



Editorial

Shout it from the rooftops: “The rivers are open. The rivers are open!”

I love September and here are a few reasons why.

The weather is getting warmer and the days are getting longer. Spring is in the air and in your step. September is a time to focus on what’s really important — footy, beer, fishing!

It’s footy finals time. I’m a footy tragic and I’ll go to every finals game at the MCG in September regardless of who is playing. It’s when every individual contest for the ball really means something. And I just love the atmosphere of a big game at ‘the G’ — especially that one day in September.

I like a beer as well and I reckon a nice beer tastes even better in warmer weather. So, for me, it’s time to rip the top off a few of my favourite brews and in September that will usually mean a wide range of different pale ales or IPAs from some of the country’s best craft brewers. In fact, my son just gave me eight different brews for Father’s Day — great thinking!

And, there is one other thing I like about September — the rivers are open. This year they open on Saturday 7 September so put that date in your diary.

Those of you who know me well also know that I’m not much of a lake fisherman. Actually that’s an understatement. I’ve never pulled a trout from a bloody lake in my life!

It’s not that I haven’t tried, I have just never been successful. Call it bad luck or bad technique, it is what it is. As a result I tend to not even bother much with lakes these days. So when September comes around and the rivers are finally open, it’s time to celebrate.

We all know that river fishing usually isn’t great in September, but they **are** open and the conditions are only going to get better.

So rejoice, it’s September and the rivers are open!

Philip

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President's page

We are now heading into the business end of the year, the best part for all of us dedicated fishing men and women. As we look out and see the flowers starting to blossom we start to feel that excitement build as the new fishing season is just around the corner.

Annual Dinner and Presentation Night

Although the numbers were down on last year it appeared everyone had a good time and the lucky ones picked-up some great prizes from the raffle. I would like to thank our sponsors and all who donated prizes on the night. Congratulations to the winners of the casting, fly tying and fishing trophies. It was great to see our younger members getting amongst the points and winning some competitions. Thanks also to John Kingsford for being master of ceremonies on the night. John certainly kept us all amused with his "on the buses" stories and he did a great job of keeping things moving. A big thank you to David Dodd for judging the fly tying this year and presenting the awards. It was a great night and feedback has been really positive. If you have any suggestions or comments please pass them on to one of the committee members. The committee did a tremendous job organising the night and to those that helped in any way, thank you.

Bunnings barbecue

It was a cold blustery day on Sunday 18 August but we were able to cook our way through 40 kgs of sausages after we did some running repairs to the shelter when the roof blew off. One of the advantages of the strong wind was that the smell traveled into the store and a lot of people could not resist the temptation. After being a bit worried we would not have enough helpers on the day we ended up having more than enough so I extend a big thank you to Glen Cox, Chris Dabal, Anne Hern, Merv Landy, Rod Humphreys, John Smith, Philip Goslin, Ray Cresp and Peter and Marg Cogdon who all did a fantastic job considering the cold and windy conditions.

Upcoming Events

We have a couple of busy months ahead with the opening of the fishing season. In October we have the Fyans Fly-in, the Kids Come and Try Day, the RISE Fly Fishing Film Festival and the club auction night. The success of these activities all depends on the members supporting such events and giving feedback so we can improve next time around. The committee have begun planning for the Kids Come and Try Day in October. This is a great day on the club calendar where we do our bit for the community and the younger generation by introducing them to fishing. Please try and keep this day free as we will need plenty of helpers to assist with baiting hooks and untangling the odd birds nest. We will also fire up the barbecue on the day.

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What's On

September

Thur	5	General Meeting/Fly Tying Course
Sat	7	Trout season opens
Thur	12	Fly Tying/Fly Tying Course
Sat	14	Club Trip – Purrumbete
Sun	15	Club Trip – Purrumbete
Wed	18	Committee Meeting
Thur	19	Guest Speaker - Chris Bassano
Thur	19	Fly Tying Course
Sun	22	Geelong Open
Thur	26	Fly Tying/Fly Tying Course

October

Thur	3	General Meeting/Fly Tying Course
Tues	8	RISE Fly Fishing Film Festival
Thur	10	Club Fly Tying/Fly Tying Course
Sat	12	Fyans Fly-in
Sun	13	Fyans Fly-in
Thu	17	Committee Meeting/Kids Day prep
Sun	20	Kids Come and Try Day
Thur	24	Club Fly Tying/ACF Meeting
Thur	31	Club Auction Night

Alan Staton

Club activities



Member of the Australian Fly Fishing Team, Chris Bassano will speak at the club in September.

Guest speaker on 19 September

In conjunction with Andrew Sommers from Mayfly Tackle, NSFFC will hold a special night on Thursday 19 September featuring leading Tasmania-based fly fisherman Chris Bassano.

Born in South Africa, but migrating to Australia in the 80s, Chris is a world-renowned fly fisher, professional guide and fly tyer.

A keen cricketer, Chris has played at first class level in Tasmania and Derbyshire in the United Kingdom.

He has fished in locations all over the world — from English rivers to Irish loughs, the sand flats of the Bahamas and Seychelles, mangrove swamps of the Everglades and northern Australia to the roaring snow-fed waters of Eastern Europe and New Zealand.

Chris has appeared on several television fishing programs over the past few years and has now produced and hosts the highly entertaining and informative *Highland Gold* DVD series.

Chris is a member of the Australian Fly Fishing Team. He won the gold medal at the 15th Commonwealth Fly Fishing Championships in Tasmania in 2012 and has recently returned from the 33rd FIPS-Mouche World Fly Fishing Championship held in Norway where he finished in the top 40.

