

# SPRING

## NEWSLETTER

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“Our aim is to  
promote all facets  
of fly fishing and  
good fellowship”



Steve Crowley winner of the opening day photo competition



### CONTACT DETAILS

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# FROM THE EDITOR



*Danny Thomas and Peter Burr with their opening day fish*



Since the last publication it seems like the club has been extremely busy. We've had three months of some pretty great fly tying. We must thank all our guest tyers for giving up their time and sharing their expertise with us.

We have a new executive with a combination of new and re-elected members. Stan Laskey is the incoming President and, in this issue, I bring to you a reflection on his lifetime of fishing by our outgoing President David Best.

As a female angler, it was exciting news to hear that Australia will have its first every ladies fly fishing team. Even more exciting is that our very own Anna Bellette has been selected as a reserve in the team which also includes Karen Brooks. It is quite an achievement and recognition of their talent that a small state like Tasmania has two representatives in this team. The club is justifiably proud of Anna and I'm really pleased to be able to present a feature article from her in this issue.

There were quite a few nice fish caught at the club dam on opening day with Peter Burr landing the first fish of the day.

I hope you enjoy the newsletter. Big thank you to everyone who has contributed.

Editor.

# Feature Article –

## by Anna Bellette



Competitors and Controllers

### MY JOURNEY INTO COMPETITION FLY FISHING

The XVI Australian Master Games, Fly Fishing Championships were held in Tasmania in October 2017. Competition fly fishing was something I had heard about from some of the local fishing guys in Hobart, which I had thought was something far out of reach for me. The thought of not being good enough and the



Reel Girls - Anna Bellette, Jane Foster, Karen Brooks

We were called the Reel Girls.

unknown just kept it at bay. Malcolm Crosse visited me at work one day with Glenn Eggleton and pretty much said, "you're in the ladies' team with Jane Foster and Karen Brooks". That was pretty much the way I got into comp fishing. At that point not many ladies were competing, and it was going to be a first for the master's games to have a fly fishing event with a ladies fly fishing team, and a first for me.



It was scary and there was no backing out now. I was in the lady's team and had to go ahead whether I was ready or not. The allocated venues were Talbots Lagoon (from a motorised boat), Mersey River and Natone Fly Fishery. Looking at the waters we were fishing made everything better, fishing Talbots from a boat was all worth it. I was going just so I could do that.

## *"I cringe to think now of the leader I had on."*

John Hepburn was kind enough to put me up for the week while I was travelling back and forth to the allocated comp waters, I tied a few flies with John before the comp as well as getting my rods and reels ready. I cringe to think now of the leader I had on which was probably the line from the last time I fished. I had no proper concept of intermediate and sinking lines. I think I fished with my normal floating line and a borrowed sinking line. Fishing with fluorocarbon was not even something I thought about. With

very little experience with fly fishing from a boat and the different types of fishing methods, I felt way in over my head. I now know not to focus so much on the fly but the fishing method, the ecology of the lake, inlets, soaks etc. Anyone can give you a fly but how you fish it is key.

John and I did a road trip prior to the Games, we headed to Gunn's Plains for a practice and a look at the waters. Around this time is when I started to think about Czech Nymphing and now know what an effective

river method this is.

When you think about it, the fish are feeding under the surface most of the time, you just have to figure out what depth to fish, weight of the tungsten bead to put on for the water conditions. On this day I am pretty sure I hooked more sticks and rocks than I cared to remember, although I have been told if you are hooking up on the



Boats on the shore of Talbots Lagoon

bottom occasionally you are doing it right.

The days began leaving Devonport around 5am each day to head to the briefing each morning at Burnie, then off to our allocated waters to compete. We got to fish Talbots first, from a motorised boat, I was excited, but not so happy when I got in the boat and forgot my score card. Steaming time was around five minutes to

get to your desired location on the water. Fishing from a boat in comps you stay seated at all times (other than when netting a fish). There were two sessions, each three hours long. In each session, an hour and half is allocated to each angler to control the boat and where they fish. You are only allowed to fish your half of the boat, imagine a line between you and your opponent which you cannot cross. The other angler watches you measure your fish and you both agree on the correct length.



The minimum score size was 20cm and 100 points were awarded for all fish measured over minimum size. An additional 20 points per cm is added for all scoring fish. Brown trout, Rainbows, Atlantic Salmon and Native Grayling were the species that all counted in this competition.

## *"I was horrified when Peter Brooks pointed out to me how I should have fished."*

I remember getting my gear ready at the Mersey river, no strategic plan in mind until well after my first session. I fished it like I would have gone for a casual fish. We had at least 300 meters each for our beat

and a controller keeping time and scoring any fish I caught during my session. I was horrified when Peter Brooks pointed out to me how I should have fished, I needed to break my beat up and fish every part of it in the three hours I had. I went into my next session with a different view and fished my next session way better with four fish on the board.



through his beat. Despite this he still managed to pull fish out of his section. I was amazed at this as I always thought you had to be stealthy in your approach. Not this day, the angler was strategic, he hit the water he knew held fish, and headed back before his time was up to re fish that section knowing he would pull fish out once again. Some of these guys have been competing for years and know how to fish every inch of the water, they know what to avoid so they don't waste time and that is why they succeed. To me, watching these guys has been a lesson in itself.

