

**DEVONPORT  
FLY FISHING CLUB INC.**

**NEWSLETTER**



**VOLUME 18 No 2**

**February 2011**

OUR AIM  
 “TO PROMOTE ALL FACETS OF FLYFISHING  
 AND GOOD FELLOWSHIP”

**Club Postal Address Club Inc.**

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Please send articles to either of the following:

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**BRONTE CAMP STARTS Sunday 8th January 2011**

***Office Bearers 2010 – 2011***

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<b><i>President</i></b>	<i>Reid McLachlan</i>	6496 1768
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<b><i>Junior Vice President</i></b>	<i>Peter Burr</i>	6424 8287
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<b><i>Life Members</i></b>	<i>Mr. George Surman</i>	
	<i>Mr. Peter Burr</i>	

**OUR NEXT MEETING DATE IS: March 31, 2011**

At the Devonport Library Meeting Room 7:30pm (Side Entrance)

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## 2011

- March 10<sup>th</sup> Fishing trip to Four Springs 5:00 pm**
- March 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Fishing trip to Great Lake**
- March 19<sup>th</sup> Working bee at the Lodge**
- March 24<sup>th</sup> Fishing trip to Brushy Lagoon 5:00 pm**
- March 31<sup>st</sup> General Meeting - Devonport Library 7.30 pm**

### Note from the editor

This month I received heaps of articles and photos from different fishing occasions. Unfortunately our space is restricted. I decided to print the articles complete and shift some to future editions of the newsletter. John Clark wrote an article about an exciting fishing trip. I might be able to publish that great article in the April Newsletter, as I have received already articles from David Best on the fishing trips to Lake Burbury and Talbots Lagoon. Those two articles will be printed in our next edition.

John sent another great article which you can read in this edition. It's a pity that I missed out on the fishing trip to Reid's dam.

Peter Burr received the Bronte Camp photo 2011. Please contact him by phone or by email ([pd.burr@bigpond.com](mailto:pd.burr@bigpond.com))

if you wish the photo emailed to you. There are also place mats with the group photo as the main feature available for \$ 7.00 each.

Please don't forget the working bee on 19<sup>th</sup> March. The more we are the easier it will be and the quicker we will be able to chase the trout

Tight lines  
Stephan

DEVONPORT FLY FISHING CLUB INC.  
**General Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

The meeting was opened by President Reid McLachlan who welcomed members and guests.

**ATTENDANCE:** 23

**MEETING OPEN:** 7:40 pm.

**APOLOGIES:** N Day, M. Murray, D. Bowden, J. Kirkpatrick, A. McPherson, R. Wybrow, P. Gardner, D Thomas; C. Morley

Moved J. Burr and seconded by M. Hulsman that the apologies be accepted. **Carried**

**PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Moved M French, seconded John Romoser that the minutes of the previous meeting as circulated was a true and accurate record. **Carried.**

**BUSINESS ARISING:** Held over to later in the meeting

**TREASURERS REPORT:** Moved D Best, seconded M. Hulsman that the treasurer's report be accepted and accounts passed for payment. **Carried.**

**CORRESPONDENCE INWARDS:**

Southern Cross TV	re promotion
Central Highlands Council	re building permit
AAT	re general meeting
NWFFC	meeting notice
Great Lake Hotel	flyer
Kathy Hean	camp photos
M. J. & R. Cumin	camp thank you

**CORRESPONDENCE OUTWARDS:**

Email to T Rodley with T Berne's contact details.

Email to J Thompson advising we are not interested in her newsletter articles.

Email to Burnie Club re Talbots attendees

Email to NWFFC re J. Allen as guest speaker

Moved A. Maney, seconded S. MacAulay that the inwards correspondence be accepted and the outwards confirmed. **Carried**

## **BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE:**

### **REPORTS:**

#### **SHACK**

Working Bee 19 March

#### **CAMP COMMITTEE:**

Debrief held late January

Pocket knife lost by D. Best

**FISHING:**           Burbury trip given by David Best. Very small flies were successful. 14 Attended  
Club dam: 18 attended and 9 fish caught. Beautiful condition.

**FISHING TRIPS:**   March 19/20 Great Lake  
March 10 Four Springs evening fish  
March 24 Brushy   5:00pm

### **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

Details of those prepared to act as mentors, and those members desiring mentoring to put name forward to the secretary. To be inserted into newsletter for all members.

Barry Whitely memorial for Lake Huntsman is ready to be installed. A date to be set in April.

Metal badges needed resolved to get price from two suppliers

Fly tying. Discussion held on ways to improve the night. The feeling was that we cater mainly for the novice tyer.

