

THE EVENING RISE

November 2013

Issue: 159

Official Publication of the Mornington Peninsula Fly Fishers Inc.

Established: 1998

MPFF Mission Statement

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

To promote, foster and encourage the art of flytying.

To promote, foster and encourage the sport of flycasting.

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 flyfishing 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 fishers. Well it's been a busy month with the Fly-In at Lake Fyans followed by the Wastell Trophy at Cairn Curran the weekend after that.

After all that fishing and no fish, but I can say I had a lot of good company, all in the same boat!!

To finish the month I was joined by 14 other members in a weeding day at DevilBend's Conservation area.

I hadn't expected the weeds (small trees) to be so big but that didn't deter our gallant band of workers.

Many thanks for a job well done fellows. It should earn the club a few brownie points with Parks.

Hope to see you on the water some time soon.

Regards,

Russ Johnson



CLUB CONTACT DETAILS

President:	Russell Johnson	annjohn.20@bigpond.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

ON HOLD

COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday 14th November @ Wranglers Club.
6.30pm

CLUB TRIP

22-24th November, Merrijig End of year trip

CLUB MEETING

Thursday 28th November @ Wranglers. 7.00pm

AT THE MEETING

Report By Members On Their Fishing Trips

FOR YOUR DIARIES

XMAS BBQ

Big River Trip

SHOT OF THE MONTH

Andrew on the Delatite River

Keep fishin'! Take a friend!



RANDOM THOUGHTS

How many times is it appropriate to say "What?" before you just nod and smile because you still didn't hear what they said?

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NEXT CLUB TRIP

“MERRIJIG END OF YEAR TRIP”

Open to all members this is particularly a great weekend where new members and beginners can buddy up with more experienced members and fish the surrounding rivers - a great place to start is on the Howqua or Delatite River's. This event is specially for newer members who will be paired with experienced anglers.

Staying at the Victoria Police Alpine Club at Merrijig which is situated approximately halfway between Mansfield and Mt Buller, Victoria.



Accommodation is \$25.00 per night in Bunkhouse style sleeping and all sleeping is allocated by the Treasurer. Bring your own sleeping gear, towel, food, drinks and fishing gear as Mansfield is some 30 minutes away.

The Lodge is fully maintained and has a double kitchen with inside BBQ's also two food fridges plus a beer fridge. See you there.



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CASTING TIPS

Capt. Pat Damico

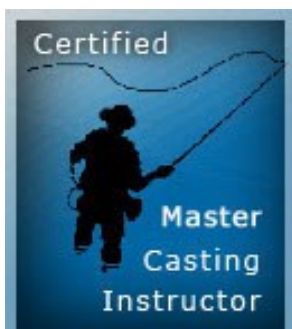
FFF Master Casting Instructor

Casting Tip 24: Using false casting, not allowing the fly or line to hit the water or grass surface allows us to see how well our loops form. The rear loop and forward loops should be identical. This can only be accomplished by duplicating the rod's movement in both directions. Using a discarded length of rope or old fly line that is easily seen, place the pieces parallel to one another about 6 feet apart. Casting horizontally, keep the rod leg, the line closest to the rod, and the fly leg, the line closest to the fly inside the parallel guides. Have the rod tip just inside the line closest to you.

Moving the one further from you closer will give you a guide to make your loops smaller. When you can keep your loops within the ropes when they are 2 or 3 feet apart with a longer line, you will have accomplished your goal of "tight" loops. Move the rod more vertical during the exercise to develop good loops in all casting planes.

Taken from *Suncoast Fly Fishers*

St. Petersburg, FL with permission



SHOT OF THE MONTH



FISHING TIPS

Water -V- Wine

It has been scientifically proven that if we drink 1 liter of water each day, at the end of the year we would have absorbed more than 1 kilo of E. coli bacteria found in feces.

In other words, we are consuming 1 kilo of Poo.

