



Fly Fishers' Club of Tasmania Inc.

Founded 17th August 1955

Postal Address: PO Box 460, Launceston 7250

Newsletter - May 2024

Coming Up

Next General Meeting:

7:30pm 1st May 2024

1-3 Chant Street,

East Launceston

Next Committee Meeting:

7:00pm 8th May 2024

1-3 Chant Street,

East Launceston

Guest Speaker– Scott James

Scotto is a renowned bream fisher on the East Coast of Tasmania.

His topic will be on wade fishing for bream and how he designed the custom rods to suit that style of fishing.

Next Club Outings:

'Christmas in Winter' at Noonamena - 6th July

Basic Fly Fishing class - 3rd August

Intermediate Fly Fishing Class - 10th August



Troutie vs Saltie by Allan Eckert

I'm a "troutie." Not an old-school, traditionalist but, none the less, a trout fly fisher through and through. I'm not a "trouty" (if you search for that word, I hope you will agree.) Being a troutie tells you a lot about a person's approach to fly fishing but it does not define where they fish. I fish the salt more than I fish in the fresh these days. Although I am a troutie, I still enjoy saltwater fly fishing especially those aspects that relate to being a troutie.

You can tell the difference between a troutie and a saltie in many ways but is not always as evident as in the photos above. Rather than create an argument about what is different, maybe I can define a troutie by what I enjoy so much about fly fishing for trout.

I love fly fishing for trout because it can be such a visual experience. From spotting the fish to watching it take the fly, it all unfolds before your eyes. All this happens in some of the most beautiful places on earth. I enjoy the challenge of hunting, stalking and matching the hatch. Trout might have a brain the size of pea but it's big enough to outwit me if I am not on my game. And I enjoy working on my game. Whether it be improving my casting skills or tying a fly that is going to tempt that fussy trout, there is always something new to learn. Fly fishing began in pursuit of trout, grayling and other freshwater species hundreds of years ago and it is important to me to be part of that tradition. Even though I don't have a tweed jacket and deer stalker hat, I am a troutie.

Saltwater fly fishing has its attractions many of which align with my troutie instincts. I have learnt to enjoy fly fishing in the salt. I'm not arguing that one form of fly fishing

is better than the other but when I have a choice, I know where my heart lies. I will never miss an opportunity to fly fish in any water for anything that swims, but I am a troutie at heart.



Before this degenerates into an endless debate on trouties vs salties, I had better get on with the substance of this month's *Casting About*. I want to tackle how fly casting is different if you want to be a troutie. The art of fly casting involves the same mechanics no matter which species you are chasing or where you fish. However, beyond the five essentials of making a cast, there are many aspects of casting that are needed for success as a troutie. Whether you belong to one camp or another, or have your feet firmly planted on both sides, I hope you find something of interest here. It's not about trouties being better but about what you can do to improve your chances if you go fly fishing for trout.

If you want to be a troutie I believe the style in which you move the fly rod is important. Most trouties move the rod in the vertical plane while salties tend to use a more horizontal stroke. Either style can produce an efficient and effective cast. However, the vertical casting stroke is crucial in trout fishing because of the need for accuracy and to keep the back cast high. Trout streams are usually narrow and often enclosed by banks and bushes. By casting in the vertical plane these obstacles can be avoided. As for accuracy, you only need to look to the world of competitive fly casting to see the effectiveness of casting in the vertical plane. You do need to be able to make horizontal casts for trout in tricky situation and you can be accurate, but if you want to have consistent success on a trout stream you need to be able to cast in the vertical plane.

There are several unique casts and mends that a trout fly fisher must learn to be successful. These fall under the heading of presentation casts and are designed to deliver a fly to a trout in such a way that it will eat it like natural prey. A pea brained trout knows the difference between an insect floating naturally down the river and an artificial fly being dragged on the surface. To present flies realistically you need to be able to cast and mend the line so the fly drifts naturally. Learning which cast to use and how to perform it will make you a better troutie. If there is just one presentation

cast that every troutie should learn it's the reach mend. Technically it isn't a cast as the line is moved after the rod stops so that it is repositioned to allow a drag free drift. The following video is worth watching if you want to be a successful troutie and make a reach mend.



The reach mend is just one of many presentation casts that a troutie must have in their arsenal. Learn the curve cast, wiggle cast, tuck cast, parachute cast, shock cast, steeple cast, bow and arrow cast, and others if you are serious about fly fishing for trout. If you don't know how to make these casts you will find lots of books and videos to help you.

