

Spring NEWSLETTER 2020

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

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From the Editor



FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the Spring newsletter and another highly anticipated season. In fact, I think this season is probably more highly anticipated than most, given last season's restrictions due to the unwelcomed appearance of COVID-19. The virus has brought about many challenges for us all, both personally and for the club, and dare I say, it ain't over yet. Like many, it has gotten me thinking about the future, not only my own, but of the clubs. One of the things I wonder about is ... Are clubs like small country towns? You're not *really* part of it until you have lived there for 20 years

Reminder

"Please send photos, articles and reports to:

newsletter.dffc@gmail.com

or hand in at the meeting."

... unless you've been part of the early establishment of the club? If so, how does this bode for the future? Fishing clubs have been the staple of this wonderful past time for many, many years. They have been a place for learning in a relaxed social setting of like minded people. This is reflected in our very own aims – ***To promote all facets of fly fishing and good fellowship.***

Being one of these 'out of towners' (I use that as an analogy) I'm from 20 km up the road, I don't know of the history of our club in terms of the highs and lows of membership. I do know a local NW Angling club maintained a very healthy

membership from the 1940's of around 400 locals. This gradually dwindled over time and like many clubs now has a small active membership who continue to meet monthly.



So, what does the future hold for the Devonport Fly Fishing Club and what are the challenges that this new environment brings? I'm not just referring to COVID-19 which is probably going to be lingering for some time, but for the challenges of this modern technologically connected world.

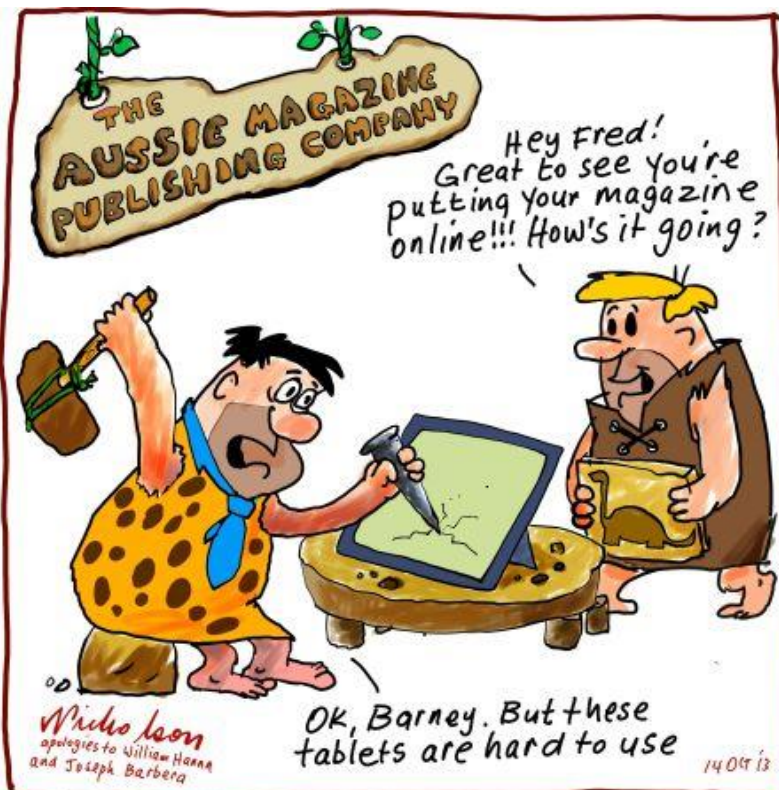
It would be fair to say that the traditional fishing club has lost some of its attraction to the new breed of angler. The days of sharing fishing stories (exaggerated or not) at the monthly club meeting has been gazumped by the instant gratification of posting your catch on social media and the multitude of Youtube clips aimed at teaching everything from tying a Pheasant Tail Nymph, to fine turning your bow and arrow cast.

Because of the way many of us share and gain our fishing knowledge, some clubs have and will struggle to adapt and will find themselves unable to attract new members or ideas to their clubs.. Being innovative, inclusive and making fishing club's attractive to the next generation is a vital part of continuing to provide the benefits that clubs afford to their members and their local community. This point is surely well evidenced by the introduction of Live Facebook feeds of our expert fly tying guests which saw unprecedented numbers 'tune in' to watch on a monthly basis. DFFC is also fortunate to have two great assets – Devon Lodge and the Bronte Fly Fishing School. But, once again, COVID-19 has demonstrated that these are also vulnerable. The significant numbers of mainlanders who use Devon Lodge – providing an income through bookings have dried up due to border restrictions. Further to this, a COVID plan for Devon Lodge has meant we must restrict numbers to accommodate physical distancing. We have

similar issues with the Bronte Fly Fishing School which relies on some mainlanders to make the financial commitment of running the school worthwhile.

So, where does this leave us? Well it leaves us in an environment where every member's contribution, opinion and ideas are more important than ever. It means we must embrace the age of technology whilst ensuring we don't leave our 'non technologically connected' members behind. And it leaves us with a question to answer. Are we inclusive, innovative, encouraging of new ideas and are we doing enough to foster our new generation of anglers?

Many thanks to Allan Eckert who has provided many articles for this edition.





Scenes such as this from the movie "A River Runs Through It" are the reason many people want to take up fly fishing. The movie, which was released in 1992 and launched the career of Brad Pitt (as an actor, not a fly fisher), has inspired countless thousands to take up the sport. In the year following the release of the film the fly fishing industry doubled in size as everyone wanted to cast like Brad Pitt. In fact, it was Jason Borger who did the casting and his style and grace with a fly rod was responsible for creating an image of fly fishing that has inspired many.