The night will be very informative and is a great opportunity to meet and chat with one of Australia's most prominent fly fishing identities.

The evening will commence with a sausage sizzle at 6.30. If you intend to come along please put your name on the notice board in the clubrooms or let one of the committee members know so we can finalise numbers for the barbecue.

As a bonus, Mayfly Tackle is kindly providing the club with a pair of Aquaz waders and Aquaz wading boots to raffle on the night.

Return your NSFFC survey

Early in August Cain Polidano distributed a comprehensive survey that is designed to help the committee better understand members' views and preferences.

The survey will help the committee to set priorities and establish long-term goals that are in-line with members' interests and wishes.

A secondary purpose is to gather information about the membership that can be used to support grant applications.

A significant amount of work has gone into the preparation of the survey so it would be appreciated if all members could complete it and return it to Cain (preferably by email) by Monday 9 September.

All responses will remain anonymous and access to the information is limited to select committee members for collating and analysing average responses for planning purposes.

If you have any concerns, please raise them with Cain or a committee member. To make the survey valid, we need responses from at least 80 per cent of members.

Book now for Melbourne Cup weekend

The annual family trip over the Melbourne Cup long weekend is fast approaching. If you only go on one club trip a year then this should be it.

Make sure you get in early to book a cabin or a site at the Freeburgh Cabins and Caravan Park on 57501306.

A future edition of the club newsletter will provide details of the comprehensive program of activities that is planned over this weekend for club members, partners and families.

Fyans Fly-in from 11-13 October

The club trip for October is the Fyans Fly-in from 11-13 October. Competition entries officially closed on 1 September although you may be able to get a late pass. You can still join members on the trip without competing in the event. Speak to John Smith for more details.

Club activities



Book online for RISE film festival

The NSFFC is again organising a social evening around the RISE Fly Fishing Film Festival which will be staged at the Sun Theatre in Yarraville on Tuesday 8 October at 7.30pm.

Club members will meet for dinner at the Blarney Stone Irish Pub located at 35 Anderson Street Yarraville at 6.00pm.

Note that bookings for this event need to be made online at www.gin-clear.com

RISE showcases exclusive premieres from the world's best fly fishing film makers. Gin-Clear Media's *Leviathan* is the feature film of the festival.

New Zealand is recognized as a mecca for giant brown trout, but few realise that the largest of these live in tiny spring creeks hidden deep in the dense forests of the Bay of Plenty. *Leviathan* descends into the jungle to shine some light on these enigmatic beasts. Next are the giant rainbow trout of Patagonia's fabled Jurassic Lake. This desolate and wind swept lake is home to the largest trout on the planet.

In the South Pacific, there is one denizen of the deep that demands instant respect — the giant trevally. Amongst fishermen the lore of their strength and aggression is second to none. *Leviathan* follows fly fishers as they lock horns with these mighty fish in French Polynesia and on Australia's Great Barrier Reef.

The festival line-up includes *Only the river knows*. In 1988 fly fisher Lars Lenth spent three months exploring the legendary Lethe River on New Zealand's South Island keeping a detailed journal. 25 years later a young trout bum loses his way in the wilderness near Lethe. By chance, he finds the long-lost journal, full of insights about the very soul of fly fishing.

Jungle Fish, follows three fishermen as they undertake a two-week voyage deep into the heart of Guyana's rain forest to demonstrate that the largest freshwater fish in the world, the arapaima, can be caught with a fly rod.

And finally, *Blackwater Devil's Gold* follows Grant Wiswell's search for the wild and beautifully reflecting golden dorado in the remote streams of Bolivia.

Daylesford becomes Purrumbete

The club trip for this month was scheduled for the Daylesford region on 14-15 September. However poor fishing reports have led to a change in plans — we are now going to Lake Purrumbete. There is a caravan park with onsite cabins, unpowered sites and under cover barbecue facilities on the shores of the lake.

Lake Purrumbete has a surface area of 552 hectares and a minimum depth of 45 metres. It is stocked regularly with rainbow trout, brown trout and chinook salmon. The fast growth rate of these fish has seen the lake yield many trophy fish. More details to follow by email.



Alex cleans up at the One Fly

by John Smith

It was pretty easy to decide who gets the NAFFA (Not A Fly Fisherman's A...) for this trip. That honour goes to the president, Alan Staton, whose car crapped-out on the morning of the trip!

After a slight detour to pick him up (only because he had the esky with the beers), we made our way to Goulburn Valley Fly Fishing Centre via Yea. Alf, Dominic and Lachlan were the keenest of the crew, getting on the road early and beating everyone to get there before it even opened. The rest of us met up in Yea and enjoyed a coffee and pie from the bakery before arriving around 9:30.

With the fly draw done and dusted the flies hit the water and Alex Gavric was first out of the blocks with a nice 3½ pounder. Things were looking good, but the action was much slower than anticipated.

There were plenty of fish in the front dam but they seemed to be more interested in playing games of 'tag' with each other than taking any of the flies that were put right in front of their noses. The normal hot spot in the back dam under the big gum was unusually slow too, except for a nice fat reddie that scooped Steve Lawrence's offering. Before too long Alex scored again with another rainbow in the 3lb class.

After an excellent barbecue lunch, it was back into the tussle with the finicky 'bows'. With a number of competition flies 'lost' fly boxes were perused to find something that would entice the fish to the take.



Alex Gavric holds one of four rainbows he caught at the 2013 One Fly Competition.



