



Fly Fishers' Club of Tasmania Inc.

Founded 17th August 1955

Postal Address: PO Box 460, Launceston 7250

Newsletter - March 2024

Coming Up

Next General Meeting:

7:30pm 6th March 2024

**1-3 Chant Street,
East Launceston**

Next Committee Meeting:

7:00pm 13th March 2024

**1-3 Chant Street,
East Launceston**

Guest Speaker- Terry Horan

Join Terry as he relives his amazing fishing expeditions recently encountered in the Northern Territory.

Next Club Outings:

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

Working bee at Koongara (6th April) - Refer page 8

Red Spinner Tales

Nigel Forteath and his upside down Red Tag

I was born in India in the town of Shillong in Assam province. Assam is a tea growing area in India way up in the hill country near Burma.

My Father was in the British military and my mother was a nurse during the war.

After the war, we moved back to Scotland. Near Edinburgh, in an army training camp, there was a small pond which contained small brown trout. My brother Neil and I, each armed with a tank aerial rod, old reel and line used to fish for them using a worm; a great introduction to trout fishing.

After Edinburgh, the army sent my father up to the north of Scotland. We lived close to the lovely River Beauly. The Beauly flowed into the Murray Firth and was well known for sea-trout. My father, who was a very good salmon fisherman, introduced my brother and I to fly fishing on this river. We would catch many a sea-trout using a Blue and Silver Terror. Sea-trout are known for their fighting quality and some of the fish we landed were five or six pounders. I was hooked on fly fishing from then on.

In the summer months, often we would fish throughout the long twilight. It didn't really get dark at all in the north of Scotland. The sun might drop down behind a hill but rise again at one in the morning. During these long twilight periods the sea trout would actively feed and it was very exciting fishing for two young boys. It was always river fishing under the supervision of our father.

I can't remember fishing any of the lochs until I was about ten or twelve. My brother and I were at boarding school and during the August/September holidays the family would go to Ullapool on the West Coast of Scotland.

My father had an ex-army friend who owned a large estate at Ullapool. They had several beautiful lochs we could fish. Some of these lochs were a couple of hours walk for us through the heather and we would frequently see deer and golden eagles. We used flies like the Bloody Butcher and some of these trout were over a kilo which was unusual as the lochs were all known for acidic water which seldom resulted in big fish. My brother and I now became keen loch fishermen.



Up in the upper reaches of the River Spey was Loch Inch which contained Arctic Char and Brown Trout. I found Arctic Char were interesting because they were an ancient version of salmonid. We caught them on rather large white flies.

In the marshland around Loch Inch there were pike. These are a very aggressive fish and a vicious predator. Some specimens weigh up to 20 pounds. On one occasion when my brother and I were pike fishing, we noticed a moorhen swimming across some open water. Next, there was a swirl and the moorhen disappeared, as if a crocodile had taken it. My brother was very quick and cast a lure to where the bird had disappeared. The pike took the lure. We netted it and could see a bulge in the pike's stomach. The unfortunate bird was still moving. We cut open the fish and dragged the poor bird out. Alas the bird died! But I had a great photo to prove the story.



Later, I entered the 'the pike story' in a national fishing story competition and won first prize, which was a day on Loch Leven. Loch Leven is famous for its trout. We were lucky! My father, brother and I each caught a trout. The prize also included a bottle of whisky but still a school-boy it was duly handed over to my father - but I seem to remember a wee dram never the less. I would fish Loch Leven several times later in life with my brother and we caught some magnificent trout.

I gained great experience in those early years fishing both lochs and rivers in Scotland, particularly on the River Spey. The Spey is Europe's fastest flowing river and well known for salmon and sea trout fishing.

While I was still at school my father retired from the army after 42 years and we moved to Craigellachie a small village on the banks of this mighty river. My father became the Fishery Superintendent of the River Spey. There were many invitations for him and his two sons to fish during school holidays.

One day in particular I will not forget. My father and brother were rowed across the Spey to fish the far bank. I had never caught a salmon and decided I would stick to sea-trout. My mother set up a deck chair close by and I cast out a Bloody Butcher fly on my 9' trout rod. The next moment was chaos - an eight pound salmon took the fly! It took me over 20 minutes to land the fish and claim my first salmon. My unlucky brother would have to wait for another day.

The River Spey was fantastic flyfishing for sea-trout and salmon. I would tie my own flies and when tube flies became all the rage made some of those too. I still have some of these flies

today, after all those years ago. I used to use the black fur cut from my Labrador's tail and the fly was not dissimilar to the Hairy Mary salmon fly. I used a small version in low water and a larger version when the river was running high.

