



Fly Line By Line

VOLUME 45 NUMBER 01

February 2017



**OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION BY
YARRA VALLEY FLY FISHERS INC.**

YARRA VALLEY FLY FISHERS INC.

Lillydale Lake Reserve

P.O. Box 266 Lilydale

YVFF COMMITTEE 2016-17



President
Trevor Jacobson
Stream Craft
0419 162 618
president@yvff.com.au



Vice President
Ray Buckland
0407 349 267



Treasurer
Doug Braham
Casting Co-ordinator
Membership
0407 263 948
treasurer@yvff.com.au



Secretary
Wally Usatov
0407 733 474
secretary@yvff.com.au



Web & Social Media
Andy Elam
0421 089 999
Webmaster@yvff.com.au



Social Secretary
Sharon Baird
0488 031 914
Socialsecretary@yvff.com.au



Trips Coordinator
(Temp)
Lynton Reid
0418 310 792
Tripscoordinator@yvff.com.au



Assistant Secretary
Geoff Hatfield
0434 731 956

Librarian
Marshall Munneke

Library Assistant
Owen Lloyd

Merchandising
Ian Richards & Shane Symonds
Ian 9723 6246 &
Shane 0430 384 423

Position Vacant

Trips Coordinator
Volunteers sought
Please contact any
committee member



www.facebook.com/yvffinc

Editor
Andy Elam
editor@yvff.com.au
0421 089 999

Casting Instructors
John Motyka
0404 398427
Rob Nabben
Shane Houston

Webmaster & Social Media
Andy Elam
webmaster@yvff.com.au
0421 089 999

Clubrooms
Alex Precht
0416 131647

YARRA VALLEY FLY FISHERS INC.

Lillydale lake Reserve P.O. Box 266 Lillydale 3140

Club Room Phone 9739

Fly Line By Line



The official newsletter of the
Yarra Valley Fly Fishers Inc.

January — 2017

Committee	2
2017 Fishing Trips Calendar	4
Presidents Message	5
Library News	6
YVFF Monthly Club Fishing Trips	7
Acknowledgments & Accolades	10
Operation Snatch & Apprehend	12
YVFF Meetup Report	16
February Bright/Ovens Weekend	18
Fly Tying—Caddis Month	21
The Under-appreciated Caddis Fly	22
Fly Pattern Should Always Be The Last Thing You Change	25
Streamcraft Course for Beginners	26
Tranquil Rises — Flowerdale Trip	27
Does Fly Pattern Matter?	29



Hazelwood — caught on the fly by Daniel Ringer

Front Page Photograph:- Shane Symonds — practising his nymphing technique at Omeo on the Bandarra Rver

