

THE EVENING RISE

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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

I hope you all have had a peaceful Christmas season, well rested and ready to take on our finned friends in battle again. Your committee have been working away trying to get new venues where you can test your fishing skills. Speakers at our Club meetings will expand your knowledge and demonstrate any new products that may tempt your credit card.

A welcome back everyone. Hope you all have another good year of fishing in fine company.

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

Regards,

Russ Johnson.

MERRIJIG 2014



CLUB CONTACT DETAILS

President:	Russell Johnson	russj.john@gmail.com
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CLUB REMINDERS

FLY TYING

*No Fly Tying this month
(clashes with Tassie trip)*

COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday 12th February 2015

CLUB MEETING

Thursday 26th February @ Wranglers

AT THE MEETING

Post Xmas Fishing Reports

FOR YOUR DIARIES

- *Tassie 2015-Tiger Hut Liawenee:
February 27th-March 8th*

*CLUB TRIP-Latrobe River-Noojee:
March 21st/22nd*

SHOT OF THE MONTH

Sandy's Tyers River Trout (January)

NEXT MEETING

As we were too slack to organise a guest speaker in time for the club meeting—we will be entertaining ourselves with reports of all fish caught since we last met. We may even have photos and allow bragging rights from the early Tassie crew reporting their successes (I hope!!)

Individual members may be able to report their successes also.

I know Alf and Jon have been out and about in Gippsland and also at Peter Wilson's dam—where your reporter saw Alf net three one evening.

In addition there will be the usual club raffles (don't forget we always pleased to receive donations for this including re-gifted presents) to assist in keeping our costs down.

As always Club merchandise will also be available for purchase—have you got a cloth badge sewn on your fishing vest yet?

The website calendar is being updated as well as some of the information on individual pages.

LAUGH OUT LOUD



MARCH CLUB TRIP—NOOJEE AREA

Six of Gippsland's best and healthiest small trout fly fishing streams are all within about 35 minutes drive from Noojee, making it an ideal base to camp or travel to as a day trip as it only a 90 min trip from Frankston.

The Six Rivers region is all about light tackle fly fishing: Generally this means short, accurate casts with light tippets and delicate dry flies. The ideal setup around here is probably a light 7ft 3-4wt rod with a 6 or 7x tippet, using dry flies in the size 16 – 20 range. Popular patterns for the region include *Royal Wulff*, *Red Tag*, *Adams*, *Royal Coachman*, and the *Humpy*.

TOORONGO RIVER— a classic meadow stream, flowing through a mixture of rainforest, bush and open pasture; it teams with pan sized brown trout (as well as the occasional better one) as well as some rainbows. With abundant insect life, the stream offers superb dry fly fishing. High summer often sees the grassy paddocks of Toorongo River Sanctuary teeming with grasshoppers, and when this happens hot windy day can produce truly remarkable fishing. The water, when settled is gin clear and careful stalking offers the chance to sight fish to risers or cruisers. These fish may not be huge, but they spook easily and can really test the anglers stalking skills – especially on overcast days. It joins the Latrobe River not far downstream from Noojee. Above this junction there is a long stretch of good water that is accessible at several points along the road that leads to the Toorongo Falls. For much of the section between the Latrobe junction and the falls, at least one side of the river is cleared farmland, which makes for easy walking and provides a clear backcast. Again, the most effective way to fish is to hop in the water and work your way upstream. Above the Toorongo Falls, the river splits in two and there is some great fishing in both forks. This section of river requires some real bush-bashing to get to, but anglers that go to the trouble should be rewarded by some top shelf wilderness fishing. Sight fishing to small brown trout can be effective here.



The first access point is via a bridge across the Toorongo about 2 kms east of the Noojee Township. You cross one of the Latrobe River Bridges before you reach this first Toorongo bridge. The first beat is downstream to the Latrobe confluence. The second long beat is upstream from the first Toorongo Bridge. To reach the upper Toorongo Valley, take the signed turnoff to the left about 1 km after you cross the Latrobe Bridge at the Noojee Recreation Reserve. There are a total of four bridges up the Toorongo Valley. All give good access to different sections of the Toorongo River. The top car park gives access to the Toorongo & Amphitheatre Falls/Cascades via a steep track on the true left bank. In summer, most Cascade pools hold at least one hungry little fish. The Cascades are not an area to fish by yourself. A 1+ lb fish in the Toorongo is a trophy!!