The 2013 crew (from left) — Lachlan Dyer, Dominic Bono, Alf Chetcuti, Steve Lawrence, Alan Staton, John Smith, Daryl Wallis, Alex Gavric, Pat Sheridan, Dave Davies (seated), John Kruska, Ross Garwood, Anne Hearne, Alan Poeter (absent Ted Smith).

The best option seemed to be small midge, caddis or emerger patterns in the #16 range suspended under an indicator or fished blind on a floating line.

Daryl Wallis, Pat Sheridan and I were lucky enough to snare a fish or two, but they weren't enough to catch up with Alex who finished the day with four fish to take out the One Fly Competition for most fish caught and the biggest fish of the day. Pat Sheridan supplied the winning fly — his 'Elton John Woolly Bugger'.

Although the fishing may have been on the slow side compared to other years, the day was still enjoyable sharing experiences and a bit of fun with fellow members of NSFFC.

The casting pool



The 2013 NSFFC casting team (from left) Andrew Connell, Chris Swadling, AJ Balachandra, Daryl Wallis, John Rumpf, John Smith, Glen Cox, Brynn Farkas, John Kruska and Lachlan Dyer with the Brunn Shield.

Four Brunn Shields in a row

by John Smith

The NSFFC casting team went into the fourth and final round of the 2013 Brunn Shield with a healthy buffer on the scoreboard, but was still shaking off the third round hoodoo that saw what was an almost unassailable lead significantly diminished.

The forecast for Sunday 4 August was for afternoon winds and showers so we were keen to get onto the platforms and get points on the board early before conditions deteriorated.

In the dry fly round our top four casters covered the other clubs' scores. Brynn Farkas and Daryl Wallis scored 45 each, Andrew Connell was close behind them with 43 and AJ Balachandra rounded out the event with a very credible 38 to give us a good early lead.

We were confident but certainly not cocky going into the skish round. Brynn posted an excellent skish score of 97 out of 100, but this was matched by Mark Cuthbert from Ballarat. Daryl kept us well in the hunt posting 92 points. AJ and Andrew Connell were again in the top four of the Northern team scoring 88 and 72 points respectively.

However the other teams weren't going to give us the competition on a plate. Alan Hughes and Mathew Chapman scored in the 90s and with Sunshine's other guns, Ken Lukas and John Phelan, in the high 80s the mental mathematicians in the Northern team were kept busy trying to work out how we were traveling.

As with most competition casting events the wet round was the important one. AJ pulled a ripper out of the bag and posted 44 points. Brynn matched that with 44 and when Daryl and John Rumpf chimed in with a 42 and a 38 respectively Northern's grip on the Brunn Shield for 2013 was sealed.

Scores for Round 4 were Northern 690, Sunshine 641, Southern 596 and Ballarat 527. The overall results for the year saw Southern Fly Fishers finish in third place on 2281 points, runner up was Sunshine Fly Casters with 2571 and for the fourth year in a row Northern Suburbs Fly Fishing Club took out the Brunn Shield with a score of 2690.

The casting pool

Four Brunn Shields in a row cont.

Table 2. - ENTRANTS DESCENDING TOTALS					
Name	Club	Dry	Skish	Wet	Total
FARKAS B	Northern	45	97	44	186
WALLIS D	Northern	45	92	42	179
CUTHBERT M	Ballarat	40	97	38	175
AJ	Northern	38	88	44	170
HUGHES A	Sunshine	34	95	36	165
CHAPMAN M	Sunshine	31	92	40	163
LUCAS K	Sunshine	37	82	42	161
RATCLIFFE B	Southern	39	82	37	158
RAPLEY G	Southern	33	87	38	158
SCOTT A	Sunshine	37	81	28	146
NEWMAN G	Red Tag	37	73	35	145
CONNELL A	Northern	43	72	30	145
COCKS B	Sunshine	34	83	23	140
PHELAN J	Sunshine	34	83	20	137
SCRIVENS R	Southern	20	87	27	134
O'CONNOR A	Southern	29	79	26	134
COX G	Northern	32	71	30	133
RUMPF J	Northern	20	74	38	132
SWADLING C	Northern	29	70	30	129
WHELAN B	Ballarat	25	77	26	128
FOY J	Red Tag	34	72	20	126
DYER L	Northern	29	66	25	120
BARBY V	Ballarat	29	65	22	116
McINTYRE J	Southern	25	52	33	110
SMITH J	Northern	27	61	19	107

Round 4 Brunn Shield leader board.



Daryl Wallis in action at the Brunn Shield.

Lachlan snares Jack Joyner Trophy

by John Smith

Red Tag Fly Fishers hosted the Jack Joyner Trophy again in 2013 with the event being held on Sunday 11 August.

Each year a magnificent fly reel is donated and is the prize for eligible casters who haven't won a medal in either of the Australian or Victorian titles. There were six casters competing this year so competition was always going to be tight.

NSFFC's Lachlan Dyer has been quietly posting personal best scores all season and when it counted most he was able to do so again in the Jack Joyner Trophy.

Being run over all four casting disciplines consistency is the key. This year the events were in reverse order — wet, ICF skish, ACF skish and then the dry fly round.

Lachlan did very well in all four rounds to post a winning score of 186 points to win a Ross reel kindly donated by Peter Morse.

The Jack Joyner Trophy is run in conjunction with the Ron Masson Handicap and at the time of writing final scores in this event were not available.