Club Trips 2017

See Website for more details

February

17th—19th Bright/Porepunkah

24th—25th Flowerdale—Tranquil Rises

March

10th—13th Mitta/Dartmouth

24th—25th Flowerdale—Tranquil Rises

April

7th—9th Howqua/Jamieson

28th—29th Flowerdale Tranquil Rises

May

19th –20th Eildon Tail Waters/Goulburn

26th—27th Flowerdale Tranquil Rises

June

9th—12th Toolondo/Grampians

23rd—24th Flowerdale Tranquil Rises

July

14th—16th Bullen Merri, Purrumbete,
Deep & Tooliorook Lakes

28th—29th Flowerdale Tranquil Rises

28th - 30th Salt water fishing—
Inverloch

August

4th—8th Creswick Lakes Area

25th—26th Flowerdale Tranquil Rises

27th Salt water fishing — Kilcunda

Club Trips 2017

September

2nd—3rd Eildon Trout Opening

10th Tumbling Waters Thornton Day
Trip

22nd — 23rd Scope/Kids Try Fishing
Days

October

6th—8th Fly In competition Lake
Fyans

13th—15th Wastell (Creswick) Comp

27th –28th Flowerdale Tranquil Rises

November

3rd—7th Omeo-Mitta

24th—25 Flowerdale—Tranquil Rises

26th Tri—Club with Southern & Red
Tag

December

3rd Dave Jenkins Day

22nd—23rd Flowerdale —Tranquil
Rises

**See YVFF Website and Face-
book for further details**

President's message November 2017

Trevor Jacobson



Presidents Report January 2017

Welcome back everybody I hope we all had some relaxing down time and maybe swam a few flies over the break. Thanks for the great support with our raffle at the Christmas breakup it was a fantastic night. I wish we could have given away more rods. Thanks again to Mayfly tackle for the awesome prize. A special thank you to the team who cleaned up some new faces joined in and it goes without saying many hands make light work and every member should join in.

Just before fly tying finished last year we had a visit from Tim Lambe, Tim was very close to Muz Wilson and for the newcomers Muz passed away recently in April 2015 but his memory lives on through his iconic fly patterns and his endearing and friendly personality. I think everybody I know in fly fishing uses some of his patterns. Muz donated most of his fly fishing gear including rods reels etc .to his favourite charity SIDS. Tim has offered us some of the original fly tying material from Muzzes office after Tim boxed up all his gear. Paul and the team will be sorting through the material and trying to work out the best way to deal with it and as Tim has stated in true Muz fashion it would be best to see it shared amongst fly tiers. Perhaps we could have a session tying his patterns in April to celebrate the memory of Murray Wilson. Thanks Tim and Muz.

We also received another item, care of Rob Day. For those who don't know Rob, his factory in Lilydale builds the greatest stairs in the free world. Rob delivered a timber box for library returns; so if the library is not open there are no excuses for not returning books and DVD,s. Thanks Rob.

Our year kicks off with great dry fly action hoppers are in flight now and every fish in small streams has been looking up with a smorgasbord of bugs either leaving or landing on the water. As usual the Club calendar is full with plenty of options to choose from including fly tying, casting, stream craft, and fishing either one day or weekend trips. There are also lots of options available with Native Fish Australia and our friend Tim Curmi organising some great events. Throw in some saltwater action and you have the trifecta covered.

After this break our first meeting back will be interesting to catch up with everyone and listen to all the fishing tales There will be some changes to the website and there are constant postings on face book so check out your syllabus and get in to it. Cheers TJ.

YVFF Library News

October 2016

The Club has a range of Books and DVD's for Members to enjoy.

Coming soon:

Modern Nymphing: European Inspired Techniques DVD (Featuring Devon Olsen and Lance Egan)

In this DVD, Lance and Devon share the European inspired nymphing techniques that have helped teams to be successful in the world championships as well as in competitions at around the globe. it is not only instructional but exciting and entertaining to watch.

Specific topics covered include:

- ***The pros and cons of European vs. suspension/strike indicator nymphing***
 - ***European nymphing gear and rigging***
 - ***Casts for European nymphing***
 - ***The execution - fishing and detecting strikes upstream, up and across, and down and across***
 - ***Fourteen confidence flies from Devin and Lance***
- The film was shot on six public rivers in Utah, Idaho, and Oregon.***

You can also watch the trailer at <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/modernnymphing>

See the boys at the club, there is some great information waiting for you.

Sponsors Page: Members Please support our Sponsors



www.flyfinz.com

Extensive range of quality Fresh & Salt water fly fishing equipment, fly tying materials and accessories

4 Trade Place Lilydale

Contact Jim 0410 423 430 or info@flyfinz.com

Club Events—Monthly fishing trips

YVFF monthly club fishing trips

Christmas has passed and the peak hour traffic will soon be back to normal. So too will YVFF's monthly fishing trips.

These trips visit some of Victoria's finest fishing "holes" and provide a great opportunity for members to put their feet up and enjoy a break away from the big smoke. Oh, and if you feel like it you can throw a line also.

Some newer members are not sure how they work as they have heard mutterings about championships, points and awards and have felt that perhaps the club trips are not for them. Not so.

Club trips are open to any member and they provide a great opportunity to improve your fishing by hanging out with, and questioning more experienced members and even having the opportunity to fish a session alongside them.

