

**BENDIGO
& DISTRICT FLY
FISHERS INC.**

Inc. No. A00 043 73B



January 2014

www.bdffc.weebly.com

Diary Dates:

- 6th Feb 2014 Committee Meeting
 - 13th Feb Fly Tying
 - 20th Feb Fly Tying
 - 27th Feb Committee Meeting
-



John Crane Memorial Fly Tying Competition

Recipes for the final flies for tying will
be included in February Newsletter

Clean Up Day

Sunday 2nd March at Barkers Creek
3.30PM
BBQ Tea Supplied then fish the
evening hatch.



PRESIDENT:

Damian Keegan Phone 0400 168 483

SECRETARY:

Jeff Willey Phone 5447 1449

TREASURER:

Tom Charles Phone 0431 981 190

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

Joe Singe Phone: 5446 7632
Email: jsinge@bigpond.com

B&DFE Club Clothing

Green & Gold Polo Shirt	\$26.00
½ Zip Polar Fleece	\$35.00
Full Zip Polar Fleece	\$33.00
Full Hoodie	\$42.00
Caps	\$15.00
To add name	\$ 3.00

If you require any of the above items
contact Jeff Willey ASAP



BENDIGO & DISTRICT FLY FISHERS INC
PO BOX 2282
BENDIGO MAIL CENTRE
VICTORIA 3554

NEWSLETTER SPONSORS



For All Your Property Maintenance Needs

“Quality assured trained professionals”

SERVICES OFFERED:

- Handyman Carpentry
- Window Maintenance
- All Glass repairs
- Window Cleaning
- Vacuuming/Mopping
- Dusting
- Painting
- Bathrooms/Toilets
- Shower screen repairs
- Small Bathroom Mirror
- Gutters
- Fly Screen repairs

Contact us today for a free quote
(03) 54428900
tshatwell@erppower.com

ARNOLD DALLAS MCPHERSON

*Law Institute of Victoria
Accredited Specialists in*

Personal Injury Claims

*Workcover, Transport Accidents,
Medical Negligence, Defective Products
Criminal Injuries Compensation*

- Conveyancing
- Wills

5441 4588

Sandhurst Engraving

Pat Francis

**SAFETY SIGNS
BRASS & BRONZE PLAQUES
PLASTIC & ALUMINIUM SIGNS
NAME BADGES & TROPHIES**

42 PLUMRIDGE STREET WHITE HILLS
BENDIGO, 3550

Phone / Fax (03) 5448 4700

For Sale.

**This space available for members
use**

Contact Bob Garlick

Electronic Newsletters

Members are asked to consider, where they can, to receive the newsletter via email. If this is acceptable to you please send your email address to the Secretary

Jeff Willey.

willey76@tpg.com.au



10% OFF MEMBERS ONLY

Stalker

PRO LINE

SURICA

PRO-ANGLER'S FISHING OUTFITTERS

Bentleigh store:
489 South Rd
Bentleigh, Victoria,
Australia 3204
Tel: 9532 1583
Fax: 9532 2604
info@proangler.com.au
www.proangler.com.au

Geelong store:
22 Boundary Rd
Geelong East, Vic
Australia 3219
Tel: 5246 8338
Fax: 5246 8338
geelong@proangler.com.au
www.proangler.com.au



Bendigo & District Flyfishers Inc.
Minutes of Committee Meeting Thursday 5th December 2013
At Brennan Park Clubrooms

The President opened the meeting at 7:40pm.

Present: J. Willey, A. Jacobs, D. Keegan, L. Crimeen, A. Chisholm. R. Garlick, A. Choat, S. Charles, G. Hellsten and T. Charles.

Apologies: J. Singe and R. Booth.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed a true and accurate record.

Moved: L. Crimeen 2nd; T. Charles **Carried**

Business Arising: To be dealt with in general business.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer, Tom Charles, presented his report to the committee. It was moved by T. Charles and seconded by G. Hellsten that the report as tabled be accepted. **Carried.**

Correspondence:

1. Various FF Club newsletters;
2. Bank Statement; and
3. Various flyers from fishing related companies.

General Business:

1. All agreed that the Christmas dinner at the Kangaroo Flat Sports Club was good. It was felt that the numbers have been low for the last couple of years due to the time of the year. It was decided that the Christmas dinner be held on Tuesday the 13th Nov 2014.
2. Steve Charles commented on the Goulburn River trip and that the wading DVD that the Ballarat Club produced be shown at the January meeting. All agreed that this is a good idea.
3. It was suggested that the club apply for a grant to purchase an EPERB for when members go on trips. Jeff Willey to look into this issue in the new year.
4. Reports that the fishing at Barkers Creek Res is poor this season. This has followed the trend for the last two years. Greg Hellsten to collate history from Al Chisholm and send report to John Douglas.
5. A stocktake of the Library was completed and some items are outstanding for long periods. Any member having items that have been out longer than three months please return asap.
6. Bob Garlick reminder everyone that the last two rounds (not including official trips) of the Club Championship will be held on the weekends of 15/16 March and 26/27 April.
7. In was mentioned to update the Club's information on the Fly Life Forum.
8. Tom Charles reported that he is producing a program for club membership details and that it should be ready in January.