I remember the angler in the next beat was pulling fish out after fish and running back and forth



Malcolm Crosse and I sharing lunch

Some have 3 to 4 rods set up ready to go, even walking their beat before the session so they know exactly where to use the rods and when. Sometimes placing them at certain points along their stretch of water.

The last sessions were at Natone Fishery, we had certain beats marked along the shore, I had more success here catching fish. Just letting the fly sink and counting down and bam, you were on. There are some very big fish in this water, every fish I caught scored. I was happy. I remember Craig Coltman wasn't too far from me and he caught the largest fish that day, it was a very big rainbow. We were close enough to see how others fished, not the flies but how they fished which was important to me.

When I look back now, this was the perfect way to get into comp fishing. I have fished in State Championships, most of the locations are in the Northern part of the State, Mersey, Meander, Four Springs, Joseph Chromey Winery, and the Tyenna which is closer to home for me. Some of the Lakes fished were Pine, Bronte, Woods Lake, Highland Waters and Penstock. You get to fish with some excellent anglers who are at the top level. I have fished two Nationals, one in Victoria, at Falls Creek and the other in NSW at Tumut. There have been days I thought this was not for me but when I look back at what I have learnt in such a short space of time, this outweighs the negatives. The people you get to fish with is a bonus, and you get to learn so much from them especially when fishing in a boat. I would say It has definitely been worth it.

March this year a few girls and I went on a trip to NZ at Taupo to fish the waters that will be in the Commonwealth Fly Fishing Championships in 2020. I am so glad I did because I have been chosen, as a reserve, in the first ever Australian Ladies Fly Fishing Team. It is an honor that I will be representing Australia and I am glad that ladies have been recognised in this sport. Who knows down the track we may even have a ladies only competition?

I would say to anyone wanting to have a go at competition fishing, you will definitely learn and grow from the experience and who knows where it could lead to. You do need to be a member of Fly Fish Australia to compete and they even have a section for Young Guns, it is designed to help develop skills in the next generation of competition fly fishers.

<http://flyfishaustralia.com.au/cms/>

## Anna Bellette



# CLUB REPORTS – Fly Tying



Stuart MacAulay



## Fly Tying Weekend

Everyone who attended fly tying weekend would have to agree it was a great success for so many reasons. Members turned up in force, the Lodge was almost at capacity and we all learnt from a fantastic tyer in Neil Grose.

Neil demonstrated 13 flies and talked about when and how to fish them. John Clarke filmed the weekend and produced a series of very professional videos. These are a great resource to be able to rewatch and hone ones skills.

The tying was done at the Miena Community Centre and what a fantastic venue that is! The catering was exceptional, the welcome warm and the centre perfect.

You can watch the videos of Neil tying each of the flies here:

[https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=Neil+Grose+Fly+Tying+DFFC+2019](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=Neil+Grose+Fly+Tying+DFFC+2019)



## TYERS IN ACTION

Neil demonstrated:

- ❖ Peacock & Brown Woolly Worm -  
*"Some of the best fishing I've had with this fly has been at the Bronte Broadwater"* Neil Grose
- ❖ Claret Hatch Breaker - Wet Black Beetle - Claret Dabbler Bobs Bits - Split Rock Nymph- Glister Tag - Claret Carrot Slim Plipping Nymph - Black Zulu Tag



Tino teaching Bryan a few tips



Vanessa Clarke – tying with style



There wasn't much mischief had over the two days and fly tying *is* obviously very tiring. Our outgoing President, David Best took the opportunity for a power nap or was it a powered nap?

# Recipe – Steve Crowley



## SMOKED TROUT DIP

4 teaspoons gelatine, 1/2 cup hot water. Blend together until dissolved.

Put into food processor,  
1/2 bunch spring onions  
2 teaspoons of chicken stock powder  
Lemon juice  
1 cup mayonnaise  
Gelatine dissolved with hot water  
Smoked trout.

Blend all together then add 1 cup of cream. Blend again.

You have to wing it a bit on a couple of the quantities and I always add some chilli.

*(I add chilli to almost everything)*

# Great Lake Tie-In – Anna Bellette



## GREAT LAKE TIE-IN 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2019



**FRIDAY 22ND NOV 2019**  
**Inland Fisheries**  
**'Talk Trout Tasmania'**  
Great Lake Community  
Centre, Miena  
7pm – 9pm

**SATURDAY 23RD NOV 2019**  
**Fly Tying Demos**  
Great Lake Community  
Centre, Miena  
10am – 4pm

► Kids welcome  
.....  
► Food will be available  
at the venue  
.....  
► Entry by gold coin  
donation

**FOR MORE DETAILS**  
Head to our fb page  
or email us at:  
[glti.info@glti.org.au](mailto:glti.info@glti.org.au)

The Great Lake Tie-In which is usually held in mid-October has been changed to coincide with the World Fly Fishing Championships. We hope to get some international anglers coming through.