Update on members visiting NZ

**MEETING CLOSED:**    **8:45   pm**

**GUEST SPEAKER:**                   M. Hulsman

# Devon Lodge Working Bee Job List

## 19th March 2011

### Please bring wheelbarrows and shovels

- Blue metal spread in yard
- Stack firewood
- Repair spouting at rear of Lodge
- Complete rock work under landing at front door
- “Finishing off” in kitchen
  - ⇒ Refit quad where necessary in kitchen
  - ⇒ Seal gap around back of bench with SS angle where tiled
  - ⇒ Seal around kitchen sink (may already be done – check)
- Electrical jobs
  - ⇒ Double power point for fridges
  - ⇒ Wire both ceiling fans in to single switch so that both run simultaneously (if only one fan is running, cooking smells are forced down through the other fan)
  - ⇒ Relocate kitchen lights switch to front door (from corner to the left of the sink)
  - ⇒ 2 x double power points near kettle/microwaves (freed up by moving above light switch and rewiring ceiling fans)
  - ⇒ 2 x power points between fridge and hot plates (charging mobile phones etc)
  - ⇒ Improve TV reception
- Paint bedroom doors
- Repaint rear door
- Repaint front door
- Fit door closer on screen door at front.
- Refit toilet roll holder (loose)
- Other jobs as might be identified between now and then

### Fishing on 20th March!!!!!!

**Just a reminder that those members who participate in the working bee are entitled to free accommodation on either the night of Friday 18<sup>th</sup> or Saturday 18<sup>th</sup>.**

# ONE BUTCHER, TWO BOYS AND THREE FISH

By Lachlan, Oscar and John Clark

**JOHN:** I'd taken the kids on a trip to the lakes in the last week of the school holidays hoping to get them going on the new 4wt's I'd bought them for Christmas. Lachie, our ten year old, was casting ok and had actually missed a couple of takes at Arthurs but was getting frustrated with the gardening aspect of shrubbery leaping up and catching his backcast. When I saw the club night advertised, I thought this could be the best way to attach the boys to their first fish on the fly. The evening was perfect with barely a breeze which might have had something to do with the great attendance. We arrived with anticipation and were buoyed even more by the sight of dragonflies, damselflies and spinners all over the water and the odd fish rising in the middle. It wasn't long before on the far side, Graeme Bourke nailed one on the black woolly worm and Peter Burr was getting orders to go gillie for his better half. Meanwhile on our side.....

**LACHIE:** I had just about had enough of fly-fishing. All that casting and stripping and getting caught in the weeds behind me. It's all too much work for a small guy like me. Over the past few years I've had some bad experiences with fly-fishing and I really wanted to change that. When I heard that we were going fishing at Reid McLachlan's dam I knew that was just the place to do so. It was a still, cloudy night with nothing to do but fish. When we arrived dad took us a fair way round the dam to the point where he thought this spot will do us just fine. So I set up my rod, and looked at the flies we had and said "that one, the silver butcher that I tied up" so I tied him on whilst dad tied on a 007 under the royal wulff for my brother.

I got caught a bit on the tussocks but managed to stay fairly calm and after I had a couple of blind casts I strip in and **BANG** I'm on. I think I sort of had a panic attack coz' the guys fishing next to us were crackin' up laughing when I shouted "What do I do Dad?!? What do I do?" The fish took nearly all my fly line so I had to palm the reel to slow him up a bit because I haven't got any backing. After a bit I finally got him in close

enough for dad to net him. But not close enough for everybody not to shout "JUMP IN JOHN, JUMP IN" but unfortunately he didn't have to, which would have been funny. A nice two-pound rainbow he was. Dad tried to talk me out of it, but I had to keep him. I hit him on the head, had a picture and put him in the net.

Because dad and my eight year old brother Oscar hadn't had a bite yet, dad said "I think you should let Oscar have a go now." Now it was getting dark and the fish were coming in a bit more and dad cast the fly right in front of a fish and wadda ya know he's on. For some reason he didn't freak out as much as I did even though he's two years younger than me. He gotta nice two pounder.



Dad threw the fly into the water to keep it out of the grass, while Oscar dealt with the fish. My turn now. Now this is the really crazy thing. I go to pick up my line and zzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzz off goes my line. This was a real biggy this one; probably a two and a half pounder this one. Dad doesn't want this one so we threw it back. After we finished we said goodbye to Reid and went home. When we got home mum was soooooo proud of us for catching those fish. I gutted them both in the laundry sink. I had soooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo much fun.

**OSCAR:** On Thursday afternoon, dad Lachie and I went fishing at Reid's dam. Lachie wanted to put a silver butcher on which Dad didn't think would be the best, but he put it on anyway. I put on a 007 under a royal wulff. At last we started fishing. At first we had no luck.

Just as I thought we had no chance, Lachie started shouting "I'm on! I'm on! This fish is wild!" Slowly he finally pulled it in. Dad said it would

muddy if we kept it but Lachie convinced Dad into keeping it. Then Dad said it was my turn on the 4wt.