The trips are social events and happen to have a scoring system that applies to any fish caught by any member.

A small fee applies (usually \$5 per person – see by Laws following) to cover the administrative costs of organising the trip. It is not a club championship entry fee.

Whether you intend to fish for points or not – all fish caught by members will be recorded in the trip notes and where applicable – points awarded to the member for their catch.

All members on trips are encouraged to report ALL fish caught or observed even if they do not qualify for points. This will give us a reference to the species, type and size of fish and the catch rate for the fishery and assist in deciding future trips to the same area. It also gives opportunity to report to Fisheries information that is important for the health of the fishery, future stocking programs and overall management of OUR waters.

Details of club trips and awards can be found in the Yarra Valley Fly Fishers Inc. By-Laws but I have extracted a few and listed them below

Section 6. FISHING BY-LAWS

Clauses

4. Trip fees shall be the same for an attending family group as for an attending single member.
5. All members attending Club Trips will be required to pay the set fee to help cover the costs of awards and facilities.
7. Trip Fee will be paid to the Steward on arrival at the venue or to Trips Coordinator or his representative 'prior to the trip. Fees must be paid by 12 Noon on the Saturday of the trip.

Club Championship – Fishing By-Laws

2. (a) a minimum length of 35 cm shall apply to all awards other than Junior, Family or Club Champion.
- (b) a minimum length of 25 cm shall apply to Club Championship points.

Club Events—Monthly fishing trips

YVFF monthly club fishing trips—continued

8. (a) The Monthly Award shall be by length only, be the fish killed or released. If the catch is released the measured length and weight must be witnessed by an independent Club Member
- (b) Length shall be to the nearest centimetre (rounded down) measured from the point of the nose to the fork of the tail.
14. Recording of catches will close at 12:00 Noon on the last day, unless a majority of registered Members present on the trip agree to an earlier closing time.
15. Fish caught from commercial or private waters will not be considered for Awards.
16. Members attending Club Trips must show, to the satisfaction of the Trip Coordinator or Stewards, that they hold a current angling licence and/or permits as required by the State or Local Authorities.
17. The Club Championship award will be an honour system and any person abusing the intent of this format will be ineligible for any awards for that Club Year.
19. All fish captured on the Fly, having been "released" or weighed in" will be eligible for Championship points.

METHODOLOGY FOR CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS.

MEASUREMENT: Is from the nose of the fish to the fork of the tail

All measurements to be rounded down to the nearest centimetre.

MINIMUM LENGTH of fish to qualify towards points system is 25 cms.

POINTS system as follows: (Editor's note: up to maximum of 5 eligible scoring fish per day per member)

Fish length:

25-30 cms 1 point

31-34 cms 2 points

35 cm + 3 points

In The News
What's happening around the club

26th February 2017

2nd Hand Equipment Mart & BBQ

Clubrooms 10.00 am—12.00 pm



26th February 2017

Last Sunday of each Month

Equipment Mart & BBQ

**Buy, sell and/or swap your old or
“been told to get rid of it” gear**

**Come along and bring your surplus gear to sell
or pick up a bargain and grab a burger or snag
while you're there**

In The News

What's happening around the club

Applause & Accolades:

Well done to John Motyka and Shane Houston . Since our Meetup.com group started in late October 2016, we have numerous first time visitors coming to the club on Sunday mornings to try their hand at casting a fly line. Some with a little experience and most with none. Tirelessly Shane and then John has been there with the help of Geoff Hatfield, Doug Braham and Trevor Jacobson to introduce each of these visitors comprehensively to the art of casting a fly line.

Thoroughly and with patience, John and Shane have taken these prospective fly fishers through the basics of casting theory and practice with great results being enjoyed by just about everyone

Thanks John and Shane.



