



Fly Line By Line

VOLUME 48 NUMBER 03

May 2020



Official Monthly Publication of Yarra Valley Fly Fishers Inc.

YARRA VALLEY FLY FISHERS INC.

Lillydale Lake Reserve

P.O. Box 266

Lilydale 3140

YVFF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Vice President	Secretary
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Finance – Treasurer	Editor	Administration
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Stumpy’s North Island Brown

Club Contact List

CORRESPONDENCE

P.O. Box 266, Lilydale Vic 3140.

E-MAIL's

president@yvff.com.au

Lynton Reid

secretary@yvff.com.au

Paul Pavone

treasurer@yvff.com.au

Ray Malins

docadmin@yvff.com.au

activities@yvff.com.au

George Zanin

media@yvff.com.au

editor@yvff.com.au

Owen Lloyd : Fly Line By Line

casting@yvff.com.au

merchandising@yvff.com.au

library@yvff.com.au

Owen Lloyd

marketing@yvff.com.au

Owen Lloyd

memberships@yvff.com.au

Paul Pavone

trips@yvff.com.au

Ray Malins

streamcraft@yvff.com.au

flytying@yvff.com.au

Paul Pavone

webmaster@yvff.com.au

Ross Hancock

www.yvff.com.au

WEB SITE

FACEBOOK

Yarra Valley Fly Fishers Facebook

MEET UP

Awin Stephen : Meetup.com at :-
Yarra Valley Fly Fishers Meetup

PRESIDENTS PAGE - MAY 2020

This month it has now become obvious that the corona virus is here to stay until the world develops a vaccine to defeat the virus. At the moment it is like living in a real time science fiction movie and every day is a groundhog day but there are still lots of things we can do in preparation for our first fishing expedition.

We can all practice casting in the local park while getting some much needed exercise to improve our accuracy which is often more important than distance. Techniques such as roll cast, wiggle cast, steeple cast and mending a cast all of which are important when fishing streams and rivers and to some degree lakes can be learnt and improved.

Setting up your vest properly can make your fishing experience so much more enjoyable. Convention is that you set up your fly vest with dry flies, tippetts and floatants on your vest right side and nymphs, mudeyes, zonkers and woolly buggers on your vest left side with indicators and fluorocarbon tippetts.

Have you looked in your fly boxes lately at the jumble of wets dries nymphs and miscellaneous flies all in one box many of which you have never used. Organising your fly boxes can save you a lot of time on the water and maybe catch that fish which has just appeared before it disappears.

It also pays to separate your flies into categories in each fly box. this might take you a couple of weeks and also gives you a chance to get rid of the class of fly such as I have never used that or I don't know why I ever put that in my fly box. I have 7 fly boxes split up into wet and dry flies which I carry according to seasons.

Dry flies are 1 a box of mayfly emergers and duns, 2 a box of red and black spinners and spuns and a few royal wulfs, 3 a box of beetles, caddis, red tags, humpies and rubber legged stimulators and 4 a box of midge patterns both dry and buzzers.

Wet flies are 5 a box of Mudeyes, Craig's, Mrs Simpson and black and natural Muddler Minnow's.

6 a box of nymphs all colours and sizes and weights, damsel nymphs, stick caddis, tom jones and shreks, 7 a box of Zonkers, fur flies, woolly worms, bms and woolly buggers.

It is also important to service rods by washing and wiping dry, greasing rod ferrules with candle grease or soap to prevent a time wasting lock up particularly if you have to get on a plane, washing and greasing reels and cleaning and lubricating fly lines.

Also do not forget to check your waders for leaks, boots and boot laces, net scales and mesh, wading stick adjustments, Gortex jacket for waterproofing and any other gear you use

By the time you have done all the above this groundhog day might be over and we can all go fishing again.

When the restrictions are lifted sufficiently the committee has discussed having a get together BBQ for all members to renew friendships and celebrate our renewed freedom. Stay well, look after your families and survive to fish again.

Lynton Reid President

YVFF Secretary's Report : April 2020

With the Clubs activities currently suspended and fishing stopped as the community observes social distancing, the fly fishing community continues to publish newsletters, promos and information sheets. All meetings have been cancelled or postponed but fly fishing videos, blogs and photos are plentiful on the net, Facebook, Instagram and other social media.

