

THE EVENING RISE

October 2014

Issue: 169

Official Publication of the Mornington Peninsula Fly Fishers Inc.

Established: 1998



MPFF Mission Statement

To promote, foster and encourage the art of fly fishing in all its aspects.

To promote, foster and encourage the art of fly tying.

To promote, foster and encourage the sport of fly casting.

To increase the pleasure derived by members from their sport by social intercourse, interchange of ideas and by collective or mutually assistive action generally.

To promote and assist in the stocking with trout and other sporting fish, of local and other waters.

To foster and promote the conservation of the environment on which the sport of fly fishing is practised and to assist scientific and practical research in all matters pertaining to the sport.

To do all such other things that are incidental to or conducive to the attainment of these purposes and for the exercise of the power of the club.



PRESIDENTS LINE

Greetings Fellow Fly Flickers

Well it's twelve months since the last One Fly when I observed a small boy catch his first fish and the look of pleasure on his face. Well this year at the Peter Wilson lake I had the pleasure of holding onto a fly rod as my five year old grandson stripped, hooked and reeled in three fish of which two were netted, and a small voice said, "I'm tired grandpa—you have a go." - and I couldn't get a touch! But I'm happy to bask in his glory. After losing two good fish, I was on hand to watch Alf land his monster fish. It seems though I forgot to tell him that we were using barbless hooks but he prevailed and it was duly landed. Many thanks to those that setup, packed up, cooked, cleaned, shopped, netted and recorded. It all helped to make it a One Fly to remember.



Hope to catch up with you on the water somewhere, some time soon.

Regards,

Russ Johnson



CLUB CONTACT DETAILS

President:	Russell Johnson	russj.john@gmail.com
Vice President:	Steve Darnell	stevewd2000@yahoo.com
Secretary:	Ian Herron	iherron@bigpond.net.au
Treasurer:	Robert Fisher	rfisher1251@bigpond.com
Website:	www.mpff.org.au	

P.O. Box 848, Frankston, VIC. 3199

CLUB REMINDERS

FLY TYING

Sunday October 26th @ President Russ'
8 Samuel Close Mt Martha

COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday 13th November @ Wranglers Club. 6.30 pm

CLUB MEETING

Thursday 29th November @ Wranglers

AT THE MEETING

Guest Speaker—Geoff Lay

Capt. Australian Fly Fishing Team

FOR YOUR DIARIES

MERRIJIG—21st/23rd November

Xmas Break-up Thursday Dec 11th—

BBQ @ Wranglers

SHOT OF THE MONTH

Bob—Devilbend Weeding Day

NEXT MEETING

At our next Club Meeting at Wranglers we welcome foundation member Geoff Lay—Captain of the Australian Fly Fishing Team that competed at the World Championships in Czech Republic



Geoff has some tales to tell about the competition in Europe and later in the UK—and has assembled a slide show to accompany his talk.



Geoff is 4th from the right in this photo.

DON'T FORGET THE WASTELL!

Victor H . Wastell Trophy

18th & 19th October 2014

Venues- Cairn Curran, Tullaroop, Andersons, NewLyn, Dean & Wendouree

Accommodation- Creswick Calembeen Lake Caravan Park

Competitor Registration- Ballarat Fly Fishing Club site at Caravan Park

Major Prizes for the winning Trout:-

Replica of the V.H. Wastell trophy

Innovator Velocity Fly Rod, Ross Fly Reel, Scientific Anglers Fly line

(Approx \$1000 value)

Roast Dinner provided on Saturday night as part of entry fee (\$25/head)

FLY IN REPORT

Four members attended the 39th Annual Lake Fyans Fly In sponsored by Sunshine Fly Casting Club.

Reports say the fishing was hard with approx. 80 competitors vying for the trophies in a number of categories. Over the competition 25 fish were weighed in including around 5 redfin. The winning fish was measured at 1.57 kg, with best of our members being Dave Barry who took a good sized fish on the Friday evening which placed him third at the end of the weekend.



All members in attendance enjoyed the BBQ dinner on the Saturday night and took away excellent prizes from the lucky number draw.

DOES THIS APPLY TO YOU????

I PROMISE NOT TO BUY ANYMORE



FISHING GEAR

If so, then don't forget to buy tickets in the raffle!!

SPECIAL EFFORT RAFFLE

Special Club Raffle



Stalker Aire Limited box edition.