We all have our reasons for getting into fly fishing but I am sure all of them involve casting in idyllic places where the scenery and the fish vie with each other for our attention. Whether it be a trout in a mountain stream, a bonefish on a tropical flat or a marlin in a vast ocean, we savor the thought of being there and being able to cast like Brad Pitt. Our mind turns to open spaces, long graceful casts and obliging fish. As Paul Maclean puts it, “something within fishermen tries to make fishing into a world perfect and apart.” The reality is quite different.

Carl McNeil, the well known New Zealand film maker and Master fly casting instructor, has a video which he calls “Casts that Catch Fish”. It would have been a great title for this month’s column. There are casts that catch attention in a Hollywood movie and there are casts that catch fish. Having recently returned from trips to New Zealand and Tasmania I can tell you casting in the real world can be very different to what we see on the big screen. Let me tell you about a few situations I’ve encountered where the world has been less than perfect and I have had to make casts that you didn’t see in “A River Runs Through It.”



Small streams and willows are a favourite haunt of trout. Unfortunately, your cast is often blocked in front and behind. The amount of line you need is not even enough to load the rod. Enter the bow and arrow cast. Not elegant or graceful but very practical, the bow and arrow cast enables you to get your fly into tight quarters without having to make a back cast. The trout above was the result of using a bow and arrow cast to reach a fish that others would have walked past. If you want to learn

to make this cast here is one of many videos available on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2RVhQgAiK>

Sometimes trout can use trees to protect themselves from even a bow and arrow cast. I was taught a very important lesson from a New Zealand friend when trying to get a fly to a trout cruising below some dense willow branches. Chris hooked the fly on the tip top of my rod and had me feed the rod through the branches above the fish and tap the butt. The fly obligingly fell off and plopped on the water. The fish took the fly but won the battle as there was no way I could lift the rod to set the hook and land the fish. Although it might be stretching the definition to call this a cast, if you want to have a chance to catch fish in the real world it's worth adding to your repertoire.



Tasmanian lakes vary from tree lined shores to open expanses and all have the same problem of wind and rain. When you are confronted with trees at your back and wind in your face you have to find a casting style that will deal with these conditions. In the "The River Runs Through It", the family uses what we might call the traditional overhead style of casting. It looks great especially in the hands of Jason Borger. But when there is no room for a back cast and a bow and arrow cast won't reach, you need another approach. Try spey casting. Now you would think that Norman Maclean, who wrote the book on which the movie was based, would have known about spey casting with his Scottish ancestry. If he did, spey casting didn't feature in the book or the movie.

In the real world we have to deal with confined spaces and the wind all the time. Roll and spey casts came to my rescue in the situation above when trees blocked a back cast and wind added to the degree of difficulty. I don't profess to be an expert in this style of casting but I do try to use it when the situation demands. Being able to cast without room behind and change direction easily opens opportunities to make a cast that catches fish. Although longer rods make life easier when spey casting you can still use a single handed rod – there are even lines specifically designed for single handed spey casting. But for me the game changer in spey casting is I can use two hands and manage my tennis elbow.

Casting in the real world is about questioning the perceived wisdom of what casting should look like and finding solutions that catch fish. The answers may require you to change styles, experiment and learn new casts. A cast may not look as graceful as you have seen on the big screen but the fish is not going to know how your fly got there. Learn to think outside the box and make your cast according to the real world in which a fish lives.

A couple of years ago I wrote a Casting Around Article on variations to the basic cast in the form of mends and curves. Anyone can present a fly when there are no obstructions, no conflicting currents and no tricky trout. Casts that catch fish in the real world require a bit more thought than laying a long line gracefully on the water. If you want to learn some of these you should watch these video clips from Carl McNeil.

Common Mends and curves

Aerial Mend

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bai4B6rMT8o>

"The aerial mend places a large curve of slack in the line - valuable for casting over or around obstacles or dealing with large changes in current..."

Simple Curve Cast

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v9xXSxr2hss>

"At times you'll want to be able to throw a line around a corner -- usually to get around an obstacle like a tree trunk or rock. And this is where your curve casts come in...."

Reach Cast

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=14njsZy47qg>

"Of all the slack line casts this is the one that you'll use most often, in-fact if you tend to present your fly side on and at an angle to your fish - (and I suggest you do) then you'll want to use this cast

Pile, Puddle or Parachute Cast

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O6uHddBAH7g>

"What looks like the most basic slack line cast is actually quite difficult to do well. And it's the Pile, or Puddle Cast. Also called the parachute....."

Tuck Cast

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4mZ2WxjmWBo>

The tuck cast, or tuck mend is a great cast for getting heavily weighted nymphs or even streamers quickly down into the water column.

Wiggle Cast

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wcJtSEjYUog>

This cast gives you slack line all the way down the line and is great for complex currents with lots of variations. It's also a good one for accurately presenting "fly first" directly down stream

Bucket Mend

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d26S-v3eB4s>

"The bucket mend is similar to the Aerial mend but the slack is thrown in the vertical plane rather than the horizontal plane..."

MORE FROM ALLAN

Casting Geek

I'm a casting geek. So what does a casting geek do when they are forced to stay at home because of a pandemic? Lots of casting in the backyard of course! I'm fortunate to live in suburbia with a backyard just big enough for a 40 feet back cast and 40 feet forward cast. During the Covid-19 lock down I have been able to get out and practice my casting most days. I'd like to say my casting has improved immeasurably but what you are about to read may prove that wrong.