Let me know if you would like access to any of the information listed below.

Stay safe and stay home for now.

Paul Pavone
secretary@yvff.com.au

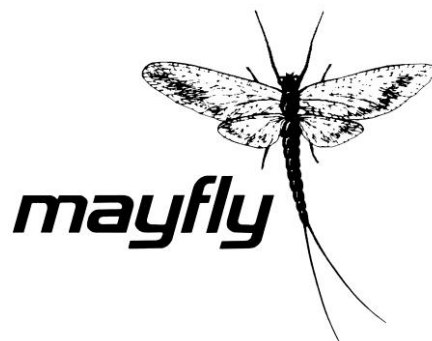
Correspondence in:

VFFA April newsletter
CVFFC minutes
FlyLife news
Reel life Fish and Game NZ
Mending casts Inc
Ovens River Challenge 28-29 March Postponed
GVFF Centre promo
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation news (magazine)
Vic and Tas Fishing Monthly April 2020
VR Fish Club Supporter Member letter.
Maroondah City Council News
Maroondah City Council Message from the Mayor
Bunnings Sausage sizzle fund raisers postponed
Yarra Ranges Notice to sporting clubs
Native Fish Aus (Vic) meeting cancelled.
Consumer Affairs Vic update.
Fly Finz tackle and books open for business.
GFFC Tippet topics April 2020
SAFFA April newsletter
Red Tag April newsletter

Correspondence out :

Letter of thanks to the Estate of John Motyka for donations to the club.

ING banking details.



Mayfly Tackle Pty Ltd imports and distributes a wide range of fly fishing related products including Scientific Anglers fly lines and accessories, Orvis Fly Fishing products, Korkers, Ross reels, Innovator rods and accessories, Fulling Mill Flies and accessories, Hanak Competition, Tiemco hooks and accessories, Nautilus Fly Reels and more.



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Web: www.mayflytackle.com.au

TARATA New Zealand : VINE HOPPER FLY

The natural has double wings and a short stubby body dark brown in colour see photo

The hooks are Kamazan b100 buzzer hooks size 14 and 16 which are lighter and shorter and should provide a better hook up rate than the ones we have used

The stubby body is claret and dark brown seals fur mix dubbed to form a short stubby body see photo

The wings are a mix of ring neck pheasant church window feathers or partridge feather either will work (fibres are at correct angle to match wing angles on insect see photo) and translucent like the real wings

To Tie Fly:-

Select suitable feathers remove fluff and strip to wing shapes and size ready to trim to actual shape.

Apply two coats of Salley hansen hard as nails clear nail varnish to each side and leave dry overnight.

Trim feathers to wing shape and size to suit hook size.

Select dark brown 6/0 or 8/0 tying thread.

Select hook and dub short chunky carrot shaped body to suit size see photo for shape.

Final Trim feather to correct size and shape and tie in securely parallel to hook shank.

Tie off head firmly and use your dubbing needle to apply a small dab of head cement or small dab of varnish or super glue to make sure feather does not come loose.

Use a black permanent marker to apply the illusion of wing markings see photo of the real insect.

The fly is not very buoyant and will soon sink and will need treating with a floatant or similar possibly a greased tippet and definitely an indicator within 300mm of the fly.

To help it float in the surface film possibly the addition of some hackle fibres extending well past the gape, a palmer hackle to the body or hackles to the head or the lot may still work without spooking the fish. If you go to NZ to fish the Rangitaiki at the end of February then you need at least 20 of these flies if there is a hatch of hoppers as the fish line up in the bubble lines slurping them down and it is as good as a mayfly hatch.

Lynton Reid.



Fly Fishing Vietnam

Over January this year, I went to Vietnam, with my 3 girls & wife for 21 days, and it was fantastic.

I researched about any fly fishing over there but came up empty handed.

But being an incurable fly fisherman, I may have packed a rod, reel & a few flies just in case the research was wrong.

I tried a few spots but it was more like dredging the Yarra in flood, chocolate milkshake.

Then I heard about the famed buffalo trout in the hills of Nth Vietnam, just a whisper here and there, but there was enough information to make me pursue it a little further. Outside of Sapa, after an 18km trek, where we had a brilliant home stay, it seemed I was in the right area to have a crack at this mythical beast.

