

**BENDIGO
& DISTRICT FLY
FISHERS INC.**

Inc. No. A00 043 73B



April 2015

www.bdffc.weebly.com

Diary Dates:

- 7th May Committee Meeting
 - 9th May Fly Casting
 - 14th May Fly Tying
 - 16th May Fly Casting
 - 21st May Fly Tying
 - 23rd May Fly Casting
 - 28th May Gen Meeting
-



Goldfields Shield

This Annual event against Ballarat will be held this year at Lake Fyons on the weekend of 27th /28th June 2015. Accommodation will be at the onsite caravan park. To book your accommodation please contact Jeff Willey.



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

Bob Garlick Phone: 54 395356

First Aid Course (level 2)

Please contact Jeff Willey if you are interested in attending a Level 2 first aid course to be held at Bendigo Wood turners on the 4th and 25th July 2015.

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Fly Casting:

Saturday afternoons 1.30pm at the pool



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Bendigo & District Flyfishers Inc.
Minutes of Committee Meeting Thursday 4th April 2015
At Brennan Park Clubrooms

The President opened the meeting at 7:30pm.

Present: J. Willey, G. Hellsten, R. Garlick, T. Charles and D. Keegan.

Apologies: L. Crimeen, A. Choat, S. Charles, A. Jacobs, A. Chisholm, J. Singe and R. Booth.

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

Moved: G. Hellsten 2nd; D. Keegan **Carried**

Business Arising: To be dealt with in general business.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer gave a detailed report of the club's finances.

Moved: T. Charles 2nd; R. Garlick **Carried**

Correspondence:

1. Various club newsletters;
2. Australia Post PO Box renewal;
3. Bank statement: and
4. Fishing magazine.

General Business:

1. Last weekend round of Club Championship at Tullaroop Res. 25/26 April.
2. Visit to Goulburn Valley Fly Fishing Centre 3rd may.
3. Those interested in gaining Level 2 First Aid Certificate, see Jeff Willey. Instruction will be held at the Bendigo Woodturners on the 4th and 25th July.
4. Four members attended the Ballarat 2 Fly competition on the 28/29 March. Jeff Willey and Greg Hellsten reported that while the fishing was tough there were some good fish caught with the winner fish being 60cm.
5. The Goldfields Shield will now be conducted on the weekend of the 27/28 June at Lake Fyans. Contact Steve Charles if you are interested in going.
6. After many years of voluntary service as our newsletter editor, Bev Garlick will be standing down. The club will be looking for a member to take over this important role. Please consider if you are willing to help your club.
7. Greg Hellsten presented an in depth report from the Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research on the Status of the Trout Fishery at Barkers Creek Reservoir and identifying stocking strategies to rebuild its performance. The President thanked Greg for all the time and effort he has put into this project and hopes that his efforts will be rewarded with a much better fishery at Barkers.
8. Greg also reported that he attended the latest VRFish meeting at Ballarat. There were a number of presentations, both for and against, on the proposed open season in the Warrnambool area.
9. The club has talked about conducting a native fly fishing day for some time. With the success of our President, Damian Keegan, in the last two years fishing for murray cod on the Loddon River it is felt that some planning should be conducted for members. More to follow in future newsletters.
10. Our club and the Northern Fly Fishers Club conducted a competition in September for a number of years. Unfortunately due to the drought this competition fell of the calendar. Greg Hellsten reported that the NFFC are interested in re-establishing this competition. Greg will contact the NFFC.
11. Don't forget, the club is looking for interested members who would like to travel to New Zealand for a fly fishing trip in 2016. Any member interested contact Jeff Willey.

There being no further business the Secretary closed the meeting at 8:35PM.

Jeff Willey
Sec

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Another month has flown by with another courtesy email from Bev chasing my report. Bev does an excellent job keeping us organised to ensure the newsletter gets out on time with all relevant information. With the approaching end of season nearly upon us and many years of compiling the newsletter Bev is asking if someone else is in a position to compile same. Have a think about it and let me know if you are able to assist in this area.

As the season approaches the end it is a timely reminder that casting is just starting up. As usual casting will be at the pool with a few changes but nothing major. We just ask that those that attend casting abide by the new rules that we have implemented as a risk management strategy with the Council. It is just basically common sense approach as to wear eye protection wear and no hooks. I would also for personal preference throw in a warm jacket because if the last few weeks are any indication of the winter we are going to have, it will be cold.

Speaking of cold. I headed across to Tullaroop on Sunday morning for the club championship round. Unfortunately the hole I thought I had fixed in the stocking of my waders... I hadn't, needless to say it kept me awake. Fishing was very quiet but was good to get back out onto the lakes after hitting the streams over summer.

This weekend we have our club trip to Goulburn Valley Fishing Centre. There are a few travelling over for just the day so if you need a lift by all means yell out. I encourage all new members to attend if they can. It's a good location to share so knowledge and hopefully get you onto a fish.