However, we do not run that risk when drinking wine (or rum, whiskey, beer or other liquor) because alcohol has to go through a purification process of boiling, filtering and/or fermenting.

Water = Poo

Wine = Health

Ergo: It is better to drink wine and talk stupid than to drink water and be full of crap.



Fly Tying: What Is “Genetic Hackle”

Answer: When someone talks about “genetic hackle,” what they are really talking about are feathers from birds that have been genetically engineered through selective breeding to produce feathers especially for fly tying. Take a gander at one of the Whiting Farms birds, for instance—some of which are the end result of 80 years of selective breeding—and you’ll note that they don’t much look like barnyard chickens. These are exotic, fragile animals. Their cape and saddle feathers are now so long that breeders had to create longer-legged birds just to keep the valuable feathers from dragging on the ground.

And it’s not just length that hackle farmers are after. They’re also trying to produce feathers with *greater barb density*, which means fewer turns of the feather are necessary on each fly. In their natural state, feathers have longer barbs on one side, so *barb symmetry* requires careful breeding. Then there’s the *rachis*, which fly tiers incorrectly refer to as the *quill*. Tiers need the rachis to be pliable without being brittle, with a shape that resists twisting. The list of desirable traits goes on.

According to Dr. Tom Whiting, the Doctor Moreau of chickens, it’s a never-ending challenge to produce birds with high-quality feathers that are perfectly proportioned for fly tying. Once you’ve bred the kind of bird you want, you don’t just sit back and reap the rewards.

“It takes a lot of selection pressure just to keep the birds where they’re at, which is an unnatural state,” he says. Breeders have created the feathers that tiers want “by identifying, isolating, stabilizing, and perpetuating novel mutations,” he explains. Strangely, the color of the feathers is not something he spends much time worrying about.

“No matter what color comes out of the breeding process, we can find a use for it,” he says.

The exceptions to this rule are the rare and highly valued colors such as cree.

“Cree can be maddening,” says Whiting, “because it doesn’t ‘breed true.’ It’s actually a three-way cross of colors, making it nearly impossible to predict.”

Ultimate, Whiting argues, the chicken itself is little more than a life-support system for the follicles that produce tying feathers, in the same way that sheep exist to produce wool.

by *Philip Monahan*

Phil Monahan is a former Alaskan guide and was the long-time editor of *American Angler* magazine. He's now a columnist for *MidCurrent* and writes and edits the fly-fishing blog at OrvisNews.com.



Nymphing No-Nos

Rick Hafele says if you avoid these five simple mistakes, your nymphing success can improve by leaps and bounds.

SOMETIMES KNOWING what not to do can be more important than knowing what you should do. Over the years I've made my share of mistakes and seen others fail at nymph fishing only because of a few simple missteps. Below are five simple no-no's that if avoided I believe will greatly improve your nymph fishing success.



Mark Bachmann photo

#1: Don't be afraid to use small nymph patterns!

For some reason most fly fishers pay close attention to the size of their patterns when fishing dry flies, but routinely grab the largest fly in their fly box when selecting a nymph pattern. It's hard not to. Even after years and years of experience to the contrary, I still have to force myself to select a size 16 or 18 nymph instead of a size 10 or 12. It just seems to make sense that a trout will one, see a larger nymph easier than a small one, and two, find a larger morsel of food much more enticing than a small morsel. I mean who picks the smallest slice of cake on the dessert tray?

Ah, but trout, if nothing else, are creatures of habit, and when it comes to the size of natural nymphs floating by them, small and smaller is the rule, not the exception. As a result trout see way more small nymphs than large ones, and thus are in the habit of taking tiny morsels of food.

Trout also feed selectively when a specific food item is abundant. We know that's true when fishing dry flies because we see the refusals when our flies are just a little too large. Well, the same selectivity occurs when trout focus their feeding on a really abundant food drifting below the surface. Their refusals of our oversized nymphs, however, go unnoticed and we have no idea our fly has been rejected.