Tickets \$5.00 ea Drawn Xmas

MPFF ONE FLY 2014

Over thirty members attended this year's One Fly which was held at Peter Wilson's Flinders property. The weather was ideal, the venue superb, the food great and the atmosphere fantastic.



Fishing off the bank

The committee came to an arrangement with Peter to share in the cost of stocking the dam with in excess of 100 fish of varying sizes and breeds, including Brook Trout which proved to be elusive on the day.

The competition was run in two sessions with approx. 15 members fishing each 2 hour session. Each session was then split into five beats around the dam with members moving every 20 mins. All but one person in this first group caught, netted and measured a fish.

The winning fish was netted by Alf and measured at a whopping 64 cm.



Fishing off the boardwalk

The competition was run



Measuring the winning fish

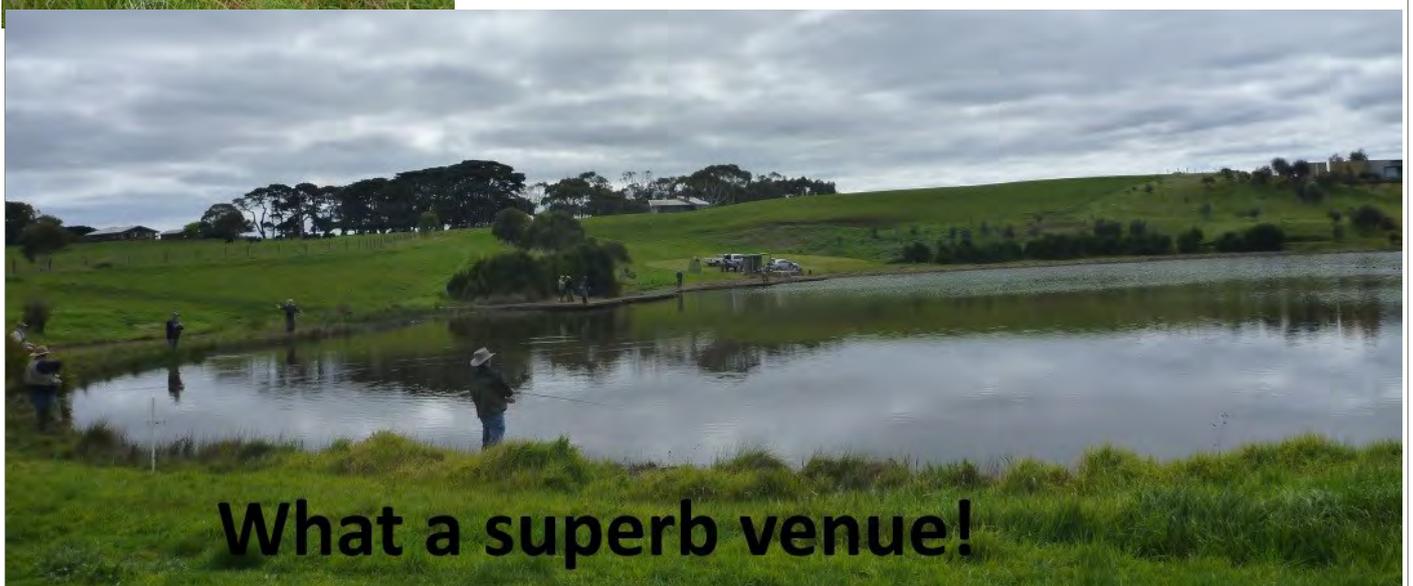


Glen lands one for measuring

The second session was not quite as prolific as the sun came out and conditions were not quite as good—but most members again managed to take fish without necessarily netting them owing to the use of “barbless hooks” on the provided fly.

At the end of both sessions we broke for a BBQ lunch ably cooked by our chef Harry and topped off with a few drinks, the presentation of the perpetual trophy, and a huge vote of thanks to Peter for allowing the Club to use his property.

Feedback on the day has been excellent with all members wanting the committee to organise something similar next year—a truly outstanding



What a superb venue!

NEWS FROM DEPI WEBSITE

Background

Anglers in north east Victoria have expressed concerns regarding the status of wild trout populations with reports of poor fishing across many streams, particularly during summer of 2013-14. Similar reports of poor fishing in wild trout streams have also been reported in locations outside Victoria including New South Wales, Tasmania and New Zealand. In response to Victorian concerns, Fisheries Victoria (DEPI) commissioned Arthur Rylah Institute researchers to conduct population surveys of four north east trout streams in February 2014. The results were presented to a trout reference group, a public meeting in Mansfield and the state-wide Recreational Fishing Roundtable forum. In July 2014, a **"Wild trout fisheries management plan"** was developed and later approved in September. It is a collection of ten projects over three years that aims to deliver:

- A clearer understanding of the cause(s) of the decline in wild trout fisheries,
- Better understanding of priority trout populations' health and status,
- Improved engagement with fishers to share our understanding of trout fisheries management, science and factors that drive the fishery,
- More responsive management of wild trout recreational fishing in Victoria, and
- Improved fishing opportunities for wild trout in Victoria.

