



Fly Fishers' Club of Tasmania Inc.

Founded 17th August 1955

Postal Address: PO Box 460, Launceston 7250

Newsletter - February 2025

Coming Up

Next General Meeting:

7:30pm 5th February 2025

1-3 Chant Street,

East Launceston

Next Committee Meeting:

7:00pm 12th February 2025

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" - 26th January (See page 2)

Four Springs Lake "CUAD" - 8th March (See page 2)

Club Outings

Unless noted the Contact for all Club Outings is

Graeme Frankcombe (0458 421 909) graemef59@bigpond.com

January: 26th Little Pine Lagoon “Cane Day” (RSVP 17/01/2025)

- 9:30am Register at FFCT shack; Fish from 10:00 — 4:30pm.
- Return to shack for supplied BBQ and presentation.
- An entry charge of \$20.
- All proceeds for “Prostate Cancer Research”
- Contact Chris Crawford - clcrawford@netspace.net.au

March: 8th Four Springs Lake “CUAD”

- 9:30am Register at the Boat Ramp car park.
- 11:30am Return to Boat Ramp car park to sign off.
- Members can fish before and after the clean up.

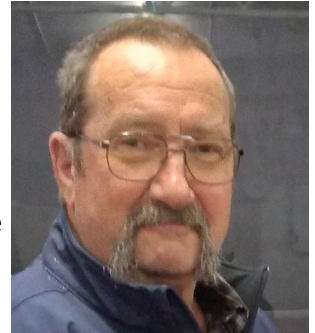


President's Report

Hello members,

Welcome to the new year, I hope everyone is well.

There have been a few good fish taken from Little Pine recently unfortunately not by me. I was there on New Year's Day, had a couple of fish come to the fly but not hook up and one fish broke off before a strong south westerly wind put an end to the fishing for that day. The next day was not much better. I returned a week later, the first day I managed to get one nice fish on a red tag. The following day I did not touch a fish.



The following day was the Pine Plunder with six members attending, three staying over-night at the shack and three coming for the day. It was an overcast day with north-north easterly wind and a nice chop on the water. We only saw a handful of duns and no other insect life. One small fish caught and returned for the day. Another tough day, thanks to those members who attended.

A reminder to any members who are using the shacks to please make an entry in the log-books, it doesn't need to be an essay, just your name, what the conditions were like and if any fish were caught and the fly used.

I look forward to seeing you at the February meeting, hopefully with some good fishing stories.

Martin Hingston — President FFCT.

Members please note that if a gas bottle becomes empty whilst you are in residence at any shack. It is your duty to:

- REPLACE it with the full spare bottle;
- TAKE the empty bottle to be refilled;
- FORWARD the receipt to the treasurer for reimbursement;
- DO NOT LEAVE AN EMPTY BOTTLE AT THE SHACK.

Recently there were 2 empty gas bottles left at Koongara.

This is not acceptable.



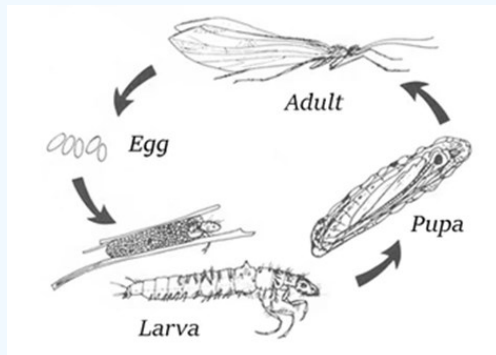
News from the Committee

- With costs ever increasing the need to increase our fees to cover our bills must be addressed to the members. Such things include the night's meeting fee, membership subs and shack rentals.
- A sub-committee of at least 3 members will be set up to explore other options and types of insurance for our buildings. We currently have a "business pack".
- It was decided that "If a member and their partner want to book a whole room in any shack they **MUST** pay for the other vacant bunks in that room" That is 3 bunks at member rates and 1 at the guest rate.
- The Club's 70th anniversary is an important event and should be celebrated with a function. At our February meeting we will create a committee, set a date and seek out possible venues with prices.

Caddisflies (Super Sedge & Stick Caddis)

Background:

Caddis flies (Order *Trichoptera*) are small to medium sized holometabolous insects. That is, it has 4 stages of development: egg, larva, pupa and imago (adult).