The definition of a geek is "someone who is very interested in a particular subject and knows a lot about it." Another definition is a "digital-technology expert or enthusiast" I'm very interested in casting and enthusiastic about using technology but I have a lot to learn and am far from being an expert. I still think that makes me a geek. With time on my hands I decided to indulge the geek in me and study my casting in more detail. To do this I used the Casting Analyzer. I've written about the Casting Analyzer before so I won't go into details. If you want to know more search the archives for June 2012 and August 2018.



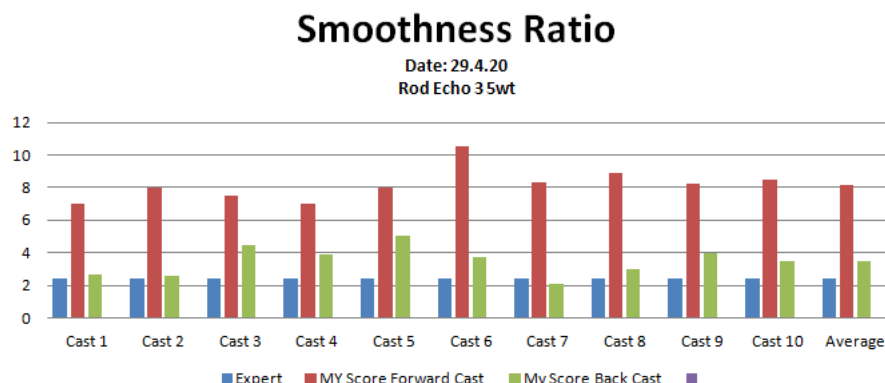
The Casting Analyzer measures several aspects of a cast and compares that to an expert. Hundreds of experts in the field were measured and the "ideal" cast was extrapolated. The Analyzer allows you to measure your cast against the scores these experts achieved. The amount of information is mind blowing and overwhelming if not broken down into manageable parts. So that's what I decided to do. I decided I would study one aspect of an ideal stroke and see if my casting measured up. Then, over a period of a week or two I would see if I could improve on what I was doing and get my scores somewhere near the expert mark.

To keep track of my scores I decided to use an Excel Spreadsheet. I haven't used Excel for some time and not for creating graphs so this would be an opportunity for me to put my brain to work. To any statisticians and Excel geeks out there I apologize for having to put up with my crude use of the software. Just imagine what a casting instructor has to go through when you, as a complete novice, turn up for your first casting lesson, and cut me some slack. Apologies also to my other reader who likes to see photos of casting and catching fish. I'm afraid the spreadsheets and graphs are as close as you are going to get to pictures this month.

My first step, then, was to collect data and produce a spreadsheet to make analysis easier. I took my trusty Echo 3 9ft 5wt fly rod out to the backyard and setup the casting analyzer. The plan was to make a series of 10 casts and record the results on a spreadsheet. This would give me a benchmark to study and find areas of my cast in need of attention.

Date: 29.4.20												
Rod: Echo III Swt												
Length: 40feet	Expert	My Score	My Score	My Score	My Score	My Score	My Score	My Score	My Score	My Score	My Score	Average
Cast Symmetry	100 > 80%	86	90	94	86	83	100	99	85	95	85	90.3
Forward Arc	66 65-80	72	71	70	65	64	73	64	72	66	72	68.9
Cast Energy Forward	100	16	10	5	20	12	24	-1	34	6	25	15.1
Smoothness Ratio Forward	2.4 1-8	7	8	7.5	7	8	10.5	8.3	8.9	8.2	8.5	8.19
Peak Speed Forward	260 240-280	276	269	262	281	271	285	255	296	264	286	274.5
Deceleration Forward	2200 >2200	2649	2982	2137	2739	2598	1446	2355	2624	2342	2565	2443.7
Stop Forward	30 <30	-15	-5	-5	-30	-7	-31	-1	-9	-3	-3	-10.9
Rod Load Forward	25 >25	51	52	45	58	50	27	43	44	44	41	45.5
Backward Arc	66 65-80	67	64	64	67	64	71	70	69	64	70	67
Cast Energy Backward	100	-10	-7	-9	-6	-22	-31	-6	-2	0	-6	-9.9
Smoothness Ratio Backward	2.4 1-8	2.7	2.6	4.5	3.9	5	3.7	2.1	3	4	3.5	3.5
Peak Speed Backward	260 240-280	238	242	246	243	226	286	258	252	250	243	248.4
Decleration Backward	2200 >2200	2976	3104	1728	2976	2846	2412	2944	2552	2880	2144	2656.2
Stop Backward	30 <30	-12	-2	-24	-18	-28	-31	-22	-26	-20	-11	-19.4
Rod Load Backward	25 >25	47	45	35	38	44	27	34	38	27	23	35.8

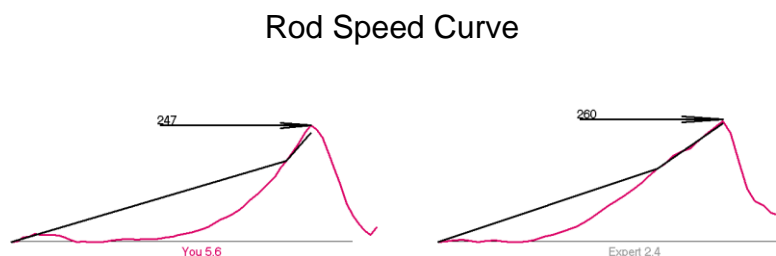
As any good politician knows, the best way to hide problem figures is to surround them with so much data no one is going to be bothered reading it. That's pretty much the case here. There's a lot that needs working on according to these results but I am hoping you won't bother studying them in detail. I could, like a politician, highlight the positives and explain the extenuating circumstances such as the wind or my tennis elbow, but if this was going to be a worthwhile exercise I needed to look at the "good, the bad and the ugly." Given that there is plenty of "ugly" in these figures, I decided to settle on just one aspect that I could improve and set about doing something about it.



