

**BENDIGO
& DISTRICT FLY
FISHERS INC.**

Inc. No. A00 043 73B



February 2015

www.bdffc.weebly.com

Diary Dates:

- 1st Mar 2015 Clean-up day
- 5th Mar 2015 Committee Meeting
- 12th Mar Fly Tying
- 19th Mar Fly Tying
- 26th Mar Gen Meeting

.....
3rd Round of Club Championship

is now on March 21st/22nd at Barkers
Creek
Alan Chisholm leads with a .852kg
brown



April 30th Meeting

Jim Baumgartel is coming to our club
with his collection of fishing gear and
clothing at great rates.

.....
Reminder: Fees are now due.

Family \$45.00 Seniors \$40.00 Juniors \$15.00



Sunday 3rd May 2015
Club trip to Goulburn Valley Fly
Fishers – fishing their private
ponds.
Cost \$50 per head – includes lunch
For catering purposes:
Numbers needed asap



PRESIDENT:

Damian Keegan Phone 0400 168 483

SECRETARY:

Jeff Willey Phone 5447 1449

TREASURER:

Tom Charles Phone 0431 981 190

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

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Bendigo & District Flyfishers Inc.
Minutes of Committee Meeting Thursday 5th February 2015
At Brennan Park Clubrooms

The President opened the meeting at 7:35pm.

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

Apologies: L. Crimeen, J. Singe and R. Booth.

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

Moved: T. Charles 2nd: G. Hellsten **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. Bank statement; and
3. Various flyers from fishing related companies.

General Business:

1. The next round of the club championship will be the 21/22 March, not the 28/29 as reported in the last newsletter.
2. The trip to the Goulburn Valley Fly Fishing Centre is on the 3rd May. Cost will be \$50, more details in the next newsletter.
3. Jim Baumgartel will be visiting the club on the 30th April. He has a wide range of fly fishing items for sale.
4. Clean Up Australia Day will be conducted on Sunday the 1st March at Barkers Creek Reservoir. Meeting time will be 3:30pm at the main carpark. A bbq will follow.
5. There was some discussion on the format of the Treasurers' report. A full report on all transactions will be presented to the committee every three months. Any member wishing to see the report can do so on request. The annual report will be presented to all members at the AGM.
6. Greg Hellsten reported that he is looking into the carp issue at Barkers Creek Res. He is also looking into grant applications and have discussions with research scientists.
7. Greg also reported that a risk assessment on stocking trout into Lake Eppalcok has to be done before the stocking can occur.
8. Greg also reported on the suggestion that there be a change in the closed season for trout fishing in the Warrnambool region.
9. Greg also reported that an expert in spey casting is visiting Australia.
10. Al Chisholm and Greg Hellsten reported that prizes for the Midlands Shield be increased to \$30 per club. At he last event 54 adults and 10 juniors were in attendance and no fish were caught.

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

Jeff Willey
Sec

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Another year is upon us with which we have had a reasonable dry and hot summer. I have been fortunate to have travelled to the north east streams over the last couple of months to fish some of my usual haunts at this time of the year and some new ones that I have not fished previously.

It is interesting to note that some of these water ways have maintained a good head of trout over the previous harsh summers. Others on the other hand have struggled with what appears to be an increase of larger carp moving further upstream. In saying this I don't think we need to right these streams of just yet. I personally believe that the fish are still within these water ways but we just need to be a bit more persistent and at times try new waters within the area and modify our techniques at times to ensure a catch.

On a local front the Committee of B&DFFC are currently working on a project "Rebuilding the Trout Fishery at Barkers Creek (Harcourt) Reservoir". As has been previously mentioned at previous meetings and newsletters members have been trying to identify reasons why Barkers creek Reservoir has not been producing adequate returns for angler effort since drought recovery stocking commenced in 2010/2011.

Through Greg Hellsten contact has been made with a number of key stakeholders including fishing clubs, government and community organisations to gather support for a grant to enable a suitable study/ assessment to be conducted of the fishery not limited to stocking regime, invertebrate ecology and water quality.

What we require from within our membership is reports on each occasion that you fish these waters. We are currently working through the required information that is required from individual members when they fish at Barkers. This is even if there is no fish caught. The information that is gathered within our Club Members will greatly assist and support the study if we are successful. Until I have some document/diary for the recording of this information I ask on each occasion that you fish at Barkers that you email your visit and results to the club email. This would include hour's fished condition of fish caught or fish movement, vertebrate in water, water level, weather etc. for recording.

We are hoping that a successful application and subsequent study would not only see an improvement in the fishery at Barkers Reservoir but that findings can then be implied to other bodies of water within Central Victoria to improve fisheries in general for the benefit of the whole community.

There are a number of things coming up next month. The first thing is the Clean up day at Barkers Reservoir on Sunday the 1st of March. If you are able to assist can you notify Tom Charles for catering purposes if you wish to stay for the BBQ/fish afterwards.

Please also note the change of dates for the next Club Championship Round. This has been moved forward one week to the weekend of the **21st /22nd March**. This has been a result of a number of members going to the Two Fly Competition held by Ballarat Flyfishers the following weekend.\

Keep an eye on the Calendar on the club website at bdffc.weebly.com for further upcoming events as they develop.