Project 1. Are summer temperatures adversely impacting river trout fisheries?

Trout are a cold water fish species and high summer water temperatures can reduce feeding and increase mortality. It is not known how trout respond (behaviour, movement and mortality) in Victorian streams experiencing high summer water temperatures.

Action: Conduct a trout tracking study using acoustic tags and listening stations in the Delatite River to determine how river trout respond to annual fluctuations in water temperatures e.g. mortality or movement. If they are moving, where are they going?

- **How will this help?** The trout behaviour study will help anglers and fisheries managers understand the behaviour of trout in response to water temperature. Anglers may be able to adapt their fishing practices in response to trout movement. Fisheries managers, in conjunction with climate experts, will better understand how water temperatures affect the fishery in the future.

Project 2. Is there a decline in wild trout populations and breeding?

Wild trout populations rely on natural recruitment of young fish into the population to maintain stocks. Monitoring trout populations, especially looking at fish numbers and for evidence of young fish and upcoming year classes, provides insights into the health of the population and may highlight management intervention opportunities.

Action: Conduct annual fish population surveys of 12 priority_rivers (3 - 4 sites in each) to provide a health check report card of each river with respect to historical trout population information.

- **How will this help?** While substantial monitoring has occurred in the past, limited monitoring of trout populations has been undertaken in the last 5-10 years. Recommencing annual fish population surveys will inform anglers and fisheries managers of the relative health of key wild trout populations. The results can be compared to past surveys. Understanding trout population trends and performance indicators (e.g. recruitment (spawning), growth and condition factor) will help fishers decide where to fish and enable more responsive and targeted fisheries interventions should they be needed e.g. protect spawning habitat, habitat restoration.

Project 3. Is fishing pressure adversely impacting trout populations and the quality of the trout fishery?

Excessive angler take of fish can impact the trout population by diminishing brood stock numbers and possibly impacting on the numbers of young fish produced. Finding out how many fish, and what size of fish, anglers take is important information to gather.

Action: Conduct a targeted angler / visitor feedback creel survey and tag return reward program in one case-study river (Howqua River) to understand catch and harvest levels.

- **How will this help?:** Conducting a targeted survey will provide indications of fishing pressure, fisher behaviour, visitor preferences, fisher avidity and expenditure over a broader area in the wild trout streams of Victoria. A tag return program will also provide a quantitative measure of fishing catch and mortality on a wild trout stream to test whether fishing pressure is significantly affecting the trout fishery and provide an indication of whether current regulations are adequate.

Project 4. Are research results well understood by fishers?

Trout population dynamics can be technical and complicated. Presenting the complex information in an easily understood format is vital so that many people can better understand the results of the trout recovery program.

Action: Hold annual seminars/conferences with fishers and local community groups, and prepare user friendly progress reports.

NEWS FROM DEPI WEBSITE

- **How will this help?:** Anglers will be invited to attend annual seminars/conferences to hear results of the trout response plan and provide feedback on each project. This will enable anglers to gain a better understanding of the factors at play in managing fisheries, and provide fisheries managers first hand feedback on angler observations. The seminars will enable better communication and a more informed debate between all, to ensure better outcomes for the fishery.

Project 5. Limited angler feedback means we can't reliably measure changes in the performance of the recreational fishery

There are many angling clubs that record their catches with great diligence. If this information can be cost effectively captured for use in fisheries management, it may help Fisheries Victoria measure how each trout fishery is performing.

Action: Establish a cost effective trout fisher feedback program e.g. angling club data to include catch, effort and reporting.

- **How will this help?:** A lack of standardised measures of fishery performance currently hampers fisheries managers' ability to gauge the performance of recreational fisheries in Victoria. Rather than relying on individual reports from anglers on their perceptions of the fishery, it would be more useful to garner a broader indication of performance. Anglers will benefit from this by understanding how other anglers are finding a fishery and by providing metrics on their performance compared with other anglers, groups and fisheries. Importantly, this will provide a mechanism to robustly measure changes in the performance of the fishery over time and following interventions.