While the large stonefly nymph looks tasty to us, the small size 18 mayfly nymph in the middle bottom row is more often what trout are looking for. *Rick Hafele photo*

If you don't think small nymphs outnumber large ones, I encourage you to take a few minutes and collect a good sample of nymphs out of a riffle in your favorite trout stream. Put what you collect in a white plastic tray with half an inch of water and look closely at how many different types of nymphs are present. Then look closely at the size of the most numerous ones. Now take one of your favorite nymph patterns for that natural and place it in the tray next to the real thing. I'll bet dollars to donuts your fly is significantly larger than the natural.

Continued

NYMPHING PART 2



The above stomach contents show that this well-fed trout had eyes only for little blue-winged olive nymphs (size 18) and small Mother's day caddis pupae (size 16). *Dave Hughes photo*

I have found over and over again that using nymph patterns that match the size of the dominant natural nymphs present, even if that means using a size 18 or 20 nymph imitation, greatly improves my nymph fishing success.

Bottom line: Make sure your nymph selection includes patterns in sizes 16 and smaller, and then **USE THEM.**

#2: Avoid "Rootitis"

Rootitis is one of the most common afflictions of beginning nymph fishers, and it will seriously limit your success. How do you know if you have rootitis? If you find yourself parked in one spot fishing nymphs for 30, 20, or even ten minutes without getting a strike and not moving, you have rootitis.

Looking at the insect life in a stream will keep you from fishing for a while, but it usually proves to be time very well spent. *Rick Hafele photo*

Rootitis occurs because the water you're fishing looks really fishy, and maybe you have even taken good fish there before. But one of the secrets to better nymph fishing is making sure your fly gets in front of more fish. Because you can't see exactly where the fish are at—at least not typically—you need to carefully cover a piece of water and then move to another piece. That could be taking just a few steps upstream, or lengthening your cast a few feet to drift your fly in different water, or walking upstream or downstream some distance.



There are no rules about how long is too long. For myself after six to eight good drifts of my nymph through a specific current seam or holding lie without a strike, I pick another lie to cover with another six to eight casts. By covering water and then moving you are increasing the chances of your fly passing near a fish. Always keep looking for the next fishy spot to cover with you nymphs, and thus avoid rootitis.

#3: Change patterns that aren't working

This problem is sort of like rootitis in that you are continuing to do something that isn't working. With rootitis you are continuing to fish the same water. In this case you are continuing to use the same fly pattern.

We all have favorite flies, go-to patterns, that we put on when we don't have a good reason to choose something specific. These patterns have proven themselves effective time and again, and we fish them with confidence. But don't let the habit of choosing certain flies become a rut. No matter how good a particularly fly pattern might be or how much confidence you have in it, there will be times fish just won't take it.

Continued

NYMPHING PART 3

Once you have a good collection of naturals in a tray of water, drop your nymph patterns into the water next to them. You'll likely be shocked at how much larger your patterns are than the naturals. *Rick Hafele photo*



Like rootitis there are no hard rules about how long you should fish a fly before changing patterns. I've had some fly fishers tell me that if they haven't had a strike in ten minutes they change flies. I generally stick with a pattern longer than that. But if you haven't had any success after an hour's time, it's time for a change. That's when I recommend you put your rod down and spend 20 or 30 minutes looking around and in the stream for clues about what fish might be seeing and eating. Pick up some rocks in a riffle and see what nymphs are crawling around and shake some streamside trees or shrubs to see what adult insects fly out. The time spent looking will help a great deal in deciding exactly what that next fly pattern should be and give you confidence in it when you tie it on. This also gives you a chance to see the naturals up close so you can check their size, and thus avoid no-no #1.

#4: Get your nymphs to the bottom

Skip and Dave both mention the need to fish nymphs deep, which means near the bottom whether you are fishing in water two feet deep or ten. I want to emphasize this even more by saying: If your nymph isn't hanging up on or bumping the bottom at least once every five or six casts, you are not fishing deep enough and need to add more weight to your leader. I don't mean that you should lose a fly every five or six casts, but you should be feeling your fly hit the bottom. Occasionally it will get snagged, and some snags will result in a lost fly. If you want to improve your nymph fishing however, as they say, get use to it!