Fishing Report

Delatite

Damian and I fished the upper Delatite again in mid Feb. The water level was at the lowest I've seen it but there was enough of a flow for some entertaining pocket-water fishing. There were lots of hoppers around and accordingly our Stimulators, Wee Creek Hoppers and Dodd's Hoppers were smashed by aggressive trout. Interestingly there were no browns caught on this trip, just rainbows, and some of them well above average in size compared to what we saw earlier in the season.

A storm had been brewing in the background and the fishing was improving with Damian catching 12 and 8 for myself. We stopped for a late lunch and the rain started to fall, so we decided to shelter under a small log-bridge. Lucky we did as the storm hit us hard! With the heavy rain came marble-sized hail and a drop in temperature from 30 to 15 degrees. As the river rose by 6 inches and turned to chocolate milk before our eyes we knew our fishing on the Delatite was over.



A beautiful Delatite Rainbow



The storm hits hard

Goulburn River

After being chased off the Delatite by the weather, Damian and I moved to the Breakaway on the Goulburn River just South of Alexandra. We waited for the weather to clear the following morning and were almost going to throw in the towel, but it came good in the end and we had a beautiful clear, sunny afternoon. With the Goulburn flowing hard and fast at around 8 ML per day the trout were taking refuge in the backwaters and along the edges. It's willow grub time and the trout were feeding on them confidently. The sight-fishing was spectacular, with big, chunky browns visible and feeding in often ankle-deep water. Stealth and a low profile were vital, and if careful we could get close enough to count the spots on some magnificent browns! Fishing right in under the trees we could rarely get in an overhead cast, but doing so would no doubt have spooked fish. Bow & Arrow casting short distances was about all we could do.

I spotted a feeding brown in a tiny pool, surrounded by snags. Working my way into a casting position I realised that this was possibly the biggest brown I had ever seen first-hand! As the excitement rose there was also the dawning realisation that I'd never be able to land a fish of this size in such tight water, but I was sure as hell going to give it a crack!

I worked on him for a good half hour to an hour (but my sense of time is extremely vague in these situations – usually it's a lot longer than I imagine it has been). Never more than a rod-length away from me I could see all the action as he assessed, rejected or just swam under and ignored the willow grub patterns I was presenting. Finally with one leg falling asleep beneath me I bow & arrow cast the grub a little further out into some moving water

and he struck! I lifted, set the hook and within a matter of seconds, with my reel screaming, he broke me off.

Rob Roles would say I'd "had an encounter", and like Rob I find the victory lies in the success of the deception.

Steve Charles

Fly Fishing Women

We recently received an email advertising a “Girls Gone Fly Fishing” weekend at Peter Hayes’ “Hayes on Brumbies” Lodge in Cressy, Tasmania. The weekend includes fly-fishing, fly-casting and fly tying lessons. As we already had a trip to Tasmania planned over the weekend, I suggested to Jenny that she should go. Jenny was quickly on the phone to a fly fishing friend, Jane. Jane told her that she and her sister were already booked in and that spaces were filling quickly.

I wasn’t surprised to learn that there are plenty of women fly fishers, ready to learn more about our ancient craft. I am sure I am not the only male flyfisher to have noticed an increase in the number of female flyfishers on the lakes of Tasmania and the rivers of New Zealand over recent years.

Historically, women have featured in our sport. According to tradition “*A Treatyse of Fysshynge with an Angle*” was written around 1420 by an English nun and noblewoman, Dame Juliana Berners. The treatyse is regarded as probably the first book on fly fishing and was written over 150 years before Izaak Walton’s “*Compleat Angler*”

In the 1930’s the Duchess of York (later Queen Elizabeth1-the Queen Mother) fished the Tongariro River in New Zealand and was a well-known and very keen fly fisher. There are many photographs of her fishing in the *Duchess Pool* (named after her) of the Tongariro River and salmon fishing in Scotland.

In America, Joan Wulff, encouraged many women to take up fly fishing with casting videos, rods and other equipment including a clothing range for lady fly fishers. Now, many fly-fishing stores have dedicated clothing and tackle for women fly fishers. In Australia we had Jan Spencer from Northern Tasmania leading the way for lady fly fishers and being selected as the official fly tyer for the Australian fly fishing team. A section in the book “Australia’s Best Trout Flies” lists her favourites and how to tie them.

I noticed that a new star is emerging, Canadian fishing guide/casting instructor, April Vokey is on the list of attractions at the Peter Hayes Girls Fly Fishing event.

“Casting for a Cure” is a worldwide organisation that specifically targets women diagnosed with breast cancer and encourages them to learn to fly fish. Benefitting them by simply taking their minds off their disease, it encourages them into the beautiful places trout live. Also the action used to cast a fly may be therapeutic in the prevention of lymphoedema (swelling) of the upper body and arm following breast cancer surgery.

According to Roger Booth, women are much better learners when it comes to fly-fishing. Why? “Because they listen!” he will tell you. Having Jenny able to fly fish has been a great joy to me. We have shared our adventures and our love of fly-fishing in many beautiful places. And, yes, she often catches more than I do. Encouraging your wife or girlfriend to learn to fly fish can have some unexpected rewards. I hope she learns to tie flies!

Cheers

Joe

Joe Singe 19/02/15