Next YVFF General Meeting

February 9th, 2017

7.30 pm Lillydale Lake Clubrooms



30 SHERBOURNE RD.
GREENSBOROUGH 3088

TEL: 9432 1501 - FAX: 9435 6918



Drop into the store for good old-fashioned service or log on to our virtual shop. With a whole room dedicated just to fly-fishing, you're sure to find everything you need - not to mention a few things you probably don't!

Spotters
polarised sunglasses

SAGE

innovator

G-loomis

SIMMS

Columbia
Sportswear & Outdoors



WWW.AUSSIEANGLER.COM.AU

In The News — What's happening around the club

Operation Snatch and Apprehend

The clandestine operation got underway in the not so early hours of Australia Day morn. The first trainee operative was spotted in their Doncaster home precinct and quietly ushered into an operational vehicle with no fuss or disturbance to his unsuspecting sleeping family. Even the family guard cats and dogs barely raised a yawn. Next, an innocuous carpark rendezvous in the quiet back streets of Lilydale where an equipment exchange took place from car boot to car boot and a second trainee quickly whisked into the cabin and again the operations vehicle was underway with both cadets "acquired" and accounted for as planned and without fuss.

Heading towards destination "unknown" there was small banter about the operation, the subjects' ill preparedness for this day and the lack of functional equipment only exacerbating their anxiety.

Everything was going well and to plan when the operation command's phone rang; we were busted. FlyFinz, a covert local operation had got wind of something in the air and had called to attempt to dissuade the continuance of the operation with offer of a bribe – an Australia Day BBQ at Jim's gaff. Not on though, after much mediation and with resolution we continued on, towards our destination and Operation "Snatch & Apprehend"

We pulled up several kilometres short of town as we didn't want to blow our cover, parking the operational vehicle in the dark shadows of the trees hopefully camouflaging us against their dark background.

The first stage of our ops was to check, set up and explain the equipment specifically required for the operation to have any chance of success, including a quick discussion of friendly & unfriendly lines and why we had to observe these and the consequences of crossing into unfriendly lines and jeopardising the entire outcome of the "operation"

Another breath holding moment. Were we busted? A stealth visit by possible enemy agents purporting to want to know if we were having a good day; we knew they were seeking more information. We quickly realised that although dressed in blue camouflage uniforms and driving a 4WD cross country overlander, they weren't from the local constabulary. Saved by our preparedness for such an encounter we provided them with the ID they were seeking and a yarn about special ops and not engaging in the usual local activities undertaken in that neck of the woods, they departed none the wiser.

This was a close call so it was time to slip out of the shadows and in to the watery fields for a bit of "practice" using the unfamiliar equipment, making sure the lines were not crossed and well observed. The operation hadn't begun – we were not seeking our quarry just yet. Just practising and practising and more drilled practice using the new equipment to ensure complete familiarity, ensuring nothing went wrong when we entered the territory to seek out our "quarry"

In The News — What's happening around the club

Operation Snatch and Apprehend

Exhausted by a full morning of heavy and tough drills, the subjects needed some sustenance and R&R before the operation began in earnest. So, we stripped down to our civvies and nonchalantly wandered in to town using the local annual festivities as cover where we feasted and hydrated in preparedness for the real deal

Soon after we were back in the shadows of our launching point and it is was off and away entering the fields and into "their territory". Slowly, although not for reasons of stealth, but rather inadequate equipment selection by the "subjects" we made our way across country, occasionally stopping to assess the watery resource we were planning to attack and discussing the qualities, or not, of potential attack points. Opportunities were limited as recent weather conditions had resulted in a demise of the quality of this resource and the ideal attack points were =extremely few and far between. The commandeer of the operation saw the subjects flagging and quickly re-evaluated the strategy, turned around and headed for some water ways he had spotted on the way through. Although not ideal they would suffice as a first attack. A quick briefing on positioning and a re-affirmation that they "could do it" and the subjects were deployed to their stations and each set about with stoic application of skills they had only been introduced to that morning. Searching the grid, relentlessly applying their newly learned skills they sought their quarry. Again, and again they attacked their flanks, repositioning themselves as the foliage and the situation necessitated.