The casting pool

NSFFC is runner-up at Turville Teams competition

by Brynn Farkas

On 18 August four members of the NSFFC casting team ventured to Red Tag Fly Fishers casting pool for the staging of the Turville Teams Shield. John Rumpf, AJ Balachandra, Leff Andropof and myself (Brynn Farkas) competed in the event.

There were 16 competitors who braved very tough conditions with gale force winds that were always changing direction and the temperature only reached a top of 16 degrees. All the casters in our team made it into the top 10. John came tenth with a score of 199, Leff was seventh on 214, AJ fifth with 222 and I finished first with a score of 266.

NSFFC came second overall only missing out on the shield by 40 points to Southern Fly Fishers. A great effort by the Northern team considering the conditions.



Andrew Connell and AJ Balachandra did Northern proud at the Brunn Shield.



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When the planets align

by Dave Davies

On Australia Day 2011 I checked the tide chart and saw that, not so much the planets had aligned, but the sun and moon were doing the right thing — as they do twice every month — for the rocks along the Queenscliff back beach to be accessible. From earlier experience I knew it was worth a look.

Of course it's a long weekend and when I arrived at my destination and looked down from the car park I was greeted by the sight of eight or so anglers, who, while not quite shoulder to shoulder, were taking up more room than I thought they were entitled to.

I watched with waning interest, trying to decide whether I really wanted to be casting a fly in a crowd of expectant lure slingers. The sight of a silver flash, as one

of the crew lifted a fish from the water was all the convincing I needed. Better learn to duck boys I thought as I grabbed my gear. I was fishing, come hell, high water or grand final size crowds.

Those who have fished Bell Reef will know you've got to get wet or wear waders to cross the channel that cuts in behind the reef. I prefer the minor discomfort of getting wet to the dangers of wearing waders.

As mentioned it was Australia Day and with a little coaxing from the girls in the local newsagency, who I flirt with shamelessly, I had purchased a pair of thongs and a giggle hat, both embossed with the Australian flag. It was supposed to be an act of patriotism, however it turned into a cock-up that was to cost me two weeks off work.

Wearing those very same thongs and hat I was half way across the channel when I lost my balance. It could have been that I'd taken too much gear — two rods, backpack, bucket, gaff, stripping basket, etc — and unfortunately one of the newly acquired thongs slipped off my foot. It bobbed to the surface within arm's reach and in an attempt to regain my lost footwear I transferred everything I could from my right hand to my left and what I couldn't hold I stuck under my armpit. I made a quick swipe with the right hand, lost my balance again and the hat slipped off my head and into the current.

Minus one thong and hatless I wobbled around trying to regain my composure. I took one of the rods and tried to slip the rod tip under the thong's strap, but every attempt was futile. All I could do was watched helplessly as the current carried my clobber along the channel and out toward the Rip.

I stood there, trying to decide what to do. One thong is pretty useless, so I removed my remaining footwear and threw it in the general direction of Point Lonsdale, thinking my loss may well be somebody else's gain. Who knows, somewhere in the world, some fortunate beachcomber may go wandering home resplendent in an Australia Day hat and thongs. I can only hope so.



Bell Reef near Queenscliff.



Dave's thong made it to shore.

When the planets align cont.



A nice salmon taken on a white clouser.

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I pressed on, barefoot, with the channel crossing. I'm not sure where or when it happened but along the way I cut my foot, which was later to need three stitches. After negotiating the channel and stepping onto the rock platform, I placed my gear where I hoped it wouldn't get wet, clipped the stripping basket around my waist and made my way to the nearest gap amongst the casters. I stripped 70 odd feet of line from the reel and began the back cast.

One of the crew of casters caught sight of me and yelled in a thick Greek accent "hey, look boys, he's fly fishing". He paused then continued "not many 'trouts' down here mate". I looked over and thought the only thing that's thicker than your accent is your waistline. There were smiles all round.

The line swished back, then forward, back again and then into the forward cast, acceleration and stop. The line hissed out through the runners. It may not have been the 70 feet I'd peeled from the reel, but it was enough to impress the crew.

As the line sank the other anglers went back to what they were doing. I put the rod under my left armpit and began a hand-over-hand retrieve, taking care to get the line spread evenly into the stripping basket.

Suddenly there was weight on the line. I pulled down as hard as I dare with the next strip of line then lifted the rod. It rolled into an impressive arc. Out in front of the crew three pounds of salmon launched itself through the surface trying to dislodge the chartreuse and white clouser that was pinned in its jaw.

"He's got one," yelled 'Con the fruiterer'. "Beeautiful," I said, trying to mimic the famous fruiterer's accent. The crew looked across, some calling encouragement, others watching the salmon cartwheeling across the surface. All seemed impressed. The 'sambo' was duly landed, the hook removed and the fish released. Not a bad start.

Next cast resulted in another hook up and a similar

When the planets align cont.

sized fish to the first. I look at my fellow anglers and nearly all of them were playing or landing fish. My next cast is made and I hook up again, this is a much better fish and I start to have line ripped through my fingers. The guy beside me notices the bend in the rod and comments “that’s a good fish”.

There have been yellowtail kingfish caught here and I’m hoping this is my day, the rod bucks in protest as the fish puts the power on and I lose more line, this really is a much better fish. The adrenaline is racing, could it be another fish to tick off the bucket list. God I hope so. Then the unthinkable, the weightlessness that shatters my expectations, nothing to do but strip the line in and get the fly back in the strike zone.

The retrieve is completed to reveal no fly. When I turn to get the fly box from my backpack, there’s three teenage boys watching me, standing directly in line with my back cast. It’s an unwritten law among those that watch fly fishers — get right in line with the backcast. I don’t know who wrote that law, but he wasn’t a fly fisher. I politely suggest they stand over to my left.