More than once I've fished a section of stream with nymphs without hardly a strike, and then re-fished the same water after adding one or two more split shot to my rig. The increased success after adding the split shot was surprising. The same water that produced zero fish suddenly produced a half dozen. Remember, ninety percent of the time when fish aren't feeding in or near the surface, get your nymphs to the bottom.

A natural nymph and its imitation. *Rick Hafele photo*

#5: Fish nymphs with as little line as possible

One of the main challenges of nymph fishing is detecting a strike and then setting the hook before the fish spits out your fly. All successful nymph fishing tactics maximize these two factors. No matter what tactic you are using, you will be more effective at detecting a strike and hooking fish if you shorten the amount of line you have on the water.

Continued

NYMPHING PART 4

Strike indicators have gained acceptance and popularity because they make detecting strikes much easier. None-the-less it is much easier to see your indicator, and know when a fish has wiggled it, if it is ten feet away instead of thirty. When nymphing without an indicator, high sticking or Czech nymphing for example, you are relying on feel to detect strikes. In this case it is even more important to have as little line as possible on the water. With Czech nymphing there is no fly line on the water.

Once you see or feel a fish strike, a short line will also greatly increase the number of those fish you actually hook. For every foot of additional line you have out beyond your rod tip you are increasing the lag time between seeing or feeling a strike and pulling the fly tight in the fishes mouth once you react. I've watched fish from underwater (a wetsuit, mask and snorkel are great learning tools) suck in an angler's nymph and spit it out so fast I wasn't sure I saw it. After watching the speed at which a trout can spit out a fly, I'm convinced that even the best nymph fisher misses many, many fish.

With nymph fishing you need to do everything you can to increase your odds of hooking fish. Fishing a short line is one of the best and easiest ways to do it. By short I mean a cast of fifteen feet or less and ideally less than ten feet. Sometimes to reach the water you want to fish you'll have to cast further, but if you focus on fishing nymphs with short casts you'll see your success improve significantly.

If you avoid these five no-no's, I'm confident you'll see your nymph fishing success improve.

***Rick Hafele** is a professional aquatic entomologist who has studied the aquatic insects in all of the states and provinces from Alaska to California, and from the Pacific Coast through the Rocky Mountains. He is the co-author of An Angler's Guide to Aquatic Insects and Their Imitations (with Scott Roederer, Johnson Books, 1995), The Complete Book of Western Hatches (with Dave Hughes, Amato Publications, 1981), and most recently Western Mayfly Hatches (with Dave Hughes, Amato Publications, 2004). He is also the long-time Entomology columnist for American Angler magazine. In 2003 Rick completed a four series set of fly fishing videos titled Fly Fishing Large Western Rivers. For more information, visit Rick's Web site at www.laughingrivers.com.*

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No claim is made by the organization as to the accuracy of any information contained in this publication. After all this is a fishing newsletter and no other type of Sportsman is known for BROADER EXAGGERATION of what was once the truth.

FLY FISH BAW BAW

Mt Baw Baw Alpine Resort

Nov 16, 2013-Nov 17, 2013

We transform the the whole village for a weekend celebrating fly fishing in Victoria and the Baw Baw area!

With the help of Baw Baw Shire, DEPI Fisheries and partners, Mt Baw Baw Alpine Resort will again transform the the whole village for a weekend celebrating fly fishing in Victoria and the Baw Baw area.

