



Fly Fishers' Club of Tasmania Inc.

Founded 17th August 1955

Postal Address: PO Box 460, Launceston 7250

Newsletter - December 2025

Coming Up

Next General Meeting:

7:30pm 3rd December 2025

22 Hoblers Bridge Road,

Newstead

Next Committee Meeting:

7:00pm 11th February 2026

22 Hoblers Bridge Road,

Newstead

Social Night

This is our end of year get together. Come along and enjoy some nibbles, drinks, test your knowledge in the trivia, great company and maybe win some raffles. Bring plenty of change to support the Club.

Tom Deer will also talk briefly on his newly published book.

There is no General Meeting in January.

Next Club Outings:

November 25th & 26th - Lake Ina (full)

December 13th - "One Fly" at Penstock Lagoon (Refer Page 2)

January 17th - "Pine Plunder" at Little Pine Lagoon (Refer Page 2)

January 25th - "Cane Day" at Little Pine Lagoon (Refer Page 2)

Club Outings

Contact for all of our Club Outings is

Peter Berne (0419 764 816) peterberne1956@gmail.com

December: 13th Penstock Lagoon “One Fly” (RSVP 04/12/2024) Fee \$15

- Assemble at Koongara at 9:30am for an Egg ‘N’ Bacon breakfast.
- Fish from 10:30 — 4:30pm.
- Return to shack for reviews and presentation.

January: 17th Little Pine Lagoon “Pine Plunder”

- 9:00am Assemble at shack; Fish until 5:30pm.
- Return to shack for reviews and presentation.
- Members are encouraged to bring their guests.

January: 25th 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

MERRY CHRISTMAS 

70th Anniversary

On the 27th of October Club about 50 members and guests enjoyed a fantastic day at Myrtle Park. The weather was unbelievably kind and warm. A table of memorabilia was on display from George Harding's daughter - Virginia. Our special guests included John Diggle, Viv Spencer and our member's partners. A brief welcome and short history of the Club from our President Bill Greensmith opened the day, then it was down for us to socialise whilst eating lunch.



Photos of the members and guests



Virginia setting up the memorabilia display watched carefully by John Dekkers

More pics on page 12

President's Report

Hi all,

I have just returned from Talbotts Lagoon. A good couple of days with great company. Fishing was tough from the shore as the lake was full and the water was into the trees. People in boats did ok but the wind made things tough when they hooked a fish. The boats would drift away from the fish. Anyway it was a bit of fun.

The club has had quite a busy time with new outings and the new director of IFS attending the club meeting. Over the next month leading up to Christmas we have or may have already had Lake Leake, Lake Ina, Penstock 1 fly, Pine plunder and Cane day.

I encourage all members to attend these events if they can. Peter Berne will be in contact with all members via email as a reminder of the dates of the events. The clubs Christmas meeting will have a guest speaker, a short formal meeting and drinks, food, a short quiz and raffle. I would encourage as may members to attend this social event.

I wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy new year. Let's hope the fish are feeding and the weather takes a turn for the better.

Keep safe,

Bill.



News from the AAT

The AAT have installed a new camera at Lake Sorell. This will go live on Saturday the 15th of November at midday.

The AAT will conduct another "bug sampling" day at Penstock Lagoon. Interested participants are to meet at the Ladies Walk on Saturday the 29th of November at 11:00am. For more information and confirmation contact Howard Jones.

Email: howard.jones16@gmail.com; ph. 0409 969 895

Trivia? NIGHT?

In Our December meeting we will be holding a trivia night. The questions are all set by our most knowledgeable member Chris Crawford. They will be on anything related to the trout or our Club history.

There will be a group of 5 - 6 members that will be placed randomly together to answer as many questions as possible.

It should be a fun night.

VALE - Barry Gough



It is with much sadness that we inform the members of the passing of Barry Gough who was 95 years old.

Barry was a long-time member of our Club, He joined in October 1966 and later resigned in 2017 due to health issues. He was then added to our honorary list to continue receiving our newsletter and Club information.

He served as a committeeman for 9 years and rose to President in 1975.

His story of his life and original fly was well captured by Jack Barker – now on the Club website.

The Club extends their condolences to his family.

Early Days of the Fly Fishers Club of Tasmania by Charles Peck.

Part 1. Concept

The concept of a new Fly-Fishing Club was talked about for a while within the ranks of the central branch of the Northern Tasmanian Fisheries Association, the Tasmanian Branch of the Australian Casting Association and various dedicated fly fishers, some interstate and even overseas, who visited Tasmania, principally to fish the "Shannon Rise" which occurred annually from early December until late summer.

The Shannon Rise was threatened and eventually terminated in 1956 by the Poatina power scheme.

The various fishery groups were fragmented and policies not specifically directed to fly fishing ideals.

David Scholes worked as Commercial Artist and Reg Clayton as Industrial Officer for Tasmanian Board Mills Ltd. at Killafaddy along with Colin Gibson who was Managing Director.

Those three formed the basis of the new Club committee which had two meetings one to discuss and the other to formalise the new Club in 1955.