Prising out some more information from our hosts, I set off early the next morning with a mixture of excitement and anxiousness ...

After about 3 hrs of hunting, I located a couple, absolutely amazing it took me another hour to get into a casting position, apparently the buffalo trout behave similar to our Tassie & New Zealand trout – very spooky, and I didn't want to blow what could be my only chance !!!!

One cast – I reckon was all I had – out the fly went ... right on the money ! After an amazing battle it was finally brought to hand, weighed in a 1743kg & duly released.



By Chris "Redders" Redfern.

KIRITIMATI - BONEFISH - 2012

Kiritimati (Christmas Island) is a part of the Republic of Kiribati which consists of 32 atolls spread over 3300km of the Pacific Ocean.

Kiritimati is the worlds largest atoll and is one of the Line Islands group of 8 atolls the eastern most territory of Kiribati.

Captain Cook officially discovered the island on Christmas Eve 1777 and sent the Navigator Bligh (later Captain Bligh) to explore who declared it desolate and uninhabited.

I'd been keen to do more Bone fishing after spending a week with Brett Wolf Bonefishing at Exmouth a few years ago and when attending a pro-angler evening with Chris Bridge we decided to go Bonefishing.

The Kiritimati airport arrival building was smaller than the YVFF club rooms with a corrugated iron roof and a mixture of corrugated iron walls with chain wire mesh windows which provided the air conditioning.

Our coach to the resort Ikari House was a Toyota Tray truck with wooden bench seats on the tray for us and a plywood roof.

Ikari House was basic but comfortable tropic style with a large bure roofed eating area 20 metres from the beach in a fully fenced compound.

We arrived about 6am. And were on the water fishing by 9am. By means of a fast modern flats boat with guides and luches in a smoothly and professionally organized fashion by staff and guides.

Not having a map I am not sure where we went the first day but I think it was the aptly named Go Like Hell Flat which if you have ever caught a Bonefish is a fantastic description of what happens when you hook up.

Our guide named English had incredible eyes and could even see Bonefish in cloudy wave stirred Coral Sand Water over a metre deep, and on overcast days on the flats Bonefish at least 30 metres away, however because of the silver mirror like scales on the sides of the fish he did miss some fish which Chris and I could see.

When you are standing on the flats in knee deep water on a blue sky day you can often see Bonefish coming 50 to 60 metres away. The problem is when they turn side on they disappear as the silver sides reflect the surrounds so efficiently.

Sometimes they are moving so fast they appear, disappear and reappear so close it is almost impossible to get a shot at them. It is easier when they are in groups often up to 4 or 6 as you can usually track one of the fish.

Very often the fish do not swim straight toward you but wheel around from side to side like a flock of homing pigeons sometimes making it extremely difficult to place a fly far enough in front and in the right place to enable the fly to be stripped either slow or fast to induce a take from a fish. Never the less on the first day we managed to catch a number of fish varying in size up to 3lbs.

Once hooked a fish would accelerate so quickly that slack line would whip all over the place including around the rod butt, around the reel handle and reel, around other gear or your bum bag and you soon learnt to have everything spot on before hooking up. Even then you would still get knuckled by the reel handle. I still remember a big Bonefish at Exmouth accelerating so fast that the reel handle split the tip of my finger open much to Bretts' amusement.

Each fish, even a 1lb fish, will take you into the backing once if not at least two or three times, sometimes up to and over 100 metres for larger fish, even more so if you are on pancakes as they run for the deeper water around the edge of the pancakes which is 1.5 to 6 metres in depth.

Other locations we fished included Paris No.3 flat which was great, Poland flat, Bareka Flat, Perrys Wharf, the Secret Spot, Orvis flat, Smokey flat, and unnamed pancakes to numerous to mention. All produced fish in varying numbers and depending on the varying state of the tide.

I fished 7 weight with an 8 weight floating line, because of the wind, 8 weight with an 8 weight floating line and 10 weight with a 10 weight sink tip floating line. The guide usually carried the 10 weight in case larger fish including GTs showed up.

We did have some larger fish including GT's, Sharks (which love Bonefish), a 2metre Barracouda, Blue Trevally, Trigger fish and numerous other fish including small Snapper which were particularly annoying when they stole the fly from in front of good Bonefish.