In The News — What's happening around the club

Operation Snatch and Apprehend

It wasn't too long before operative #1 successfully located and captured his quarry – despite some equipment failures. Nevertheless, he was ecstatic the quarry was exactly where he had learned it would be and success is a sweet thing. Meanwhile operative #2 was sweeping his designated station also with success, he had located and apprehended 2 of the targeted quarry although they did manage to break their shackles and escape quickly to the depths of their familiar territory. Not to worry success had been tasted and it is off to other pastures to seek more "quarry".

A quick sortie into a new frontier saw both operatives deployed into more dangerous zones where their balance and composure would be tested. Both quickly learned the value of being prepared with the right equipment and each resolved to address that immediately on return to civilisation. This new territory proved to be a challenge with more and greater equipment failures occurring and a brutal exposure to the ferocity of these wilder conditions but again operative #2 located, struck, conquered his quarry. We need to work on his land and record techniques however.

So it was back to the vehicle and pack up the equipment, withdraw from these unfamiliar lines and make our way back to civilisation with another carpark switch to see off one of the operatives and a drop off the final operative to his guard cats and dogs that had some stage during the day realised that daddy had left without them.

Well done to Andy McCall and Paul Davies; they had both successfully hooked their first fish using the short line nymphing method.





Mayfly Tackle Pty Ltd

Bringing the Worlds Best Fly Brands to Aussie Fly Anglers



Visit www.mayflytackle.com.au to view the full range

In The News

What's happening around the club

YVFF Meetup Group

Meetup continues to be a source of new visitors to the club and we can welcome our first member via Meetup.com. Welcome Josh Crompton. Josh has been a regular visitor to the casting sessions on Sundays and is showing some real promise. As a part of efforts to introduce new people to fly-fishing, when visitors show an ongoing interest and appear to be developing their (lawn) casting skills, we organise to take them to a trout farm to catch their first fish on the fly. We are planning our first day for several people including Josh for Saturday 11th February.

Please keep an eye out for Josh and introduce yourself to him.

In 2017 we have seen 7 new visitors and a couple of repeat visitors also. Already we have welcomed Josh Crompton as a new member via Meetup and we hope to be able to introduce you to several more in the near future

Also a huge thank you to John Motyka who has been regularly on hand to welcome our meetup visitors and introduce them to the basics of fly casting. We have received several complimentary feedbacks comments on John's coaching. Thanks John

Hopefully we might see some visitors to our fly tying on Wednesday evenings and the occasional fishing event we open to meetup members



Sponsors Page:Members Please support our Sponsors



PENETRATOR LENS
Adjusts to every light condition.
The only pair you'll ever need.

spotters
Polarised Performance Eyewear

spotters.com.au

What's happening around the club

Club Fishing Trips resume 2017

February 17th –19th Bright/Porepunkah Club Fishing Weekend — Bring the Family

Probably amongst the best and most picturesque accommodation of our club fishing trips throughout 2107 situated on the banks of the Ovens and Buckland Rivers in the heart of picturesque Bright/Porepunkah region, is the Mt Buffalo Caravan Park. This beautiful location marks the resumption of the 2016-17 YVFF club fishing trips.

Surrounded by numerous rivers and fishing locations such as the Ovens, Buckland, and Kiewa, rivers, there is plenty to do in Bright so consider bringing the family for a post vacation break



Local attractions and activities include: river walks, gold panning, trout fishing, swimming, bike riding and canoeing as well as so much more.



Bright has wonderful cafes, restaurants and a local craft brewery

As we move into wet wading weather and conditions, its time to consider: isn't this why I took up this recreational activity— to enjoy not only the rewards of man against trout but also the serenity of nature at its best.

Mt Buffalo Caravan park accommodation is in fully equipped cabins with all facilities as well as BBQs.. Bring your wife, bring your mates, you can even bring the neighbours!!

Book your place by adding your name to the Club Trips Notice board or contacting Andy Elam on 0421 089 999 or tripscoordinator@yvff.com.au — Bookings must close prior to the event so that we may confirm cabin numbers so please book no later than 12th February.