We swapped rods and Dad cast it out for me. I counted to ten and gave a little strip, then counted to ten again. Two minutes later I was on. Now this was big and it went into the weed but I pulled it out. I started to walk back steering it into the net. It was a bit bigger and more colored than Lachie's. Dad pulled the silver butcher out of its mouth and threw it into the water and Lachie took a picture on his phone.



After a bit, Lachie picked up the rod to cast, but something wouldn't let him. He soon realized he was on again. He brought that one in and we let him go and we had one more cast and packed up. I thought it was awesome, but I nearly fell asleep in the car on the way home I was so tired.

**JOHN:** I was very proud of the boys and a moment I'll never forget. First fish on the fly is a real achievement, especially on a fly tied by one of them. The fish went 800 and 900 grams cleaned, so were a good two pounds live weight. They were fat and thick across the shoulders, in excellent condition. The stomach contents were full of snails, which might explain why the third fish picked up the fly off the bottom. The flesh was very orange as a result of the snail feeding. We were told the fish would be “muddy” which is to be expected so I had the boys marinate the fillets prior to cooking. This recipe worked a treat.

*Note by the editor: Originally the yummy recipe was mentioned here. I will print it in a later edition.*



## The Silver Butcher



The butcher pattern originated in 1836 in Tunbridge Wells, United Kingdom by a local butcher called Mr Moon, hence it was originally called the Moon Fly. I don't know anyone personally who uses this classic English winged wet fly, but I'd heard about someone using a Bloody Butcher as an attractor in a three fly set up, so I'd photocopied the tying instructions for the nearest thing. It was in my collection of photocopies that Lachie had spotted and decided to tie it up. The materials in order of tying are below.



Hook: Size 8-14 wet fly

Thread: Black

Tail: Traditionally, red ibis or feather fibers. We used red wool and cut shorter.

Body: Flat silver tinsel

Rib: Fine oval silver tinsel

Hackle Beard: Black cock

Wing: Traditionally mallard blues or blue black crow secondary feathers.

# **A Hand Full of Firsts**

**By Stuart MacAulay**

## **The Lead up**

On the 20<sup>th</sup> December 2010 I had a full right hip replacement. This operation prevented me from attending the Bronte camp as a second year participant in January much to my disappointment.

Over Christmas and the New Year I was cheered up during my convalescence from surgery with receiving as part of my Christmas gifts a new fly rod, a Redington CT Trout Classic 4 Weight 4 piece and in addition to this, a set of Fly Cards (Daniel Hackett).

I obviously had a lot of time on my hands as I was off work for 6 weeks and did not gain clearance to return to work until 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2011. During this time between exercising and to prevent boredom setting in I spent numerous hours at the fly tying vice perfecting the numerous flies featured on the fly cards in addition to other flies in various books etc. I have probably tied far too many but it was educational to say the least. This time also gave me a great opportunity to practice the skills I learned from Stan and others at the fly tying during the winter months in 2010.

On Sunday the 6<sup>th</sup> February I awoke reasonably early and looked out the bedroom window to see a reasonably clear day with some intermittent cloud cover and little wind. These looked like ideal conditions to flick a fly so without hesitation I loaded my fishing gear into the CRV and away I went. My destination was a local dam on the Clayton Rivulet where I had previous success prior to my operation. This time however, I would fish from the opposite side, a different farm and owner and by doing this I would be able to drive right to the waters edge without putting too much stress on my new hip even though I was moving quite well on it now.

## Now for the Firsts

I arrived at the water and eagerly rigged my new fly rod with great anticipation. I spent some 5 minutes examining the water from a safe distance, a light wind from the south west was evident and much to my surprise apart from the odd platypus showing itself there was no other surface activity. Under these circumstances I decided my chosen patterns were to be a **Deer Hair emerger (DHE) size 12** pattern with the deer hair smothered in liquid floatant and suspended under this off the bend of the hook some 16 inches below was a Black & Peacock bead head (Copper) size 14. After degreasing the leader, tippet and dropper with mud I then proceeded stealthily towards the waters edge which required pushing through heavy dam side rushes & reeds.

I carefully cast approx 5 metres from the edge and as indicated in the many reviews I had read prior to purchasing this new rod it turned the fly over beautifully and landed as light as a feather (no pun intended). I waited and waited watching the emerger indicator intently. No action so I carefully raised the rod and ensured I threw the flies up high to eliminate catching the reeds to the rear, the cast this time gently settled approximately 10 metres out but to the left side, I could faintly make out submerged weed beds below the surface in this area.

