



# Fly Fishers' Club of Tasmania Inc.

Founded 17th August 1955

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

## Newsletter - April 2024

### Coming Up

#### **Next General Meeting:**

7:30pm 3rd April 2024

1-3 Chant Street,  
East Launceston

#### **Next Committee Meeting:**

7:00pm 10th April 2024

1-3 Chant Street,  
East Launceston

### **Guest Speaker– Christopher Bassano**

Christopher is the Senior Technical Officer with the IFS.

His topic will be his 5 best Rivers in Tasmania, what flies to use and how to best use them and what makes them the best waters.

### **Next Club Outings:**

#### **Working bee at Koongara - 6th April**

Starting at **10:00am** we plan to cut and collect the firewood from the surrounds and transfer it to the woodpile near the shack.

Required are Members, sturdy boots, gloves, axes, blockbusters, chain-saws, wheelbarrows, or trailers

# Red Spinner Tales

## Nigel Forteath - My Upside-Down Red Tag (continued)

I do have a fly to share with you which I developed while fishing Arthurs Lake. I call it my Upside-down Red Tag. I modified the Red Tag because I had trouble seeing the standard version. This fly sits up much better. The size also matches the duns we have here. It is primitive, but it works. The Upside-down Red Tag is meant to be somewhere between an Emerger and a Non Emerger and I have fun fishing it. I have also included a few flies I frequently fished very successfully when



*The Upside Down Red Tag*



*Hairy Mary Tube Fly*



*Hairy Mary (well chewed)*



*Deer's Hair Black Tube Fly*

*The complete article on Nigel Forteath can be found on the website by the link below.*

[www.flyfisherscluboftasmania.org.au/uncategorized/nigel-forteath-and-his-upside-down-red-tag/](http://www.flyfisherscluboftasmania.org.au/uncategorized/nigel-forteath-and-his-upside-down-red-tag/)

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

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

## NT Adventure May/June 2023 by Terry Horan

For the second year running we headed to the Northern Territory to visit our daughter Frances, son Patrick and his partner Sarah.

We again missed the famed runoff at the end of the wet season. Patrick informed us that the big wet season created the best runoff and sight barramundi fishing for 25 years on one particular river system according to local fishers. Patrick and Sarah were on hand to experience barramundi fishing of a lifetime.

Patrick and Sarah mostly targeted the Victoria River and found the best fishing from the shore on the rock bars at daylight. The Barra were chasing mullet in shallow water and sight fishing was spectacular. The Billabongs were also fantastic in April for sight fishing Barra from the boat according to Patrick.

In the photo below: Note the head torch around Patrick's neck where pre-dawn starts provided the best fishing. The headlamp also showed up crocodile eyes to let you know to stay on your toes.



We arrived in late May and the river and lagoon sight fishing peak had passed.

Patrick and Sarah picked us up from Darwin airport and we headed to Corroboree Billabong, boat in tow. I caught my first barramundi on fly and caught Saratoga, Tarpon and Long tom on fly. Patrick has become obsessed targeting Saratoga on fly. We spent a big part of the day hard up against the Lilly pads casting flies as far back into the bank as we could. I can see why it could become an addictive form of fly fishing. The fish just smash the fly when it's pulled over the Lilly pad and the fly lands in a gap. If the fish misses the fly in the first gap, they will chase the fly as you strip it over the pads and hit it at the next gap of open water between the lily pads.



We had a couple of great days with Patrick and Sarah and then Fiona and I flew out to Nhulunbuy on the tip of the Gulf, to visit our daughter Frances for a couple of weeks. Patrick and Sarah drove out to join us in their Mitsubishi Pajero.

Our immediate past president Peter Berne knows all about the road trip on the Central Arnhem Highway to Nhulunbuy, as Peter's son Mathew, lives and works at Nhulunbuy and Peter has traversed the Australian continent to visit Mathew.

We stayed with Frances for two weeks and did some amazing camping trips with Fran in her trusty Toyota Prado. Cape Arnhem would be one of the most remote and beautiful places I have visited. Getting there involved some serious 4WD rough terrain, sand dune and beach running. To make the journey to the Cape a little more nerve wracking, Fran had some good friends from Darwin attempt the trip into Cape Arnhem a few weeks prior to us and they got stuck in the sand on the beach and lost their brand-new Toyota Hilux when the tide came in and swamped the vehicle.

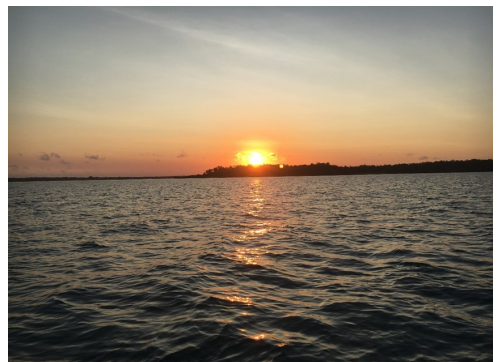
Needless to say, Frances and Patrick were a little nervous on the trip in.