For those who are unaware, the Tie-In was relaunched after many years. Originally held in Bronte Park. The Bronte Tie-in was relaunched in 2016 by the instigation of Graham Blight and is now held at Miena, Great Lake Community Centre.

The committee consist of Graham Blight, Marion Blight who looks after the silent auction, Steven Butler, Malcolm Crosse and me. We all work together to make this event happen each year.

The community center is an amazing facility and I remember sitting with Graham after the very first relaunch, we both looked at each other and said "this may go terribly wrong if no one turns up or we get heaps of interest", thankfully the car park was overflowing by midday and the interest continues to grow each year.

The Bronte Tie-In in the past was held over two days. Tyers during that time included Noel Jetson, Laurie Matcham, Tony Dell, Brian McCullagh just to name a few. Tony Dell and Brian continue to participate at the GLTi with Brian happily sharing his knowledge of dyeing of materials for fly tying.

A new addition from the old tie-in is the inclusion of the trade tables which Graham suggested and works in well. We have EJ Todd with Ken Orr and Graham Todd, Anchor wetsuits with Neoprene waders, Tracey can custom make your waders and even make them in pink if needed. The guys from SpotOn Fishing Connection in Hobart will have tying materials for sale. Craft stalls include etched glasses, custom wood burnt chopping boards, Ros Moy with Trout cushions and blankets, Seleste Scott with craft cards and Stan Griffin painting on the day and art on display.



We have relaunched the tie-in to go just for one day.

Last year IFS trialed a forum on the Friday night which was well attended. At least six staff attended, each speaking in the areas they deal with, carp management program, stocking etc.

This year IFS will return on the Friday night, topic will be "Talk trout Tasmania". Well worth popping in and hearing what is happening around Tassie and have a chat to the guys.

This will be held at the Community Centre from 7 till 9. They will also have a stand at the tie-in.

You will see some of the best tyers around the state all in one location, and even interstate tyers. Mick Hall is keen to return with Dale Flenly representing the Ballarat Club. They have been coming each year since the relaunch. We have filled all the 22 places, with at least four ladies attending including Casey Pfeiffer. We also have Tino, Craig Rist, Shane Broadby, Glenn Szalman and more.

The committee at the community center will cater for the event, they are well known for their amazing cooking skills, Guinness pies, scones jam and cream, BBQ lunch and more.

Entry is by gold coin donation and we hold a silent auction on the day which goes towards funding the event each year.

Anything to do with fly fishing will be on offer on the day and you can keep up to date with the tie-in on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/346432735791644/>



Brian McCullough will be at the tie-in again. He will have a display and demonstrate the process of dyeing materials.

# Casting Competition



## DEVONPORT FLY FISHING CLUB / CORRALINN ANNUAL CASTING COMPETITION



The DFFC / Corralinn annual casting competition was well supported on the first weekend, but unfortunately numbers were down when we visited Corralinn – let's see if we can do better next year.

# “And the trophy

## goes to ...

### Devonport



Nathan accepting the trophy on behalf of DFFC



Rack of weapons – apparently the ones the partners don't know about  
Sorry men, the secret is out!



# Events & Calendar

**INTRO TO EURO NYMPHING CLINIC**

HOSTED BY DEVONPORT FLY FISHING CLUB  
AND SHE'S SO FLY

2/3 NOVEMBER 2019 - LADIES | 25/26 JANUARY 2020 - OPEN

MEANDER VALLEY TASMANIA | \$120 PER HEAD  
INCLUDES TUITION SATURDAY AND SUNDAY,  
FLY TYING SATURDAY EVENING AND HIRE OF RODS/REELS/LINES.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BOOK CONTACT  
CASEY AT [SHESSOFLY@OUTLOOK.COM](mailto:SHESSOFLY@OUTLOOK.COM) | 0497 633 946