Individual cabins and camping also available — contact Andy Elam for details

Around the traps — Fly fishing articles

Fly pattern should always be the last thing you change

When the results don't come, it's probably not your fly choice that's to blame

Article by George C Costa —Extract from Hatchmag Magazine January 2017

Fly selection has always been one of the most frustrating aspects of fly fishing for beginning and casual anglers. We all know the old mantra of "match the hatch" but sometimes that approach doesn't meet muster. So when do you switch it up? At what point do you throw in the towel on the pattern you've got on and try something new?

Unless you're familiar with the water you're fishing, you should always wait until you get to the stream to rig up a fly. Once you're streamside, take your time. Stop and smell the roses. Lift some rocks. Look for spider webs and see what Charlotte caught last night. Each of these can serve as great indicators of what's happening on the stream. Base your decision on your observations and experience, not what the *fly du jour* was in your magazine subscription this month.

Once you've decided on a fly, off you go. But what if the results don't come? What's to blame? Certainly it could be the fly but chances are, if you've made your fly selection thoughtfully, your choice of pattern should be the last thing you look to change.

If you are confident that you're fishing to productive water make sure you are fishing *productively*. If you're fishing dries are your drifts good? Are you getting the fly in front of the fish? Is your tippet light enough? If you're fishing nymphs, these same considerations apply, as well as more — because now you're working in 3 dimensions. Have you adjusted your weight? Added or subtracted tippet to adjust for water depth? Moved your indicator? Often while nymphing, it's not about the fly but the small adjustments in you system that'll make the difference.

If I feel confident that I've been fishing productively to productive water and am not getting any strikes, I'll generally fish a nymph pattern for around 10 minutes before I change anything. Most often, the first change will be to a fly of the same pattern, only down or up a size. Often enough, that's the key.

When fish are actively rising and your fly has gone over them 4-5 times, change it up. Actively feeding fish will generally rise to a fly if you've got the right size and presentation. As with nymphing, look to adjust size before pattern, but if the takes still don't come, don't waste your time pounding the water with a dud, odds are you'll spook the fish and put them down before you hook them. More often than not the fish are eating the hatch you're not seeing, aka the "hidden hatch". There may be size 8 Drakes all over the place, but I'd bet the ranch they're eating the size 16 sulphurs you're ignoring.

The best anglers can catch fish on flies that look like cat puke. Fishing *correctly* will always produce more results than fishing the correct fly. Focus on the other aspects of your angling and make adjustments to your rig or fly size before you lose confidence in your pattern.

Pattern can play an integral part in determining your angling success, just remember that it should be the last thing you adjust on the water.



Bored on a Wednesday Night!

Why not come and try Fly Tying

8.00 pm Clubrooms

Lillydale Lake

You will be tying these in no time



or



Well maybe these



Fly Tying Articles and Information next month

What's happening around the club

Fly Tying resumes Feb 1st - 2017

February is Caddis Month — 7.30 - 9.30pm Clubrooms

Week 1 - Caddis February, group 2 will be tying a Goulburn Caddis Grub Pattern



Hook - grub or scud hook in size 12 to 16

Weight - tungsten bead, lead wire

Body - green dubbing

Rib - medium or fine copper wire

Thorax - peacock herl

There are over 470 species of Caddis flies in Australia and they all lay their copious numbers of eggs in water. Given the numbers of caddis pupa (or nymphs) that hatch it's not surprising that Caddis fly pupa form arguably the largest part of a trout's diet. Most caddis grubs make a retreat of silk with sand or detritus matter stuck to the outside. Similar in form this fly represents a caddis grub that has been dislodged from its retreat. Colors include cream, lime, fawn, and light browns and olives through to dark browns and olives.

If you would like to learn to tie your own flies and understand what you are targeting and why when tying it, then Wednesday evenings at 7.30 pm at our Lilydale Lake Club room is the time & place to come along and learn from our expert teachers.