I knew all three of them through fishing, competitive fly casting, and my work with TBM's auditors as well as the politics of the fishery through my 12-month term as Secretary of NTFA central branch until August 1954 when called up for 3 months compulsory National Service training and two years CMF obligations.

I was invited by David to become a Founding Member but could not attend those two meetings.

I first joined either late 1955 or early 1956, paid an entrance fee and was told I was a junior member and had no vote because I was under 21, my fee was half rate until 1/11/1956 when I was legally an adult. If, there was no record of my first term fees, the money probably went into the collection for the whisky that night.

I recall this vividly, because when I attended my first meeting, I was handed a generous "tod" of "Old Trout" whisky along with all other members. I commented that I was underage and could be fined but they insisted - my first taste of whisky - and not forgotten.

Part 2. Meetings

Early Club Meetings were first held at “Brisbane House”, now part of a motel complex, later moved to Launceston Hotel. I attended several then did not renew my sub for a year or two due to CMF, accounting study / exams etc. although attended occasionally when able as a visitor with Rod House who was a Founding Member.

Proceedings were usually fairly formal - usually “collar and tie” affairs. Members and visitors included some prominent businesspeople, mostly top local fly fishers - quite a social affair. Some names I recall (apart from Gibson, Scholes & Clayton) Ken and John Waterhouse (solicitors), Stuart Napier (farmer, Fingal valley and fly tier), John Steer (politician and keen fisher of Lake Leake), Colonel and Michael Youl (farmers and descendants of the one who introduced trout to Tasmania), General Wordsworth, Max Christensen (fly tyer), Richard Wigram (tackle merchant, author and fly tyer), Peter D. Wallace (Cressy farmer and Assoc. Commissioner for Northern Tasmania), Charles Holmes (chemist and Chairman of Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Commission), Leopold (Poly) Clark (farmer and Assoc. Commissioner for North West), Ken Steel (MD of Myers Stores, friend of David Scholes), David McIntyre (doctor), Roderick House (local industrial electrical dealer).

Actual proceedings were sometimes (finished or started) with musical recording of “Trout Quintet” played quietly and finished with the toad of “Old Trout” whisky in which all participated. Sometimes two bottles were necessary! When the move to Launceston Hotel came, that was dropped. The first meeting I had to Chair was at the Launceston Hotel, I think when David Scholes and several of his friends resigned over a constitutional issue. It might have been over whether ladies could become members or not. There were a few changes to the early constitution over the years - members were initially prohibited from engaging in commercial activities associated with the sport, hence people like Terry Charlton and Ken Littlejohn, both top Australian fly casters, but involved in the trade were unable to be members. Noel Jetson dropped out when he became a guide and retailer.

The very successful 1988 World Championships in Tasmania (first in southern hemisphere) was controversial, some members were opposed, others assisted as volunteer guides, controllers and general helpers. Jim Ferrier, Charles Peck and Philip Fisher, also a member of Hobart Fly Tyers were all volunteer guides

or controllers along with several of the other professional guides and IFS staff. Noel Jetson (an ex-member) was the guide for the winning British team. The idea of competitive casting was anathema to some members, who did not realise how their skills could be improved with practice.

The Corralinn Flyfishing and Casting Association was in part a split from the FFCT, recently to merge with the Flyfishers Club with mutual benefits. Today, the Club members are men and a few women from all walks of life, whereas it was initially regarded as a fairly exclusive group of men only!

Part 3. The future of the Club

The future of fly fishing in Tasmania is now very clouded unless the various Clubs now existing in the State do more collectively to ensure that the demands for irrigation and electricity are not allowed to further restrict availability of clean water and access to fish in our rivers and lakes. And also, that "Commercial Development" proposals in National Parks and Reserves restricting access to only those able to pay big fees for the privilege and access to such as planned for Lake Malbena.



Charles Peck

Photo by Jack Barker



**Minutes of the General Meeting Held at the STMA Hall Hoblers
Bridge Road on Wednesday 5th of November 2025**

MEETING OPENED:19.30.....pm.

Welcome:

Welcome the members and guests (if any) to this meeting. I recommend that all mobile devices be turned off or placed on to silent.

Names of Guests:

Guest Speaker: Dr Ryan Wilkinson. IFS.

Dr Wilkinson will speak to all things IFS, his working history and what the future holds for fishing in Tasmania.

Minutes of last meeting: President

I move that the minutes, that appeared in the last newsletter was a representative record of that meeting and
call for a seconder Tom Supala please.

Those in Favour.....Yes.....Against...No.....Carried

Matters arising:

It is with great sorrow that I have to announce the passing of Barry Gough. I never met him but he was a club member from many years. A committee member and president. Only resigning the club due to ill health. He will be remembered by the fly of his name.

Any matters from the floor. Nil

Correspondence (since last meeting): President

Inwards: SAFFA, Coffs Coast, Greenwells

Outwards:

Nil

I move that the inward correspondence was accepted; and outward correspondence was approved and call for a seconder Chris Crawford please.