I fished for salmon with a floating line and always made sure I had a meter of slack line in my hand. The reason for the slack line was the river flowed so fast that without the slack line, when a salmon took, you would pull the fly straight out of its mouth if you did not let go of the slack. It was quite highly skilled fishing that required you to really concentrate on your technique. The rods were nearly eighteen feet long, and you would 'Spey cast'. Your cast would go across and slightly down river.



The other fish that were very common in the Spey were Finnock. These are juvenile sea-trout. After the sea-trout spawn and the eggs hatch the Finnock stay in the river and migrate to the sea in May. They are five hundred to six hundred grams at this stage. They migrate in their thousands. When the duns were hatching the Finnock would feed and we would always try to catch a couple for breakfast with a dry fly.

The Finnock stayed around the Murray Firth and North Sea coast. The salmon would migrate to Greenland and other far-off places. They would return in the Gulf Stream on their way back to the river Spey to breed. Spey fish averaged about ten pounds. The biggest fish I ever caught there was twenty-five pounds. I needed my brother's help to land it. It took us thirty minutes.

Being brought up near the Spey River was a privilege. It's not the same now, you would be lucky to get a day's fishing for under \$1000. The salmon stocks are also under immense pressure due to gill netting around the sea feeding grounds.

Other salmon rivers I fished were the Deveron and North Esk. Later on in life I was called as an expert witness to testify on the future of netting on the Deveron and the potential harm it would do to the salmon population. We won the case to restrict the netting season. I was able to give back some joy to a beautiful river and its fish.

I worked at eel fisheries in Denmark and trout farms before coming to Australia in 1969 as a '£10 Pom'. After a stint at fruit picking in the Murrumbidgee and chancing my hand at opal mining at Lightning Ridge, I settled for life as a scientist. I graduated from the University of New England at Armidale NSW in 1974 and took my wife to Scotland to meet my family. I then obtained a doctorate degree from the University of Aberdeen. My studies at Aberdeen were on the invertebrate fauna of the Loch of Strathbeg, Britain's largest sand-dune lake. In 1983 my family and I came to Tasmania and I taught science at the then Tasmanian State In-

stitute of Technology. I would later become Professor of Aquaculture at the University of Tasmania.

My family and I would go to Lake Pedder nearly every summer in the holidays. We thoroughly enjoyed fishing there, although I was somewhat deflated when my daughter caught the biggest trout in the annual fishing competition on one occasion! I enjoyed the lake from a scientific perspective too, especially the animals that lived there. I had never seen a yellow mayfly before the one I and Professor Osborn discovered there. If you went out early in the morning you might see a great many platypuses. Lake Pedder remains a special place for me. It is the largest freshwater body in Australia, seven times the size of Sydney Harbour.



Later, Professor Andrew Osborn and I researched the fauna of Lake Pedder in more detail on behalf of the Hydro. We published eight scientific papers on the invertebrates of the lake and pointing to the effect draining the lake would have on the wildlife there. We found the nymphs (mudeyes) of the Tasmanian Redspot Dragonfly in a waterfall close to the shore of the lake. This beautiful insect is an excellent example of a Continental Drift species – its nearest relative is found in Patagonia, South America. It appears the nymphs of this dragonfly take several years to mature to become a dragonfly. Indeed, this dragonfly and all the others found in Tasmania are the subject of a book about to be published by me, *“A Photographic Guide to the Dragonflies and Damselflies of Tasmania,”* which I hope will encourage people to understand why our waterways in Tasmania are so important to so many creatures.

A fond memory of the people I have fished with in Tasmania is my good friend Jim Ferrier. A fellow Scotsman, we had lots in common and I have enjoyed his company immensely. Four Springs Lake has been our lake of choice – a black nymph our fly.

Over the years I have been honored to receive several awards. I was Tasmanian of the Year in 1997 and awarded the 2003 Centenary Medal for Services to Australian Society in Marine Science. In 2006 I was made a Member of the Order of Australia for Services to Marine and Freshwater Biology.

Professor Nigel Forteath’s story as told to Jack Barker and Muriel Rollins.

Photos: Jack Barker and Muriel Rollins. Copyright 2023, all rights reserved.

