



Fly Fishers' Club of Tasmania Inc.

Founded 17th August 1955

Postal Address: PO Box 460, Launceston 7250

Newsletter - April 2025

Coming Up

Next General Meeting:

7:30pm 2nd April 2025

1-3 Chant Street,

East Launceston

Next Committee Meeting:

7:00pm 9th April 2025

1-3 Chant Street,

East Launceston

Guest Speaker—Bruce Dean

Tonight will be something different.

**Bruce will be presenting a slide show on fishing
Lake Pedder in the early days.**

Next Club Outings:

Christmas in Winter - July 5th (Refer Page 13)

FFCT 70th Anniversary - October 26 2025 (Refer Page 2)

Club Outings

Unless noted the Contact for all Club Outings is

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

70th Anniversary

To celebrate our anniversary we have decided to hold an informal social gathering at Myrtle Park. It will be in the format of a barbeque. To assist us in our planning stage we would like you to send us your confirmation.

Members are encouraged to bring their partners.

Where: Myrtle Park

When: Sunday 26th October 2025

RSVP: Graeme Frankcombe by 6th August 2025.



President's Report

Hello members,

The last general meeting saw 28 members and 8 guests come along to hear the guest speaker Greg French. He gave an excellent presentation on some of the waters in the western lakes, accompanied by some stunning photos. The presentation was very well received by those in attendance.



Many thanks must go to Matt Stagg for completing the assessment and signing off of the 240-volt system at Koongara. The club now has the certificate of electrical compliance.

Thanks, must also go to Richard Hawley, John Quarry and Tom Seppala who attended the Clean-up Australia Day at Four Springs. It seems the area has been well looked after this season as there was very little rubbish to collect.

There is a large amount of leaf litter packed under the solar panels at Koongara which is causing a fire hazard. Graeme Frankcombe has made up some brackets to raise the panels and he and I will be installing these when the weather permits. (This may have been done by the time you read this.)

The \$620 raised at the Cane Day held at Little Pine Lagoon has been donated to the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia. Thanks to Chris Crawford for organizing this event.

The IFS Trout Weekend at Liawenee is to be held on the weekend of May 17th and 18th. Any members that are willing to demonstrate their flyting skills at this event should contact the secretary, more information on this event later.

This year the Club's Christmas in Winter outing will be held at Noonameena on Saturday the 5th of July. The shack can only sleep 8 but we can cater for around twelve people so anyone interested in attending should get in early.

At the last committee meeting it was agreed to trial bimonthly committee meetings. If any urgent issues arise a meeting will be called. Minor issues could be dealt with via email.

Just a reminder to members that there are still Covid and Flu like symptoms in the community, if you have any of these symptoms please do not attend the club shacks or meetings.

Martin Hingston. President FFCT.

Clean Up Australia Day

A small group of members attended the clean up at Four Springs Lake on Saturday the 8th of March.

Thankfully there was very little litter to collect, only 2 small bags. Thanks go to John Quarry (L) and Tom Seppala (even though he turned up late) for their awesome efforts on such a hot day.

The Lake water level is also very low.

The photo below is of John Quarry (L) and Tom Seppala with all the rubbish that we could find.



President Martin Hingston (L) and guest speaker Greg French

The Red Tag

Background:

The red tag most likely started life in Worcestershire in the 1850s tied by Martin Flynn. It was tied as a dry or wet fly for grayling and originally known as the *Worcestershire Gem* or *Worcestershire Wonder*. The red tag was originally used as a wet fly before its potential as a dry fly was realised. It seems to have arrived in Australia in the early 1900s and soon caught on, particularly in Tasmania.

The following excerpt from the Goulburn Valley Fly Fishing Centre website sums it up nicely: *The Red Tag is an Australian Icon. It is a fly that everybody who has fished for trout has some time, or another used and more than likely with some degree of success. It is revered on the lakes up top in Tasmania as being probably the single best pattern available. Used in just about every situation it has caught fish consistently; those feeding heavily on duns, at first light in midge hatches, rainbows in wind lanes sipping terrestrials, in shallow lakeside margins when fishing to tailers, moochers and foragers, in 150 feet of water and 3 feet waves and while wade polarising small lagoons in the Western lakes. There is very little more need be said about its effectiveness and status down south.*

The Tie:

Hook	Dry fly 18-8, most commonly 16-10.
Thread	6/0 black or brown.
Body	Peacock herl.
Hackle	Brown/ginger cock hackle.
Tag	Red Wool.

Process:

1. Set the hook in the vice.
2. Lay from the hook eye the bend the thread.
3. Tie in a bunch of red wool.
4. Depending on hook size tie on 2-, 3-, or 4 peacock herls.
5. Wind forward to form the body – about 2 thirds of the hook shank.
6. Tie off and trim the butts.
7. Tie in the hackle and wind forward towards the eye.
8. Tie off the hackle and build a small head.
9. Trim the hackle waste and apply head cement.