Being able to make short casts is a must for a troutie and it's not easy. Adding a long leader to the equation makes it even harder. A cast under 20 feet requires lots of practice to be able to turn over a 15-18 foot leader and be accurate. Long leaders are needed in many trout fishing scenarios because that pea-brain animal has such good eye sight. No matter what colour fly line you are using, the trout is going to see it unless you use a long leader. Getting a drag free drift and keeping your fly line away from the fly will increase your chances of success. A troutie should practice shorts casts often and leave throwing full fly lines to the salties.

If you are serious about being a troutie you will have a fly rod, or rods, designed to suit your style of fishing. In the salt, distance is king. In the fresh it's all about accuracy and presentation. You can probably use the one rod to do both (the ubiquitous 6 weight) but a true troutie will have at least one rod that is designed for casting small flies delicately. In my case, I have a number of rods for fishing for trout including rods made from bamboo, glass and graphite. Each material brings its own inherent properties which help make the cast. Finding the rod to match the environment in which you are fishing is part of the appeal of fly fishing for trout. If you want to be a successful troutie, you will have to consider the right rod for the job.

Salties practice and use the saltwater quick cast because their prey moves frequently and unpredictably. A trout's movement is easier to anticipate. This means you usually have more time to make the cast. What makes life more difficult for a troutie is that you might only get one cast. Every time you cast to a trout the chanc-

es of it taking your fly diminish until it is finally spooked and swims off. To be a successful troutie you need to make that first cast count and make it with a minimum of false casts.



Someone wrote about what a difference a fly line makes and no one knows this more than a troutie. You can use any appropriate weight line for trout fishing but if you want to give yourself the best chance of success you need to choose the right line. Like selecting a fly rod, deciding what fly line to use for trout comes down to the where and how you fish. I remember being warned that if I went to New Zealand with a bright coloured fly line it would be taken off my reel and dyed before I entered the country. Apart from colour, the taper of a fly line makes a difference. The need for presentation casts, long distance mends, short cast, or lots of roll casting will dictate what taper will work best. Just as you need a number of different fly rods, a troutie will need a corresponding number of fly lines.

Being a troutie is not just about the casting. Trouties dress differently, use different gear and have a different approach when fishing in the salt. One is not better than the other and these days most fly fishers happily fish in the fresh and salt. I remember once being told at a trout club meeting that they don't fish in the salt because it would mean having to wash everything after use. I guess if you have such great trout fishing at your doorstep you can afford to think this way. Where you live plays a big part in your attitude to trouties and salties. How you cast is more important. I spend more time fishing in the salt these days because it is my closest water. I've learnt to cast more quickly, more horizontally and longer. But when I get the chance, I head for my happy place where trout live and I can indulge in all the practices and traditions of a true troutie. I even wear my vest.

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

There will be another story in another newsletter.

'Ctrl-click' the hyperlink to watch the Video of the reach mend cast:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=J0tdJXq9pho



Items listed for sale at our next General Meeting. Get in early to get a bargain. There are books, fly tying materials, fly tying equipment and prints.



Sale items include a Norvise

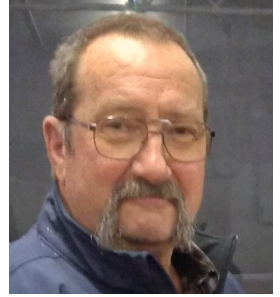


Sale items include trout prints

President's Report

Hello Members,

At our last meeting Christopher Bassano was our guest speaker, he spoke about his 5 favorite rivers plus several others he likes to fish. I am sure that many of the members present would have gone home to study maps to find out where to go.



On the 6th of April the club held a working bee at Koongara, to cut and collect firewood. This was extremely well attended with 17 members present. It is estimated that around 12 cubic meters of wood was cut and put in heaps, with still some to be carted to the heaps.

A great effort and thank you very much to those members who gave up their time to attend. It was also great to see Jimmy Ellenberger out and about.

With so much wood lying around the committee has decided to look at building some sort of structure to keep some of the wood dry. Thanks to Graeme Frankcombe who is looking into this.

With the closing of the brown trout season approaching, it would be good to hear members thoughts on the season and the waters they fished, especially any excursions into some of the more remote waters. I am still hoping to get a couple of trips to Little Pine before seasons end.

If you have been absent from the general meetings over the summer months due to fishing then good on you that's what it is all about, but now the season is about to end why not come along to the meetings and catch up with members and meet the newer members of the club.

At the next meeting there will be fly tying materials, tools and books for sale, so come prepared if want to purchase any of these items.

Lastly, although the AGM is still some months away, (this time will soon pass by). I would like to encourage members to give some thought to joining the committee. New members, new thoughts and ideas to move the club forward.

Martin Hingston. President FFCT.