From the data there was one thing that stood out for me. It was the difference between the smoothness of my back cast compared to my forward cast. Why was I so much smoother on the back cast? What could I do to make my forward cast smoother? I've always admired smooth casters because of their efficiency and great looking loops so I decided to try and improve my smoothness ratio. The plan was to find out how to make a smooth cast and practice until I could see the results in the data generated by the Casting Analyzer.

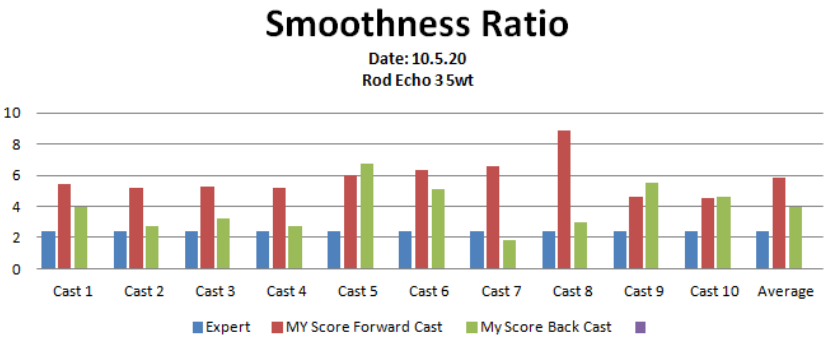
Smoothness is one of the main differences between being able to throw good loops, and being able to throw great loops. Smooth acceleration leads to smooth bending of the fly rod and this enables the tip of the rod to track in a straight line. Keeping the rod tip on a straight path is the key to developing an expert casting stroke. The Casting Analyzer was able to pin point what I needed to do to make my casting smoother.

The diagram below is a good illustration of where I was at and where I needed to be. These rod speed curves illustrate my application of power (left) and an expert cast (right). In each cast, the slope of the first line is the average acceleration at the beginning of the stroke. If these slopes are nearly the same, as in the case of the expert cast to the right, then the power application is smooth. By contrast, if these slopes are very different, as seen by the obvious 'kink' in my cast to the left, then the power application is not smooth. The ratio of these two slopes is called the "smoothness ratio." When this ratio is small (8 or less), then the two slopes are similar and there is little visible 'kink', as in the expert cast. Now all I had to do was work on smoothing out the acceleration on my forward to cast so that it matched the smooth acceleration on my back cast.



There is a well known saying that “weighing a pig doesn’t make it fatter.” I’d measured my problems and now I needed to do something about it. It was no good testing again until I had spent some time trying to make my forward cast smoother. Each day for a week I practiced, concentrating on the smooth acceleration of the rod. I watched my loops to see if they were tight and the fly line was straight. I practiced until I was certain my casting stroke was smoother. And then I used the Casting Analyzer again.

Date: 10.5.20												
Rod: Echo III Swt		Cast 1	Cast 2	Cast 3	Cast 4	Cast 5	Cast 6	Cast 7	Cast 8	Cast 9	Cast 10	
Length: 40feet	Expert	My Score	My Score	My Score	My Score	My Score	My Score	My Score	My Score	My Score	My Score	Average
Cast Symmetry	100 > 80%	96	99	98	99	88	99	95	85	99	98	95.6
Forward Arc	66 65-80	65	77	66	77	69	64	68	72	80	65	70.3
Cast Energy Forward	100	-15	21	-2	21	38	14	0	34	70	6	18.7
Smoothness Ratio Forward	2.4 1-8	5.4	5.2	5.3	5.2	6	6.3	6.6	8.9	4.6	4.5	5.8
Peak Speed Forward	260 240-280	239	282	259	282	301	273	256	296	334	263	278.5
Deceleration Forward	2200 >2200	2534	2803	2752	2803	3136	2124	2304	2624	3161	2086	2632.7
Stop Forward	30 <30	-19	2	-17	2	-5	-1	-1	-9	-20	-13	-8.1
Rod Load Forward	25 >25	54	45	46	45	39	36	41	44	40	56	44.6
Backward Arc	66 65-80	66	75	76	75	75	66	71	69	78	75	72.6
Cast Energy Backward	100	-19	29	-3	29	12	21	16	-2	76	15	17.4
Smoothness Ratio Backward	2.4 1-8	4	2.7	3.2	2.7	6.7	5.1	1.8	3	5.5	4.6	3.93
Peak Speed Backward	260 240-280	229	284	254	284	244	275	269	252	332	268	269.1
Decleration Backward	2200 >2200	2176	3646	3168	3648	3488	2784	2688	2552	4864	3904	3291.8
Stop Backward	30 <30	-31	-26	-26	-26	-13	-17	-20	-26	-13	-24	-22.2
Rod Load Backward	25 >25	24	33	25	33	44	36	40	38	47	39	35.9



As you can see I did have some success in making my forward cast smoother. I still wasn’t able to consistently match the smoothness of my forward cast with that of my back cast. And I still couldn’t attain the levels of smoothness achieved by the experts. But progress was made and I was obviously on the right track. I was happy with that.