Note:

1. Wool soaks up water, so options are to use red dyed feather fibres or red float-Vis or similar.
2. Select a hackle with fibres equal to the hook gape.
3. Tie in the hackle with the curved side facing forward.
4. As an effective wet fly – use a heavier gauge hook and a hen hackle.
5. The variations to this tie can be found in “Australia’s Best Trout Vlies – Revisited” 2006, Malcolm Cross and “The New Illustrated Dictionary of Trout Flies” 1986, John Roberts.



This fly appeared in the “Fly of the Month” archive by and with thanks to Alan Taylor for the tying instructions of his fly.

The Willow Grub

Background:

Willow grubs are tiny terrestrials that pupate within the small galls, or blisters found on willow leaves. The first warm days of December usually signals their emergence, and this continues through to late summer.

They are the larvae of the willow gall sawfly (*Pontania proxima*) and originated from Europe and Western Asia.

As willows line many of our lowland streams, many of these grubs find themselves upon the water, struggling within the meniscus. To be eaten voraciously by the trout and the trout love them. The trout will position themselves in a feed lane downstream to hungrily sip each grub that falls.

The grubs can be either pale green or yellow. A simple yellow tie is described below.





The Tie:

Hook	Grub Hook #14 - 12.
Body	Yellow or pale green tying thread or silk.
Head	Body thread coloured with black marker.
Rib	Fine monofilament (optional).

Process:

1. Set the hook in the vice.
2. Build the body in layers of thread – fatter towards the hook eye.
3. Create the head with the black marker.
4. Whip finish.



Note:

1. The falling natural tends to float for a while before sinking, so the imitation can be fished on the surface or below.
2. Accurately cast your fly many times a foot or two upstream of the trout. Any further away and it will not be seen and ignored by the trout. Patience and persistent casting is required to fool these trout as they are totally locked in on these insects.

This fly appeared in the "Fly of the Month" archive by and with thanks to Alan Taylor for the tying instructions of his fly.

Minutes of the General Meeting Held at Chant Street on Wednesday 5th of March 2025

MEETING OPENED: 7:30pm.

Welcome:

President Martin Hingston welcomed the 28 members, Guest Speaker Greg French and 8 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, James Doherty, Keith Blewett, Alan Taylor, Andrew Wood, David Swallow, Peter Ray

Names of Guests:

Heather Becher, Matt Robison, Gary Anderson, Jules Stevens, Jayme King, Sandra Richman, David Augustynek, Callum Ross

Guest Speaker:

The President reintroduced Greg French to the members. Greg's topic was on his 5 favourite waters in the deep western lakes. There were no surprises on the ones that he selected, and each were accompanied with some excellent photos.

Lake Nameless: This has the best mayfly hatch, and the duns prefer overcast days. It can be used as a base camp to visit other waters.

Lake Ina: Unlike other waters the nymphs crawl out of the water to hatch. Some nymphs are picked up by snakes. There are many large boulders in the lakes that the nymphs crawl up and the fish can be seen picking them off. The fish are active from first light and continue through the day – even in bright sunlight.

Lake Meston/Junction Lake: This has big rocky shores and the best way to fish it is from a boat. Rainbows will cruise the edges for the full length of the lake and are mostly beetle feeders. The colours of the rainbow trout are different to those found elsewhere.

Lake Antimony: This water is ideal for wade polaroiding as the silty base allows the fish to be seen more easily. It is on the Pine River system and other lakes are nearby.

Lake Malbena: This is a deep lake, and the fish tend to stay deep among the weed beds. It is best fished from a boat as the lake edges are tree-lined. This water is now owned by 'Drake Enterprises' and anglers cannot access this anymore.

General Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

Following a brief set of questions the President led the members in showing their appreciation to Greg for his most informative presentation.

Appreciation:

The President expressed the Club's appreciation to:

- Peter Berne for chairing the last committee meeting.
- Chris Crawford for volunteering to assist new members in the use of the shacks.

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:

Inwards:

1. Newsletters – (email) Coffs CFFC, SAFFA, GFFC,
2. InTAS – (email) 'Business package' insurance is the only fit for our Club; can raise the excess to save.
3. IFS – (email) Notice of Trout Weekend - 17 & 18 May.

Outwards:

1. InTas – (email) Insurance change query.
2. Alan Styles – (email) Advice on NFP with ATO.
3. Ticket to Wellbeing – (email) Check to see if our Club qualifies.

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

Matters arising:

Nil

Treasurer's Report:

General Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

Expenses: \$ 372.04 (Rates \$238, Branch Office \$72.26, Gas bottle \$30.95)

Income: \$ 987.00 (Rental \$840, Meeting \$62, Fly Bowl \$50)

CBA: \$ 9,074.55

Petty Cash: \$ 100.00

Cash Book: \$ 9,074.55

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

Matters arising:

Nil

General Business:

Chairman's Lead:

Just a reminder for the members:

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

Club Outings:

March – 8th CUAD at Four Springs

Members can attend early to fish but assemble at the car park at 9:30am to register. The clean up should finish by 11:30 and if the conditions are right return to fishing. Members that will accompany the Secretary are John Quarry and Chris Crawford.

May – 17th / 18th Trout Weekend at Liawenee

Gary Cullen and Michael Burgess have volunteered to tie flies.