The tides are pretty big up North so careful consideration was given on our inwards and outwards beach run timing to coincide with low tide. All went well and Frances, Patrick and Sarah proved very capable sand and beach drivers.

The fishing at Cape Arnhem was exciting. We caught a lot of species from the rocks. Fly fishing proved very difficult due to big swells, sharp rocks, coral, sharks and holding onto fish once hooked. The reef sharks were ferocious. A good fish on fly takes a lot of time to land and with the number of sharks in the water, time is something you didn't have. All the while you had to also consider saltwater crocodiles.

Saying that we ate fish most meals while camped at Cape Arnhem, mostly thanks to Patrick. Species caught included Rock Cod, Spanish Flag, Barracuda, Mangrove Jack, Spanish Mackerel, Queenfish. I hooked but did not land a Giant Trevally on fly. A 8wt rod was a bit underdone for this environment and it was all over pretty quickly.

Our next camping expedition was to Macassans. This area is named after the Macassan fisherman from Makassar, Sulawesi, an Island of Indonesia. Hundreds of fisherman made the annual sea voyage on the trade winds to the top end of Australia for many hundreds of years before British colonization. The Macassans had permission from and strong connections with the local Indigenous clans of the Yolngu people of North East Arnhem Land. Over hundreds of years the Indonesian and Yolngu aboriginal people worked and traded together. The Yolngu people allowed and assisted the Macassans to harvest and process (Trepang) Sea Cucumber or as we call them Sea Slugs. In return for the harvest and local labour the Macassans traded tea, tobacco, smoking pipes, steel axes, knives, hooks, calico, alcohol, Tamarind and other items. The Macassans traded the processed Trepang with the Chinese. Over the centuries the Yolngu even travelled back to Indonesia with the sea traders. The Yolngu language has over five hundred Macassan words in it. Some Yolngu people have Macassan heritage.





- While at Macassans the fishing was not great, due to strong winds and poor access, with high rock cliffs and ledges, but they did protect you from crocodiles when camping on the coastal fringe. The surf was very rough and we decided that day walks, sightseeing and heritage visits were a good option on this trip.

Our next adventure was a fishing trip organised by our daughter Frances on Melville Harbour with a work contact. His family also run Mother ship fly fishing adventures around East Arnhem. Not long after we were there they were hosting a Mother ship trip for a group of American fly fishermen.

This was to be the ladies fishing trip with the aim of filling Fran's freezer (only a fridge top freezer) in the mornings outing. The ladies are not really into fly fishing so at sunrise they caught live bait (sardines) and after putting enough in the live bait tank they were into it.

Over the next several hours they caught some magnificent fish. Long tail tuna, Mackerel tuna, Giant trevally, Queenfish, Spanish Mackerel, Coral trout, Rock cod, Nanagai and Snapper. The harbour seemed to be teeming with fish. A lot of fish were released and a few prime species especially kept for Nhulunbuy elders that Fran knows.



Nhulunbuy is a beautiful place to visit. The beach fishing on the town beach and East Woody Island was terrific. Patrick rated the fly fishing from Woody Island and beach highly.

I can't wait for our next trip to the Northern Territory in 2024.

## President's Report

Hello members.

Firstly, I would like to thank the members who turned up to Four Springs for cleanup Australia Day. Fortunately, there was not much rubbish to collect.

I would also like to thank those members of the club, who donate items for the fly bowl, books and other items. These donations are greatly appreciated.

There will be a working bee at Koongara starting at 10am on the 6<sup>th</sup> of April to cut and collect firewood. There is some already cut but needs splitting and some logs that need to be cut and split. We will need chainsaws, axes or block busters, bar-rows or trailers.

If we have a good number of members there it will not take long to complete the job.

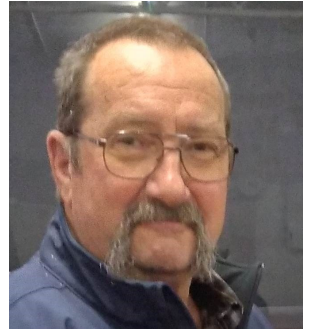
When members book into either of the shacks and you are booking in other members could you please list their names. This will make our treasurers' job much easier when sorting out shack rent payments.

For those that are interested, fly tying will recommence on the 10<sup>th</sup> of April starting at 7.00pm. This is the same night as the committee meeting.

I am hoping other members are having more luck getting out for a fish than I am. Hopefully I will be rectifying this problem soon.

Martin Hingston.

President FFCT.



## News from the IFS

### **Lake MacKenzie Road Reopened:**

Hydro Tasmania advise that their contractors have finished installing the new bridge at Gun Lagoon Creek and the Lake Mackenzie Road is now reopened.