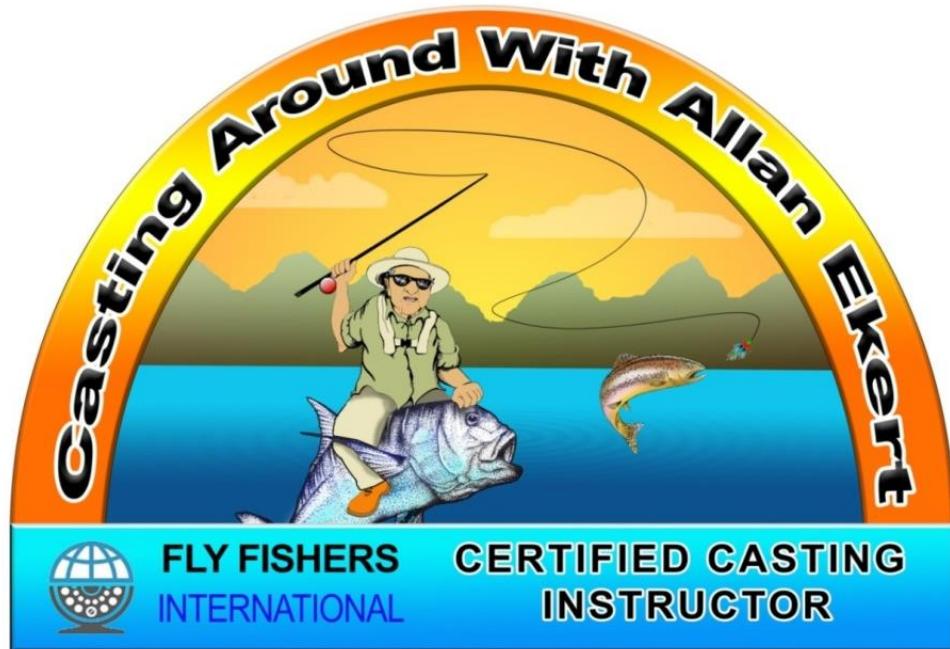
## REMINDERS



- 5 October - Annual Dinner
- 5 – 10 January – Bronte Fly Fishing School
- If you are interested in being a coordinator for any club event, please email the secretary
- Great Lake Tie-In
- Subs are now due
- Bookings for Devon Lodge now need to be made by email at [devonlodge.dffc@gmail.com](mailto:devonlodge.dffc@gmail.com)

Sat, 7-Sep-19	Club Event – 2-late	South Riana Dam	Danny Thomas
Thur, 12-Sep-19	Fly Tying	Devonport RSL Club	Stan Lasky
Sun, 15-Sep-19	Club Event – 2.00 – late	Four Springs	John Hepburn
Thur 26-Sep-19	Monthly Meeting 7.30 – 9.30	Devonport RSL Club	Stan Lasky
Sat 5-Oct-19	Annual Dinner	Devonport RSL Club	David Best / Phil Bloomfield
Wed 9-Oct-19	Club Event 4.30 onwards	Lamberts No. 2 Railton	Laurie Baird
Sun 13-Oct-19	Club Event – Sea Runners	Bells Parade	
Saturday 19-Oct-19	Club Event – 2pm onwards	Merseylea	
Date	Event	Venue	Coordinator
Wednesday 30-Oct-19	Club Event 4.30 onwards	Sunnyside	Reid McLaughlin
Thursday 31-Oct-19	Monthly Meeting 7.30-9.30 Guest – Casey and Lubin Pfeiffer	Devonport RSL Club	Julie Butler
Sat 2-Nov – 3-Nov-19	Euro Nymphing with Casey Pfyffer – Girls event – Limited numbers - book through <a href="mailto:shessofly@outlook.com">shessofly@outlook.com</a> or <a href="mailto:newsletter.dffc@gmail.com">newsletter.dffc@gmail.com</a>	Mersey River	Julie Butler
Sat 9-Nov-19	Club Event 2pm – dark	Four Springs	John Hepburn
Saturday 16-Nov-19	Club Event 8am-6pm Weigh-in 6.30pm @ lodge	Nineteen Lagoons	Julie Butler
Sunday 17-Nov-19	Club Event cont.	Little Pine	
Wednesday 20-Nov-19	Club Event 4pm onwards	Merseylea	John Roebuck
Saturday 23-Nov-19	Great Lake Tie In 10.00am – 4.00pm	Great Lake Community Centre	
Sunday 24-Nov-19	Fishing pm Club Event	Arthur's Lake Cow Paddock Arthurs	
Thursday 28-Nov-19	Monthly Meeting 7.30-9.30	Devonport RSL Club	
Saturday 30-Nov-19 - Sunday 8-Dec-19	World Fly Fishing Championships start	Various Venues	
Sunday 15-Dec-19	End of Year BBQ	Winspears Dam	
Wednesday 18-Dec-	19 Club Event 4.30-late	Sunnyside	Reid McLaughlin

# Casting Around – Allan Ekert



August 2019

If you can't cast very well ....

Those of you who have been following the articles over the last few months on the **Fly Casting Skills Challenge Program** will be glad to hear that we have reached the last level and although there are more advanced levels I will not be writing about them. It's time to move on to something new.

Casting Around began in 2011 in the Corralinn Fly Fishing and Casting Association's newsletter. It started as a column on teaching casting skills. Over the years it has evolved into "the random ravings of a certified casting instructor" and found its way into other club newsletters. After so many articles you may think I have written about every aspect of casting imaginable. But, if you were hoping I have run out of things to write about you will be disappointed. This month I intend writing about some of the people I have watched casting over the years. Many of them couldn't cast very well. Don't worry, I won't be naming names and assure you any similarity to any person living or dead is merely coincidental!

