

**BENDIGO
& DISTRICT FLY
FISHERS INC.**

Inc. No. A00 043 73B



February 2017

www.bdffc.weebly.com

Diary Dates:

- 2nd Mar 2017 Committee Meeting
- 9th Mar 2017 Fly Tying
- 16th Mar 2017 Fly Tying
- 23rd Mar 2017 Fly Tying
- 30th Mar 2017 General Meeting

.....
Come try Sunday 26th Feb
Crusoe Reservoir 10am – 3pm



Fly Casting 2017

Will commence Saturday 1st April
1.30pm at the pool

Auction.

Thursday 30th March General Meeting
An auction will be held of the late Les
Crimeen's flyfishing gear including
rods, reels, flies and fly tying gear.
All proceeds to go to Les's brother.



Club Championship for 2016/2017 2nd Round

And Sat/Sun 18th & 19th March at
Barkers Creek

.....
Clean-up day

Barkers Creek Reservoir
Sunday 5th March 3pm start
BBQ tea & fish the evening rise



PRESIDENT:

Damian Keegan Phone 0400 168 483

SECRETARY:

Jeff Willey Phone 5447 1449

TREASURER:

Tom Charles Phone 0431 981 190

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Bendigo & District Flyfishers Inc.
Minutes of Committee Meeting Thursday 2nd February 2017
At Brennan Park Clubrooms

The President opened the meeting at 7:40pm.

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

Apologies: Nil

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

Moved: T. Charles 2nd: G. Hellsten **Carried**

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer presented a full three monthly report.

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

Correspondence:

1. Bank statement;
2. Flyer – Eaglehawk Dahlia & Arts Festival;
3. Sports Focus; and
4. Daniel Young MLC – Grants.

General Business:

1. The President thanked those members who assisted with the Midlands Shield competition in November.
2. Tony Jacobs and Al Chisholm attended the fishing forum in November. There was a lot of talk on the 1 million anglers program and the cod conference to be held. There was also a discussion on having unpowered watercraft on Tullaroop Res. Issue for water authority.
3. The President said that the Christmas dinner went well and he was pleased to win the fly rod.
4. The President also reported that he is putting together a dvd of the NZ trip. He also added that he is planning another trip for the late January / early February 2018. Any member wishing to go to contact the President.
5. The committee decided that members who are to receive milestone badges, are to be notified prior to the Annual Dinner, so as to give them the opportunity to attend.
6. The Australian Trout Foundation is offering club membership for \$50. It was moved by Greg Hellsten and seconded by Tony Jacobs that the club apply for this membership. **Carried** Tom Charles to action.
7. Tom Charles reported that the membership is currently 43, this includes 7 life members. Five members are yet to pay their annual subs.
8. There will be an auction of Les Crimeen's fly fishing gear at the general meeting on the 30th March at the club rooms.
9. Clean Up Australia Day will be conducted on Sunday the 5th March at Barkers Creek Res. Meet at the carpark at 3:00pm. Club supplied bbq at the completion.
10. Come Try the Fly Day at Crusoe Res on Sunday the 26th Feb. Event is from 10am to 3pm.
11. Tony Jacobs reported that Barkers Creek Res has dropped in height and that the weed beds are all around the edges and no fish sighted (not even a redfin).
12. Roger Booth reported that the club loaned vibert boxes some years ago and they were never returned.
13. Steve Charles suggested that to encourage new members, older members should consider inviting them along to fishing their various fishing trips. All agreed that this a good idea.

There being no further business the President closed the meeting at 8:25pm.

Jeff Willey
Sec

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Fly tying is back up and running and it has been great to see a few new faces. Special thanks to Leon for attending with his camera which has been able for demonstration being put up onto the tv which has helped us with poorer eyesight to see what's going on.

Don't forget the come and try day on the 26th of February from 10 am to 3pm at Crusoe Reservoir. This is a good opportunity to promote the club. Please come along and assist on the day. Whether it is helping set up, casting, tying, cooking on the BBQ or just talking and making people welcome, any assistance is greatly appreciated.

Keep your eye on the calendar for Clean Up Day. It is on again in March and again any assistance is greatly appreciated. We will be collecting rubbish from around Barkers Res and will also put on a BBQ and those that are interested bring your rods for a fish afterwards.