The adult caddis flies are found around most freshwater habitats. During the daytime most are hidden within their environment but take to the air in the evening en-mass. They are like moths (order *Lepidoptera*) as they are closely related to them. The difference being that the moth's wings have scales whereas the caddis wings have hairs. The name of the order *trichoptera* is derived from the Greek meaning "hair wing". When rested the caddis wings are folded "rooflike" and cover the top of their body.

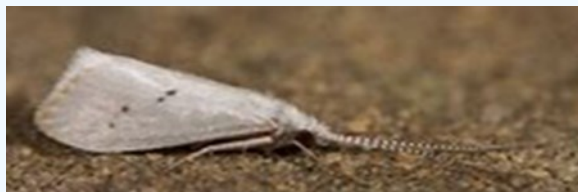
The antennae of many caddis flies are very long. The eggs are laid in masses within a jelly that swells on contact with water. Then within a few days the larvae then hatch, spin their nets, build retreats or portable cases. The larvae feed differently depending on the species some may be herbivorous, carnivorous, or omnivorous. Mature larvae fasten down in their shelter where they spin a silken cocoon and pupate. The pupal stage ranges from 2 to 3 weeks. Following the transformation stage the pupa becomes active and leaves the cocoon by using its strong and sharp mandibles to cut it open. It then swims to the water surface and finds a stone or plant to crawl onto to finally change to the adult stage.

Caddisflies, to a lesser extent, are an indicator of good water quality; they die out of streams with polluted waters. The adult stage of a caddisfly may only survive for a few weeks. Many species do not feed as adults and die soon after breeding. The larval stage lasts much longer, often for one or more years, and have a bigger impact on the environment. They form an important part of the diet of fish. The fish acquire them by two means, either plucking them off vegetation or the streambed as the larvae move about, or during the daily behavioural drift. This drift happens during the night for many species of aquatic larvae, or around midday for some cased caddisfly species. The larvae may drift in great numbers either close to the bottom, in mid-water or just below the surface.

Based on their case-making patterns there are 5 groups of caddis fly larvae.

1. Free-living forms.
2. Saddle-case makers.
3. Purse-case makers.
4. Net-spinners or retreat builders.
5. Tube-case makers.

There are more than 163 species known to occur in Tasmania with more than 70% endemic to Tasmania. The most notable one is the *Asmicridea edwardsii*, or the Shannon moth. The ties for both male and female versions of this fly are described in page 11 of the book "Tasmanian Trout Fly Patterns" by Max Stokes.



Some of this information has been collected from "The Waterbug Book" (John Gooderham & Edward Tsyrlim) and "Tasmanian Caddis-flies" (Arturs Neboiss).

Super Sedge Fly:

The Tie:

Hook	Kamasan B440 (#10 - #14).
Rib	Fine oval silver.
Body	Dubbed hare fur.
Palmer hackle	Grizzle cock hackle.
Wings	Varnished partridge body feathers.
Head hackle	Grizzle cock hackle.
Antennae	Stripped stalks of the wing feathers.



Process:

1. Insert hook and lay down a bed of thread.
2. Select 2 matching partridge feathers and remove the fluff. (Tip length same as hook's)
3. Dab varnish onto the feather.
4. With thumb and forefinger draw each feather into a wing shape. Allow to dry thoroughly.
5. Tie in the rib and dub on a hare body about 2/3 along the hook.
6. Tie in the body hackle and palmer towards the bend in open turns; secure with the rib.
7. Trim off the hackle barbs above the hook.
8. Place and tie in both prepared wings onto the hook creating an inverted "V" shape; leaving the stripped ends of the wing protruding over the hook eye as the antennae.
9. Tie in the head hackle and wind 2 - 3 turns.
10. Finish off and varnish.

Note:

This fly floats well and can be seen even in a wave. It can be used as an efficient search pattern until the caddis are on the water at dusk. Fish this fly in the mirrors of most highland waters particularly Great Lake and Penstock Lagoon.

This fly appeared in the February 2002 newsletter by with thanks to Jim Ferrier for the tying instructions of this fly.

Stick Caddis:

There are many ties of this fly and each work well as it is a prominent food source for the trout.

This tie is from Cliff Oliver – listed in the 1994 Newsletter.