Whenever I see someone casting a fly rod I am compelled to watch. In the early days I watched to help me learn. There is no sense in having a mentor or taking casting lessons if you do not watch and learn from their casting. Making comparisons is a great motivator for wanting to improve. Since achieving some proficiency in casting I still try to watch as many people as I can especially all those who cast better than I do ... and that's a lot of people. I also watch beginners and those who have been casting for years but still can't cast very well. Many of these people have a lot in common with the legendary Joe Schmakapop (If you haven't met Joe Schmakapop you will find him in my May 2017 column). Joe, aka Mel Krieger, proudly boasts: "I don't cast very well but I catch fish."

So for all of those people I have watched over the years who “don’t cast very well” here is my top 10 countdown of what you can do to become a better caster. I think we have all tried some of these at one time or another but unfortunately some of us never get to the real solution which you can read about when you get to my number one tip for becoming a better caster.

**10. If you can't cast very well** the simple solution is to not go fly fishing. You can catch plenty of fish with lures and bait so why make life difficult for yourself. You'll save a lot of money and you won't have to tell anyone you can't cast very well!

**9. If you can't cast very well** don't go fishing on windy days. An old friend (and probably ex friend after he reads this) always answered my invitation to go fly fishing with the question “what's the wind doing?” He soon learnt he had to cope with the wind if he wanted to fish with me. You could wait for the calm days to go fly fishing but you won't go fishing very often.

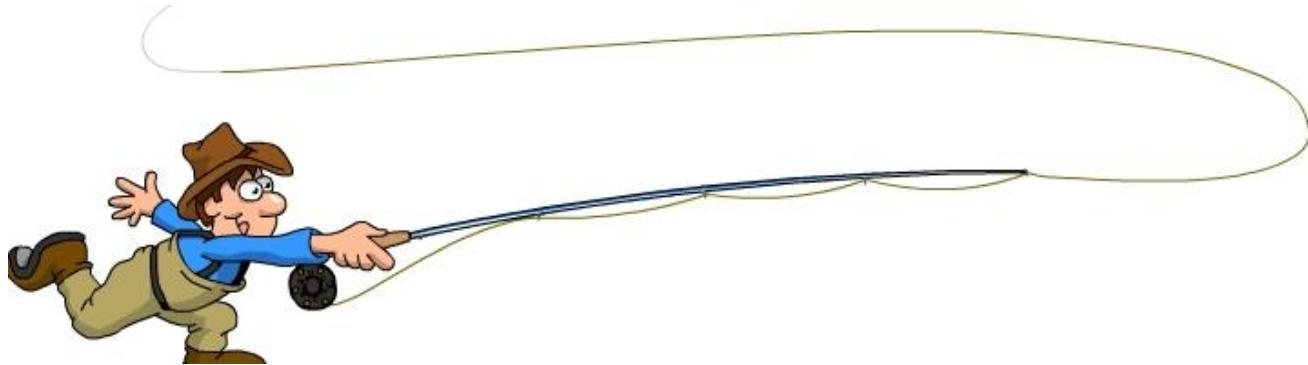


**8. If you can't cast very well** buy a new fly rod. I fell into this trap when I started out. All my problems were the fault of a “cheap” fly rod. Well the new fly rod didn't make a lot of difference for me and it won't for you unless you realize you have to cast the rod. By all means buy a new fly rod but don't expect it to solve all your casting problems.

**7. If you can't cast very well** get a double handed fly rod. To start with most double handed rods are 3 or 4 feet longer and that means you don't have to cast the line as far. Using two hands lets you apply more force and you get to use much heavier lines. Don't worry about all the complicated techniques to cast a single handed rod, get a double hander and use more power. I'm sure it would work on spring creeks!

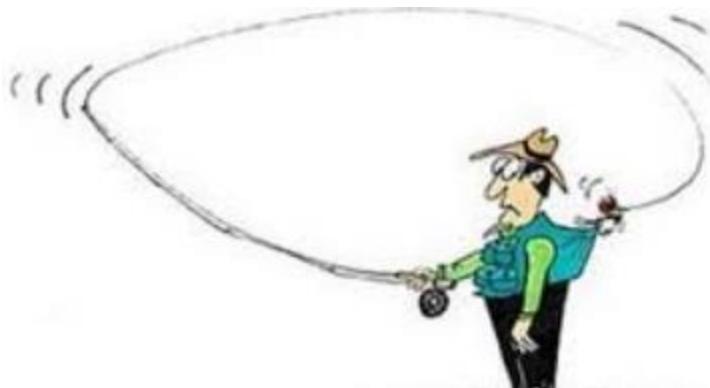
**6. If you can't cast very well** over line the rod and use a short leader. By using a heavier line than the rod is rated for you will be able to bend it easier. The heavy line will load the rod and make it do more of the work for you. A short leader will help prevent tangles and turn over big flies into the wind. Why go to all the trouble of learning to load and stop the rod if you can just shorten your leader and use a heavier line! After all most fish are caught within 30feet and you only need a long leader if you are going to New Zealand!