Nigel’s ‘upside down red tag’ will be described in the following newsletter. For those that cannot wait refer to the link below.

www.flyfisherscluboftasmania.org.au/uncategorized/nigel-forteath-and-his-upside-down-red-tag/

President's Report

Hello members.

Another Christmas has passed us by, and we are two months into a new year. I hope everybody is fit and well. (or as well as can be expected due to date of birth).

I recently spent a few days at Little Pine, first day light N-NW wind, blue sky some duns, 10 fish in the net. Second day light to moderate S-SW wind, mostly blue sky, hardly any duns and 3 fish. Third day mostly blue sky, very calm flat water, no duns and only 1 fish. When I cleaned the fish, it had what appeared to be very small stick caddis in its gut. Hmm... I was using a possum emerger.



Speaking of Little Pine, it appears that MAST and the IFS in their wisdom are going to install a new boat ramp. Boats will now have to launch at the ramp in front of the shacks where there is limited parking. This work is to commence on the 26/2/2024 and last approximately 6 weeks. The lagoon will be drawn down to -1.03m. The upside of this is there may be some minor works done to the boat ramp in front of the shacks and a better main boat ramp. The downside is that this work will be done when Little Pine is in its prime for dry fly fishing.

At our last general meeting Peter Jones was welcomed to the club as a new member, and there were four guests who are prospective members.

On the 6th of April there is a planned working bee at Koongara to cut and collect the wood that is laying around the shack. (you should have received an email from the secretary about this).

It would be good if the members who frequent Koongara are able to attend.

Martin Hingston President FFCT.

News from the IFS

On 12 March 2023, a Redfin perch (*Perca fluviatilis*) was caught by an angler in Mountain River, in the Huon Valley. Redfin perch have not been found in this river, or in the Huon Valley before.

Contact the IFS if you think you've seen, found, or caught a Redfin perch in this area include a photo, the location where it was found and the date.

2024 Cane Day Report by CHRIS CRAWFORD

On Sunday 21st January the club held its third annual Cane Day. We had 21 participants who filled out the registration book on the day. The day was well supported by 11 members of the Fly Tiers of Tasmania, 6 from our club and several fly fishers from around the state and interstate.

The event commenced with a dinner at the Lodge on Saturday evening kindly organised by Anna from Tas Fly Tiers with 15 in attendance.

There was a collection of old and modern rods and Peter Rasmussen even brought along his \$80 Chinese rod and caught fish! There was a variety of classic reels.

The day began with calm and warm weather with many fish rising across the lake. Then the cold southerly came up but fish continued to rise. Most fishers caught fish on nymphs and dries. Patrick Horan managed 15 on a little wet.

The day ended with a BBQ at the club shack. The meet donated by member, Nathan Merryman from the Westbury butchery, went down a treat. There is no prize for biggest or most fish but everyone who participates puts their name in the hat and get a chance to win a bottle of whisky. The whisky was won by Norm Cribbin from Tas fly Tiers.

The cost was \$20 this year with money to be donated to Mending Casts, women fly fishers with breast cancer. \$450 was collected and after some expenses it should still be a substantial donation.



Pine Plunder 2024

On Saturday the 27th of January the Club held it's annual outing at Little Pine Lagoon. The weather was extremely uncomfortable for fishing with heavy cloud accompanied with strong west/north-west winds. Some wind gusts would be close to 50kph.

No duns were visible all day and only a handful of splashy rises were seen close into the shore. Even though no duns were present a searching dry fly cast out was taken readily by some trout. Some trout were netted, and some after playing for up to 30 seconds mysteriously dropped off.

The tally of fish that were retained in the boat was 5 with Martin Hingston leading the way with 3. The successful flies were a variety of possum emergers.

The weather conditions may have been the reason that other Club members did not attend but they missed out on an eventful day and an enjoyable evening.

I did take a photo of the day, but it was blown out of my camera.



Working Bee

The Club will hold a working bee at Koongara on Saturday the **6th of April**.

The works involved include cutting and collecting the firewood that is in the area around the shack.

Equipment required include gloves, boots, wheelbarrows or trailers, axes and chainsaws.

Starting at **10:00am**—be there.

The Contact coordinator for all Club Outings is now Graeme Frankcombe

Email: graemef59@bigpond.com ; Phone 0458 421 909

Minutes of the General Meeting Held at Chant Street on Wednesday 7th of February 2024

MEETING OPENED: 7:30pm.

Welcome:

President Martin Hingston welcomed the 23 members and 5 guests to the February meeting. He recommended that all mobile devices be turned off or placed on to silent.