**ACTION AT LAST** - the DHE disappeared quite deliberately below the surface in a typical bubble float fashion. 1,000 – 2,000 I then lifted very definitively and immediately felt the weight of a fish. The fish made a determined run towards the reeds and rushes to secure its freedom, this run necessitated me to place some side strain in an attempt to turn the fish. This was successful resulting in the fish making a run directly toward me and I was afforded a first view with my Polaroid's. A very nice female brownie and quite large which made me realize that the

line from the bend of the hook on the indicator was only 4lb therefore I had better be careful otherwise a bust off was imminent. After a couple more desperate runs for freedom I managed to finesse the fish close enough to get the fish to swim into the net. What a fish, weighed in on my digital scales at 3.26lbs straight out of the water.

1. My first trout for 2011
2. My first trout on new right hip
3. My first trout on new trout rod
4. My first trout on the beetle type bead head pattern suspended under a dry indicator
5. My first trout caught from that particular side of the dam

## Summary

It was little wonder that this fish inhaled this bead head black & peacock which imitates beautifully a beetle or snail as this fish was very fat and was full of snail with traces of damsel fly nymphs.

I was very impressed with the way my new rod handled this fish, my initial thoughts once I was afforded a glimpse of the trout was maybe I was fishing too light, the rod lived up to the many reviews and in my view passed all aspects with flying colours.



Redington released this series of rods (CT Trout Classic) onto the market sometime in 2010 and I'm not sure whether they are in fact readily available here in Australia as yet.

# Waders Justified

By Stuart MacAulay

Quite apart from the safety side of Waders where we may in the course of our travels be confronted with one of those wriggly venomous snakes where the wader does I'm told offer some protection to the penetration of a bite. Hopefully I will never test whether this in fact or fiction.

And of course there is also the need to stay dry in what can be chilling conditions at any time in the Tasmanian weather calendar.

I have noted on my travels a number of fishermen not wearing waders when they fish, most would appear to be new to the game but this brief article may convince them of the need to invest in a pair.

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## **Devonport Fly Fishing Club: fishing trip 17<sup>th</sup> February**

This event took place on Thursday evening 17<sup>th</sup> February 2011 at Club president's residence at Railton. The event was very well attended by members and about 8 fish (Rainbows) were caught throughout the evening. These fish were of very good size, most going well over the Kilogram and putting up a great fight for their freedom. Due to the drop off into the water it was difficult to land these fish without waders or at least an extremely long handled net.

I was one of the lucky ones and caught a fish towards dark, Reid McLachlan kindly netted this fish for me, however my method of release did not bid well for this fish as it lay on its back in the reeds, this was because I threw the fish back in rather than placed and assisted it to swim. This then necessitated me getting into the water and assisting the fish on its way otherwise it may not have survived. I was thankful for wearing my waders and be able to assist this fish.

John Clarkes boys showed us all up on the evening, I believe they caught 3 of the fish caught, Graeme Bourke caught the first fish and then another later on, I believe on a black Woolley Worm type fly. Conditions on the night were Idyllic, thank you Reid for making your place available.

### **Kindred Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February**

Bad weather was predicted for the Weekend so as soon as I finished work I headed straight up to my regular spot in Kindred. I decided to use the 6 weight rod on this occasion as there was a south east wind blowing lightly but with occasional heavier gusts. I moved cautiously along the dam wall end casting a Black Woolley Bugger 11 pattern out amongst the obvious weed beds. All to no avail, I moved further along the wall when suddenly I spotted a largish Brownie very close into the bank and heading my way. Don't you just love it, when you hit the panic button and try to cast too quickly and get all tangled up in leader and line wrapped around the top of the rod. Needless to say that was the last I saw of that trout. I then moved around to the spot where I have been very successful previously this season. I cast out between two lots of significant reed clusters and commenced the slow jerky retrieval of the Black Woolley Bugger, (the same fly which had been successful the previous night at Reid's Dam). A sudden pull on the line and it was on for young and old; the explosive power

of this fish was unbelievable. This female brownie got airborne on two occasions in between lightening fast powerful runs which had the line tearing off the reel.



The fish made several attempts to get into the offshore reed cluster to my right; I successfully put side strain on the fish to prevent this from happening initially. The fish made another fast desperate run peeling approx 10 metres of line before turning back towards the

reed cluster. The fish was beaten but had managed to wrap itself and line around one of the reed stalks offshore. I only had 5 lb tippet on and the fish was lying upside down. Using my short handled tennis rack style net I cautiously waded out, checking my footholds on the muddy surface whilst keeping tension on the line to the fish. Fortunately there was another small cluster of reeds and rushes between me and the fish which enabled me to use as a platform, nevertheless I was still up to my midriff in water, reaching out and pulling at same time I was able to net the fish and release the reed which the line was wrapped around. I should mention at this point that I was wearing a very tight waist belt as part of wader safety so was not fearful of drowning just having an unwanted swim. Without the waders I would never have retrieved this fish and of course the fish would have died. As you will see from the Pictures that would have been a crying shame.