Group 1 usually starts at 7.30pm and Group 2 usually starts at 8.00pm

(Usually we run the session over 2 hours but you can tie until 10.00pm, so if 7.30pm start is too early for you to get there, come by 8.00pm at the latest).

YVFF Members conduct courses in fly-tying for the very beginner to the more advanced tier.

Don't worry if you haven't tried it before or if you do not have any of the necessary equipment. For beginners, we can supply the essential tools to get you started.

A small charge of \$5 applies to cover the cost of tying materials supplied, and RSVPs are necessary for us to ensure we have sufficient resources available.

We divide the group into two main classes.

1. The beginner who needs to take it slowly in the beginning to perfect their skill – in this group you will tie nymphs until you are proficient in fly tying techniques.
2. The second group is for the beginner through to expert where your ability to grasp the technique is not your major challenge and you can learn to quickly tie and master a range of flies and soon fill your fly box. There is nothing more satisfying than catching a fish on a fly you have tied.

Around the traps — Fly fishing articles

The under-appreciated caddisfly

A closer look at caddisflies from Paul Weamer's 'The Bug Book'

Article by Paul Weamer —Extract from Hatchmag Magazine August 2015

February is Caddis Month for YVFF Fly tying

I thought this might be of interest for those that might be considering attending Fly tying starting February 1st — All equipment supplied on the night (Editor)

For further information contact Paul Pavone - 0407 851 190

Caddisflies are perhaps the most underappreciated aquatic insect family. To many non-anglers, they look like little moths. Adults have wings shaped like a tent, segmented bodies without tails, and antennae that give a moth-like appearance. But unlike moths, caddisflies spend most of their lives living in the water as larvae, which look like little worms. Most, but not all, caddisfly larvae live in some type of case that they build from rocks, sand, plant material, or even their own silk.



Whereas mayflies have an abundance of fly fishing literature dedicated to their existence, there is much less information about caddisflies. Caddis are difficult and confusing to understand because there are so many species that look similar and because one type of caddis that doesn't even exist in your favourite local trout water may be extremely important in a nearby stream. There are 20 caddisfly families in North America that contain over 1,400 species, and new species are being discovered all the time. But anglers do not need to fear caddis hatches. Most species live in similar fashions and techniques for imitating one can often be used for another, even if the angler doesn't know that he's imitating two different species.

In *Caddisflies* (the first significant American fly fishing work entirely about caddisflies published in 1981) Gary LaFontaine divided caddisflies into five families according to the cases in which they live: tube-case makers, net spinners, free-living, purse-case makers, and saddle-case makers. But in Thomas Ames' 2009 fly fishing book, also called *Caddisflies*, he divides caddis into three families: primitive, fixed-retreat makers, and tube-case makers. I like Ames' approach because it simplifies things a bit. Instead of identifying and separating each caddisfly by the exact type of case, Ames takes a more general approach, organizing caddis into three groups: those that do not live inside a case (primitive, free-living), those that have a home they live near (fixed-retreat makers, net spinners), and those that construct a case in which they live (tube-case makers, purse-case makers, saddle-case makers).

The continent-wide important *Brachycentrus* species (Grannoms) are an example of tube-case makers. They construct brown conical shaped tubes that look like little oil derricks or ice cream cones. Tan Caddis or the Spotted Sedge, members of the *Hydropsyche* and *Symphitopsyche*

The under-appreciated caddisfly—cont

genera, are probably the most important members of the fixed-retreat makers. They freely wander the stream bottom outside of a case, but they construct nets that look similar to spider webs to trap their food. Primitive types of caddis such as the Green Caddis (*Rhyacophila* species) build neither cases nor nets. They freely wander the rocky stream and river beds much like a mayfly nymph.