The Tie:

Hook	#14, or #16 Tiemco 101 straight eye.
Body	Seals fur or equivalent (75% olive green & 25% black mix).
Thread	Black waxed Uni thread.
Ribbing	Fine copper wire.
Head	Tuft of yellow or brown Antron yarn.

Process:

1. Insert hook and lay down a bed of thread.
2. Tie in Antron yarn with the head inclined over the hook eye.
3. From the hook bend dub in the seals fur to the Antron head and form the body.
4. Trim the body to a fine carrot shape.
5. Lightly rib the body with the wire and tie off.
6. To form the head, singe the end of the Antron with a small flame.

Variations:

- The head can be replaced with yellow plastazote for increased floatation.
- Add a small amount of fluorescent yellow or lime to the body mixture.



Hooks for flies

A while ago I was asked what the best hook is for tying flies. This was an answer that I could not respond easily too as the variety of hooks and brands available is enormous. Ignoring the many brands and only listing the type of hooks for freshwater they include up-eye, down-eye, straight eye, long shank, short shank, wide gape, narrow gape, barbed, barbless, bronze coloured, black coloured and the grade weight of the hook.

So, I thought I would delve into the history of the creation of the humble hook to try and help myself and others with an answer.

The world's oldest fishhooks were made from sea snail shells and were discovered in Sakitari Cave in Okinawa Island - dated between 22,380 and 22,770 years old.

The earliest true hooks date back to the Neolithic age and were usually made from bone, shell, horn, bird's beaks, or constructed with a wooden shank and a flint point, which meant that they had to be quite large. The Bronze Age saw the appearance of smaller hooks, made from an alloy which contained much more copper than modern bronze and consequently would have been much harder.

The first mention of the use of steel to make hooks is in "*The Treatyse of Fishing with an Angler*", published in London in 1496. Where the author gave a very detailed description about how to make 'spade-ended' hooks from square needles. Hooks first became available in British tackle shops in the seventeenth century. Although the general standard of hooks was better than it had been when the quality was still low. Everything changed when Charles Kirby set up his shop in Harp Alley in London in 1650. Kirby sold the best hooks on the market for decades.

By the eighteenth-century Kirby hooks were being exported around the globe in competition with many other suppliers. By the nineteenth century, the British hook trade had taken itself out of London and settled at Redditch. This was accompanied by the first, rather chaotic attempts to standardise hook sizes and anglers had begun to move away from the spade-ended hooks and adopt the eyed hook instead.

By 1823, there were 17 firms of hook makers in Redditch alone and hook making was very labour intensive. The larger companies often farmed it out as piecework, with local families forming the bend, while the sharpening and polishing was carried out in nearby mills.

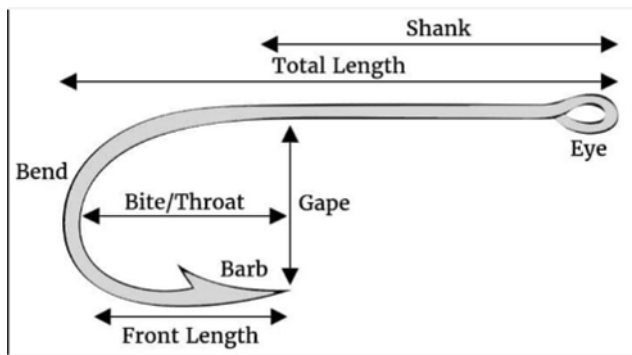
The Norwegian firm 'Mustad', which was founded in 1876, paved the way for modern and reliable hook production to begin by introducing hook making machines to its factory. Britain sustained a considerable hook making industry until the late 20th century, when 'Partridge',

the last major player, was taken over by 'Mustad'.

Nowadays many of the hooks used by British anglers are made in Japan, a company with as long a hook making tradition as our own and one that has been rather better at sustaining it.

So, after all of that what is the best hook for tying flies. The best is made with high quality wire and extremely sharp points, nowadays most are chemically sharpened. Each hook shape has been designed for a particular purpose whether it is for a dry fly, wet fly, nymph or terrestrial.

I have only started fly tying in the last few years, so I will probably receive some 'good advice' from my more experienced members on the following suggestions. Originally, I purchased flies from a variety of outlets. Some flies had their gape straightened when playing a good fish. When I queried why that was, I was told to try a lighter tippet. This usually resulted in decorating the fish with another fly.