ADA RIVER– 20 Minutes drive. It takes a little local knowledge to get onto the good spots here.

LA TROBE RIVER – The Latrobe is the largest river in the Noojee region, and provides anglers with the best chance of a better class of fish. As with most streams in the region, access to the water is often precluded by dense bankside vegetation. As a result, the most effective way to fish is to wade upstream between access points – fishing as you go, of course. There is easy access to the Toorongo River junction, at which point there is a large pool where trout often lurk in the swirling, mixing currents of the two streams. Chest waders are required to wade the section of upstream from here to Noojee. At most times the water is around 1m deep, though there are some deeper holes that require careful negotiation. There are also plenty of logs across the river, which further hinder progress. Nevertheless the bottom is mostly firm gravel, and there are a number nice pools connected by gentle riffles. The Latrobe River flows right past Noojee and the section of river bordering the town park is a handy section of river from which to pull trout. There always seems to be a lot of fish here despite it getting its fair share of angling attention. Moving upstream from Noojee, beyond the Loch River junction, the river becomes gradually smaller. Access is off the Powelltown-Noojee Road and though the vegetation is denser and the fishing tighter, the rewards are there for those that persevere. This is a long stretch of river in a scenic setting that contains good numbers of trout.

NEW ZEALAND TRIP PROPOSAL

Peter Wilson has offered six places on a trip to the North Island with him and a local guide.

Arrive Sunday November 22nd

Leave Saturday November 28th

All transport and licences included.

Lodge accommodation (meals included) at River Birches Turangi.

Cost: \$2500 approx. plus airfares (\$350-400).

Peter has been doing this trip with a group for a number of years and has extended the offer to club members.

He and his guide are experienced in the local rivers and guarantee a wide variety of options including Tongariro, Taurangu-Taupo, Whangunui Rivers, Lake Otamangakau, and the option of rafting the Rangitikei River (additional cost).

The part will split into two groups of three to share local guide and Peter.

This trip will fill up fast—so if you're interested let Secretary Ian know ASAP so we can firm up cost.



LAKE WENDOUREE TWO FLY

28th & 29th March 2015

Fish Lake Wendouree for your chance to win the

Jim Thomas Memorial trophy

And



GLIDE 6wt Fly Rod



Entry fee is \$50 per fly fisher, which includes 2 days of great fly fishing on Lake Wendouree, a fully catered two course dinner on Saturday night & breakfast on Sunday morning. All competitors will also be able to purchase a quality range of fly fishing gear from Gavin Hurley's Fly Fishing World at special discounted prices.

Contact *Chris Doody* on 0428304004 or via email chriskoody@bigpond.com to register for the event

MARCH CLUB TRIP—NOOJEE AREA (CONT)

LOCH RIVER— The Loch Valley is located right next door to the Toorong Valley. It's a 15 – 25 minute drive. The Loch is a little smaller than the Toorong, but that doesn't mean it isn't a good stream to fish. It could be described as the ideal 'twig stream' offering good dry fly action. The Loch varies in nature from a small shallow trickle to deep narrow pools which can contain feisty brown trout over a pound. There can be a bit of bush bashing to get onto the best sections or to find that better sized fish, but that's all part of the fun of discovery. Access to the Loch River is easy. The stream runs close to the Loch Valley Road for several kilometres and there is access from two camping areas, several road bridges, and straight off the side of the road in numerous spots. Like the Toorong, there are significant sections of the Loch River where one or both banks are cleared farmland. The Loch also runs through sections of thick bush, where the fishing is more difficult, but where angling pressure is probably less as a result.