The best Bonefish flys in clear water were generally Crazy Charleys with orange, tan and pink colours being the best in sizes 4-6 however in spooky water I did use some size 8's and for the deeper drop-offs I found McVeighs gotchas in size 1 and 2 were really good being heavier and sinking deeper faster with bigger fish nailing them. I also took flashy profiles, clousers and crab flys catching GTs and Trigger fish on these. You need to take all your own flies, I tied and took about 250 flies as you find out when you are there what colour works best.

Other must have gear included fluorocarbon 12 ,16 ,20 , lb tippet, a Pro-Angler bum bag, water bottle, polaroids, Arafat hat, buff, long sleeved shirt, long pants, sun gloves, sun screen as you were on the water from 8.30am till 6pm in a hot sunny windy tropical climate.

We also twice Bonefished the Ocean beach at the Korean Wreck site where extensive wide coral flats extend from the sandy beach to the back of the reef where continual breaking surf occurs. A deep sand gutter occurs at the junction of the reef with the sandy beach.

The Coral Flats are generally pink or orange in colour and as Bonefish cruise in and out over the flats through breaks in the outer reef they look at times like fluorescent green bars over the coral (easy to see) and generally much larger and stronger than those within the Lagoon.

Also many other fish were present including GT's , Sharks, Parrot Fish, Blue Trevally and Emperor to name a few. Some fish were right in the gutter at the beach before the tide dropped and I caught numerous fish in the gutter including Bonefish and GT's and tried not to catch the Sharks chasing the Bonefish on my hook.

I had a purple patch one morning catching 25 Bonefish in four hours before lunch of which I was unaware until the guide English who had been counting told me on the way back to get lunch.

Unfortunately the Korean wreck Reef is a two and a half hour drive each way from Ikari house. Sitting in the back of the truck with wooden seats, however it is definitely worth the trip as the fishing is so different to that within the Lagoon.

Our last night was spectacular as the staff at Ikari House and the guides provided a whole roast pig with all the trimmings, dancing girls and boys with flashing lights and their own versions of local music and hit songs. We were sorry the fishing had come to an end however Pro-Angler had provided a great trip with no hitches and everything well organized. As the weather turned for the worse that night and the plane nearly didn't land the next day we picked a good time to leave Christmas Island.

Summing up I would have to say that if you want a mind blowing experience sight fishing to silver rockets that run you into the backing, bruise your knuckles, test all your skills and your gear then you should not miss a trip to Christmas Island I lost track of how many Bonefish I caught but it was well over 100 fish.

The pro-angler trip run by Gavin is definitely the best organised trip with the best accommodation and the best guides.

LYNTON REID



Fly of the Month

Kossie Dun



The Kosciuszko Dun is a generic term for a group of Australia's largest mayflies, Coloburiscoides species, that hatch mainly from late winter to late spring but are by no means common.

To represent the naturals, the pattern needs to be on the large size #10 to #14 dry fly hooks with buff coloured dressing. The natural has a 3 pronged tail and large wing.

Variations of this pattern can be used to represent most mayflies found on Victorian, NSW and Tasmanian waters.

Fish this pattern high floating along and beside bubble lines in pools and runs.

Dressing:

Hook: Dry fly size 10 to 14

Thread: White or tan 8/0 or 6/0

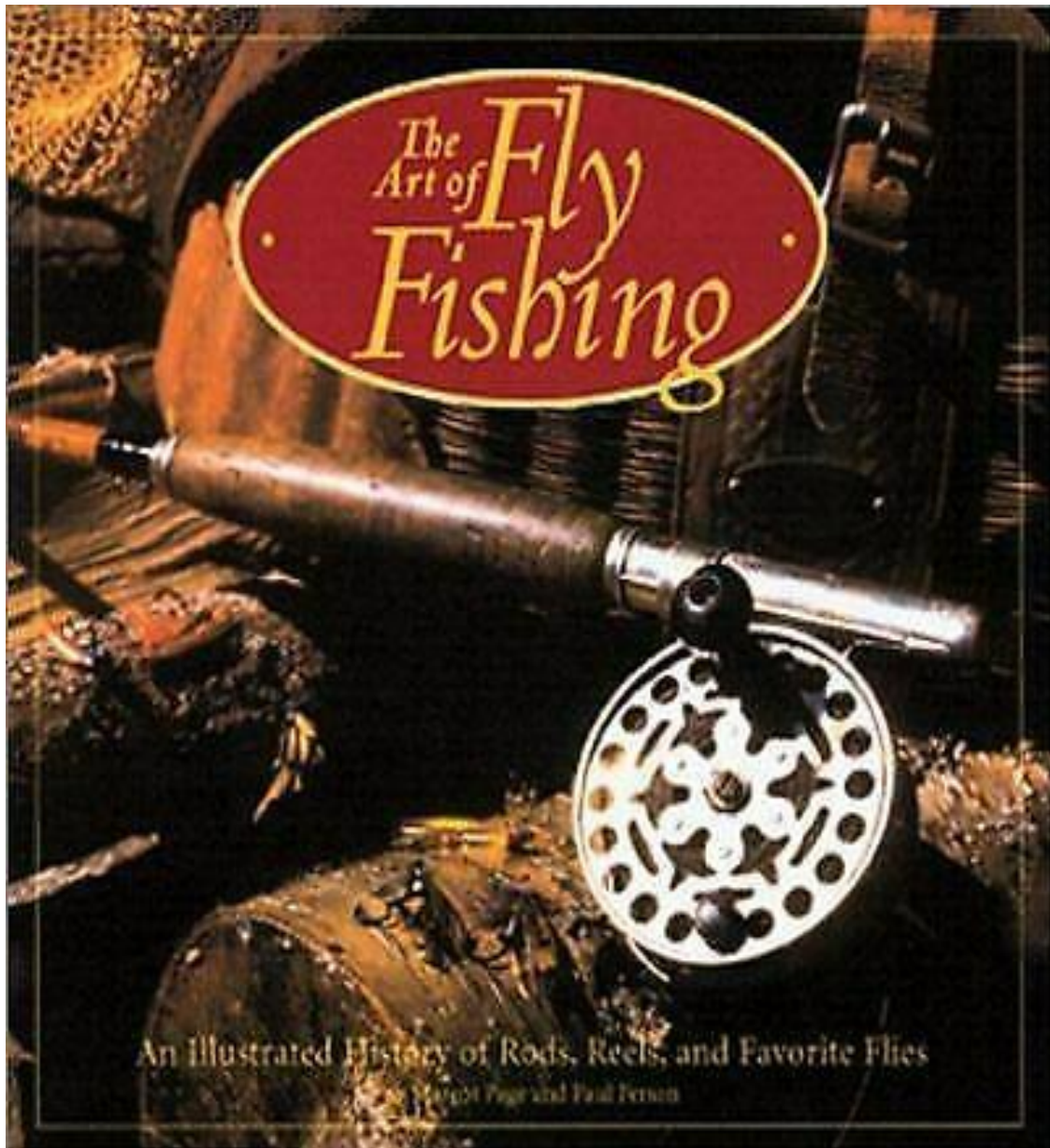
Tail: 3 bleached deer or elk hairs split with 2 strands of pearl flash.

Wing: Hackle tips, light brown to white in colour, tied as in the traditional Adams.

Hackle: Light brown to white dry fly hackle.

Library

Book Of The Month



The Art of Fly Fishing, by fishing writers PAUL FERSON and MARGOT PAGE, with photographs by BRUCE CURTIS is a lavishly illustrated history of Rods, Reels and Favourite Flies. With an informative text and over 130 stunning, full-colour photographs the authors take you into the glorious and graceful world of fly fishing. They explore its elegance, history and traditions as well as a look at state-of-the art and traditional, collectable gear and the musings, wisdom and adventures of angling legends.

Stalker Flex-Fit Fly Pant

Every jeans brand in the world makes stretch denim, yet for fly fishers, we have stayed with old school cotton and nylon. Seemed ridiculous, so we set about making fishing pants that were comfortable, breathable, functional, but most importantly allowed all the movement you could handle, deep casual pockets, plus a couple of zippered safety pockets and a serious belt... and the NEW Stalker Fly Fishing Flex-Fit pants were born and ready to take on every fly fishing journey imaginable. Only \$99.00



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YVFF Club Shirt



Sizes : Small, Large, Extra Large, XX Large and XXX Large.