### **John Diggle Departs:**

John Diggle starts leave today and this will extend until he retires later in the year.

Dr Ryan Wilkinson as Acting Director Inland Fisheries for the coming 12 months.

## More News from the IFS

### Little Pine Lagoon Boat Ramp Update:

The major concrete pour has been done. Rock is being carted in to build up the car park which is prone to flooding at high water levels.

Construction of the jetty is due to commence. The area is still closed to the public.



### FLY RODS FOR SALE

Peter Blakely, a longtime member of the club passed away last year.

His wife Pauline needs to sell his flyfishing gear.

There are several rods available. Peter was meticulous in keeping his gear in pristine condition.

The following rods are available.

Sage Graphite II GFL 796 RP, 7'6" #7 — in tube.

Sage SP 690, #6 9' - in tube.

Sage Graphite III GFL 586 RPL, #5 8'6" - in tube.

Sage Graphite IIIe XP 6100-4, #6 10' - in tube.

Sage Generation 5 Technology Z-Axis 5864, #5 8'6" - in tube.

Sage Generation 5 Technology TXL-F 3610-4, #3 6'10" - in tube.

Hardy "Boron Reservoir" JV 10030, 9'6" #7/8.

Winston #8 7'6" 3 piece.

Winston #6 8'6" 4g 2587.

Daiwa in plastic tube, LOCHMOR-Z IM-6 Graphite #4-5 8'0" 5piece.

SILSTAR STIMU-IITE #5-6 8'0" Bi-Directional Graphite.

If any of the above gear is of interest to you please telephone Pauline on **0428 676 840**.

The could also be some fly reels available in the future.



# Minutes of the General Meeting Held at Chant Street on Wednesday 6th of March 2024

**MEETING OPENED: 7:30pm.**

## **Welcome:**

President Martin Hingston welcomed the 27 members and 2 guests to this meeting. He recommended that all mobile devices be turned off or placed on to silent.

## **Apologies:**

Marcus Rae, Jimmy Ellenberger, Peter Ray, Jack Barker, Stephen Hill, Matthew Stagg, Vince Bannon, Norm King, Andrew Wood, Jim Leslie, Tom Seppala, Don Sweatman

## **Names of Guests:**

David Swallow, Ann Skarratt

## **Guest Speaker:**

The President introduced our guest speaker Terry Horan who will present his recent trips to Northern Territory and the type of fishing he encountered.

Terry is fortunate that he has both Francis and Patrick that live in the area, so he can be guided to all the better spots of fishing. Patrick also has a boat so fishing in waters that have more crocodiles than fish becomes a lot safer. Locations they visited included the Victoria River, Corroboree Billabong, Nhulunbuy, Cape Arnhem, Macassans, Melville Harbour and East Woody Island.

He noted that it is a great place to visit and can't wait for the next adventure there and others should try it.

Most of this information and types of fish will be in the next newsletter.

The President led the members in showing their appreciation to Terry for his amazing presentation and angling experience.

## **Appreciation:**

The President expressed the Club's appreciation to:

- Bill Greensmith for holding the 2 recent fly-fishing classes with assistance from Charlie Gall.
- Don Cameron for being on hand to open the gates for those classes.
- Dan Dempsey for creating and donating the 10 whip finishers.
- Jack Barker for donating the canisters for the fly bowl.
- John Quarry for updating the Club trophies.

## General Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

- Paul Boer for donating 2 new books for the library.

### **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 John Quarry – and **carried unanimously**.

### **Matters arising:**

Nil

### **Correspondence (since last meeting):**

#### **Inwards:**

1. Newsletters – (email) CCFFC, SAFFA, VFFA, GFFC,
2. Chris Wisniewski (IFS) – (email) Dates of closure of public launching ramp at 'Pine.
3. AAT – (email) Call for submissions for reform of PWS Reserve Activity Assessment Process.
4. AAT – (email) Event licensing information for Hydro Tasmania.
5. State Revenue Office – Notice of Land Tax.
6. Mike Stevens – Tas Fishing & Boating News #156.
7. Australia Post – Renewal of Post Box.
8. IFS – (email) Notice of Trout Weekend at Liawenee 18&18 May.

The Secretary moved that the inward correspondence was accepted, seconded by Chris Crawford – and **carried unanimously**.

### **Matters arising:**

*Inwards 4:* The information was relayed to the members and may affect the advertising of the "Cane Day" event. The Secretary will forward the guidelines to Chris Crawford.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Expenses: \$ 893.58 (\$470 mending cast, \$228 Noonamena Rates, \$126 Ink cartridges)

Income: \$ 970.00 (\$700 Shack, \$140 key, \$55 new member)

Bendigo/ CBA: \$ 9,386.87

Petty Cash: \$ 100.00

Cash Book: \$ 9,386.87

The Treasurer noted that we had issues setting up the signatories for the CBA that is why we

## General Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

still have the Bendigo account open. The signatory issue is now solved.