TANJIL RIVER- A 30 minute drive gets you onto the Tanjil above Blue Rock Lake. The river is a clear, fast-flowing stream, rising in steep forest, rock, boulders and gravel bottom. This is a generally shallower, clear cool and riffing stream in the classic Victorian Alpine style. It is a pleasure to fish with all manner of fly fishing methods, with the numerous small browns and rainbows readily taking all manner of terrestrials and classic attractor dries. Deeper runs will hold the occasional better fish, and here skill, stealth, presentation and persistence are required.

TARAGO RIVER – is in the Bunyip River basin, about 35 minutes from Noojee. You'll likely cross it on the way from Melbourne and think "That looks fishy!" Well, it is. In places it can be a challenging stream and some think it is better with bait and lures. But for an experienced fly fisher the slower sections offer some good nymph fishing opportunities to get onto some serious browns below Tarago Reservoir. Two to three pound fish are not unheard of in this section. Of course there are also sections of faster water suited to classic dry techniques.

Above the Tarago Reservoir the river flows through steep forest with good access hindered only by steep banks and dense blackberry growth in some areas. The water is mainly shallow (less than 50cm) with small pools to 100cm deep. The bottom is sand, with gravel in some of the riffles. This is a natural forest area ideal for wading and fly-fishing. Contains mostly brown trout, av. 150g, (max. 1kg), and some rainbow trout. Larger trout to 2.5kg enter the river from the reservoir during the winter and spring.



BITTERN RESERVOIR IS OPEN!



Bittern Reservoir was built in the 1920s as an off-stream water storage, supplied by pipeline from Melbourne's metropolitan catchments. Building of the Devilbend Reservoir began in 1956 with farmland being compulsorily acquired for the purpose of water supply. Premier Bolte opened the reservoir on 28 January 1965.

In the late 1990s, a new water supply pipeline from Cardinia Reservoir to Pearcedale was commissioned, providing sufficient capacity to meet demand and making redundant the need to store water in Devilbend and Bittern Reservoirs. In 2000-2001, Melbourne Water removed

Devilbend and Bittern Reservoirs from the water supply network and initiated a master planning process to consider options for the future use of the land and water bodies.

In September 2006, most of Devilbend was transferred to the Crown and the Minister announced that the area would be reserved as a Natural Features Reserve under the Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978; and subsequently the future planning and ongoing management of the reserve was transferred to Parks Victoria at that time.



FROM THE FLY TIERS DESK—ROYAL WULFF



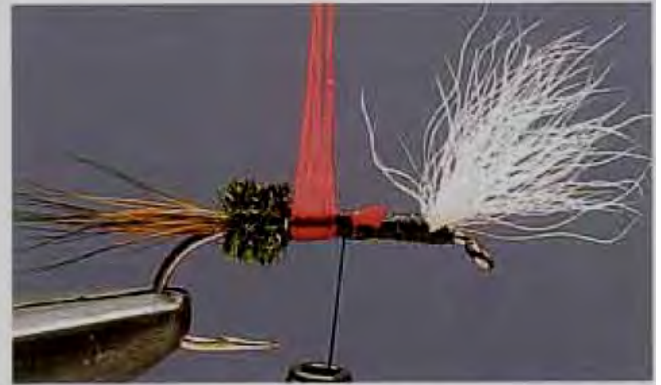
1 Run the tying thread on at the eye, building a short section of close thread turns. Secure a bunch of white calf tail so that the tips project over the eye. Remove the waste ends, then divide the bunch with figure-of-eight thread wraps.



2 Wind the thread down the shank in touching turns, stopping at a point opposite the hook barb. Catch in a few fibers of brown bucktail as the tail allowing the waste ends to lie along the shank.



3 Secure the waste ends of the hair with open turns of thread. Then, at the base of the tail catch in two fibers of peacock herl. Wind them in close turns so that they cover one-third of the distance between the tail and the wing.



4 Secure the loose ends of the peacock herl and remove them. At the base of the first body section, catch in 2 inches (5cm) of red floss and wind it along the hook to form a section slightly longer than the one of peacock herl.



