



Fly Fishers' Club of Tasmania Inc.

Founded 17th August 1955

Postal Address: PO Box 460, Launceston 7250

Newsletter - May 2025

Coming Up

Next General Meeting:

7:30pm 7th May 2025

1-3 Chant Street,
East Launceston

Next Committee Meeting:

7:00pm 14th May 2025

1-3 Chant Street,
East Launceston

Guest Speaker—Jules Stevens

Come tonight to hear how Jules and her team were so successful at the WWFFC in Czech Republic.

She fished in many other countries after the event.

Next Club Outings:

Trout Weekend at Liawenee - May 17th & 18th (Refer page 2)

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.



TROUT WEEKEND at LIAWENEE

This will be held on the **17th** and **18th** of **May**.

We will need some fly tyers to represent the Club on either day.

Contact the Secretary before the end of April if you can help.

President's Report

Hello members.

The end of the brown trout season is approaching fast. For me it is time to clean my fishing gear and boat. This would have to be the worst fishing season that I can remember for a very long time.

My favorite water Little Pine Lagoon has been a disaster with very few fish caught, not many insect hatches and the water at times very turbid. The only good thing was the few fish that were caught were in good condition. We can only hope that fishing improves in the next few seasons.

Some recent works at Koongara have seen the solar panels raised, this should prevent any leaf litter from building up underneath them. The legs were fabricated by Graeme Frankcombe and installed on the roof by Graeme and me. (photos on page 12)

Chris Crawford and Nick Merrony raked up the tree debris around the building, only to find they had to do some of it again after we cleaned off the roof. Thanks to everyone involved.

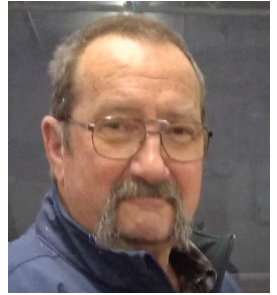
Over the past few weeks Richard Hawley, John Quarry and I have been looking into Club insurance with very little success. As soon as you mention that we are a Club with members that could stay in our buildings the insurance companies will not offer insurance coverage. Our best option now is to increase the excess, this will reduce the cost of our premiums.

There are three club events coming up, the first is the 'Trout Weekend' at Liawenee on the 17th and 18th of May, some fly tyers will be required for both days.

The next event is 'Christmas in Winter', this will be held at Noonameena on the 5th of July. Contact Graeme Frankcombe if you are interested in attending this event. Numbers are limited to 15 so get in early, also if you want to stay at Noonameena book early – as it only sleeps 8.

The Club's 70th birthday event will be on October the 26th at Myrtle Park, more details later.

Martin Hingston
President FFCT





In September we are having our AGM where all committee positions are made vacant, and the opportunities are there for new members to nominate for any role.

This year we will need a new Secretary, as my many years' stint has come to an end. I feel that I have taken this role as far as I can and now need to dedicate some time to myself and family.

My first introduction as secretary was the acceptance of many boxes of 'stuff' from previous Secretaries. I could not believe the amount of paper that has been collected over the years. So, over many years I converted it all into an electronic format. All old correspondence and reports were scanned, numbered and filed on a zip drive and for easy retrieval entered in an Excel spreadsheet.

My second fear was that I was doing a role that I had never done before and there was no other Secretary to seek ideas off. I was fortunate that Maurice Hendley (former teacher) was the then President who helped me through the first few meetings.

The incoming Secretary will have an easier transition than what I received. I have created many help sheets that can be easily followed, and I will be staying on the committee to assist when needed.

Good Luck to the incoming person and thanks to the Club for giving me this opportunity.

Richard Hawley

Secretary & Editor

The Pheasant Tail Nymph

Background:

The Pheasant Tail Nymph's (PTN) history, also known as Sawyer's Pheasant Tail, is rooted in the picturesque chalk streams of Hampshire Avon, where riverkeeper Frank Sawyer first conceived and tied this pattern in 1958.

Sawyer was a passionate angler whose deep understanding of the river's aquatic life inspired this creation. A true pioneer of nymph fishing and close friend of **G. E. M. Skues**, he crafted the Pheasant Tail Nymph using wire and short-legged pheasant tail fibres to mimic the appearance of a typical mayfly nymph suspended in flow. The PTN was inspired by a fly known as the Pheasant Tail Red Spinner which caught more fish when it was submerged. Sawyer observed that typical mayfly nymphs floated in the stream with their legs held close to their body. He had also noted that the nymphs had a coppery sheen, so he let plenty of the copper wire show through when dressing the fly.

Sawyer's contribution to fly fishing extended beyond introducing a new pattern. His 1958 book "Nymphs and the Trout" offered detailed guidance on tying and fishing the Pheasant Tail Nymph and remains a recommended classic for those eager to master nymph fishing.

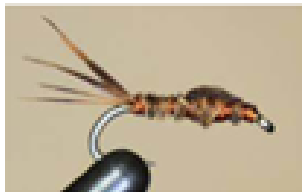
Since its creation on the tranquil waters of Hampshire Avon, the Pheasant Tail Nymph has gained popularity on trout streams worldwide. Over 60 years later, its influence remains strong, a testament to Frank Sawyer's genius and the enduring charm of fly fishing.