There being no further business the President closed the meeting at 8:30PM.

Jeff Willey
Sec

President's report

Welcome back for the start of the New Year or the second half of the club calendar. I trust that everyone has had a safe Christmas and New Year and that at some stage were able to get out and wet a line.

With the second part of the calendar we will be releasing the final flies for the John Crane memorial. I encourage everyone to have a go at tying the flies regardless of level or experience. We are also entering into the second stage of Club Championship rounds. Keep an eye on the newsletters and calendar on the website, www.bdffc.weebly.com for dates and locations and get along to these events.

There has been some concern by members that Barkers Creek Reservoir in Harcourt, which has long been a favourite Fly Fishing water for BDFFC members, has not been fishing well since the drought recovery stocking and high water levels over the last few seasons.

Greg Hellsten has been working tirelessly with VRFish to have this further investigated. Through correspondence and discussion at the committee meeting in December 2013 it was planned that as a club we have a way to hopefully raise this issue for further investigation with the plan to improve the fishing at Barkers Creek reservoir.

What Greg and I require is members notes of their history and observations regarding Barkers and the perception we have that the Barkers Creek Res fishery is not producing catches expected considering the quantities of fish stocked. With the evidence that we gain from members we are in a stronger position to have relevant bodies conduct fact finding studies to identify possible causes for the decline in fish and remedies to correct the water way to the great fishery that it once was.

Over the break I thought that I would have a go at an area of fly fishing that had been in the back of my mind for a few years now which was reignited after seeing Steve Charles yellowbelly on fly from Eppalock. That's right Cod on fly. After plenty of reading and web surfing and playing around at the tying bench I headed out on cod opening. After about half an hour of getting used to throwing 2/0 to 6/0 flies around and gathering confidence in my weed guard I got the confidence to throw my new fly into the snags. I let it sink and with a very short strip, the rod was almost ripped from my hands and the battle was on. Before long and after a couple of scary runs I had my first cod on fly to hand/net. The fish was a nice 65 cm long, with adrenaline running and a shaking hand to get a couple of photos the fish was released back into the water. I have since been out several other times and have since landed a 70 cm and my latest a nice 85 cm cod (13 kg / 28lb 10oz). To say I'm hooked is an understatement.

Reminder for the new website, www.bdffc.weebly.com



Damian

January 14

Fishing Report

With another year just started, most of us have probably been thinking about the year just finished and the new one to come. In terms of fish caught I would have to say that 2013 was a year when the trout decided not to co-operate. The weather was extreme, we had snow, wind and rain in Tasmania in late November and I don't need to tell anyone about the heat of late, locally. I hope that Autumn provides us with some settled weather and some rising fish in cooler waters.

Christmas is often an excellent time to be a fly fisher. Relatives are well versed in our interest in fly fishing and the paraphernalia that is associated with our favourite pastime. Books about fishing are easy to find and usually fit a range of shopping budgets. I have to say that Santa was very kind to me and delivered some books that I had on my list or dropped many hints about "needing". A gift from my stepmother in law, provided a surprise. "*Fishing The River of Time*" by Tony Taylor is a story written by an 83 old about meeting his eight years old grandson Ned, for the first time. The old man hopes to teach the boy about fishing. The book is a mix of natural history, memoir – and fishing. And is written with much wisdom of our environment.

The book is a goldmine for anyone interested in the history of fly fishing and provides many philosophical references and anecdotes to other fishing authors and books. For example, have you heard of a writer named Negley Farson, or his book "*Going Fishing*"? According to Tony Taylor this book is one of the best ever written about fishing. He also tells us that Farson and Ernest Hemingway were friends and known to share a bottle of scotch on fishing trips!!

I apologise for the lack of a local fishing report. I think most of us have decided to wait until the weather cools down before we head out to tackle a trout. If anyone knows of any trout being caught in local waters, please let me know. My mobile number is 0418 323220.

Thanks and good fishing in 2014, *Joe*

Casting Encounters.

Well another Tassie trip with the usual gang is over and it was not as productive as our previous trips, the weather was still Spring like with low temperatures, rain and wind most days, the trout were not co-operating as in past years except for an afternoon on Bronte Lagoon where there was a spasmodic Dun hatch at Stile Bay, most of us were casting to Trout during the afternoon, emerging Duns and Nymphs accounted for five trout with the biggest being 1½ pl. Most of our other sessions were just fishing small wets, Nymphs, Black Woolly Worms and 007s along the shallow shores of the lakes. Quite a few trout were missed on the strike and I was guiltier than the others, the trout would just not stay on for me. [Must be getting old.] The 'Highland Water's produced the bigger Brown trout with three over 3 ½ pl. caught just on dark on Emergers and Black Spinners.



One from Bronte Lagoon.



Col releasing a good one.