Apologies:

Gary & Katie Baird, Marcus Rae, Peter Radford, Jim Leslie, Jimmy Ellenberger, Peter Ray, Don Cameron, Graeme Frankcombe, Dan Dempsey, Gary Cullen, John Stagg, Matthew Stagg

Names of Guests:

Peter Jones, Ben Phipps, David Swallow, Annie Skarratt, Bruce Dean

Appreciation:

The President expressed the Club's appreciation to:

- Chris Crawford, Martin Hingston and Richard Hawley for stacking the wood, mowing the grass, and spraying the edges at Noonamena as well as general maintenance around the shack.

Minutes of last meeting:

The Secretary moved that the minutes, that appeared in the last newsletter was a representative record of that meeting seconded by Chris Crawford – **and carried unanimously.**

Matters arising:

Nil

Correspondence (since last meeting):

Inwards:

1. Newsletters – (email) SAFFA, CCFFC, GFFC,
2. Paul Middleton – (email) Unable to accept June date.
3. Dan Dempsey – (email) Accepted the date of July for guest speaker.

Outwards:

1. Peter Jones – (email) Membership acceptance letter.
2. Paul Middleton (IFS) – (email) Invitation as guest speaker in June, now August.
3. Dan Dempsey – (email) Invitation as guest speaker in July.

General Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

4. Ron Thresher – (email) Invitation as guest speaker in November.

5. Jeremy & Piers Ranicar – (email) Invitation as guest speaker in June.

The Secretary moved that the inward correspondence was accepted; and outward was approved seconded by Jack Barker – **and carried unanimously**.

Matters arising:

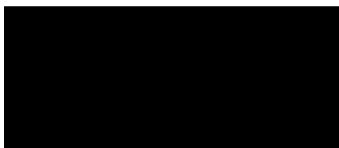
Nil

Treasurer's Report:

December:

Expenses: \$ 720.49 (Newsletter binding \$418.00, December meeting \$160.15)

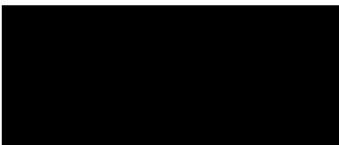
Income: \$ 1,809.72 (Shack \$1040.00, Keys \$140.00, Christmas raffle \$351.00, FF class \$100.00)



January:

Expenses: \$ 679.18 (Wood \$600)

Income: \$ 1,230.00 (Shack \$760, Cane Day \$470)



The Treasurer (John Quarry) moved the Treasurer's report for acceptance, seconded by Peter Berne – **and carried unanimously**.

Matters arising:

Chris Crawford noted that it is up to the committee to nominate the donation for "Mending Casts" from the Cane Day outing. "Mending Casts" is a fundraising program for women with breast cancer.

General Business:

Chairman's Lead:

New Members:

The President and members welcomed our newest member #501 Peter Jones.

General Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

Just some reminders for the members:

Martin reminded the members:

- of the 'fly bowl' which provides good value of flies at \$1 each.
- To send photos and /or articles of outings to the editor for inclusion in the newsletter.

Club Outings: (on whiteboard)

Members heading out on an excursion may also place their information on the white board to encourage others to join.

The Fly casting at Grindelwald has resumed – coordinator Don Cameron

The next outings are – February 18th and 3rd March.

Fishing Outings:

February (Grindelwald "Basic fly-fishing class 10th" & "Intermediate Class 17th")

Bill Greensmith outlined the plan for the day – starts at 10:00am and ends at 3:00pm (or sooner). There are only 2 clients that are listed for the Basic FF class. Other members are welcome to assist him on the day but need to bring their own lunch. There is a BBQ facility if needed. Norm King and David Swallow will attend.

March (Four Springs Lake "CUAD" Sat.9th) This is a basic area clean up and fish day – all are welcome.

Graeme Frankcombe is the contact and coordinator for all Club fishing outings.

Cane Day:

Chris reported that there were 21 starters which comprised of 11 from the TFTC and 6 from the FFCT. It was a good morning with fish rising and everybody caught a fish. Nathan Merri-man kindly donated the meat for the BBQ. Peter Rasmussen and Chris donated the bottle of whisky which was drawn out by Norm Cribben.

Pine Plunder:

Martin described how only 2 members braved the extremely windy conditions at Little Pine. Even though no duns were present, or no fish were seen moving a well-presented possum emerger enticed a take. Five fish were kept in the boat, and many were mysteriously lost whilst playing. Martin finished the day with 3 and the trophy.