Everyone from the would-be flyfisher to expert is very welcome; with presentations, demonstrations and hands on skill building available. Come and perfect your cast in our casting ponds with experts on hand with tips and tricks that get the fish! Fly Fish Baw Baw is a **FREE** event, so venture up the mountain, stay the night, make some new connections in the fly fish community and feast on a delicious meal at our famous Village Restaurant at Mt Baw Baw Alpine Resort. All activities are located within the Mt Baw Baw Alpine Village, except for the Catch & Release Comp- fly fishers must make their way to the local streams located off mountain (we will provide map at the briefing Saturday morning)

Friday

Guests welcome to spend the night, accommodation is available and the Village Restaurant will be open til late!

Saturday

OFF MOUNTAIN

Will have you off to fish wherever you like, with rivers like the Latrobe, Loch, Toorong, Thomson, Tyers and of course the Tanjil within easy striking distance, and a Fly Fish Baw Baw map with all the secret local spots marked on it. For those fishers with a competitive streak, we will be running a catch & release comp with a **\$1000 CASH PRIZE** up for grabs for the winner, as well as product prizes for kids! (16yrs & under) Best of all, its **FREE** to enter! Please bring your camera or phone so that you can take a photo of your catch, as we will assess the winner based on photos provided. You must have access to your own vehicle to access the local streams (transport is not provided)

ON MOUNTAIN (ALL DAY)

Fly Casting at the man-made ponds

Kids casting and activities

Bike Hire at The Adventure Hub

Fly Tying in Village Restaurant

9am : Briefing for Catch 'n' Release Competition at the Village Restaurant Mt Baw Baw (if you are running late head to the Adventure Hub whenever you arrive and we will provide you with a welcome pack and send you on your way)

9:30am- 5pm : Gone Fishing!

11am : Fish Cooking Masterclass, meet at Village Restaurant Mt Baw Baw

2pm: 1 hr Guided Walk (please register at The Adventure Hub)

6:30pm : After a day soaking up the local sights and fly fishing on the local rivers and streams venture back to Mt Baw Baw Alpine Resort for our presentation dinner at the Village Restaurant (bookings recommended 03 5165 1123) with our guest speaker Josh Hutchins, catch & release comp winners announced

9pm : "Only the River Knows" movie showing in Village Restaurant

Sunday

9am-3pm

Casting Coaching and Competition

Product prizes

Fly tying demonstrations with Mick Hall in the Village Restaurant

Master your casting skills on our purpose built pond at the resort

Kids casting and activities

Cross Country Bike Hire at The Adventure Hub

2pm : 1hr Guided Walk (please register at The Adventure Hub)

Staying on mountain is the perfect place to base your self for the weekend. Why not make a weekend out of it with accommodation available on mountain and the Village Restaurant open for meals! all of our accommodation is located within easy walking distance from the village – restaurant, fishing activities and more.



Mount Baw Baw Alpine Resort

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16+17 November 2013



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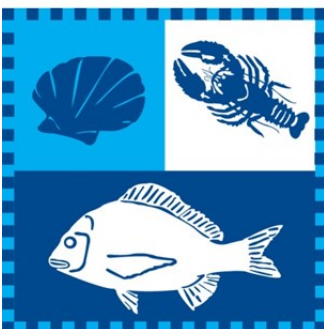
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Swivels Original Fish Measure



Swivels Original “Fish Measure” (patent pending) is a measuring device designed to measure your catch against the legal size limits for your state. Designed with permission from local State Fisheries Departments, Fish Measure is a must have for all recreational anglers – young, old, novice and/or season professional.

An essential tool for every tackle box!

Fish Measure includes:

- Size Limits for popular fish (including crab and crayfish/rock lobster)
- Illustrations of popular fish species caught in Australian waters for easy identification
- Convenient waist clip, and lock system, for easy “hands free” measuring by the solo angler

Clever Fish Jokes and Fun Fish Facts – great for those “slow” fishing adventures.

Fish Measure is a handy device for all anglers whether fishing from a boat, land or yak and also includes diagrams of popular knots, illustrations of popular fish species, fishing and boating tips, how to "measure your catch" and fun fish jokes and facts for those 'quiet' fishing trips.