One of the highlights of this trip was the group visit to 'Clarendon' the new home of The Australian Fly Fishing Museum, There on display was some of Australia's former leading fly fishers books, photos, gear and flies wonderfully displayed in glass cases in brightly lit rooms, anglers such as Stewart, Brookes, Wackett, Scholes, Wigram, Jetson and others were there.. However there appeared to be a lack of exhibits from New South Wales, but as the Museum is slowly developing I would imagine it will be forthcoming. The house display is ran by volunteers, who are not necessarily fly fishers and is continually being updated as new memorabilia is being sort and donated.



Casting Encounters.

Just before Christmas I travelled to the Bright area for some Troutng and a 'Bucket List' experience I had caught my first Rainbow on a fly one evening in the Ovens River some fifty odd years ago and I remembered it well and I wanted to search out that pool again, it was in an area just short of the Harrietville town, I found the stretch on the river quite easily but the pool was no longer there, things had really changed and the river now ran like a gutter with no character at all, I stood in what I remembered as the spot where I cast my 'Royal Coachman' dry on to the clear rippling water so many years ago and had a beautifully marked Rainbow rise and take the fly, I played him out and netted it, thirteen inches long and I felt like I had really accomplished something. I stopped fishing and returned to the house across the main road where I was staying, I was as proud as 'punch.' The house owners shared the trout for breakfast next morning. I remember this experience as if it was last week, but now the river is almost barren and a few locals told me the river has not recovered from bush fires and the floods. David Dodd who now lives up there four months of the year told me before I went that 'the Troutng was tough and don't expect much.' How right he was! However the country side up that way at the moment is just superb and if and when the fishing improves I will definitely be making another trip to go back and fish that area again.

Roger Jan. 14.

Coming Quiz Night.

*Don't forget the coming quiz night [Feb. Meeting.]
I hope you are all 'boning up' on all things Fly Fishing,
Great prizes and a fun night is assured, be there!*

Roger Jan. 14.

A few shots from the Goulburn Valley Day.



The weekend commenced with some excellent trouting on the Pondage on the Friday afternoon with half a dozen large trout caught. Then with some eleven members in attendance at the Goulburn Valley Fly Fishing Centre on the Saturday a very enjoyable experience was had by all. Some seven large Rainbows were caught in the ponds on very small flies and provided some exciting angling. Antony's hospitality and excellent lunch was well received and he suggested that August /September would be a better time for a return visit if we were interested.

Little Pine Lagoon Report – Dec 2013

Last month Tony Jacobs, Al Choat, Brent Heath and myself headed down to Little Pine Lagoon in Central Tassie for 10 days of trout chasing. It was my first time down at Little Pine and it was a great trip but the conditions were against us and the catch was well down on what the guys usually get. I think the calmest weather we had was for the ferry-ride there and back – not a bad thing as far as sea-sickness goes, but tough for fishing. Winter was refusing to release it's grip on the central highlands and we had a cold week of intermittent rain, wind (lots of wind!), and a couple of snowy days. But if you are there for a week of fishing you make the best of what you're given!



Little Pine is famous for prolific dun hatches but this time there was very little going on up on the surface. We barely saw a couple of dozen duns for the whole trip and they mostly flew off to safety without being harassed by anything other than swallows and seagulls. So it was a week of stripping wets and even that was challenging. Even some of the classic flies like the Green Machine couldn't entice as many hits as it has in the past. Not to say that it was unsuccessful - Al Choat got a good few fish on Lurex Cats and Green Machines!

Through experimentation and incorporating bits of feedback from Tony about flies he'd had some success with, I stumbled upon a pattern that seemed to do the trick. I'm calling it Steve's LPS – pattern below.

We spent most of our time at Little Pine but Al Choat and I checked out Penstock once but returned fishless, and we saw a few nice fish down at Bronte Lagoon on the way to visit Joe and Jenny at Highland Waters.



The locals reckon Woods had been fishing well, but we didn't feel like tackling the rough and slippery road in. There was plenty of time in between sessions for warming up back at the shack, and an admirable (relentless?) effort put in by the team in educating Tony about his shortcomings.

We caught a total of 42 brown trout for the week, froze our fingers numb in the cold, got drenched motoring out through the white-caps, ate like kings, convinced Tony that Single Malt Whisky is best drunk without coke, and laughed ourselves silly on many occasions. I can't wait for the next trip!

Steve's LPS (Little Pine Special)



Steve's LPS (Little Pine Special) was named after Little Pine Lagoon in Tassie where it was developed by yours truly and proved to be very successful last month. In the end it accounted for about a quarter of the trout caught for the trip. The LPS owes a lot to it's Woolly Bugger and Chiz's Chaser pedigree. The addition of bead chain eyes a leggy thorax with the legs tied at almost 90 degrees to the hook shaft to give extra motion in the water, and generous Crystal Flash in the tail seemed to do the trick. Trout literally inhaled this fly! No lipped fish on this one, we needed hemostats to extract it from their throats!! Best results came from fishing the LPS solo and stripping it fast and close to the surface.

Steve's LPS

HOOK: Size 10 Streamer hook

EYES: Silver or gold bead-chain

THREAD: Black

TAIL: Black Marabou and 4 strands of Pearl Crystal Flash each side

BODY: Micro Cactus Chenille Black

LEGS: Buggy Nymph Legs Brown