With adrenalin still pumping I try to tie on another clouser, but fumble the first attempt. I stop and draw a few deep breaths, trying to regain my composure. It is not easy as my mind is still racing.

One of the teenagers comes over for a closer look, he shyly asks me about catching saltwater fish on a fly. As much as I enjoy a chat about my chosen sport, the middle of a hot bite is not the time. I finally tie on another fly, excuse myself and get back to the fray.

The next 40 minutes were fly fishing bliss — cast, hook up, play and then release the catch. I lost a couple of flies and the odd fish along the way, but it was a session that won’t be forgotten and not only by me.

The young man who was so interested in the flies was still waiting to talk to me. He told me he had a fly rod that his grandfather had left him, so I gave him some flies and answered whatever questions he fired at me. He seemed inspired, but that’s the problem with fly fishing, when those planets get their act together it all looks so effortless and we all know it’s just not that easy.

I often recall this particular afternoon and think, was it the planets in line, or was it the litres of O-positive leaking from the cut on my foot ... or just dumb-arse luck.



Dave’s mate ‘Con’ — “the salmon was that big”.

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The tying bench

12 September - Guest fly tier Cain Polidano — Birds Nest

The Birds Nest is not well known in Australia, but is one of the most popular flies in the USA. It is a caddis fly imitation, developed by San Francisco fly shop owner Cal Bird. Contrary to common belief, caddis and not mayfly is the most important food source for trout in Australia. The Birds Nest is one of Cain Polidano's favourite flies because it's easy, quick and cheap to tie.

The untidy natural materials trap shiny air bubbles and impart movement that make it irresistible to trout.

It is a versatile pattern that can be fished upstream in the traditional manner or down and across to mimic the fast rising caddis pupa. Alternatively, in a caddis hatch, an unweighted variant shaken in powder floatant and fished in the surface film to imitate a drowned emerger can be deadly.

All material will be supplied for a small donation, so don't miss this opportunity to learn how to tie the Birds Nest.



Birds Nest

Hook: nymph hook sizes 18-12

Thread: brown uni-thread 6/0

Body: hare's mask dubbing

Rib: fine gold/copper wire

Tail: wood duck feather

Wings: wood duck feather

Bead: 2mm-2.8mm gold/copper tungsten beadhead (optional)

26 September - Rod's Fly of the Month — Parachute Adams

On Thursday 26 September NSFFC fly tying coach Rod Humphreys will show you how to tie the Parachute Adams. If you venture up to the Rubicon River in September or October, there is a good chance you will bump into Rod streamside and an even better chance that he has a Parachute Adams on the end of his leader.

The Adams is arguably the most popular dry fly of all time. A dun imitation, it was developed in 1922 by Leonard Halladay in the small township of Mayfield, Michigan. The original Adams, which had a traditional hackle, is a great pattern but the parachute hackle version is arguably even better.

The body of a parachute dry fly is suspended in the surface film. That makes it an excellent fly to use during a hatch when insects are emerging and also during a spinner fall when adult insects are captured by the surface film and lay dead or dying.

On the Parachute Adams the white wing is highly visible in most conditions, which is great if you have difficulty finding your fly in the water. Some people will even tie it with bright pink wings to help with visibility in white water. You should have this fly in a number of different sizes and you will find that small ones will often fool the fussiest fish, especially when drifted down bubble lines.



Parachute Adams

Hook: Black Magic size E10 dry fly

Thread: Black 6/0

Tail: Brown and grizzle cock hackle

Body: Brown dubbing

Wing: White hi-vis

Hackle: Grizzle & brown cock hackle

2012/13 NSFFC award winners

Casting Trophies

Cox-Connell Trophy – Laurie Holland

President's Shield – Brynn Farkas

John Rumpf Trophy – Daryl Wallis

Life Member Trophy – Brynn Farkas

Northern Open – Daryl Wallis and John Kruska

Club Champion Caster – Daryl Wallis

Fly Tying Awards

Novice Fly Tyer – Lachlan Dyer

Intermediate Fly Tyer – Asitha Balachandra

Advanced Fly Tyer – Pat Sheridan

Fishing Awards

Jul 2012 - One Fly Comp GVFFC – Greg Roberts

Aug 2012 - Hepburn Newlyn – Warren Vipond

Sep 2012 - Wendouree – Ray Toohey

Oct 2012 - Fyans Fly-in – John Rumpf

Nov 2012 - Freeburgh – Boyd Wilson

Dec 2012 - Noojee - Philip Goslin

Feb 2013 - Big River – Peter Cogdon

Mar 2013 - Kendal A (Rubicon) – John Smith

May 2013 - Dog Hill - Daryl Wallis

Jun 2013 - Lake Toolondo (Ettrick) – Glen Cox

Norm King Champion Angler Award – John Smith

Club Awards

Literary Award – Philip Goslin; Evelyn Ramadge

Memorial Clubman Award – Alan Staton;

President's Award – Asitha Balachandra



L-R: John Smith receives the champion angler award from Alan Staton.



L-R: Daryl Wallis with the casting trophy and Boyd Wilson.



L-R: Pat Sheridan is congratulated on his fly tying skills by David Dodd.



The Annual Dinner and Presentation Night was held in the clubrooms.

Member profile

Name: Alan Staton

Occupation: Procurement/Operations Manager, Melbourne Health Services

Year joined the club: 2008

Where did you learn to fish and how:

Having the Mataura River on my doorstep, I taught myself. During the summer I would ride my bike down to the river after school. At first I use to drown worms and lure fish.