At the March, monthly general meeting we will be having an auction. There is a range of rods, reels, lines and assorted tying gear. The gear belonged to Les Crimeen who passed away late last year. All proceeds will be given to Les's brother.

Newlyn Res has still been fishing well. Some nice fat brown have been getting caught and amongst them has been good fun on the red fin that are abundant around the edges. I've been finding the red shrek does the trick.

Tight lines

Damian, Feb 17

Fishing Report

I haven't heard any reports of fishing locally in the past weeks but if anyone has reports to share please drop me a line, send through an email via the club website or contact me via the club Facebook page.

I'm just back from another weekend up in North East Victoria. This time out Doug and I hit the Howqua and the Delatite hoping for some late summer dry fly action. The Howqua has had a bad reputation in the past few years and to be honest the last time I was up there all we saw were carp. However fisheries data released late last year gave us hope of some recovery so we made the long trek in along the Howqua Track.

The river was looking spectacular, with low, clear water and plenty of pockets and holes for the fish to hide in. Bright sunny conditions with a warm breeze and lots of insects on the wing had us optimistic but we couldn't shake the feeling that we might have been fishing in someone else's footsteps. An unoccupied vehicle at our start point with no knowledge of whether the owner was an angler or a hiker made us uneasy. A pair of wading boots drying on the back of the vehicle four hours later was the damning evidence that confirmed our suspicions.

It was tough fishing! We persisted for four hours and only caught one each and luckily Doug's was an absolute stonker!





We decided to move on to the Delatite where we spent the rest of the weekend. Saturday was a beautiful day with 40+ fish to hand and safely released again. You don't find monsters in the Delatite but this year they are very well fed and even the standard stream sized fish give the light rods a workout! Doug's 1wt bamboo was pushed to its absolute limits and held up beautifully, whilst my 2wt graphite is just perfect in my book for a day of short-lining in the pocket waters. Sunday saw a very cold 5 degree start as we crawled out of our swags and the sudden change in weather really kept the fish down. We caught another dozen or so between us but all on the nymph. It was a great weekend all up!





Steve Charles

TROUT STOCKING IN BARKERS CREEK RESERVOIR

The following, is to the best of my knowledge, a brief summary of the history of trout stocking in Barkers Creek Reservoir.

As is commonly known, mainly from the work and writings of Jack Ritchie in "*The Australian Trout – its introduction and acclimatisation in Victorian waters*" 1988, the introduction of trout from the British Isles, in Australia, came about through local angling clubs and acclimatisation societies.

According to J.G.Ritchie (p90-91) "*local hatcheries were conducted by angling clubs in many parts of Victoria up to World War II. They included hatcheries in Castlemaine, Harcourt, Malmsbury, Daylesford etc*" I think here are still the remnants of a small hatchery on the banks of Barkers Creek in the Castlemaine Botanic Gardens.

Word of mouth and anecdotal evidence informs that in the 1950's members of the Bendigo Fly Fishing Club established a hatchery at Henderson's Cool Store in Nth Harcourt. The club attempted to encourage the population of trout that had been stocked in the reservoir, then known as "Harcourt Reservoir" to spawn in the inflowing waters of Barkers Creek. Apparently club members put in gravel beds where the creek flowed into the reservoir. If this occurred, there is no evidence of any spawning gravel now: silt from occasional flooding has possibly covered any spawning gravel. I have heard that the Bendigo Fly Fishers were able to net the mouth of the creek for spawning fish, strip the fish and fertilise ova in the Cool Store. I assume any fish bred, were put into the reservoir. It is unlikely, but not impossible that these fish did in fact spawn in Barkers Creek as they matured.

In the 1980's Jack Ritchie inspired a Whitlock-Vibert box program at the Reservoir. More detail can be provided if required. I have included some photos of the BDFFC activities. The program was carried out in conjunction with the Fisheries Management branch, which continued trout stocking of the reservoir.

I should mention that as a club activity it was strongly supported by members, and despite no immediate trout catching improvement, the Vibert stocking was successful. It certainly contributed to member's enjoyment of fly fishing and their commitment to the club and Barkers Creek Reservoir.

Joe Singe