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 28 members, guest speaker Christopher Bassano and 3 guests to the meeting. He recommended that all mobile devices be turned off or placed on to silent.

Apologies:

Gary & Katie Baird, Marcus Rae, Jimmy Ellenberger, Annie Skarratt, Glenn Becher, Phil Harker, Don Cameron, Dan Dempsey, Tom Seppala

Names of Guests:

David Swallow, Bruce Dean, Richard Fela,

Guest Speaker:

The President introduced Christopher Bassano to the members whose topic tonight will be his 5 favourite Tasmanian Rivers. Christopher started with his least to the best favourite river, even though some were as equal to the other then finished with some rivers that held a special mention.

5. Great Forester River: A clear water, which is good for polaroiding, with good size fish present and plenty of them. There is a large head of galaxia and grasshoppers in the summer. Early in the season at Waterhouse Road there are sea runners.

4. South Esk River: It is 273km long with varied fishing throughout and easy to wade in some sections. The insects present include mayfly and grasshoppers.

3. Mersey River: This water has brown and rainbow trout with the rainbows easier to catch up to Christmas. The insects present include mayfly, beetles, and grasshoppers. Sea runner trout appear near Devonport.

2. Tyenna River: After outling this water Christopher thought that this should have been his No.1 river. The best place to start is at Westerway. Nymph fishing is exceptional with some dry-fly action with very tiny mayflies (olives & aphids). The catch rate is high with double figure fish not uncommon.

1. St Patricks River: There is very little drawdown, and it keeps producing fish. The fish are keen to rise to a fly even though there may be no insects present. Insects present include cad-dis, mayfly and ants. Spooked fish will return to their hold after a short time and will accept a #20 nymph.

Rivers that received a special mention include:

General Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

Little Forester, Liffey, Loon, Huon, Derwent, Little Pine, and Stumps Lake Creek.

The President led the members in congratulating and thanking Christopher on a well presented presentation on his favourite Rivers.

Appreciation:

The President expressed the Club's appreciation to:

- Charles Peck for completing the member names in the Club historical record.
- Grant Hansen (via Gavin Chugg) for donating the book 'Lifelong Pleasure, 70 years of fly fishing by John Brookes'

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 Norm King – **and carried unanimously.**

Matters arising:

Nil

Correspondence (since last meeting):

Inwards:

1. Newsletters – (email) TFTC, SAFFA, CCFC, GFFC,
2. IFS – (email) John Diggle retires later in the year. Ryan Wilkinson is acting Director.
3. IFS – (email) Chris Wisniewski has retired.
4. IFS – (email) Easter fishing tips and Arthurs Lake performance assessment.
5. Paul Middleton – (email) Confirming that August is OK as Guest speaker.
6. Bendigo Bank – Account details after closure.
7. Ana Scarf – (email) Book launch of Gen RH Wordsworth.
8. AAT - (email) Notice of PWS next deer culling and Lake's closure.
9. John Dekkers – Membership nomination for Bruse Dean.

Outwards:

1. IFS – (email) Confirmation of FFCT at Trout Weekend.
2. Paul Middleton – (email) Confirming if August is OK as Guest speaker.
3. CUAD – (email) Clean up at Four Springs Report.
4. Annie Skarratt – (email) Membership confirmation letter.

General Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

5. David Swallow – (email) Membership confirmation letter.

6. Gary France (AAT) – (email) invitation as guest speaker in October.

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

Matters arising:

Nil

Treasurer's Report:

Expenses: \$ 367.91 (\$154 PO box, \$59 Noonamena Land Tax)

Income: \$ 854.00 (\$690 Shack rental, \$102 new membership)

CBA: \$ [REDACTED]

Petty Cash: \$ 100.00

Cash Book: \$ [REDACTED]

The treasurer noted that he has received scam emails claiming to be from the President. He dealt with them accordingly.

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

Matters arising:

Nil

General Business:

Chairman's Lead:

New Members:

The President led the members in welcoming our newest member David Swallow #502 to the Club.

Trivia Night:

This is planned to be held at our December meeting and the questions will be set by Charles Peck about trout history, Club members, history and fishing.

Tables will be set up with groups of 4-5 people (depending on how many attend).

Just some reminders for the members:

Martin reminded the members:

- of the 'fly bowl' which provides good value of flies at \$1 each.

General Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

- 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 outings are – April 7th and 21st (some committee members will also visit to assess the maintenance works).

Note the dates have been corrected to be the 14th and 28th of April.

Christmas in Winter:

This will be held at Noonamena on Saturday the 6th of July – interested members are to contact Graeme Frankcombe. The shack has a sleeping maximum of 8 and there is a limit of 15 for the luncheon. So, book early.