How did you hear about NSFFC?: I was looking for a fly fishing retail outlet when I came across the NSFFC on the web.

How long have you been fly fishing?: Eight years

What music do you listen to/favourite artist/album?: Varied depending on my mood – from classical with a bias towards the 70s and 80s. Enjoy Sting, Enya, Yanni, Bee Gees, The Eagles, Eric Clapton.

Favourite movie?: Not really into movies. If I was to pick one it would have to be the *Battle of Britain* – an oldie but a good one.

Other hobbies/interests/sports besides fly fishing: Rugby is my favourite sport along with tennis and one day cricket. Other interests are camping and gardening.

Fondest fishing experience: My fondest experience (I can remember this day like it was yesterday) was when I was fishing the Hollyford River. In a deep gorge the river split into two streams around a gravel beach. I watched this fish in the back waters actively feeding, moving in and out of fast moving water to feed on something coming down the current. I must have watched this fish for about 15 minutes then decided to try my luck. So I tied on a small black beetle. The first cast went unnoticed, the second cast the fish came out had a look and went back into the bank. Not to be beaten I tried a black ant pattern but each cast was refused. I was about to throw a rock at it when I saw it come out and take what looked like a black beetle but this thing looked big. I walked down stream and saw a big blowfly drifting pass, I then saw another fish come out from the bank and take it. I quickly checked my fly box finding I had nothing like a blowfly. I was not going to let this fish go as it was the biggest I had seen for a long time, so I scooped up the next blowfly as it drifted past and burnt the fur off a large nymph so I could use the hook. I threaded the hook through the body of the fly so the hook was sticking out. Tying the made-up fly on to my leader I went fishing. I walked back up to the first fish and cast just ahead of his position, it came out had a look at it and went back in. I let the line drift down further and 'bang'.

"Bugger", I struck to early and pulled the fly out. That was the end of that fly. I waited until another blowfly floated past, scooped it up and threaded it on the hook. I cast up to the first fish again, 'bang', it was on and off it went down stream with me in tow. After a while I landed a 6½ lb trout. About 100 yards up the river I came across a dead deer half in the water covered in blowflies and a couple of eels having a free feed.

Most forgettable fishing experience: I was fishing with a friend and we had been watching this trout feed, when it finally took my worm and darted off into the bank under a fallen tree. I knew I had a fight on my hands. After a while and a few persuasive pulls on the line it came out into the open. I played this fish eventually getting it close to the bank when my friend jumped into the water and started to wrestle with the fish. Once he stopped splashing around the hook that was in the fish was now firmly imbedded in his hand and the fish was nowhere to be seen. To this day I still don't understand why he jumped into the water, I had it under control. It was a long walk back to the house and an even longer trip to the hospital.

Most exotic place you've fished: Deep in the Hollyford Valley would have to be one of the most exotic places I have fished. Three day walk into the bush fishing and hunting.

Where you've always wanted to fish: Western Canada, especially British Columbia and Alberta.



Alan even goes on club trips when he is injured.

Short Drifts

by Philip Goslin



One rod is just not enough when you compete at the world titles.

Czechs win world title

Those crazy Czechs certainly know a thing or two about fly fishing. The Czech team has secured back-to-back world titles after winning the team gold medal at the 33rd FIPS-Mouche World Fly Fishing Championship 2013 held in the Vefsna region of Norway from 11 to 18 August.

At the completion of day two (after three sessions) the team from the Czech Republic held the lead with four of their anglers ranked in the top 20. It was a position they would not relinquish. Once again Italy finished in second place with France finishing third overall from the 24 five-man teams competing in the event. The Australian squad finished in a very credible ninth place.

There was some joy for the Italians, however, with Valerio Santi Amantini (what a great name) crowned individual world champion ahead of Czech Martin Droz following a fantastic final session on the Fiplingdalselva River. Victory was all the sweeter for Amantini as he was runner-up in the 2012 event.

The best placed Australian in the individual competition was Jonathon Stagg who came 11th out of more than 120 competitors.

Stagg did Australia proud. Going into the final session he was in third place and was one of 10 competitors in contention for the world crown. However, he fell victim to a sector nicknamed the 'River of Death' when he failed to catch a fish during the final session — he had plenty of mates in that regard.

Santi Amantini, who was fishing the same sector, reeled in eight browns and amassed 4320 points. It was the best score on the river for the entire event. Talk about performing when the pressure is really on. Well done Valerio!

Final Team Results:

1. Czech Republic 2. Italy 3. France 4. Finland 5. USA.

Final Individual Results: 1. V. Santi Amantini, Italy 2. M. Droz, Czech Republic 3. J. Lorquet, Belgium. 4. A. Pesek, Czech Republic 5. S. Delcor, France.



Kadie and Dake Schmidt hold a pair of pink salmon they caught together after their wedding. (AP Photo/James Brooks, Kodiak Daily Mirror)

A fishy wedding in Alaska

Can you imagine telling your wedding party that: "We are going to have this great ceremony standing in the middle of a freezing cold river in our finest wedding attire, holding fly rods. If you are really lucky you might catch a salmon (as well as pneumonia).

It will be great, don't you think?" Actually, imagine trying to get that concept past your fiancée!