**5. If you can't cast very well** use more power. All males know if something isn't working you just need to apply more force. The more power you exert the more the rod bends and the line goes faster ... into a tailing loop! I can always tell when someone is using too much power even before I see the cast ... I can hear the swish of the rod from miles away even without hearing aids!



4. **If you can't cast very well** make sure you learn to double haul. The double haul adds line speed and in the right hands adds distance to any cast. I see a lot of people who think they are double hauling but really they are only hauling once. You can single haul on the back or forward cast and it can be effective but if you double haul it produces twice the result. Unfortunately, many people don't use the double haul correctly. In the words of the late Lefty Kreh "most fishermen use the double haul to throw their mistakes further."

3. **If you can't cast very well** make more false casts. The good thing about fly fishing is you can make as many false casts as you like to get it right. Making lots of false casts allows you time to judge your distance and accuracy. Making lots of false casts also increases the chances of something going wrong. The last cast syndrome is very real. I often find myself counting the number of false casts people make and calculating how much energy they are wasting ... and how many fish they are spooking!



2. **If you can't cast very well** watch YouTube. There are thousands of videos on YouTube which will teach you all you need to know about getting better at fly casting. All you have to do is follow exactly what they say and do and you can't help but improve. You may find conflicting advice and you may find you can already cast better than some of the people demonstrating, but it's a lot easier than practicing.

1. **If you can't cast very well** my number one solution for becoming a better caster is: **GET a LESSON and PRACTICE!** You've tried the rest now try the best. There is no substitute for learning correct technique and practicing it under the watchful eye of an expert. You might catch fish like Joe Schmakapop but why put up with mediocre casting when you can learn to cast well.

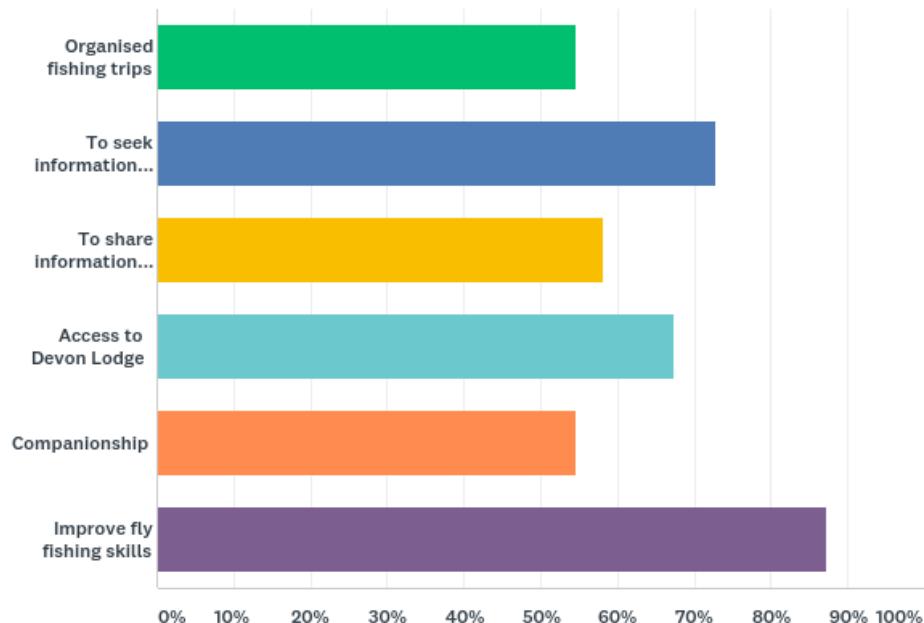
# Snapshot of Club Survey

Thanks to the 55 club members who completed the survey. Here is a snapshot of what you said you wanted.

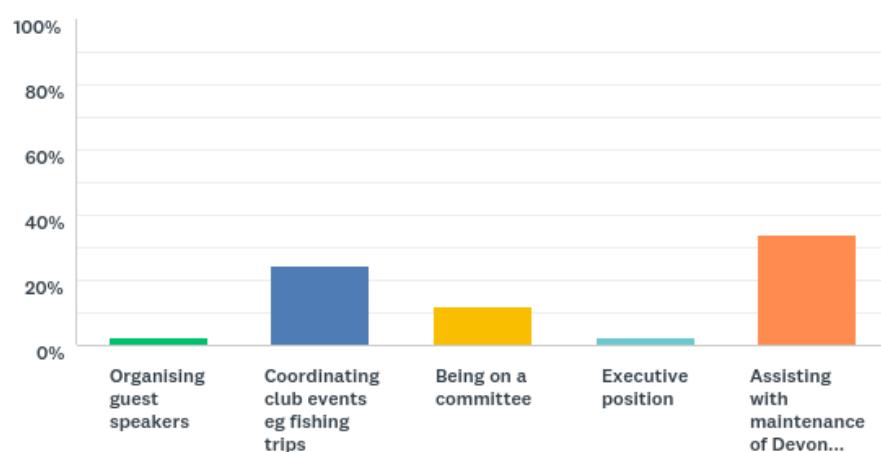
This is by no means the complete responses to the survey which will be released to members once everyone has had a chance to participate. Some comments are included but not all, again these will all be made available.