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

Fly Fishing Class:

The Club plans to hold 2 more classes for the public in August (3rd & 10th). Once we know how many clients are listed Bill will need some assistance with the instructing. The dates will be confirmed as it is the same weekend as the trout opening weekend.

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'.

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

Barbeque:

The members present did not respond in the positive when they were asked if they required a wood barbeque to be made at Noonamena. The President noted that we need to be wary of fire restrictions during the summer period.

Koongara: (working bee)

This weekend on Saturday the 6th of April starting at 10:00am we will be cutting and collecting the firewood from the surrounds and transferring it to the woodpile. Required are Members, boot, gloves, axes, chainsaws (particularly), wheelbarrows or trailers. The gates will be open for those that do not have a key.

General Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

Trout Weekend:

The Club again will be present at the IFS Open Weekend, and we will need fly tiers to represent the Club on the 18th May. It normally runs from 10:00am – 12:30pm. Members that may be attending are Gary Cullen and John Dekkers with the secretary to contact Lyndon Haines and Corey Harris.

It was revealed that in previous years the CFF&FC also tied flies on the Sunday. So, their members will be again doing the tying but as the FFCT members. The numbers will be confirmed at the next meeting.

Other General Business:

Chris raised his concerns regarding the toilet's removal near the camping ground at Little Pine. It was suggested that the Club again voice their concerns with the Parks to resolve this issue.

Fishing Reports (from Members):

Members revealed that some waters were very difficult over the March month particularly Penstock Lagoon. One member enjoyed a successful weekend at Little Pine with most of the fish being maidens and with next to nothing in their stomachs. The water level is still low, due to the ramp works and Scotties Bay is full of swans. Other waters that have been visited with some successes are Camden Brook Dam (1.3kg), 19 Lagoons, Pine Lake and four Springs.

Club Raffles:

The night's raffle was drawn by Christopher Bassano and won by Martin Hingston.

Next Meeting:

Prior to closing the President noted that at our next meeting we will have Club member Scott James who will discuss Bream fishing and rod building.

Meeting Closed: 9:15pm

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.



President Martin Hingston inducting our newest member David Swallow



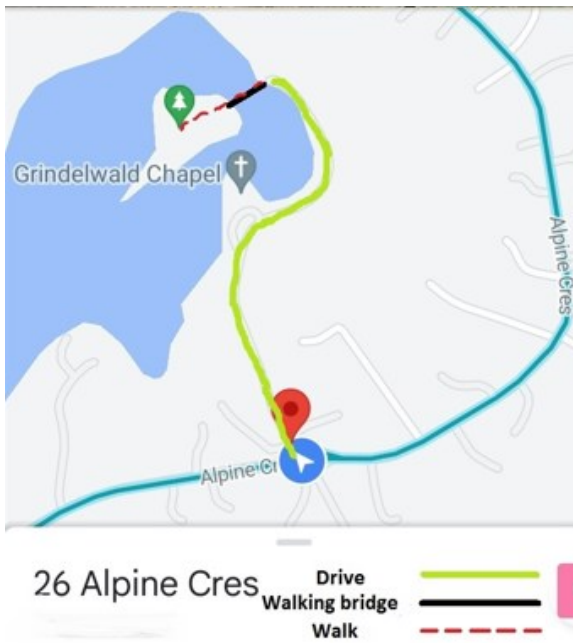
President and Guest speaker Christopher Bassano



On Saturday the 6th of April, 17 Members attended the working bee to locate, cut transfer and stack the wood that was laying loose in the shack surrounds. We had saws operating, block busters pounding, wheelbarrows rolling but what made the transfer of wood much easier was the use of Graeme's flat tray.

A big thanks to all that were involved with special thanks to Graeme, Phil, Martin and Nathan.

Members missing from the photo are Nick Merrony and Keith Blewett.



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 14th, 10:00am - 12:00pm BYO Barbeque
- ◆ April 28th, 10:00am - 12:00pm
- ◆ May 12th, 10:00am - 12:00pm BYO Barbeque

Coordinator Don Cameron (ph. 0409 636 273).

Annual Subscriptions are due on the 1st July 2024

Subs are due soon, please get yours settled at your earliest opportunity.

Annual Subscriptions for 2024 / 2025 are:	Amount
Ordinary Member	\$84
Junior Member (Under 18) & Full time Student	\$42
Eligible Pensioner (As defined by Rule 2 of the Constitution)	\$42

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

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Mr. Jack Barker

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Mr. Peter Ray

Mr. Jimmy Ellenberger

Mr. Bill Greensmith

Mr. George Dale

Mr. Keith Blewett