Alaskan fishing guides Kadie Walsh and Dake Schmidt exchanged vows in the middle of Kodiak Island's Buskin River recently. The fishing-themed ceremony included rings carried in the mouths of king salmon (I'm not joking) and a



Five cold and wet bridesmaids look on as the happy couple tie the (clinch) knot. (AP Photo/James Brooks, Kodiak Daily Mirror)

wedding party dressed in waders and carrying fly rods.

The celebrant performed the ceremony in the middle of the river. Afterwards, the happy couple consummated the marriage by going fishing (as you do) and quickly caught a pair of pink salmon together.

Now a salmon is known as a 'humpy' in this part of the world — which brings all sorts of one-liners flooding to mind, but we won't go there.

As the groom left the water the best man may have looked at him and said: "Nice catch".

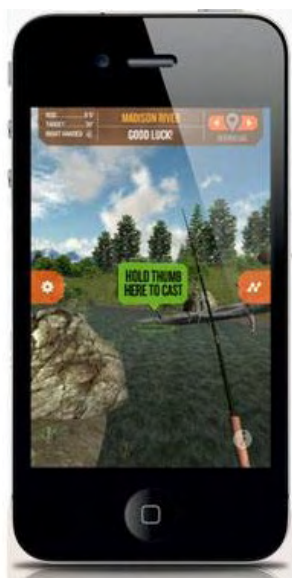
In which case none of the guests would have known whether he was referring to the salmon he was holding in one hand or his bride in the other!

Editor's note: There is a special prize in store for the first person at NSFFC to attempt a similar style wedding ceremony — and all the members want to be invited!

Short Drifts

Your phone is a fly rod

Here is some news that will get members of the NSFFC casting team really excited. Apparently there is a phone application out there in 'app land' called *FlyCaster* that claims to help you perfect your casting rhythm.



Now I haven't tried it — I have enough trouble casting with a rod in my hand let alone a phone (just ask Boyd or AJ) — but web reviews claim it is pretty accurate and what's more they say casting a phone can even be fun!

The app lets you perfect your virtual casting on famous US rivers like the Madison, Klamath and Yellow Breeches Creek. It includes three different rod setups — 3-weight, 5-weight and 8-weight — and you can 'fish' to three spots on each river.

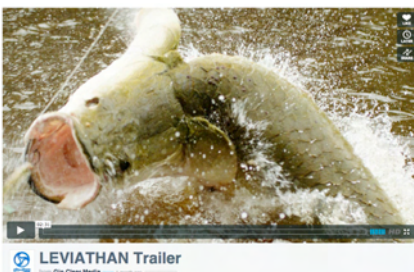
You can practice casting strokes with a metronome beat on the 10 o'clock to 2 o'clock marks and a chime signifies when you have hit the perfect stroke. With this app you can cast to rising trout and the better you cast the bigger the fish you catch. You can also

check your casting biomechanics and you will receive a 'sync-rate percentage' while you fish.

I can picture it now, half a dozen or more members standing in the indoor archery range at the club on a cold winter evening casting their iPhones, while Brynn Farkas and John Kruska and perhaps a few other incredibly brave souls battle the elements outside on the casting pool with real fly rods in their hands. Find out more at: www.flycasterapp.com

Videos of the month

We have got a couple of great fly fishing videos for you to check out this month and if there is a theme for September it's big fish. And when we say big, we mean monsters. The *Northern Flyline's* editorial team has dutifully spent a few hours reviewing some of the plethora of video material on the internet so we can bring you the best of it. Of course, we can't even scratch the surface of what is out there in video land, so if you see something you would like to share with your fellow members drop the *Northern Flyline* editor a quick note and a link to the video.



Leviathan

Leviathan is the feature film of this year's RISE Fly Fishing Film Festival. And just to whet your appetite here is the trailer! *Leviathan* is a follow-up to the highly acclaimed

Predator film. *Leviathan* essentially explores why we chase really big fish — the monsters of the deep, the leviathans. For humankind, water is the source of eternal wonder, so too the creatures that dwell within this mysterious realm. The lure of the unknown is what drives fly fishers to explore and to seek out the largest fish of a species, not for the trophy but for the challenge. *Leviathan* documents epic fly fishing battles with modern-day aquatic monsters in a global tour-de-force. Tune in at: <http://vimeo.com/69778484>



Three days of the catfish

The official title of this video is *Les trois jours du silure*, which loosely translates to 'The three days of the catfish'. Weird title. Strange fish. Of course it's a video about three days of fly fishing for catfish. Apparently it's all dry fly action and I can only assume that it is on a massive river somewhere in France.

But check out the fish — *sacré bleu*, they are unbelievable! And oh so very ugly! The soundtrack is by Shaka Ponk. What, you haven't heard of them? They are a Paris-based experimental rock band whose lyrics are written in a mixture of French, English and Spanish — it may not be to everyone's taste (there is a little bit of swearing), but it seems to work with this video. Check it out at: <http://vimeo.com/70013480#>

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING**1st August 2013**

7:40 pm – 8:00 pm

Apologies: John Smith, Chris Dabal, Peter Young, Philip Goslin, Frank Esposito**Visitor:** Gavin Robertson**Minutes**

Minutes from the previous General Meeting were presented by the Secretary and seconded by Chris Swadling – Carried.

Business Arising

- ❖ Nil

Treasurer's Report

- ❖ Approximately \$7 822.50 less cheques for Clubrooms.
- ❖ Treasurer's Report read on a motion from Chris Dabal and seconded by Rod Humphreys - Carried

Business Arising

- ❖ Nil.