Club Shacks:

If you are a regular visitor to any of the shacks and notice that some consumables are running low – remember to replace them the next time you visit. Discard any items that are 'out of date'.

General Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

Members are to report any faults or shack issues to the shack warden or Club committee.

Hollis Banks:

Both Martin and Richard attended the Tenants in Common AGM the main issue that affects the Club is the proposed roadworks. The access road from Hollis Banks gate to the 'Fosterville' fence will be topped up with a load of gravel and the Club has agreed with the other tenants to provide \$100 for the works.

The lock at the canal gate has a stainless steel tie because the locks keep disappearing.

Banking:

The club will transfer the remaining account funds from the Bendigo Bank to the Commonwealth Bank. Then finally close this account.

The details of the new CBA account are BSB: 067 603; Account No: 1052 0644

Other General Business:

Issues encountered with the hot water at Noonamena can be easily resolved by:

- Making sure that the outside tank tap, gas bottle, main switch and pump switch are on.

- Turn on the internal 'yellow' gas valve (under the heater).

- Turn on the hot water tap in the mudroom.

This will ignite the flame and heat the water.

If it automatically does not turn on – turn the tap off wait 3-4 seconds, then turn it back on again.

Charles Peck noted that there are an enormous number of cormorants at Little Pine.

Fishing Reports:

It was noted that the exposed streams and rivers around the State may again be a victim to the cormorants.

News that the St Patricks River returned some very nice fish to 2 lucky anglers. Ben Phipps landed a 4.5lb brown on a fly that he described as 'fluffy'.

Lakes that have been visited with varied success are Arthurs Lake and Penstock Lagoon.

One member returned after 5 months touring and fishing the north island landing blue lined emperor and flathead.

Club Raffles:

The night's raffle was drawn by Guest Annie Skarratt and won by John Dekkers.

General Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

Next Meeting:

March – Terry Horan (NT fishing).

Meeting Closed: 8:00pm



President Martin Hingston
welcoming our newest
member Peter Jones.

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 9th March

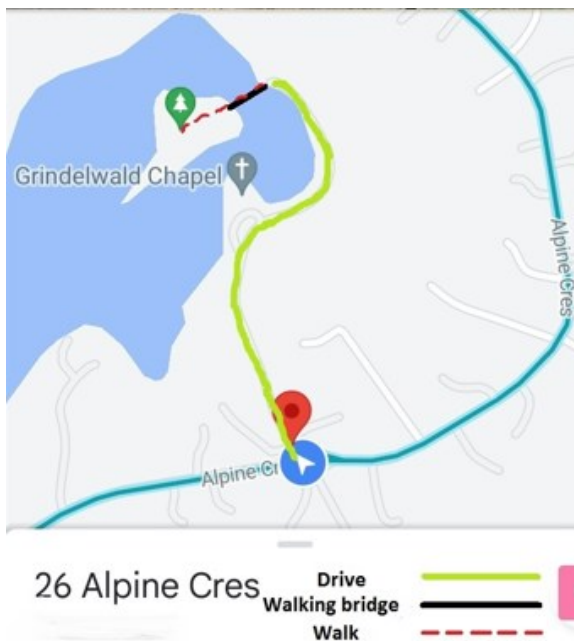
Time: 10:00am

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



Access to the property of
26 A Alpine Crescent .



Gate to enter the property of
26 Alpine Crescent.

Grindelwald Fly Casting and Social Outings - Confirmed Dates

- ◆ March 3rd, 10:00am - 12:00pm BYO Barbeque
- ◆ March 17th, 10:00am - 12:00pm

Coordinator Don Cameron (ph. 0409 636 273).



Peter Berne &
Jack Barker
spreading the
ashes



A happy Cliff

On the 9th of February a small group of members led by close friend Peter Berne paid tribute to our passed member Cliff Oliver by scattering his ashes at Little Pine Lagoon.

For Booking of the Club Shacks go to our website

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

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



Patron: Professor Nigel Forteath

President:

Mr. Martin Hingston - 0428 658 648

m-hingston@bigpond.com

Secretary:

Mr. Richard Hawley - 0429 888 687

secretary@flyfisherscluboftasmania.org.au

Treasurer:

Mr. John Quarry - 0428 441 321

John.r.quarry47@gmail.com

Editor:

Mr. Richard Hawley - 0429 888 687

secretary@flyfisherscluboftasmania.org.au

Immediate Past President:

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