For a Nymph

The hooks come in three weights: lightweight, medium weight, and heavy. Either straight nymph hooks or curved scud or sedge hooks are used and with my preference to a hook with a wider gape.



For Dry flies

Using a lightweight hook helps your fly float higher for longer. Use a hook with a straight shank, a wider gape and a down-eye. The hook sizes vary according to what you are repre-

senting, but generally sizes 10 to 22 will cover most of the patterns. When fishing smaller dry fly patterns, it is best to adopt a thicker wire hook.



For a Wet fly (streamer)

Streamer hooks are going to be larger to represent the bait pattern. This type of hook will always have a long shank, and if you're tying an articulated pattern, you'll need an extra-long shank. The streamer hooks are generally made with a heavier wire gauge and are best with a wider gape.



The history of the fishhook has been extracted from the webpage "**The Fishing Museum online**" more information can be found from this website.

[The Fishing Museum Online - A brief history of the hook](#)

My 2025 Pine Visit

In the past I have found the best times to fish at Little Pine Lagoon are just before Christmas and the first few weeks of January. So, planning a small break from my 'home duties' I checked the weather forecast and water level to decide on the best day to make a return visit.

I decided on the first Sunday in January, for my quick day trip to Little Pine.

On arrival I was greeted with a heavy overcast day with a light northerly breeze and with the air temperature in the early 20's. There was a chance of a shower, or a thunderstorm – this looked ideal.

I parked my car at the dam end and surprisingly only met one other shore angler preparing for the day. Why? As I walked along the northern shore there were damselflies, caddis and black spinners fluttering over the lagoon edges. So, I searched and watched each mirrored section for any slight movement. There was no movement.

I stopped at the point just passed the white post to have a few blind searching casts in the hope that there may be a cruiser looking to rest in my bag. But none?

I noticed some fish taking damselflies and an occasional spinner close to the shore further along up the river. So, I headed up there to see if I could change their diet requirements. Each time that I moved forward the fish seemed to move further away. A little bit further up the Lagoon Charles Peck was also testing his skills against the 'jumpers' – I am not sure how he went.

At 1:00pm the wind changed to an easterly and gained some strength but still was good for fishing, even though there was no action on top. But then at 1:30pm it was back to a strong northerly which resulted in small white caps and a rest from fishing for me. I sat down for a while and watched as some boats headed back to the ramp – including Charles.

At 2:30pm I made my slow trip back to the dam end, stopping regularly to check every likely spot that may hold some trout. This was a strange day; I never saw any properly feeding trout nor any duns. And the first time that I have left the water this early.

On the drive home many questions were running through my head. Was it too hot today? Where were the duns? Will the duns appear later today or tonight, and will the trout be feeding on them?

I shall return the next time that I am free to form a comparison and maybe answer some of my questions.

I'll be Baaack.



Allan Ekert - A Member's Profile

You may be wondering who this person is that is writing about fly casting in our newsletter. There are more qualified and knowledgeable fly casters than I in the club. I don't claim to be a writer or an expert but I love my fly fishing and I enjoy casting and teaching others how to go about it. My story is not a very interesting one but you may want to know how I came to write these articles. Once you have read a few, you will realize it has nothing to do with talent or money. I write because it keeps my mind active, makes me think more about teaching casting and helps fill up the space in my club newsletter.

If that's not turned you off from reading further, maybe the fact that I am a Mainlander will. I grew up and worked in New South Wales before retiring and moving to Tasmania. I spent 12 years on the island before we moved back to my wife's home town of Coffs Harbour on the Mid North Coast of NSW where we live now. With no fly fishing clubs in the area, I started the Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club.

While in Tasmania, I joined the Corralinn Fly Fishing and Casting Association and the Devonport Fly Fishing Club. It was my involvement in these clubs that lead to my becoming a certified casting instructor and writing articles for club newsletters. I realized I had to improve my casting when I first went to New Zealand and had trouble with the dreaded north westerlies. I knew I had to find out more about teaching casting when I started helping at Launceston Lakes. Luckily for me, I met Roy Wybrow and had the good fortune to spend some time with Peter Hayes at the Cressy Lodge. With Roy Wybrow, Mr Smooth, as my mentor my casting and understanding took a leap forward and I became a certified casting instructor in 2011.