With lock down restrictions being lifted I don't plan on spending more time working on all the other aspects of my casting which do not meet the standard of the experts. There are too many places to go and fish to be caught. I will continue to measure my casting with the Analyzer and continue to practice to get better. In the meantime, in the words of Joe Smocktapop (aka Mel Krieger) "I may not cast very well but I can catch fish!"

So what have I learnt from this exercise? Here are a few random thoughts:

- I am not an expert.
- It takes lots of practice to be perfect.
- Being a smooth operator is harder than it seems.
- It's impossible for me to be consistent every cast.
- The Casting Analyzer produces way too much information.
- I am a casting geek.

Fly casting is an art and a science. The late Mel Krieger classified casters into two broad groups: *engineers* and *poets*. The first group is formed by those who need to know how things work in order to learn them; the other one relies more on feeling and doing those things. Whether you learn using the Casting Analyzer and study the mechanics from an engineer's point of view or learn from feeling and doing as an artist would, it doesn't matter. All that matters in the end is that you can cast well enough to catch fish in every situation your fly rod takes you.

If you managed to read this far you have done well. If you are an engineer and have studied the data you have done really well. Although I wasn't able to achieve the scores of the experts consistently I think my casting did improve and the time taken to practice paid dividends. To put the scores into perspective this is how the designers of the Casting Analyzer, Bruce Richards and Noel Perkins, rate my casting. I might not be an expert but my report card featured lots of excellent work.

40 ft Cast	Expert	Excellent	Good	Needs Work
Symmetry	100%	>90%	80-90%	<80%
Peak Speed	260	240-280		
Arc	66	65-80 deg		
Smoothness Ratio	2.4	1 to 8	8 to 12	>12
Deceleration	2200	>2200	1400-2200	<1400
Stop	30	<30	30-40	>40
Load	25%	>25%	15-25%	<15%

Once Cast Too Many

If there was just one thing we could all do that would solve many of our casting problems it would be to take one less false cast. We all make more false casts than we need. I blame every casting instructor in the world for teaching people how to false cast. Once someone learns to make beautiful effortless loops they want to make more of them. One loop leads to another and before you know it, too many false casts lead to trouble.

There are three reasons why you need to false cast. First, you false cast to dry your dry fly before making another presentation. Second, you false cast to change direction. Thirdly, you false cast to lengthen, or shorten, the line. Some people will claim that there are more reasons to false cast. There are those who claim that more false casts load the rod better and make longer casts. Others will claim that more false casts are needed for accuracy (true in some cases). And then there are those who believe you need more false casts to impress people. I'm a firm believer that less is more. If I could convince people to make one less false cast I am sure they would be a better fly fisher and achieve more with less.

For a beginner, being able to false cast is a major step in their fly casting journey. We encourage beginners to make false casts to learn how to form loops and present the fly. The number of loops a beginner is able to make is usually a sign of their growing ability to control the fly rod. But there comes a time when false casting has to stop. Knowing how many false casts to make is an important breakthrough in the learning curve. Unfortunately, some people take longer than others to realize this.

A false cast is the backward and forward movement of the line without the fly being put down. It is possible to present the fly without any false casts. The basic pick up and lay down cast doesn't involve a false cast. It is a quick and efficient way to make a cast. If you don't need to dry your fly, change direction or lengthen the line then you should be using the PULD. One of the few advantages a fly fisher has over a spin fisher is that we are able to pick up our fly and re-present it to a fish without having to wind in and recast. Adding false casts is a waste of time and effort and allows those with a spin rod to out fish us again.

It's not always possible to use the PULD cast so eventually we have to resort to false casting. How many false casts to make depends on the outcome you are trying to achieve. There is not set

number of casts that will dry the fly or allow you to change direction and lengthen the line. Like the length of a piece of string, it depends. However, for most people, whatever number you come up with will be one too many.



Too many false casts lead to trouble. The essence of fly fishing is being able to present a fly without alerting the fish to our presence. Our spin fishing friends know about this and make long casts with ultra thin line to where the fish live. If we are constantly waving a thick fly line over a fish's head they will soon become aware of our presence and flee. The secret is to get the fly to the fish with the minimum number of false casts (and use a subtle coloured fly line). By reducing the number of false casts not only do we lessen the chance of spooking the fish, we present the fly quicker before the fish has time to disappear.

People who make a lot of false casts usually do so thinking each one is going to be better than the one before. More often than not this doesn't happen. I've seen countless people start false casting with great loops and then on the final cast try too hard and end up with a mess. The problem is so common it has its own name; The Last Cast Syndrome. Fly casting is all about pulling a bend into the fly rod not pushing the fly line out there. No amount of extra effort on that last cast will make up for poor technique on the proceeding stroke. I don't know how many times I have seen someone's last cast travel less distance than their previous false cast. The solution is simple. Make one less false cast and make all the false casts the same.