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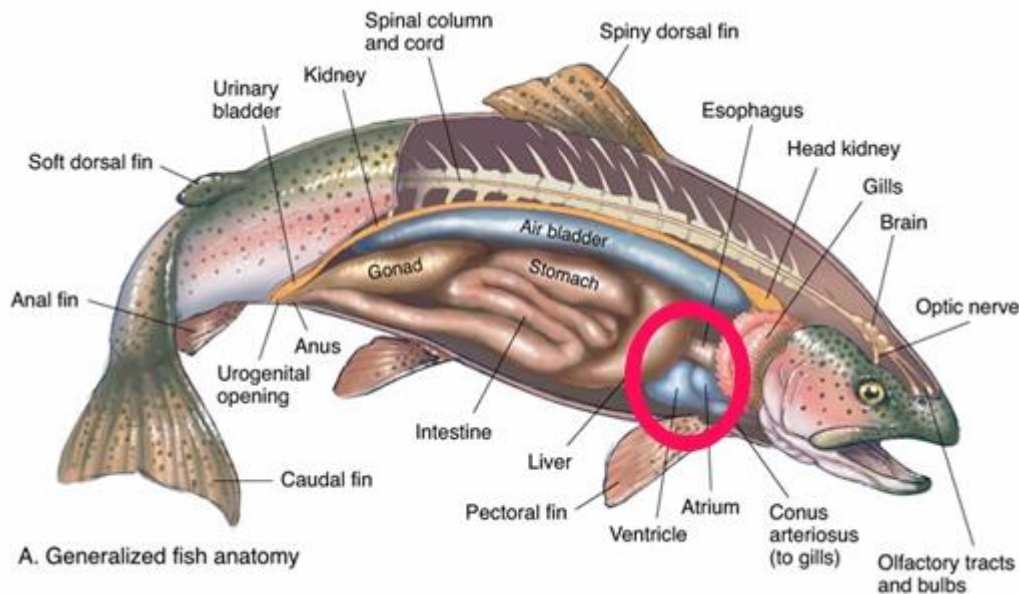
Contact Owen : 0488 535 151

Trout Dying To Get a Good Photo.

We all should know the [rules for releasing a trout](#) with the best chance of survival, but there is one rule that is almost never included in articles about successful releasing.

So, you have landed the fish as quickly as possible to limit capture stress and you are about to pick up the fish and get a few 'grip and grin' shots before release.

But, grip and grin, can all too often turn into grip and kill, and it is all down to where and how you grip the trout that can determine its survival.



Have look at the anatomical drawing above showing the main internal structure and components of a trout. Take particular notice where the heart is (red outline) - between and under the gills and liver, just above the Pectoral fins.

These three organs, heart, gills and liver are very susceptible to damage, although not always immediately obvious, unless the damage is very severe leading to immediate death. A fish subject to external pressure to the heart and other organs may swim away on release, but many die soon after.

Gripping a fish in the pectoral area using inward force and squeezing pressure will compress the heart and maybe the liver and gills. The outcome for the fish is not going to be good, even if it does manage to swim away on release.

So we should have a look at a gallery of grip and kill photos copied from the web and magazines - any ID of the person holding the fish has been removed. I should also note that some or even all of these fish were not released - I could not tell.



This grip while probably not lethal will still stress the heart. Any squeezing here must be avoided.

We need to try and avoid any more stress than landing the fish has already incurred. Placing stress on the heart and other organs will increase the chances of the fish dying exponentially.



A bad grip very likely to damage the fish's heart and reduce survival chances.

The worst example of 'grip and kill' in these shots - almost certain lethal damage to heart, liver and gills.



The 'UK Grip' - A Killer Too!



Those who follow UK trout fishing magazines and websites may have noticed the prevalence of photos with the trout being held as seen in the photo above. I did a quick flick through a pile of recent top selling UK magazines and websites and as rough

estimate well over 70% of fish are held by what I call the 'UK grip'. I believe trout are held this way to show off the fact that the fish is a 'full-finned' or a wild fish, not a stocked fish.

Most fly-fishing in the UK is done in stocked still-waters. Many (most?) stocked fish have their tails and fins damaged by other fish and the concrete walls of the stock pens. So to show off the fact the fish is 'full-finned and tailed' you need a grip that does just that. That grip, which I have called the 'UK grip', is great for showing fins and tails, but is it good for the trout? No!