In the past CorraLinn tied flies on the Sunday. Once I receive the schedule from the IFS I will confirm which days and times are correct.

Fly Casting:

Fly casting at Grindelwald – coordinator Don Cameron

Contact Don to confirm all outings. The next outing will be on the 9th of March with a BYO barbeque.

Club Rooms:

General Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

Thanks to the volunteers that assisted in the preparation of the room and clean-up of the kitchen area.

CLUB FINANCES:

Following the last committee meeting and with the direction given by the members at the last general meeting we have increased the membership fees. The membership fees have not changed for 4 years. So, to effect those changes the following special resolution must be moved, seconded and passed by a majority tonight.

Special Resolution

This motion was moved by Martin Hingston and seconded by Norm King.

In accordance with Rule 30 (1a) "Annual Subscriptions and Joining Fee" the members tonight are to approve the new membership fees that will take effect from the start of this coming financial year.

The new fees are:

- Standard membership **\$96**
- Pensioner membership **\$65.**

This motion was passed by the members present with only 1 member against the motion.

This means that members renewing their membership for the 2025 / 26 season will pay the new rate.

Shack Rental:

The President noted that the shack rentals have also increased marginally and will take effect from the start of July this year.

Members **\$20**

Non-members **\$40**

During the off season the shacks will still be charged at 'half rate'.

Club's 70th Anniversary:

The sub-committee reported that a casual outing will be held at Myrtle Park on Sunday the 26th of October. It will be a BBQ and members are encouraged to bring along their partners. Tonight 18 members nominated that they would attend.

General Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

The hall (if required) can be booked for \$360 per day and will hold about 100 people.

The members must send their confirmations to Graeme Frankcombe via an RSVP if the Club is to supply any foods. The advert will be placed in the coming newsletters.

Other General Business:

When the Treasurer pays the money collected from the 'Cane Day' outing he will see if the examiner will be present to take a photo.

We do have the IFS Director as a future planned guest speaker for the Club.

The President noted that the committee will meet next week, not in a months' time as earlier planned.

Fishing Reports:

One lucky member with 9 others spent a few days in Patagonia where they fished several rivers and lakes. The waters were unbelievable they either fished from boats or from the shore catching 14 – 16 lb fish. All up about 100 fish were caught.

Little Pine Lagoon water is low and murky, and the fish are very hard to find. Whereas Penstock Lagoon is very clear, and the fishing can be tough for some, but one member took 4 nice fish in half an hour.

Club Raffles:

The night's raffle was drawn by Sandra Richman and won by Don Sweatman.

Next Meeting:

April – Ron Thresher (Author of Tasmanian Mayflies)

Meeting Closed: 9:00pm



President Martin (L) with
new member Richard Fela

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



Club Outing



Christmas in Winter

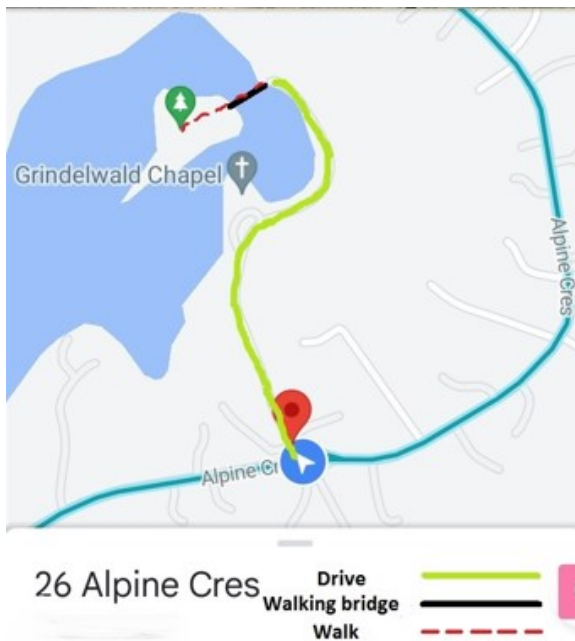
Our annual event "Christmas in Winter" will be held at Noonamena soon.

Members are encouraged to confirm their bookings by our June meeting.

Places for the luncheon are limited to **12** so book early - also Noonamena can only sleep **8**.

DATE:	5th July
LOCATION POINT:	NOONAMENA
RSVP:	11/06/2025
CONTACT:	GRAEME FRANKCOMBE





Access to the property of
26 A Alpine Crescent .



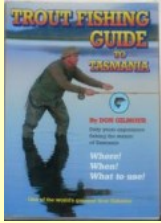
Gate to enter the property of
26 A Alpine Crescent.

Grindelwald Fly Casting and Social Outings - Confirm Dates with Don

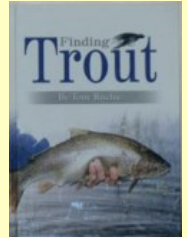
- ◆ 10:00am - 12:00pm
- ◆ Confirm all dates with the coordinator.

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

For Assistance in the use of any shack contact **Chris Crawford**

Phone: 042-941-3687; email: clcrawford52@gmail.com



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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