Simplicity is the keynote and Sawyer used only two materials, fine copper wire and fibres from a cock pheasant centre tail feather – no tying thread.

Over the years modern fly tyers have modified the design in various ways, the most popular variation being the addition of a peacock herl thorax, but in the opinion of many fly fishers nothing can beat the original for simplicity and effectiveness of the original Frank Sawyer tie.

A good description of the original Frank Sawyer tying method can be found here:

www.tomsutcliffe.co.za/fly-fishing/flytying/item/222-tying-the-ptn-to-the-originalpattern.Html



I have included a popular present-day version of the PTN.

The Tie:

Hook	Nymph #10 – 16.
Thread	Brown.
Tail	Cock Pheasant Tail feather fibres.
Body	Cock Pheasant Tail feather fibres.
Wing Case	Cock Pheasant Tail feather fibres.
Rib	Fine Copper Wire.
Thorax	Peacock Herl.



Process:

1. Set the hook in the vice.
2. Wind the thread to the hook bend and tie in the copper wire.
3. Select 5 or 6 Pheasant Tail fibres and tie in with the tips forming the tail.
4. Make a rope of the tail fibres and wind forward to about halfway along the hook shank.
5. Tie them down on the top of the hook, but do not trim them.
6. Wind the copper wire forward and tie off at the same point.
7. Tie in a couple of strands of peacock herl and wind forward to just behind the hook eye. Tie off and trim excess.
8. Form the wing case by bringing the peacock fibres (process 5) forward over the peacock herl. Tie off.
9. Any remaining strands of fibres can be swept back to form the legs.
10. Hold in position to tie down and form the head.
11. Whip finish.

Note:

1. The length of tail to be slightly less than half the hook length.
2. The copper wire is wound in the opposite direction to the fibres.

Fishing the PTN:

In streams and rivers, the Pheasant Tail can be presented by casting upstream and allow the current to present the fly in a natural manner below the surface. Alternatively, cast across the stream and allow the fly to sink on a dead drift and then gently raised in the water as it approaches the feeding trout to imitate the behaviour of the natural insect. Watch the tip of the fly line for any movement and, if seen, lift the rod tip and gently set the hook.

On lakes, use a floating line with greased sunken leader, retrieve the fly very slowly just below the surface. Pay particular attention to shallow areas near weed beds



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

NOONAMENA

With daylight saving ended our shack at Little Pine will be "winter proofed" soon. Those members that enjoy staying there during the off season must remember to redo that process when they leave. Those that do not know the process must ask Chris Crawford.

News from the IFS

Lake Sorell

The road into Dago Point campground has had some major improvements thanks to the Parks and Wildlife Service.

The IFS note that the Lake's popularity is increasing and although the catch rates there are low the condition of the fish is exceptionally good. The average weight is 2- 3 kilograms.

Minutes of the General Meeting Held at Chant Street on Wednesday 2nd of April 2025

MEETING OPENED: 7:35pm.

Welcome:

President Martin Hingston welcomed the 25 members and 2 guests to the meeting. He recommended that all mobile devices be turned off or placed on to silent. Martin noted that our original guest speaker Ron Thresher could not attend tonight's meeting, so we have Club member Bruce Dean. Whose topic will be on past experiences fishing Lake Pedder.

Apologies:

Gary & Katie Baird, Marcus Rae, Jimmy Ellenberger, Annie Skarratt, Heather & Glenn Becher, David Swallow, Peter Ray, Jim Leslie, James Doherty, Robert Wolf, Matt Stagg, Lyndon Haines

Names of Guests:

Matt Robison, Bruce Marshall

Guest Speaker:

Martin re-introduced Bruce Dean who due to a computer problem could not present his slide show so it was a 'stand and deliver' presentation.

Lake Pedder was created in 1972 by the flooding of the original Lake Pedder for Hydro development. The first IFS stocking was in 1973, and fishing became popular from 1974 onwards with the average size of trout in 1978 approaching 5 kg. Since the early 80's the average size trout has dropped to around 1 kg. The original lake was about 10 sq km with the surrounds being marshy.

It was Bruce's brother that first noticed the fish movement in Pedder. This attracted the family and friends to fish the Lake. They always fished the southern section area near Scotts Peak Dam a place called 'Home Shore' where the camping was excellent. On one night they caught 3 fish weighing 10.5lb, 12lb and 13.5lb the largest that they have landed is 18.5lb.

The President led the members in showing their appreciation to Bruce for his excellent presentation.

Appreciation:

The President expressed the Club's appreciation to the members for their recent

General Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

works at Koongara which included:

- Graeme and Martin for installing the extension legs for the solar panels cleaning the gutters, roof and solar panels.
- Martin for cleaning the grease trap and Graeme for installing the roller blind that he donated.
- Chris Crawford and Nick Merrony for the ground maintenance.
- Matt & John Stagg for completing the electrical certification.