Please keep an eye on the website and newsletter for change of dates of the Goldfields Sheild. Has been changed to 27/28 June. The location is still ay Lake Fyans and as we are hosting it would be good to get a strong contingent from the club to head over. It is a good weekend with a good catch up with the Ballarat boys and girls and plenty of information shared to improve your knowledge and methods.

I am currently working on a communication method to remind members of an upcoming event so if you haven't already informed us of your mobile number or it has changed could you please inform either myself or Tom Charles to enable us to update our records.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the meeting with Jim from FlyFinz

Damian
April '15

Joe's News

Most fishers would agree that "local knowledge" is by far the best indicator of fishing opportunities; anywhere we choose to cast a line.

Jenny and I went to the Tasmanian Highlands over Easter this year.

We sought out a couple of fishers we knew had been at the lake since New Year. Whilst not exactly "locals", both fish a lot and spend a lot of time at this lake. Their bad news was that the expected (hoped for) autumn gum beetle fall had not happened yet (but "any day now") it might happen. Depending of course on the weather. In good news there had been very good overnight midge hatches, and at first light, the rainbow trout in the lake were up on the midge. But, very calm, cold weather and a boat were required. The occasional brown trout could be found "mopping up" midges close to the shore in the mornings and evenings.

With this knowledge, we decided to put our boat in and prepare for an early morning foray. That evening we fished from the shore. A brown trout of 43cm was my first fish caught. Caught on a small dry fly, a "Beecroft Bronte Caddis". I hooked this fish after two other fish had taken the fly. I was a bit quick on the strike on the first two.

The Elders Weather website, forecast a calm morning the next day. A temperature of 5 degrees Celsius was also forecast. First light would be 6.45am. The rainbows might be up (Joe's forecast). But could we be up to see them?? No problem waking, but then we had to get up, put on thermals and lots of warm clothes. Believe me, bolting on the electric motor leads, to the freshly charged battery, is difficult with frozen fingers. Heading out into the thick mist (there was no wind to blow it away) we searched for rising rainbows. We found some and they were very willing to take a small wet fly. Jenny landed two in the 50+ cm range whilst I caught their little brothers. Action aplenty. This of course meant early morning frozen fingers would be suffered for the rest of the trip. But it was great to get into some fish. I enjoy fishing wet flies from a boat. The wiggle on the line as the fish takes the fly is very exciting. One day I hope to chase these fish with dry flies. (As the "locals" do). The local knowledge of the onshore browns and rainbows out in the lake proved accurate.

It is almost the end of another season. Time to start dreaming of next season

Cheers, Joe

Fishing Report

Wendouree

At the end of March Jeff, Greg, Brent and I participated in the third annual Ballarat Two Fly competition. Whilst the fishing wasn't easy at least we had a little bit of cloud cover and a breeze to ruffle the surface (unlike last year's glassy conditions). The score-board at the end of the weekend had twenty-something fish recorded. Not a huge tally but double last years! Jeff had a good start and recorded two solid browns on Saturday morning; the biggest being 49 cm. However when we came back to the clubhouse we realised that the competition was going to be tough! AJ from the Northern Suburbs Fly Fishers had recorded a 60 cm brown – that was going to be hard to beat... I picked up a 49 cm brown on Saturday arvo Jeff caught a solid 34 cm brown. Greg and Brent had some frustrating break-offs in the rowing course. We all enjoyed a great night and a very nice meal at the Ballarat Fly Fishers Club – their hospitality was as good as ever.



We hit the sack early that night and rose at 4 am so that we could be on the water by 5. Bleary-eyed and tying a few knots in the dark, at least we had fairly mild weather conditions. Other than a reddie for Jeff we did little more than see an occasional 'oncer' on the rise for our efforts. Later in the morning Jeff got on to a very solid brown that was doggedly determined to keep his head down. Unfortunately he managed to get under an anchor rope in the rowing course and broke off.



All of the Wendouree trout we saw were in magnificent condition and fought strongly. Our thanks has to go to Doug Kimberley who loaned Jeff and I his boat for the comp. Congratulations to Jeff for being one of the very few to have three fish on the board! The winner of course was AJ with that magnificent 60 cm brown. He drew his own flies at the start of the comp so he really scooped the pool, winning the prizes for tier of the winning flies as well.

Mitta Mitta River

I spent Easter camping and fishing on a property South of Tallangatta, on the beautiful Mitta Mitta River. Recent releases of water from Lake Dartmouth have seen the Mitta running high and fast. The strong flow of cold water flowing downstream into a low and relatively warm Lake Hume, has seen trout on the move. They will be moving upstream into the cooler water looking for food and preparing for their Winter spawning season. With the water levels high the action was along the edges and in the backwaters. I caught six beautiful, silvery brown trout in the relative calm within a meter or two from the bank. Targeting the drop-offs where the water deepens rapidly was a predictably good place to find trout. They all took a simple brown nymph suspended half a meter below a dry fly. The real highlight and a personal best for me was a stunning 59 cm rainbow trout that gulped a yellow humpy fly off the surface right in front of me. She weighed in at nearly two kilos (just under 5 lb)!



59 cm Rainbow on the Mitta!