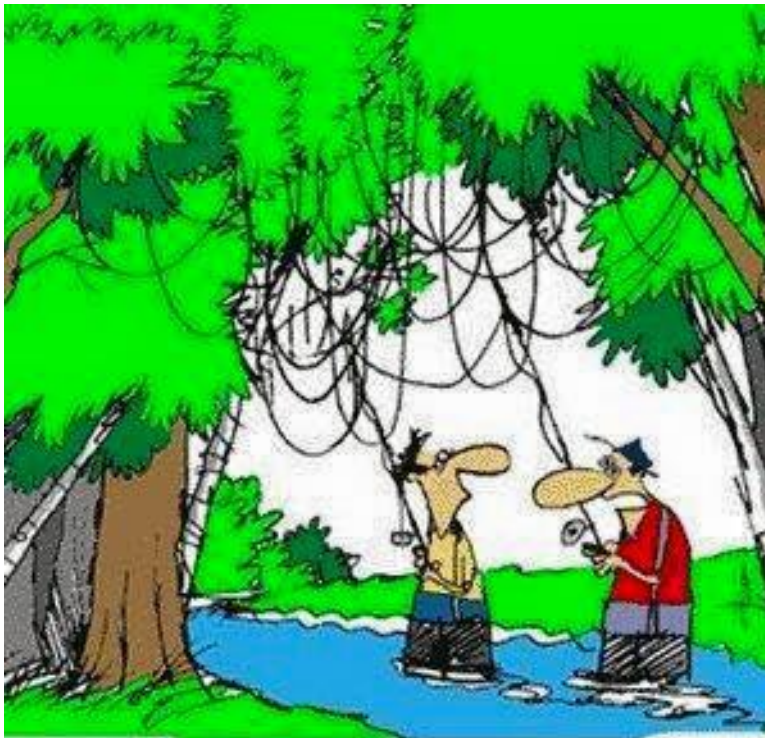
Another problem with too many false casts is the propensity for that last cast to catch something behind you. One of the reasons for false casting is to lengthen the line each time to achieve maximum distance. When you take that look behind before you start casting (you always look don't you!) you make sure your first false cast isn't going to catch anything. But the more you false cast and the more you lengthen your line, the closer you come to hooking up. Inevitably that fast growing tree, that speeding boat, that innocent jogger comes into range. Your fly gets snagged and you miss the fish of a lifetime as you fall victim to the last cast syndrome and too many false casts.

Spin fishers catch more fish because they are more efficient. For every cast a fly fisher makes the spin fisher has usually made two or three. It only takes one forward movement to cast a spin rod. Fly fishers have to cast back and forward. It makes sense that when we are fly casting we reduce the number of false casts to a minimum. We should be aiming for efficiency. If we are able to reduce our false casting by one every time we cast that is a lot of energy saved over the period of a day's fishing. That means you make more presentations and you have less chance of suffering from repetitive strain injuries.



The Scots have a reputation for being frugal with their money. They are also frugal with their fly casting. They developed spey casting so they wouldn't have to make a lot of false casts (among other reasons). Spey casting doesn't require a false cast. With a double handed rod and the right line you can launch your fly a long distance with little effort. There is no chance of the last cast syndrome messing up your thinking. You can spey cast with single handed rods too. If you are looking to be more efficient without lots of false casts you would do well to look into the world of spey casting with a single handed rod.

There are many reasons why you should use one less false cast and I hope I have convinced you to give it a go. False casting is a habit hard to break. The next time you see me standing beside you clicking a sheep counter you might want to think about the number of false casts you are making. Less is more and the fewer false casts you make the more fish you will catch and the more efficient your casting will become.



Where did you say that casting school was ?

A New Fly Rod

At some stage in our fly fishing journey we all dream of having another fly rod. At the beginning that dream is stronger as we realize that one rod is not going to be enough. Towards the end of the journey there comes contentment and satisfaction in the rods we own. That is, of course, unless you are a “fly rodaholic”, when owning another fly rod is a constant imperative.

We buy new fly rods for many reasons. In the beginning almost any rod will do as long as it meets our budget. Then you come to realize that learning to cast is not going to be as easy as you first thought. Maybe a new fly rod will make you a better caster. As a fly casting instructor I can tell you emphatically, a new fly rod **will** help you with your casting – but maybe not for the reasons you think.

The marketing departments from the major rod manufacturers will tell you how their new fly rods will make your loops tighter; you're casting more accurate and add metres to the length of your cast. They probably won't tell you they are not much different to last year's model and cost a lot more. Admittedly, the latest rods bring advances in technology which makes them lighter, stronger and more responsive but unless the caster can take advantages of these innovations a new rod is not going to make much difference to someone learning to cast. To cast better you need to be a better caster and not rely on a new fly rod to solve your problems.



I learnt early on that buying the latest and greatest fly rod was not going to improve my casting ... but I'm glad I bought the rod. A poor craftsman always blames his tools and when I was struggling with getting distance and accuracy I was quick to blame the rod. When the purchase of a state of the art graphite rod from a leading fly rod manufacturer didn't seem to make much difference (except to my bank account) I knew it was up to me to work on my casting and not look for easy solutions. So buying a new fly rod will help with your casting ... but only if it makes you realize you cast the rod and the rod is only as good as your casting skills.

Buying a new fly rod can lead to other ways to improve your casting. A new toy always gets more attention so a new fly rod is going to be taken out of its tube and cast more often. The more you cast the rod the better your casting should become. And if you are going to show off your new rod in front of you club mates or on the water you had better be sure it makes you look good. If the new rod doesn't immediately make your casting better - which it won't – you need to practice more. You may even realize you need a lesson or two from someone who seems to make it look a lot easier than you – even with an

old rod. When you see the light and practice to become better, you have reaped the benefits of buying a new fly rod.