5 Add a second section of peacock herl between the red floss and the wing. Select a brown cock hackle with fibers approximately twice as long as the hook gape. Catch it in by its base to the rear of the wing.



6 Gripping the hackle tip with pliers, wind on three or four full turns to create a dense collar. Make a further two hackle turns in front of the wing, securing the tip and removing the excess. Build a neat head and cast off the thread.

RAFTING THE RANGITIKEI-Peter Wilson

It really started 14 years ago when I retired as a school principal. The long hours, constant worry, and stress finally got to me. Frank Schlosser well known and respected guide and friend suggested that we run fishing schools out of Tekapo (South Island). This we did for 6 years in the month of November in the superb rivers in that area. Didymo infected our best river the Tekapo and Frank retired to the North Island in 2007 living on the banks of the Tongariro, so we moved north. Written up recently in *Fish and Game magazine* as *The Tiger Woods Of Fly Fishing in New Zealand*, Frank acknowledged that he did not think that his sex life was as fraught with as much danger as Tiger's!

By this stage we had an established group of friends who enjoyed a week a year with us in the Taupo area. The hours were still long and the stress had moved from curriculum and difficult parents to "will they catch fish"? Two groups in particular remained as constants and for Frank and I that was enough. Good accommodation, food and wine within a cast of the river, and plenty of options to fish with well-established friends who were mates at home, potentially makes for a pretty good week.

To give our friends (they had ceased to be clients after 12 years) options we did an exploration trip on the Middle Upper Rangitikei with local fishing and rafting guide Steven Mattock, about five years ago out of Tarata Lodge. This trip taking three at a time with me as assistant guide to Steve has become a feature of our weeks fishing. Three anglers stay with Frank on the Tongariro or there about and we swap on another day, Frank staying on the Tongariro. There is no substitute for local knowledge and expertise. Three anglers on the raft is quite comfortable, there are plenty of places to fish and the fish are not fly shy.

Whilst the Upper Back Country Rangitikei remains one of the world's best destinations it is an expensive outing. Access is realistically by helicopter at about \$1500 per day in addition to a guides fee of somewhere between \$600 and \$800 per day and a licence which is a Fish and Game Season license at \$130. A day shared with a mate is going to cost at least \$1230.00: i.e. shared helicopter \$750 plus half guide \$350 plus license \$130. The prospect is potentially fantastic fishing on a good day but keep in mind that you need to be a good to excellent caster as the fish are not stupid and generally you get one cast at each fish. To be skunked is not uncommon!

Fishing the Middle Upper River out of Taihape by raft access is a reasonable, far cheaper, remote fishing alternative with the prospect of very good fishing in great scenery and the chance of fish up to 8 or 10 pounds if you are good enough. Whilst you may not catch the big ones you will more than likely get the chance and there are enough other good fish in the 3 to 4 pound class to keep even the most discerning angler happy.

One of my frustrating sessions recently (fishing privately with Steve) was fishing to a large brown of about 7 pounds. The guide (more later) spotted the fish and even though the chance of landing the brown was about 5% due to its location it was a *must give it a go* situation. My first four casts at that fish using a double nymph rig realized four hook ups to the wrong fish who beat the big one to the fly. You have got to wonder what it is all about when the guide yells, "get that one off", even though the uninvited fish was of the 3 pound variety and a beautiful fish. After the four uninvited were either landed or shook off, the quarry was slightly upset and quietly disappeared. Realistically any of those four would have made a good day excellent, but we were only half way through the day and quite a few had already been landed. Steve is one of those New Zealand Guides who grew up eating nails for breakfast and thinks that on a day when there is snow on the ground that you are a wimp if you wear socks with your thongs. Whilst he knows the river like the proverbial back of his hand, the river is much prettier than his hand. The occasional use of a colourful adjective which punctuates the air when a strike is missed keeps you on your toes. Rangitikei fish do not hold up a sign suggesting that now is the time to strike.

