs Lake.

There is sometimes very little to collect as regular users look after the area themselves throughout the season.

Members can arrive earlier to fish but are required to assemble at the boat ramp car park at 10:00 am to sign in and collect their equipment for use. The works should be completed by about 11:30am so more fishing can be enjoyed.

**Date:** Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March

**Time:** 10:00am

**Location:** Four Springs Lake Boat Ramp Car Park

**Contact:** Richard Hawley (0429 888 687)

**Requirements:** Stout boots, or waders; personal gloves

Gloves and bags will be provided, and members are advised to be wary of snakes

Members are reminded that we have changed our bank account.

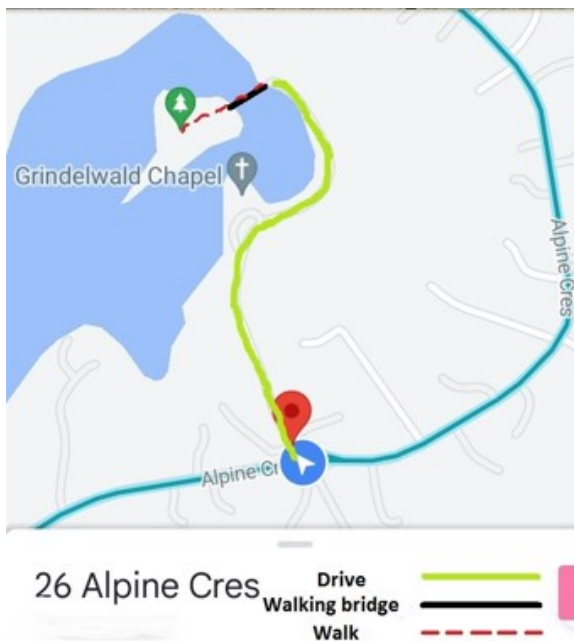
For those that have adopted a payment via a direct deposit into the old account, please change to the new one.

The new account details are:

**Account: The Fly-Fishers Club of Tasmania Inc**

**BSB: 067-603; ACC: 1052 0644**





Access to the property  
of 26 Alpine Crescent .



Gate to enter the property of  
26 Alpine Crescent.

### Grindelwald Fly Casting and Social Outings - Confirmed Dates

- ◆ February 4th, 10:00am - 12:00pm BYO Barbeque
- ◆ February 18th, 10:00am - 12:00pm

Coordinator Don Cameron (ph. 0409 636 273).



# Club Fly Fishing Classes

## Grindelwald "Fly Fishing Classes" - Confirmed Dates

- ◆ February 10th, Basic Fly Fishing Class 10:00am - 3:00pm
- ◆ February 17th, Intermediate Fly Fishing Class 10:00am - 3:00pm

Coordinator - Jimmy Ellenberger

Casting Instructor- Bill Greensmith

## For Booking of the Club Shacks go to our website

[www.flyfisherscluboftasmania.org.au/uncategorized/booking-a-shack/](http://www.flyfisherscluboftasmania.org.au/uncategorized/booking-a-shack/)

**Remember booking is made only by a phone call**



**Noonamena**



**Koongara**

**Members** please check your accounts with **Treasurer - John Quarry**

at: [john.r.quarry47@gmail.com](mailto:john.r.quarry47@gmail.com)

### **Payments and club banking Details**

**Account: The Fly-Fishers Club of Tasmania Inc**

**BSB: 067-603; ACC: 1052 0644**

**Please ensure that your surname & what the payment is for is included**

# The Fly Fishers' Club of Tasmania Inc.

Founded 17th August 1955

**Postal Address:** PO Box 460, Launceston 7250

**Website:** [www.flyfisherscluboftasmania.org.au](http://www.flyfisherscluboftasmania.org.au)



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**President:**

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[m-hingston@bigpond.com](mailto:m-hingston@bigpond.com)

**Secretary:**

Mr. Richard Hawley - 0429 888 687

[secretary@flyfisherscluboftasmania.org.au](mailto:secretary@flyfisherscluboftasmania.org.au)

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**Editor:**

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Mr. Peter Berne

**Casting Instructor:**

Mr. Bill Greensmith

**Librarian:**

Mr. Jimmy Ellenberger

**Facebook Administrator:**

Mr. Jack Barker

**Club Outings Coordinator:**

Mr. Graeme Frankcombe - 0458 421 909

**Senior Vice President:**

Mr. Peter Berne

**Vice President:**

Mr. Jack Barker

**Committee:**

Mr. Graeme Frankcombe

Mr. Peter Ray

Mr. Jimmy Ellenberger

Mr. Bill Greensmith

Mr. George Dale

Mr. Keith Blewett