Yes, the survey is available in other formats. If you require a paper copy, large print, or other formats, please email the secretary with your postal details and we will get it to you. Now here is what you said:

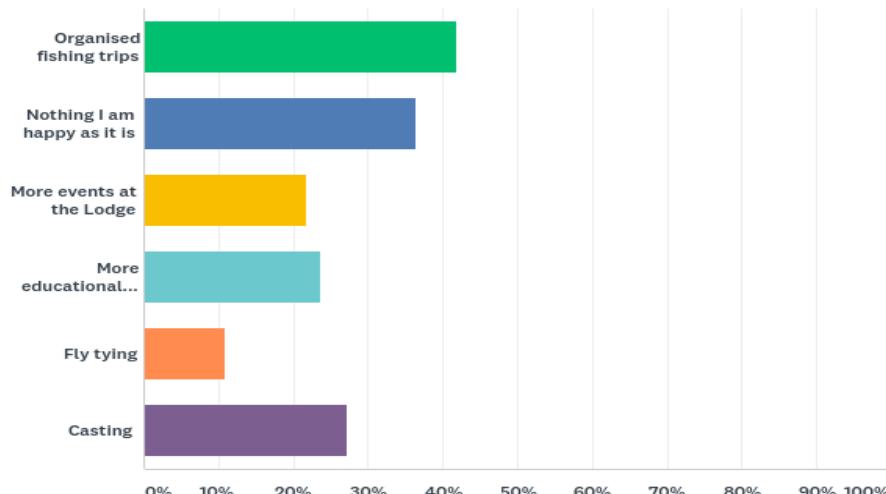
## Q2 What do you hope to get out of the club?



## Q4 Are you interested in assisting with the activities of the club?



### Q3 What should the club do more of?



## WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE CLUB

To support people in their start to fly fishing in a safe and welcoming environment.

Education and fellowship in the art of flyfishing      Organising a group of like minded people in the skills of flyfishing as well as comerradery      To provide the knowledge and skills for fly fishing and to provide opportunities and venues for them to enjoy the art of fly fishing.      To promote all aspects of fly fishing and to educate people about our natural fly fishing environment in Tasmania.

Provide a means for like-minded fly fishers to share fly fishing, fly tying and social events.

To encourage a shared passion for fly fishing      Encourage the growth of fly fishing in Tasmania, provide education and facilities to support all members and interested parties

Fellowship      To share knowledge and ideas to improve casting, fishing etc and to pass that knowledge on to those wishing to learn the art of fly fishing. A club whose main focus is flyfishing & flyfishing related activities

Learning, Sharing of knowledge, camaraderie, Regular group fishing outings involving rivers/Lakes/dams full gamut of fly fishing.

To promote the sport of fly fishing. To share knowledge, experience and skills with fellow members. To run the Bronte Fly Fishing School.      To promote fly fishing and an appreciation of the fresh and salt-water environments available to Tasmanian fly-fishers.

Comraderie      To promote fly fishing and companionship between members      Promote fly fishing.

To assist in an affordble approach to all levels of fly fishing,with great opportunity of purchasing flies and associated products at discounted rates      Comradeship with others interested in Flyfishing

To support members in their pursuit of fly fishing      To promote fellowship among fly fishers.

A place for like minded people to meet and share, learn and have fun.      Promote fly fishing for all ages and skill levels

To encourage participation in fly fishing      To promote fly fishing and casting.      To help encourage the sport of fly fishing

Promote fly fishing and fellowship      Friendship & advise.      Sharing of fishing knowledge.      Promote sustainable fishing practices

While the clubs aim is to promote flyfishing I think its main purpose is to bring members together to fish.

To enhance Fly Fishing experience through fellowship and education in all aspects of Fly Fishing and promote the sport to all newcomers no matter what level of skill they have      A gathering of people who share a common interest.

To bring together like minded people who like to fly fish and foster others young and older persons into a very relaxing and enjoyable sport      Promoting and supporting flyfishing in a friendly, welcoming and inclusive environment.

# A reflection - by

## Outgoing President – David Best

David grew up in Deloraine. “I was the second eldest son of Minnie and Max Best. I was born to fish.” He started fishing at the age of 4 when his father made him a fishing rod from a curtain rod and attached an old reel. His early fishing was done in Deloraine. David used his curtain rod fishing rod until his 6th Christmas when his dad gave him a little steel fishing rod. “I’ll never forget this, I went out fishing and I caught my first fish, a little perch about 4 inches long. I jumped straight on the bike and rode straight home. I said to mum I want to eat it straight away. Good old mum, she cooked it up and I ate it and jumped straight on the bike and back down fishing.”



“**I was born to fish**”

When David’s father went to Western Australia, he bought him back a Hardy’s fly rod which he still has.

“I’ve been very lucky in my life, because when I got married, I went to work in Campbelltown with the Ag. Department and did a hell of a lot of fishing. Up to Lake Leake and the Macquarie River”.