The UK grip means that the tail of the fish is not firmly held, so the holder must squeeze the fish in the heart area as shown above. If the fish thrashes about, the grip around the heart area has to increase, because the grip ahead of the tail is very weak. All bad news for the heart and other organs.

But this bad grip is certainly not confined to the UK, you see grip and kill photos from around the world on the net, but it seems to be a more common practice in the UK.

This practice needs to stop. Magazines and websites need to stop showing photographs of fish held in damaging way.

The way it should be...



The right way to hold a fish near the head. The trout is 'cradled' with the fingers parallel to the side of the fish, not clawing in like talons, or squeezing this vulnerable area.

The key to being able to get a good grip on the pectoral area is a good grip on the tail

One of New Zealand's best known guides, Tony Entwhistle, writing in the New Zealand Fish & Game Magazine, (published here by permission) has one of the best descriptions I have read on the proper handling of a trout.

"Securely handling trout without causing stress or damage

Securely handling trout without causing stress or damage is a matter of a gentle touch, not a tight grip.

To pacify a landed trout, simply place a hand vertically in front of its nose to prevent it from swimming forward and fold the palm to cover both eyes. This acts as a mask and immediately calms it down. Trout relax quickly when their eyes are covered.

Next grasp the fish's tail with the other hand, without excessive force.

Some anglers use a piece of stocking for grip, but with good technique this isn't necessary. Securing a trout needs only gentle pressure between the thumb and forefinger, applied directly over the base of the tail, applied where it joins the body (hypural joint).

Apply pressure top and bottom through the first joints of the forefinger and thumb, rather than along the sides

The mistake is grasping the tail too far forward and using too much hand in doing so. Squeezing hard does not help as the fish slips more easily.

Now test the grip by lifting the fish slightly by the tail, keeping the other hand over the eyes for the moment. If the grip is secure the trout will not slip, but if it does resist grabbing at it with both hands. By quickly slipping a hand in front of the nose, and covering the eyes again, a lot more fish will be saved from premature release.

With a positive grip on the tail it is now possible to begin lifting the trout safely for a photograph or release.

Avoid squeezing the fish around the soft belly area behind the pectoral fins because this causes discomfort and can potentially cause serious damage to internal organs. Instead slide the free hand under the pectoral fins, orientating the hand so that the trout's head rests along the index finger, with the pectoral fins spread out between thumb and little finger.

The trout will be nicely balanced and the soft tissue in the belly area will no be supporting any weight. Lifting the trout this way, and returning it to the water between photographs minimizes any distress which could reignite its struggles. Turn the fish belly up when removing the hook.

Handle trout gently and with respect and they won't panic or stress, ensuring their revival for release without damage and a minimum of fuss."

Securely handling trout without causing stress or damage first published in New Zealand Fish & Game Magazine is Copyright and published here by permission.

The Harsh Fact About Holding a Trout Out of The Water

There is no getting around it, lifting a trout out of the water to take a photo is almost certainly going to dramatically increase the stress and physical damage already done while landing the fish.

This is true, even when the fish is handled very carefully and all the "rules" about releasing are followed to the letter.

If you are really concerned about releasing a trout with the maximum chances of survival never lift it clear of the water.

To get the full picture on releasing trout, and other fish, fresh and salt water with the highest chances of healthy survival [see this](#), it spawned the grip and kill article above.

Article written by Tony Bishop

Millbrook Lakes Trip 2020

Due to the COVID 19 Crisis the May Millbrook Lakes Trip has been deferred till 6th – 8th November Weekend.

All deposits paid will be credited to the November Trip.

Thanks to all attendees and Millbrook lakes for your assistance and understanding in this challenging and stressful time.

Members will be Notified of any changes.

Direct any questions or concerns to **Owen : 0488 535 151**

From the Editor's Desk.

We trust you all enjoy reading the May 2020 YVFF Fly Line By Line.

Please keep your contributions coming so we as a club can stay in touch during this time of crisis.

All your past Fishy Photo's and Stories are greatly appreciated by your fellow Members as we cannot go Fishing at present and we are endeavouring to continue to publish an edition every month .

**Deadline for Contributions for the June Edition
is Tuesday 26th May 2020.**

Stay Safe and Healthy : Look after yourselves.

Owen.

email : editor@yvff.com.au

***With the exception of Official Club Policy and Reports, the views expressed are not necessarily those of the Club.**