Adding to your fly rod collection is not just about improving your casting. Once you start branching out into catching different species in different locations you are going to need new rods. These might be a different length or weight to suit the flies you are trying to cast and the fish you are trying to catch. When I moved from just being a “troutie” to fly fishing in the salt, not only did I need new rods but I had to learn new casting skills. Casting a size #22 Adams on a 2 weight is very different to casting a size #4/0 Clouser on an 8 weight ... especially in the wind. Each new rod wasn’t necessarily going to help me improve but gave me reason to practice my casting. In the end it is not the rod that makes you a better caster, it is the time you put into learning to cast it.

As you wind your way along the road, or should that be river, on your fly fishing journey, you may find yourself buying rods that look nothing like the state of the art, latest and greatest graphite models, that you are constantly being told will make you a better caster. I started fly fishing when fiberglass and bamboo were the rods of choice and although I jumped straight into graphite I have found myself returning to these rods of old. Modern glass rods have come a long way. Glass is stronger and more forgiving than graphite and it is well worth your while adding one to your fly rod collection. From the casting perspective, glass and bamboo will help you improve as they will make you slow down and learn to vary your casting stroke. I would go as far as to say that everyone should cast a glass or bamboo rod at some time if they want to become a better caster.



If you are going to buy a new fly rod you will probably be tempted to buy a new fly line too. This is a good thing because one of the easier ways to improve your casting is to find an appropriate fly line to match your rod and your casting. If you haven’t bought a new fly line for a while you will be amazed at the options that are now available to you. Not only are there more tapers, these lines are slicker and more suitably weighted for modern rods. Putting a new line on might even make enough difference for you not to **need** another rod ... but you **want** a new rod don’t you?

Finally, if you buy a new fly rod it will make you a better caster because you have committed to continue your journey in fly fishing. Fly fishing is lifelong pursuit. The commitment and the confidence a new rod will bring, will motivate you to improve your casting along the way. The new rod doesn’t have to be expensive to achieve this goal. When I look at my collection I find rods from all levels of the market and those I have bought secondhand. I have quite a few bargains that I have picked up from people who thought they wouldn’t need to practice or get a lesson once they bought a new fly rod! You can improve your casting with any rod as long as you put in the time.



My collection of fly rods has grown along with my casting skills. Hopefully, I am not a “fly rodaholic” yet but when I look in the cupboard it’s not bare! You wouldn’t expect having a lot of fly rods would be a problem. It isn’t, until you have to choose a rod for a fishing trip. I shouldn’t complain. I am lucky enough to have rods of varying actions, lengths, weights, pieces and rods made from graphite, fiberglass and bamboo. Collecting fly rods for me is one case where less has never been more! Each time one of these rods was added to my collection it has helped me to become a better caster. Buying a new fly rod will improve your casting ... but only if it leads you to spend more time practicing.

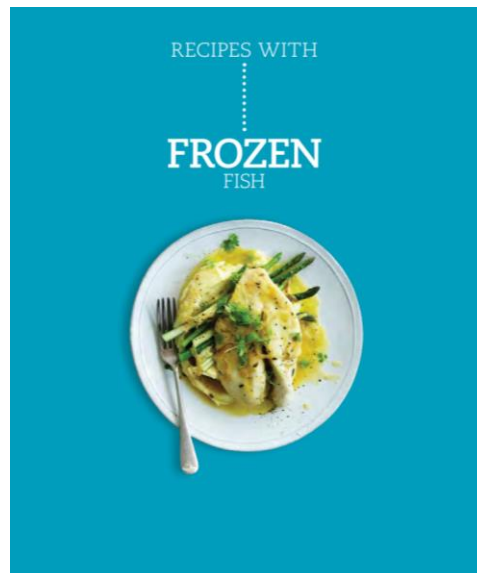
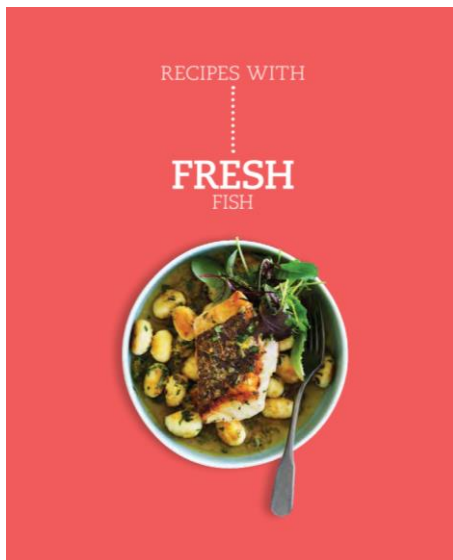


Not just a recipe – a whole book

There are some great recipes in this book.

The *Fish Fresh+Frozen* cookbook is free to download from the Fishfiles website -

<https://www.fishfiles.com.au/media/cook-books>.



which is better... fresh or frozen?

When it comes to fish and seafood, everyone says that fresh is best... but is this really true? Sensory testing research shows there is no discernible difference between fresh or frozen fish from a culinary perspective.



Bronte Fly School

To ensure that our jewel in the crown of Devonport Fly Fishing Club – The Bronte Fly Fishing School goes ahead, we need registrations from Tasmanian's. This, as we all know is the best investment beginners can make in their fly fishing journey.

We are usually well supported by both mainlanders and Tasmanian's, but due to COVID-19, we need Tasmanian's to register to ensure we have the numbers to make it financially viable.

Help spread the word and secure this years fly school.