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APPLICATIONS FOR SMARTPHONES

The Recreational Fishing Application brings the popular Victorian Recreational Fishing Guide to iPhone and Android. The first of its kind in Australia, the **free application** features colour illustrations of more than 65 species found in Victoria's waterways.

Anglers can identify their catch and confirm **size and bag limits**, and access information on permitted equipment and closed seasons. There is also a **marine park boundary locator**, which uses a smart phone's internal GPS to determine whether the user is in, or approaching, a marine park or sanctuary. The application allows anglers to **buy a recreational fishing licence online**. For those who would prefer to visit a shop, the GPS locator will find the closest outlets that sell licenses, bait and tackle. Anglers can use the application to connect to Fisheries Victoria's illegal fishing reporting line (13FISH), DEPI's Customer Service Centre and the Water Police too. Please email your suggestions for the further development of the application to: fishingapp.feedback@dpi.vic.gov.au





THE TYIERS BENCH

No-26

By Mark Scheimer

Double Bunny Streamer



Materials:

- Hook:** Tiemco 700R size 2-4
- Thread:** White 6/0
- Weight:** Medium lead wire
- Body:** Zonker Rabbit Strips (Rusty Brown over white)
- Eyes:** 3D self-adhesive (size to suit the hook size)
- Flash:** Holographic tinsel

Tying Instructions:

Step 1 – Wrap a single layer of lead, about half the shank length. Not too close to the eye.

Step 2 – Measure and cut 2 pieces of the Rabbit you'll be using. They should be almost twice the length of the shank, don't worry about getting them exactly the same.

Step 3 – Cut a taper to the front end of the two Rabbit strips.

Step 4 – Hold up the belly strip (White in this case) so that the front end is positioned right behind the eye of the hook. Using your scissors, mark the center of the hide where it aligns with end of the hook shank, fold the hide and snip a small hole with the tips of your scissors.

Step 5 – Dub a thin layer of fur over the lead. This provides a good foundation for the adhesive you'll be using soon. Remove the hook from the vise, and slip the point of the hook through the hole in the hide. Stroke the fur away from the hook and position the hook back into your vise.

Step 6 – Position the White Zonker strip under the shank of the hook, and make several tight wraps of thread over the tapered, front end if it. Do not crowd the eye of the hook.

Step 7 – Position the strip of Rusty Brown Zonker strip on the top of the hook shank, directly over the White. Make several tight wraps of thread to secure it. Add a half hitch.

Step 8 – Squirt a small amount of Zap-a-Dap-a-Goo onto scrap cardboard. Pull the top strip of Zonker forward, and using a toothpick, spread a thin layer of the adhesive over the skin. Be careful not to get any on the fur.





Continued

Double Bunny Streamer

Tying Instructions:

Step 9 – Spread a thin layer of Zap-a-Dap-a-Goo to the hide of the White Zonker strip and fur-wrapped lead. When done, pull the tail end of both the White and Rusty Brown tight to align them. When you're please with how they're aligned, press them together along their entire length.

Step 10 – If the two lengths of rabbit hide end up uneven (or if you want to now adjust the fly's length) slip the tips of your scissors through the fur and cut the hide only.

Step 11 – To give the fly better motion in the water, you need to taper the section of hide that extends beyond the hook. Using long, sharp scissors, stroke the fur away from you and pinch the hide. Very carefully taper the hide.

Step 12 – Take 2 long strands of Holographic Flash and fold them in the middle, centering them on the sides of the fly, make several tight wraps of thread at the head.

Step 13 – Apply a small dab of Zap-a-Dap-a-Goo to scrap cardboard. Using a toothpick, scoop up a nice blob of Goo and press it onto the spot where the two Zonker strips are joined together, just behind the thread head. Make sure the Flashabou is out of the way.

Step 14 – Pull the Flashabou down so that it cuts into the center of your Goo. Place a large 3D eye onto the center of the Goo and press down slightly to spread the adhesive.