After 38 years with the Ag Department David retired at 55, then fished almost every day.

Early in David’s fishing days he was part of a fly group in Deloraine where he used to fish with Ned Terry. “But the best fisherman I ever knew was Jack Berger – he could catch fish out in the desert”

David took every opportunity to turn work into fishing. “I was working and Campbelltown and then I went to Oatlands and so I’d fish Lake Dulverton, I’ve caught some beautiful fish out of there. I’d work my work and think, it’s a good night tonight, so I’d go to Bothwell in the daytime and I’d come back through Lake Sorell and stop there and have a fish and come home.”

### What is your favorite water?

“Lake Sorell, I used to go into a place called Duck Bay. By god I’ve got some fish out of there, I caught a dozen many times.”

### Who has been your favorite person to fish with?

“An old chap I used to know when I lived in Campbelltown called Jack Perkins. As I was coming up the road he’d be pointing at the sky and within a matter of 10 minutes we’d be heading up to Lake Leake. He was a good old fellow. Then there was another chap that I was friends with, Bill Pullford from down at Ross, he was a very good fisherman.”

### A fishing story to remember

“Bill Pullford and I were going fishing at Lake Sorrell for the weekend. We took all the gear; the boat was full and my life jacket was underneath everything. We got across the lake into this bay called Duck Bay. We had tea and mucked about, went to bed and got up early the next morning. The fire was still going on a big log, we went off

*fishing and the wind came up and the sparks from the fire landed on the tent. If either of us was in the tent we would have been killed, we wouldn't have got out. It burnt all our gear, we were out fishing just in front, by the time we put her into gear and got into shore she was gone. We were pretty lucky."*

*"I used to enjoy Arthurs and I like Penstock, Woods – good lakes to fish. In the back lakes, Nineteen Lagoons, I used to walk in there with a chap called Charles Crowden, he's just passed away in his high 90's. We used to walk in there and have the time of our lives."*

## **"Gee I love the lakes"**

*"I used to go into the back lakes and just curly up in the sags and go to sleep, I know it was a bit dangerous with the snakes and all, but gee I love the lakes."*

### **Do you have a Favorite Fly?**

A long pause .... I couldn't tell if David was thinking or contemplating whether to tell me.

*"Yes, I have got a favorite fly. It's a wooly bugger. A brown that I tie myself, but I put a lot of lead in it. The idea of fishing a wooly bugger is to throw it out and leave it for 10 seconds, nine times out of ten I find, on the way down the fish will take it."*

*"Penstock is a good place to fish, it's a good place too because it's nice and close to the lodge, and you can nearly walk all over it. I'm not to do that anymore, in case I get this vertigo. There is no cure for it, it's not fun. One doctor said" "Fishing is finished", and I said, "No it's not", he said "Why not?" I said, "I love it, I've been fishing for 72 years, I don't want to die fishing, but I want to fish".*

*"Sixty-four fish in one day is the most fish I've caught, in Deloraine. I took them home; my dad went mad."*

David lost count of how many times he got his bag out of Arthurs. *"Working for the government I'd leave at dinner time and meet dad up there; he owned a shop in Launceston at the time. By the time he got there I'd have half a dozen."*

*"Four Springs is a good lake, beautiful, sometimes I'd go out there and get up the next morning and go again."*

### **How long have you been a member of the DFFC?**

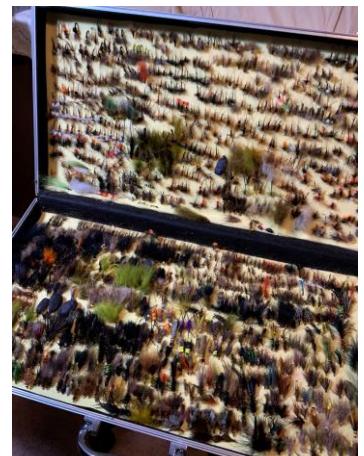
*"I've been part of the club since it started, I went the first night and I'm not sure I've missed one meeting in the 25 years. We saw it in the paper. Anthony and I saw it in the paper, we were fly fishing." he said, "We ought to go." I said, "Yeah but we won't go at the start, we don't want a job, we'll see what happens."*

*"It's been a very, very good club. We've had some good meetings and good times, top times you know."*

*"I find fly fishing so relaxing, I used to go out in my boat, I'd sit there and cast all day and think nothing about it."*

### **What do you think about fishing these days?**

*"It's easier these days, you can drive straight to a lake. Take Four Springs, it's so easy to get to. If you've got the patience and the time, you can still catch plenty of fish."*



# Office Bearers

President – Stan Laskey

Snr Vice President – Max Jones

Jn Vice President – Damian Hingston

Secretary – Bruce Marshall

Treasurer Reid McLachlan

Patrons – Ashley Artis and Geoff Winspear

Security Officer – George Surman

Librarian – Malcolm Murray

Newsletter Editor – Julie Butler



Congratulations Noel Walker -

Clubman of the Year