Eskdale

Damian and I headed up to Eskdale for the weekend after Easter with a group from the Fly Life Forum, hosted by fly fishing guide Scott McPherson. There were six of us including Scottie and we had a great weekend fishing the Little Snowy Creek, Snowy Creek and Mitta Mitta River.

There was a lot of fun had and whilst the fishing wasn't easy, we all caught numerous trout. There was a lot of sharing of knowledge, tales told, great food (Scottie is also a chef), and the odd empty bottle of one sort or another...

The Little Snowy Creek is a tiny alpine stream with a surprising head of trout; often very small but with the occasional 'pounder' in the mix to keep things interesting. I teamed up with Damian for the Friday arvo session and (after a shaky start by one of us who left all of their tippet in the truck, then suffered multiple break-offs using generously provided substitute tippet material) by dark we both had 4 or 5 in the net.

Saturday saw us fishing the Snowy Creek and I teamed up with Scottie for an awesome day working on our short-game. The fish weren't prolific but were in beautiful condition. There were many little tackers in the riffles with the occasional fish that would have gone three quarters of a pound, plus a couple of real big fellas spotted. They're rare and hard to catch but Scottie reckons the Snowy Creek can produce 6-8 lb trout!

Sunday we fished the Mitta Mitta and with it flowing at around 8000 MLd it was tough going and there was only one fish caught for the session.

It was a great weekend and I learned loads and laughed even more!



Damian on the Little Snowy Creek: If all else fails you, blame the tippet!



The Monkey Bum Fly on the Little Snowy Creek – great in low light conditions



Scott McPherson of Indulgence Fly Fishing – Guide, Chef, Ratbag!

Highland Waters Tas

Joe & Jenny had an Easter trip to Highland Waters. Jenny attended the "Gals gone fly fishing" weekend at Peter Hayes' establishment in Cressy. She enjoyed the weekend very much and learned heaps. Mind you, she started off a very competent fly fisher! Back home at Highland Waters Joe & Jenny caught 14 fish out in the boat, chasing rainbows in the mist, at first light. Size ranged from 33cm to 56cm.



Bullarto Res

I had a quick session at Bullarto Res last week and would recommend it if you're looking for an alternative location. Small, surrounded by trees and quite protected it could be a good option on a windy day. Similar to nearby Wombat Lake, there were a lot of fish on the move but nothing of significant size. The water level is similar to many of our lakes currently, very low. I fished wets had a couple of follows and a short-take on a Shrek pattern.

Tullaroop Res

Damian and I fished Tullaroop last Sunday in what I would usually think of as good conditions for that res i.e. cold, grey, miserable. We didn't see a single fish. Not one movement, not even a reddie in the shallows or a 'oncer' out deep. As I said to Damian: we could have fished Barkers for the same result and had a shorter drive home!

Coliban River

I fished the Coliban just down the road from home last week at Lyell Bridge. It's down to almost no flow currently but there were fish on the move in some of the bigger, deeper holes on the bends. In an hour or so I picked up a little roach, and then a carp that weighed in at 4 lb or so – great fun on light, small stream gear! I had another two carp break me off in snags. They were taking a rubber legged nymph (a favourite pattern of Scotties') that I had suspended an arm length below a dry. I cast to rising bubbles, landing

my flies dead centre, and had to be very accurate otherwise they were ignored. Likewise any movement of the flies would put them off but left inert I was getting takes. The takes were very subtle but everything thereafter certainly wasn't!! They really hit hard and fight well. I can understand why people target carp as a sport fish.



Steve Charles

Casting Encounters.

It's Casting time at the pool again 1.30pm Saturdays through until end of September. Come along and learn some new techniques.

My program for the month of May will be as follows -----

Saturday May 2nd. Lifting line from the water.

*A number of techniques to **gently lift** your line from the water without spooking the trout. These are especially useful on shallow flat water and when trout are near by.*

Saturday May 9th. The Single Haul and Double Haul,

These two techniques will remove the slack from your cast, allow you to have greater control of all your casts, allow you to cast further, with greater accuracy and beat the dreaded wind. These are must techniques for lake fishers.

Saturday May 16th. The Peter Hayes Roll cast.

*This cast is one of **the best techniques** that any fly caster can use. It will allow you to place your fly into very tight places with accuracy and power and is not bothered by wind.*

Saturday May 23rd. The Flick Cast. My long-time friend Rob Roles will demonstrate his famous 'Flick Cast' [bow and arrow cast] If you frequent small streams this technique is worth having in your kit. Come and see a master demonstrate this technique.

Saturday May 30th. Tackling the wind. Techniques for overcoming the dreaded wind.
Roger April 15.

Quotes of the Month.

"If you can count your fly rods, you haven't enough."

"This is a fact of life. On any trout stream that you can't cross you'll be on the wrong side half the time."

John Gierach.

"Even Brook Trout Get the Blues."

"Something to think about: If you fish the wrong fly long and hard enough, it will sooner or later become the right fly."

John Gierach.

"Standing in a River waving a Stick."