Project 6. Is reduced Lake Eildon trout stocking impacting river trout fisheries?

The trout population relationship between Lake Eildon and the inflowing rivers is not well understood.

Action: Subject to stock differentiation, assess the contribution of Lake Eildon stocked fish in river populations.

How will this help?: Understanding the contribution of lake fish to the river fishery and river fish to the lake fishery will inform fisheries management practices such as the effectiveness of fish stocking in Lake Eildon and closed seasons in rivers. If we can distinguish between hatchery and wild stock fish, this will have broad implications for the future assessment and improved management of Victorian trout stocking program.

Project 7. Are there changes in riparian habitat and have they affected water temperature?

River water temperature is strongly influenced by air temperature and shading. Improving shading through stream side vegetation may assist in maintaining the cooler water temperatures preferred by trout.

Action: Work with CMAs to review the impact of changes in riparian shading on water temperature over time including changes to riparian vegetation e.g. bushfires and flooding, clearing and replanting. Assess the case for improving riparian habitat.

- **How will this help?:** This will assess whether changes in riparian habitat have occurred, whether they are a significant issue for wild trout fisheries and where there is scope to rehabilitate stream side vegetation.

Project 8. Does trout stocking help the wild brown trout river fisheries recover?

Some recreational fishers see stocking as a logical solution to improve numbers of fish in streams where there may be low numbers. However placing fish into streams where existing populations of trout are present may not be the most appropriate action, nor achieve the desired result.

Action: Undertake brown trout stocking trial and evaluate (differentiate trout by fin-clipping, marking or tagging).

- **How will this help?:** Past fisheries research in Victoria on wild trout fisheries and on fisheries worldwide suggest that stocking on top of existing self-sustaining populations is an ineffective long-term strategy to enhance wild stocks as it provides a very low-return to anglers at considerable expense. However, anglers have a strong affinity with fish stocking and it can be seen as a fisheries management panacea (cure all). There is a case to reassess the effectiveness of fish stocking to enhance the wild trout fisheries in Victoria and to better communicate findings, educate stakeholders and re-examine the cost-effectiveness of this management option.

Project 9. Do the existing fisheries regulations adequately protect or sustain river trout fisheries?

Regulations are in place to maintain sustainable fisheries. It is prudent to regularly test regulations to see if they are still appropriate.

Action: If there is evidence that fishing pressure is impacting the fishery, consider the need for changes to size and bag limits, the closed season and permitted equipment

- **How will this help?:** This will provide information whether current regulations are adequate for sustainable fisheries management or changes need to be considered.

Project 10. Is competition/predation impacting the trout fishery?

The impact of carp on trout is not well known or studied, and carp are making inroads into many prime trout streams.

Action: Record carp and other predators as part of trout population surveys.

How will this help?: Provide some baseline information on the abundance and distribution of potential competitors and predators for trout.

FROM THE FLY TIERS DESK—ELK HAIR EMERGER



1 With the hook fixed in the vise, run the tying thread on at the eye and carry it down the shank to a point opposite the barb. Catch in 2 inches (5cm) of fine, oval, gold tinsel.



2 Using closely wound turns of tying thread, secure the waste end of the tinsel to the shank. This procedure ensures an even base to which the body can then be applied.



3 Take a pinch of fiery brown seal fur and apply it evenly to the thread. Dub it on with a simple finger-and-thumb twist and wind the resulting rope along the shank.



4 Stop the body a short distance from the eye, pinching away any excess fur. Take hold of the gold tinsel and wind five or six tight, evenly spaced turns over the body.



5 Secure and remove the loose tinsel end. Take a small bunch of elk hair, remove any broken fibers, and make sure that the tips are level. Catch it in place with tight thread turns so that the tips project just past the hook bend.



6 Secure with further turns of thread. Then, using slightly looser turns at the base, position the wing to sit at 45 degrees to the shank. Cast off the thread with a whip finish and trim the hair at the eye to leave a short stub.

SHOT OF THE MONTH



Alf lands the winning fish

OUR MAJOR SPONSOR



- Our goal is to bring you top quality fly fishing tackle at the very best prices.
- Our prices are 30-50% less than retail for similar quality products, and within reach of the person who it matters most to....you!
- The difference is ours don't come with the same high price tag



'The Fly Club'

Fly fishing, beers, pies, movies, every Thursday at
489 South Road, Bentleigh—9532 1583