Those in Favour.....Yes.....Against.....Nil.....Carried

General Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

Matters arising: (ask if any from the floor) Nil

Treasurer's Report: (John Quarry)

Expenses: \$ (major payments)\$6440.10

Income: \$ (major payments) \$494.40

CBA: \$ 9010.90

Petty Cash: \$ 100.00

Cash Book: \$ 9010.90

Recycle \$101.60

John Quarry to move the Treasurer's report and call for a seconder Tom Supala.

Those in Favour.....Yes.....Against...nil.....Carried

Matters arising: (ask if any from the floor)Nil

General Business:

Nil

Just a reminder for the members:

of the 'fly bowl' which provides good value of flies at \$1 each and whip finishers \$5.

Of the Club library where there are many books and dvd's.

Club Outings:

Peter Berne is the Club Events coordinator

Lake Leake 18th and 19th November. Expressions of interest (email to follow)

Lake Ina 25&26 November. Numbers full

Penstock one fly 13 December. Numbers required

Pine plunder 17 January 2026

Cane Day 25 January 2026

4 Springs clean up 26 January 2026

Club Shacks:

Koongara. Nil

Noonamena. Nil

General Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

Committee:

Fly Casting:

Fly casting at Grindelwald – coordinator Bruce Irwin

Next event 9th November. This event includes a BBQ.

Club Rooms:

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

Any other General Business (From the Floor) Nil

Fishing Reports (from Members): (select some members] Nil

Club Raffles: (ask John to select someone to draw the raffle) Raffle winner Norm King

Next Meeting: 3rd December 2025

Meeting Closed: 21.24

The minutes were noted and compiled by our Club President.

Dr Ryan Wilkinson (IFS Director):

Excerpts from his talk at the FFCT meeting on 5th November 2025.

Ryan was born and raised in S.A. and was introduced to fishing by his father.

With limited access to freshwater, most of his fishing was done in saltwater.

Sometime during his childhood his father purchased a fly rod and Ryan's fishing life changed for the better. He became an avid fly fisher.

He developed a passion for marine environment, and this passion encouraged him to study marine biology at university, obtaining a degree in aquaculture and going on to obtain a PHD in fish biology.

Moving to Tasmania in 2006 and taking up a position for 12 months at a university which turned into a 20-year stay.

Within the last 20 years he worked for the aquaculture industry before taking up a role with the IFS on a temporary basis and then a full-time role as the Director of the IFS.

The IFS revenue base comes in the form of 45% government, 45% anglers' licenses with the remainder from investments.

A survey on how much money fishing generates for the state is approximately \$84M.

IFS is undertaking several R&D into the fishery in Tasmania along with a stocking program including an egg box trial.

Like any government department money is tight and the IFS are seeking additional funds from the upcoming budget.

Fishing is tough but he encourages people to view the website for information and take up the fishing app which helps them gather information.

IFS have an Instagram account and are looking into a Facebook account and they are hopeful of putting out a digital newsletter.

Thanks to Bill Greensmith for presenting this resume of Ryan's presentation.



It was pleasing to see both Jimmy Ellenberger (top) and Alan Miller in attendance at our 70th Anniversary.

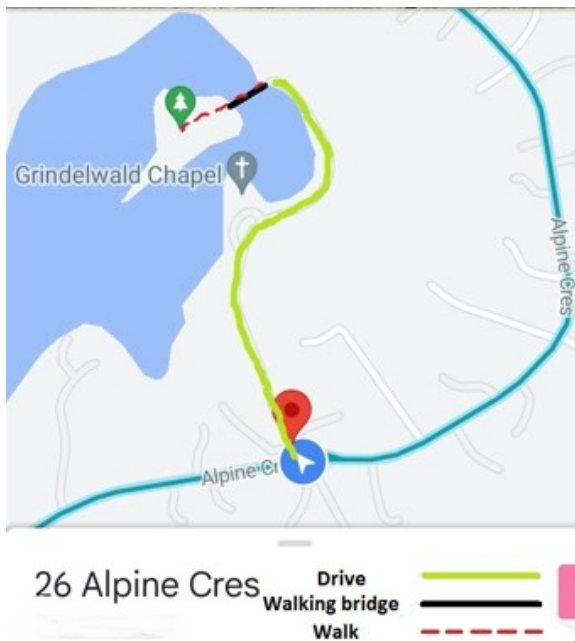
There are many more photos of the day on our website.

Fly Casting Day at Grindelwald



Members enjoying their outing at Grindelwald and improving their casting accuracy.

All photos by Jack Barker



Access to the property of
26 A Alpine Crescent .

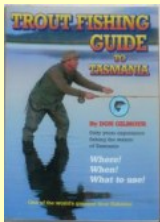


Gate to enter the property of
26 A Alpine Crescent.

Grindelwald Fly Casting and Social Outings - Confirm Dates with Don

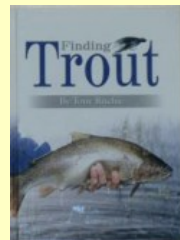
- ◆ 10:00am - 12:00pm
- ◆ Confirm all dates with the coordinator.

Coordinator Bruce Irwin (ph. 0419 116 344).



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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