Correspondence

As per correspondence register

Syllabus

- ❖ Brunn Shield – Last round
- ❖ Annual Dinner – in the Club rooms, require assistance to setup
- ❖ One Fly – Planning under way. Meet at clubrooms at 7 am.
- ❖ Fly Tying Course - starting 22 Aug
- ❖ 4x4 Show – 24 Aug – 4 started for Saturday.
- ❖ Movie Night – 29 Aug

Fishing Reports

- ❖ Pat Sheridan had a good weekend at Millbrook in the snow for some very nice fish.
- ❖ Peter Cogdon reported that the trip to Tooliorook was well attended but the fishing was very slow. Best fish was a 53 cm rainbow.
- ❖ Ross Garwood had some success at Lake Wendouree for a number of 2lb browns.

Other Business

- ❖ Proposal by Pat Sheridan to change the Fly Tying Competition Rules:
 - ix. *There will be three levels of competition:*
 - (1) *Advanced Fly Tyer*
 - (2) *Intermediate Fly Tyer*
 - (3) *Novice Fly Tyer*
 - x. *Members will remain in the lowest grade until they win that grade or a higher grade.*

Seconded – Rod Humphreys

- ❖ Members to get their Club Survey in.
- ❖ ACF
- ❖ CVFFC
 - Minor changes to the CVFFC constitution wording brought up to date.
 - Draft letter to all parties in lead up to 2014 State Election regarding the Future Fisheries Strategy and the Recreational Fishing Licence.
 - transparency, cost-efficiency and accountability for how RFL funds are used;
 - equity - every recreational fisher pays (preferably) – or - the Government pays for those who don't;
 - significant increase in the uncommitted portion of RFL income each year available for projects;
 - "user says" as well as "user pays" in how RFL funds are used - not just a Minister-appointed advisory committee.
 - also reminding them that there are 721.000 fisher persons and the 2.3 billion dollars spent .
 - Next meeting at Porepunkah at 1.00 pm on 26th October. To present an award for reclamation work on the ovens just before Porepunkah that DPI had done under the guidance of Simon Morrison.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING**15th August 2013**

7:50 pm - 9:50 pm

Present: Alan Staton, John Smith, Pat Sheridan, Chris Dabal, Chris Swadling, Alf Chetcuti, Phil Goslin, Rod Humphreys

Apologies: Daniel Bowman

Minutes

Minutes of the previous Committee Meeting read on a motion from Pat Sheridan and seconded by Chris Swadling.

Business Arising

- ❖ Nil

Correspondence

- ❖ As per correspondence register.

Treasurer's Report

- ❖ Currently \$9 621 in cheque account less \$2 980 for joint expenses.

Business Arising

- ❖ Nil

Agenda Items

1. Syllabus
 - a. AER
 - i. Tooliorook – two fish caught, report being developed for newsletter. Park owner donated 10% of camping fees back to the Club.
 - b. Annual Dinner – 17 Aug
 - i. Secretary will pick up donations from The Flyfisher, AS & JS will pick up Pro Angler and Aussie Angler donations
 - ii. Caterer confirmed with 60 attendees
 - iii. Glasses and other trophies pick up by AS & JS
 - iv. Tables – AS & JS will pick up tables
 - v. Music – Sect to organise.
 - c. Bunnings Epping 18 Aug – Food organised, very short on numbers.
 - d. Beginners Fly Tying Course – 3 nominated, move out to 5 Sept
 - e. 4x4 Show – Alf Chetcuti can attend all day Saturday. Passes provided.
 - f. One Fly Competition – 25 Aug – Current numbers down, prizes to be from GVFFC shop
 - g. Movie night - 29 Aug – Rod Humphreys asked to show a music video. No objections. Food organised.
 - h. Sept fly tying – Cain Polidano – Birds Nest fly
 - i. Daylesford trip – Frank Esposito to organise and provide article for newsletter and web site.
 - j. Rise Film Festival – meet at pub, get flyer up.
 - k. Fyans Fly In – JS to captain
 - l. Kids Come & Try Day – Looking to AFN for donation and we need to get onto advertising.
 - m. Auction – John Smith to organise. Need list of items and notice on web/newsletter.

- n. Freeburgh – develop a programme. Motion: donation of \$100 for use by Ladies Latte & Laughs night, unanimously seconded and accepted.
- o. Beginners Fly Fishing Course – develop flyer and advise Daryl
- p. Tasmania trip will start to ramp up in Sept.
- 2. Items for Discussion
 - a. Casting Pool Lights – policy to be placed on web site and in newsletter. B. Farkis asked for a key, not supported by Committee.
 - b. Subs – Invoices still to be sent out by Treas.
 - c. Sponsors – will need to call around
 - d. DVA email received on time Club is to be made available to Club.
 - e. Note to Flylife correcting club contact details
 - f. It was noted that there was a lot of rubbish starting to accumulate around the clubrooms. Need to discuss with the JMC.
 - g. Casting pool is looking bad and needs a clean before Chris Bassano visit. Casting team to organise and noted at General meeting.
- 3. Members Reports
 - a. Editor – database is out of date and needs updating.
 - b. Social Member – Nil
 - c. New Member – 5 members for beginners course
 - d. CVFFC – nil
 - e. ACF – Acknowledged certificates for BF and loan of our equipment. Healing Waters have sent 12 pers to Canada. Oct meeting to discuss the ACF Syllabus – nominate Club for Vic Championships and 3rd Brunn Shield event.
 - f. Club merchandise – Pres has two contacts.
 - g. Grant money is available.
 - h. Motion to allocate \$200 to build pole box for shade – John Smith, seconded Pat Sheridan, CARRIED.