In the off season as an adjunct to their very busy accommodation and rafting operation he traps possums and nets eels for the live export trade. As an ex shearer he knows about hard work and his guiding reflects this work ethic. Trudi his wife has no trouble feeding a mob at the homestead or delivering a meal of high quality to the River Cottage overlooking the Gorge or to the Tree house with similar spectacular viewing. This is after organizing the raft shuttles. Their oldest daughter Brylley is a certified raft guide who takes most of the scenic rafting trips which are an excellent option to the fishing and a great day for the kids. Each of the accommodation options offers superb views



RAFTING THE RANGITIKEI-Peter Wilson

from high above the river. You can sit in a spa whilst enjoying a beer or wine taking in the scenery whilst remembering the day just past. Steve has the only rafting/ fishing access to the river with about six float options which means that each section can be fished in rotation so that fishing pressure is not great. There is also the option of designated back country fishing on one option if conditions are suitable, and more importantly if the fishers are suitable. Many sections of the river are easy for the novice angler and it is almost impossible to go a day for even a beginner to not catch fish. If for some reason the fishing was not good then the scenery through the day is so good that the fishing it is almost secondary.



Steve knows the river so well that he can almost predict with 100% accuracy where you will hook up. On a recent trip with a group of three we pulled into a "Honey Pot" As each angler hooked up he was deposited on the other bank to land his fish whilst the next took his turn. Each hooked and landed good fish. Further down river a brown of about 8 pound and a rainbow of 7 were quietly sipping. This was a day when we were in constant drizzle and conditions were about as bad as it can be. The brown spooked but the rainbow was hooked and subsequently lost to a snag.

Even early in the season dry fly is an option but over the summer the dry fly is the usual mode of attack. Due to lack of pressure the fish are not fussy and a blowfly, Adams or humpy is almost sure of success. A hair and copper nymph, or pheasant tail, are nymphs of choice for the fish holding deep.

As a venue for a family with the options of rafting and fishing in remarkable scenery with accommodation to suit everybody Tarata Lodge at reasonable prices is difficult to beat. Few places can accommodate a passionate fly fisher his or her partner and family in one location.

I have fished with Steve accompanying fishing groups on about 10 occasions when I have helped with the guiding. Each day has been excellent in terms of fishing, and safety. (There are a few serious rapids!) My wife and I have stayed when we have both fished and enjoyed the fishing and accommodation at our own cost.

Whilst the Back Country Helicopter Rangitikei fishing remains as one of the best fishing options in New Zealand a day's rafting out of Tarata Lodge is high on the scale in terms of scenery, excitement and good remote fishing.



This could be you if you sign up to go to NZ and pay for the rafting add-on.



CASTING

Two of our sister clubs have organised evening with Simon Gawesworth & Peter Morse—details in flyers.

Northern Suburbs night is Tuesday March 17th commencing at 4.00 pm.

“Red Tag” night is a \$70 /head dinner on Friday March 20th. In addition “Red Tag” has issued an invitation to their Fairfield casting pool on Saturday March 21st between 10.30 am and 2.00 pm. A BBQ lunch will be provided by VFFA.



SIMON GAWESWORTH

World Class Casting Champion

FREE PUBLIC TALK!

SIMON GAWESWORTH

IFFF MCI & THCI, AAPGAI, STANIC

and **PETER MORSE**

IFFF MCI



TOPICS:

- Two-Handed Spey Casting
- Single-Handed Spey Casting
- Rio and Sage Demo

Tuesday 17th March 2015, 4pm - 9pm

at The Northern Suburbs Fly Fishing Club
Yan Yean Road, Yarrambat - Melway P.184/F5



Savage size is serve of small donation.
Proceed toward the Northern Suburbs Fly Fishing Club.



BIOGRAPHY - SIMON GAWESWORTH

JM GILLIES IN CONJUNCTION WITH **RIO** AND **SAGE** ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE ARE BRINGING **SIMON GAWESWORTH** OUT FROM THE US FOR A TOUR OF VICTORIA, NSW AND TASMANIA.