With my new-found knowledge, I started writing articles for the Corralinn and Devonport Clubs under the banner of "*Casting Corner ... The Random Ramblings of a Certified Casting Instructor.*" When I returned to the mainland, the column became "Casting Around." It was still about fly casting but the focus changed from trout to saltwater to suit the needs of the newly established Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club.

Twelve years after my first column, I'm still writing each month about random subjects that come to mind from someone who should be "certified." I write about things that happen to me and the people I fish with. I write about things I think club members should know about casting. I write because I have a newsletter to fill every month.

If you do find something worth reading, I'm glad I have been able to make you think more about your casting. If you find yourself disagreeing with what I write, that's good too. My aim

it to stimulate, instruct and fill up space in the newsletter without being too boring. To those more qualified, I am happy to accept constructive feedback and bow to your superior knowledge. There is always more to learn.



Casting Videos

For those members that have some casting faults (mostly me) I have attached some videos that may help solve their problems.

The first one is demonstrated by Bruce Richards (Scientific Anglers) who covers the 3 main faults that cause problems in the casting arc. It only runs for just over 5 minutes and is worth watching.

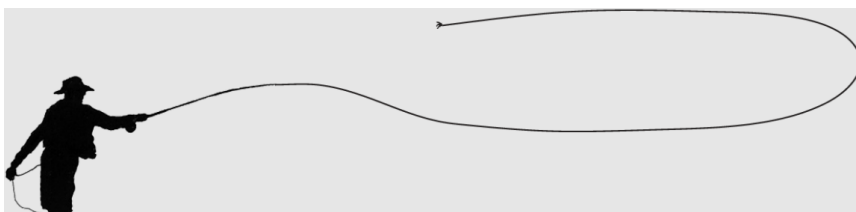
[Fly Casting 101: How to Fix Casting Problems](#)

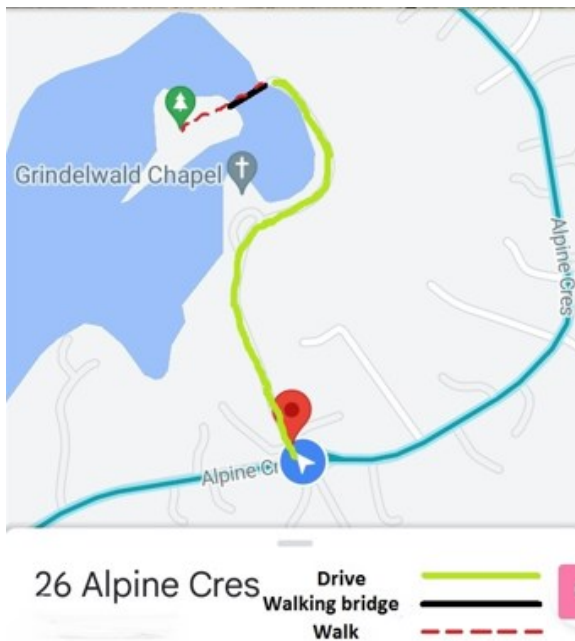
The second one is a lot longer (just over 19 minutes) and demonstrated by Lars Chr. Bentsen. He talks about the 6 step method developed by Bruce Richards in identifying and fixing casting faults.

[How to • Fly casting • Common faults - and how to fix them • fishing tips](#)

And for those members that do not have any faults, but would like to increase their casting distance, or cast successfully into a headwind. This video by Cathy Beck explains how to use the single and double haul method to reach that desired distance. It runs for just over 16 minutes.

[First Cast to Double Haul- Single & Double Haul](#)





Access to the property of
26 A Alpine Crescent .



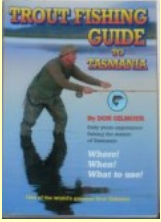
Gate to enter the property of
26 A Alpine Crescent.

Grindelwald Fly Casting and Social Outings - Confirm Dates with Don

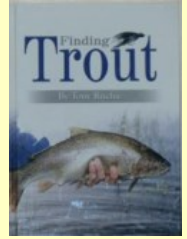
- ◆ 10:00am - 12:00pm
- ◆ Confirm all dates with the coordinator.

Coordinator Don Cameron (ph. 0409 636 273).

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.

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

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