BRONTE FLY FISHING SCHOOL®



BRONTE LAGOON Sun 10th to Fri 15th JAN 2021

This Fly Fishing Camping School is for 6 days and designed for Novice and Intermediate Anglers.

Based at Bronte Lagoon, all aspects of Fly Fishing are taught with a team of experienced tutors and administered by the DEVONPORT FLY FISHING CLUB INC.

**CLOSING DATE 15/12/2020 OR 30 STUDENTS
ENROLLED, WHICHEVER COMES FIRST.**

For further information and details contact any of the following: -

Noel Walker (03) 6424 2244

David Best (03) 6424 6628

Barry Jacobson 0400 930 528

or Devonport Fly Fishing Club Inc.

PO Box 956, Devonport 7310

Email: nwal4560@bigpond.net.au

Web Site: www.devonportflyfishingclub.net.au

BRONTE FLY FISHING SCHOOL ENROLMENTS

CAMP: 10TH – 15TH JANUARY 2021

Please complete a separate form for each person enrolling in one of the programs (pin forms together if making a family enrolment):

NAME: AGE:

ADDRESS:

POSTCODE PHONE:

EMAIL:

OCCUPATION:

Amount enclosed for enrolment: \$.....

PLEASE ANSWER:

How long have you been fly fishing?

Rate your level of experience? (circle number below).

No Experience Experienced

1 2 3 4 5

Names of other people in your party attending camp but not participating in a program (needed for site safety requirements).

.....
.....
.....

CLOSING DATE FOR REGISTRATIONS: 15 DECEMBER 2020

OR 30 FIRST YEAR STUDENTS (whichever comes first)

NO LATE ENROLMENTS ACCEPTED

The camp is designed for anyone who wishes to learn the art of fly fishing. Most of the emphasis will be on teaching beginner fly fisher the necessary skills to catch fish. However, many students enjoy the course (and the general camaraderie that abounds) that they return year after year, so we also run a more advanced course for returnees. All students are required to attend the first year before doing the advanced course.

We base our camp on the southern lakes system at Bronte Lagoon. As the camp is of a self-sufficient nature, campers are expected to supply their own tents, sleeping bags, cooking and eating requirements, fishing tackle and equipment.

A basic list of fishing necessities as well as other relevant information will be issued upon receipt of your registration fees.

Students are provided with a comprehensive manual on arrival at the camp and additional notes are handed out in some sections of the course, so students have something to refer back to long after the camp has completed.

PLEASE NOTE: Enrolment fee does not include fishing licence.

This camp has limited vacancies.

ORGANISER:

Devonport Fly Fishing Club Inc
PO Box 956, Devonport TAS 7310

COST:

\$170.00 per person first year
(cost includes a comprehensive introductory manual)

\$80.00 per person returnee students

(NB: \$80 returnee fee does not include membership. Returnee students must be financial members of the Club before registering for the School)

BANK DETAILS:

Account Name: DFFC Inc.

BSB: 807009

A/c No: 51164930

Description: Bronte + your surname

If paying by EFT, please email payment advice to:

nwa14560@bigpond.net.au

The Devonport Fly Fishing Club Inc. reserves the right to refuse any enrolment.

Attendees MUST hold a current Angling Licence unless they are under 14 years of age.

In the event of cancellation of an enrolment by a student, Devonport Fly Fishing Club Inc. will retain 25% of the enrolment fee if the date of cancellation is within two weeks of the commencement of the course date and 100% if the cancellation is on or after the stated starting date unless a satisfactory explanation is provided to the Camp Secretary.

We have never had to postpone or cancel a camp but interstate attendees who plan on travelling to Tasmania solely for the camp are strongly advised to take out travel insurance when making their travel arrangements.

Club Calendar

September

Saturday 12 th	Club Event - Reid McLaughlan – 2pm start	430 Sunnyside Rd Dam
Sunday 27 th	Club event – Reid McLauchlan 8.00am start	430 Sunnyside Rd Dam

October

Thursday 8 th	Club event – Reid McLauchlan – 6.00pm start	430 Sunnyside Rd Dam
Saturday 24 th	Club event – Reid McLauchlan – 8.00am start	

November

Tuesday 10 th	Club event – Reid McLauchlan – 6.00pm start	430 Sunnyside Rd Dam
Sunday 21 st	Club event – Reid McLauchlan – 8.00am start	430 Sunnyside Rd Dam

January 2021

10-15	Bronte Fly Fishing School	Hut Bay, Bronte Lagoon
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February 2021

8-14 th	Lake Burbury – Phil Bloomfield	Lake Burbury
Last week in Feb	Talbots Lagoon – Julie Butler	Talbots Lagoon

Club Office Bearers

Office Bearers 2019 – 2020

Patron	Ashley Artis, Geoff Wispear		
President	Stan Laskey	0409525492	64241678
Senior Vice President	Max Jones		
Junior Vice President	Noel Walker		
Secretary	Bruce Marshall		64282197
Minute Secretary	Laurie Baird		
Treasurer	Reid McLaughlan	0412636109	
Security Officer	George Surman	0427057455	64245269
Librarian	Malcolm Murray	0408130092	64284071
Newsletter Editor	Julie Butler	0429354022	64354557
Life Members	George Surman, Peter Burr, David Best, Barry Jacobson, Wayne Bellette		

Membership – Adult \$20.00 - \$25.00 Family

Monthly Meetings – 7.30 pm Last Thursday of month

Paranaple Centre, Devonport