SIMON WILL BE CONDUCTING CASTING CLINICS, TALKS AND HOSTING SOME SPECIAL NIGHTS OVER A 2 WEEK PERIOD AND HIS HIGHLY ENTERTAINING PROMOTION OF FLY FISHING IS A MUST FOR ALL KEEN FLY FISHERS.

SIMON IS WELL KNOWN IN THE FLY FISHING CIRCLES AND IS RESPECTED AND ACKNOWLEDGED AS BEING AT THE FOREFRONT OF **FLY LINE DESIGNS** AS WELL AS A WORLD CLASS CASTING CHAMPION.

SIMON, ALONG WITH PETER MORSE WILL BE HOSTING A DINNER IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE VICTORIAN FLY FISHING ASSOCIATION AT "THE CELTIC CLUB" FRIDAY 20TH MARCH, 6.30 FOR 7PM. COST \$70 P.P. (DRINKS AT BAR PRICES).

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MEET SIMON AND PETER AND HEAR SIMON TALK ABOUT ALL THINGS FLY FISHING.

A DAYS CASTING TUITION AND DEMONSTRATION TO BE HELD AT "THE RED TAG POOL", YARRA PARK, FAIRFIELD ON SATURDAY THE 21ST MARCH. BBQ LUNCH SUPPLIED BY VFFA.

SIMON LEARNT TO FISH AT THE AGE OF 6 AND TOOK UP FLY FISHING WHEN AGED 8, BEING TRAINED BY HIS FATHER - WELL KNOWN FLY FISHING INSTRUCTOR AND AUTHOR, JOHN GAWESWORTH. BY THE TIME HE LEFT SCHOOL AT 16 TO TEACH FLY FISHING SIMON HAD BECOME THE BRITISH JUNIOR CASTING CHAMPION, REPEATING THE FEAT THE NEXT YEAR. IN THE FOLLOWING YEARS SIMON BROKE SEVEN BRITISH CASTING RECORDS AND WON THE ADULT CASTING CHAMPIONSHIPS THREE TIMES IN SUCCESSION, REPRESENTING ENGLAND IN TWO EUROPEAN AND ONE WORLD TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS.

WITH THE COLLAPSE OF THE BRITISH CASTING AUTHORITY AND THE TOURNAMENT CASTING SCENE IN THE UK, SIMON TURNED HIS HAND TO COMPETITIVE FLY FISHING. OVER THE FOLLOWING YEARS SIMON REPRESENTED ENGLAND IN THREE HOME INTERNATIONALS (AGAINST IRELAND, SCOTLAND AND WALES), TWO EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS AND FIVE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS, CULMINATING IN THE PRESTIGE OF BECOMING THE ENGLAND TEAM CAPTAIN AND MANAGER FOR THE 2003 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS IN SPAIN.

DURING HIS CAREER SIMON HAS WRITTEN NUMEROUS ARTICLES FOR THE FISHING PRESS, PUBLISHED TWO BOOKS ON SPEY CASTING, PRESENTED FIVE INSTRUCTIONAL VIDEOS AND DVD'S, APPEARED ON NUMEROUS TELEVISION AND RADIO SHOWS, DEMONSTRATED CASTING AT FLY FISHING SHOWS AROUND THE WORLD AND IS RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF THE LEADING AUTHORITIES ON FLY CASTING AND FLY CASTING INSTRUCTION.

HE IS A FFF MASTER AND THCI (TWO HANDED CASTING INSTRUCTOR) CERTIFIED INSTRUCTOR AND ALSO HOLDS THE APGAI AND STANIC DIPLOMAS FOR FLY FISHING INSTRUCTION IN THE UK.

SIMON LIVES IN SW WASHINGTON AND WORKS FOR RIO PRODUCTS, WHERE HE DESIGNS AND TESTS FLY LINES, AS WELL AS BEING THE BRAND MANAGER FOR RIO. HE CONDUCTS FLY CASTING CLASSES AND SEMINARS AROUND THE WORLD.

SIMON IS MARRIED WITH TWO CHILDREN.



SHOT OF THE MONTH

Sandy's Tyers River Trout



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