John Quarry moved the Treasurer's report for acceptance, seconded by John Dekkers – and **carried unanimously**.

### Matters arising:

The President informed the members that:

After the subs have been paid this year, we will be opening an interest-bearing account with the CBA. We will then have 2 accounts – a working account and an interest earning one.

The monies collected from the 'Cane Day' event was transferred in full (\$470) to the "Mending Casts" program.

### General Business:

#### **Chairman's Lead:**

Trivia Night:

This idea was raised to try and get more members at meetings with a different format to make it more interesting and is planned to be held at the December meeting. There will be questions possibly set by Charles Peck - about trout history, Club members and fishing.

#### Just some reminders for the members:

Martin reminded the members:

- of the 'fly bowl' which provides good value of flies at \$1 each.
- Whip finishers (created & donated by Dan Dempsey \$5)
- 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.

Fly casting at Grindelwald – coordinator Don Cameron

The next outing is – 17<sup>th</sup> March.

Fishing Outings:

Four Springs (CUAD) **9<sup>th</sup> March**

Members are encouraged to arrive earlier if they want 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.

## General Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

### Club Shacks:

#### Reminders:

- 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'.
- Members are to report any faults or shack issues to the shack warden or Club committee.
- Members staying at the shacks must include the other member's names staying with them. It makes the Treasurer's job a lot easier.

### Koongara: (working bee)

The **6<sup>th</sup> of April** at 10:00am will be the date to cut and collect the firewood from the surrounds and transfer it to the woodpile. Required are Members, boot, gloves, axes, chainsaws, wheelbarrows, or trailers.

#### Memorial Plaque:

The Club will place a plaque in memory of all the Club members that have passed over the years at a designated place near Koongara – either the front step or on the ramp. No names will be included.

#### It will read:

*"This plaque is laid in memory of all passed members of the Fly Fishers' Club of Tasmania".*

#### Trout Weekend:

This will be held on Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> of May and normally between the times of 10:00am – 12:30pm. We will need fly tiers to represent the Club.

### Other General Business:

John Stagg reported that a group of Asians were at the shack boat ramp using spinning rods and wondered what he should have said to them.

### Fishing Reports:

Members have still reported good fishing at Four Springs although the eating quality is poor.

Other waters that have drawn members to try their luck are the Great Lake, Dee Lagoon and Mersey River.

Charles noted that he hoped that the IFS do not transfer the eel shaped fish from Great Lake into Four Springs.

## General Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

### **Club Raffles:**

The night's raffle was drawn by Don Cameron and won by George Dale.

### **Next Meeting:**

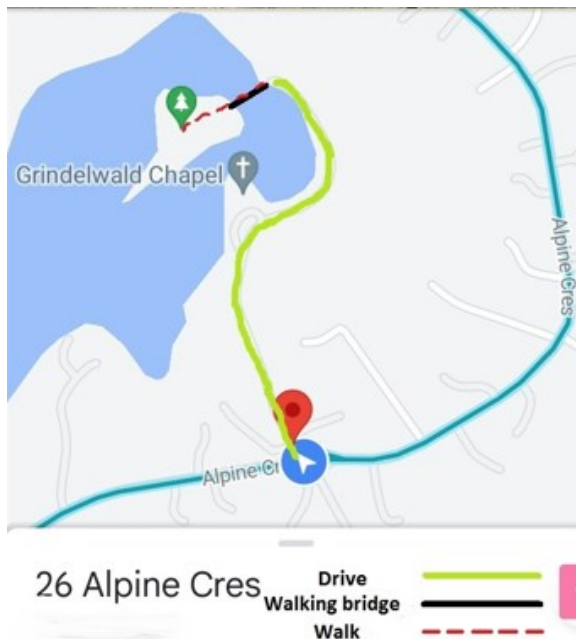
April – Christopher Bassano (5 fav. Tasmanian Rivers).

**Meeting Closed: 8:40pm**



President Martin Hingston (L) and guest speaker Terry Horan.





Access to the property of  
26 A Alpine Crescent .



Gate to enter the property of  
26 A Alpine Crescent.

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

- ◆ April 7th, 10:00am - 12:00pm BYO Barbeque
- ◆ April 21st, 10:00am - 12:00pm

Coordinator Don Cameron (ph. 0409 636 273).



### Clean Up Australia Day

A small group of members attended the clean up at Four Springs Lake on Saturday the 9th of March.

Thankfully there was very little litter to collect as evidenced by the bags. Thanks go to Chris Crawford (L), John Quarry and John Stagg (R) for their sterling efforts.

The Lake water level presently is very low.

**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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**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