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 **Graeme Frankcombe – and carried unanimously.**

Matters arising:

Nil

Correspondence:

Inwards:

1. Club newsletters (email) – VFFA, TFTC, Coffs CFFC, GFFC, SAFFA,
2. Ryan Wilkinson (email) – Confirmed as guest speaker in August.
3. AAT – (email) Halls Island planned lease extension.
4. Matt Stagg – 240V electrical compliance certificate.
5. Hon Nick Duigan – (email) Response to Club's concerns on Halls Island lease extension.

Outwards:

1. Greg French - (email) Appreciation for recent guest speaker role.
2. Ryan Wilkinson (IFS) – (email) Invitation as guest speaker in August.
3. CUAD – (email) Report on clean-up day at Four Springs.
4. Heather Becher – (email) Membership confirmation.
5. Hon Nick Duigan – (email) Club's concerns on Halls Island lease extension.
6. Steve Patterson (IFS) – (email) Requesting schedule for 'Trout Weekend'.

General Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

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

Matters arising:

Inwards 5: A summary of the response from Nick Duigan was relayed to the members.

Treasurer's Report:

Prior to presenting the report the Treasurer read out the letter of appreciation from the Prostate Cancer Foundation following our donation via the 'Cane Day'.

Expenses: \$ 827.93 (PO Box \$159, PCF Donation \$620)

Income: \$ 611.20 (Shack \$270, Subs \$226, Meeting \$75.20)

CBA: \$ 8,857.82

Petty Cash: \$ 100.00

Cash Book: \$ 8,857.82

The Treasurer, John Quarry moved the Treasurer's report for acceptance, seconded by **Andrew Wood – 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.
and the peacock feathers.

Club Outings:

July 5th - Christmas in Winter held at Noonamena, RSVP by the June general meeting

May 17th & 18th – Trout Weekend at Liawenee (fly Tyers include Michael Burgess; Garry Cullen for Sunday)

Once the Secretary receives the schedule with times, he will notify the members.

General Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

October 26th – Club's 70th anniversary at Myrtle Park.

Graeme indicated that in previous meetings members indicated that they would attend, but he has not received any confirmations yet.

Fly Casting:

Fly casting at Grindelwald – coordinator Don Cameron

Contact Don to confirm all outings. The next outing will be on the 6th of April with a BYO barbeque.

Club Rooms:

Thanks to the volunteers that assisted in the preparation of the room and clean-up of the kitchen area following tonight's meeting.

Other General Business:

Chris noted that there are plans to regenerate Lake Waverley with the IFS to restock it. He has volunteered the Club to assist with any fly-casting tuition to the public.

He also noted that George Harding's daughter has a lot of memorabilia from George that could be placed on display during our 70th anniversary. We may now need to hire the hall at Myrtle Park just in case of bad weather.

John Morwood has a filled gas bottle that he will take back up to Penstock at his next trip.

Fishing Reports:

The fishing at Penstock is varied. Fish can be caught but only after a lot of effort.

Some rivers still have fish left by the cormorants, these include the Meander, St Patricks and Brumbys Creek.

Club Raffles:

The night's raffle was drawn by Chris Crawford and won by Richard Hawley.

Next Meeting:

May – Jules Stevens WWFC in Czech Republic & Europe

Meeting Closed: 8:30pm



President Martin Hingston and guest speaker Bruce Dean



Some photos of the Koongara solar panels with new legs fabricated by Graeme and installed by Graeme and Martin. This should help blow the tree debris out from underneath.

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

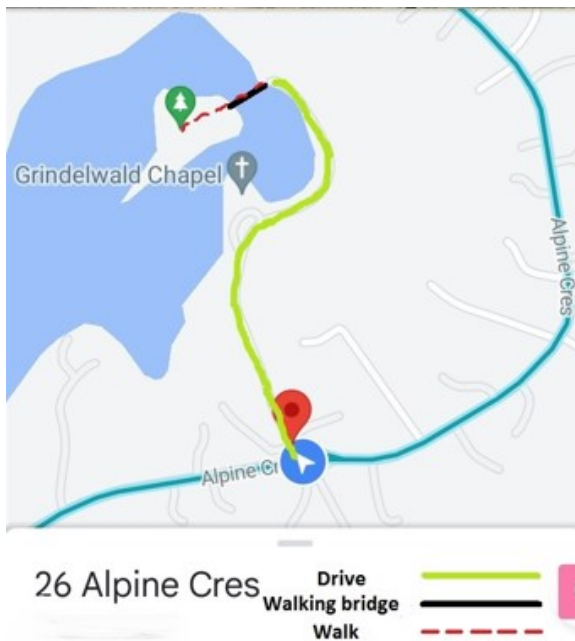
Our annual event "Christmas in Winter" will be held at Noonamena soon.

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 .



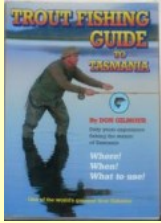
Gate to enter the property of
26 A Alpine Crescent.

Grindelwald Fly Casting and Social Outings - Confirm Dates with Don

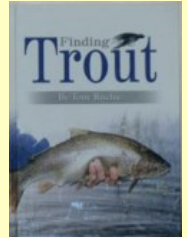
- ◆ 10:00am - 12:00pm
- ◆ Confirm all dates with the coordinator.

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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