Unlike mayflies and stoneflies, caddisflies have a complete life cycle with larval, pupal (also called a resting stage), and adult life stages. Caddisflies begin life as eggs that have been de-



Caddis larvae look like little worms. They breathe through gills and live on the river-bottom.

posited in or near the water. Most often female caddisflies do this by flying above the water and releasing their eggs onto the surface. The eggs sink and quickly attach to rocks or other structure. But some spegs on dry land, near water, where the larva can easily crawl into the current after hatching.

It takes the eggs anywhere from a few weeks to a few months to hatch. Some species even over-winter as eggs. After hatching, the larvae usually undergo five instars as they develop (some have more), with

the fifth instar taking the longest to complete. An instar occurs as the insect grows and sheds its skin. All mayflies, stoneflies, and caddisflies have instars. The larvae of most species will then live for one year, though some species live for two.

At approximately the same time each year, the larvae begin to pupate. This means that they will encase themselves in a cocoon, just like a butterfly or moth, as they transform into a winged adult. Those caddis larvae that live in cases simply close the open end of the case before pupating. Others, like members of the free-living *Rhyacophila* genus, create a pupal case from their own silk. The length of the pupation varies with species but most will take two to five weeks, though some species take much longer, even over-wintering for two to three months, as pupa.

After their transformation is complete, the caddis chew their way out of their pupal case and swim to the surface as fully formed, sexually mature adults. Most adults can live for as long as a few weeks (some can survive significantly longer) as they complete their life cycle. Caddis adults can live longer than most mayfly duns because they are able to drink and do not die from dehydration like so many mayflies.

Caddisflies mate on dry ground or streamside vegetation, beyond the reach of hungry trout. This ensures that males are seldom available to fish after mating because they usually fly from the water before dying. However, females will be available to trout. Depositing their eggs saps what little energy reserves they have left and leaves them floating helplessly on the water.

The under-appreciated caddisfly—cont

Anglers call these females “spent” (just like spent mayfly spinners). They are easy targets for trout and usually inspire excellent dry-fly fishing.

Imitating the Caddis Life Cycle with Flies

Caddisflies are vulnerable to trout through much of their life cycle, giving anglers several opportunities for imitating them to catch fish. The first is the larval stage. Caddis larvae become trout food when they drift naturally in the current after intentionally or unintentionally becoming dislodged from the stream bottom.

These larvae are best imitated by dead drifting fly patterns along the streambed beneath a strike indicator or in a tandem (a tandem is when two flies are fished together) below a dry fly that is used as a strike indicator.

Caddis pupa imitations are effective for imitating the flies as they near their emergence into adults. Gary LaFontaine broke ground with his Sparkle Pupa patterns for imitating this caddis life stage, and his patterns remain popular today. These flies can be fished with or without intentional movement, though I usually prefer to fish them with a tight line and no indicator.

Tight lining (also called high-stick nymphing) employs a short amount of line outside the rod tip, often only the leader, with the rod held outstretched, slightly leading the flies through deep runs and areas of current, feeling for strikes. When caddis pupae leave their cases and swim to the surface, it's an excellent time to swing wet flies.

When emerging caddisflies reach the surface, dry fly imitations are often the best choice. My initial caddisfly adult presentations are usually made without intentional drag. But caddisflies tend to twitch, hop, and jump on the surface as they try to fly, and trout sometimes key on this movement. Anglers often skitter caddis dries to imitate this behavior. You “skitter” a caddis dry by intentionally allowing it to drag on the surface ahead of a rising trout. Hackle caddis dry fly patterns work best because they are usually the most buoyant.

Dry flies will be effective again once mating has been completed and the spent females lie on the surface. You will nearly always want these floating drag-free. Some tiers add a small dubbing ball at the end of their fly pattern's abdomen, colored to imitate an egg sack. Fish can selectively key on this, and it is a good idea to have a few of these flies in your box.

The above is an excerpt from 'The Bug Book', a new eBook by Paul Weamer which is part of a cooperative effort between Midcurrent and Headwater Books. 'The Bug Book' offers a fresh, comprehensive view of aquatic insects, their life stages and strategies for imitating them. While packed with information, it is a quick read that may serve both as an ideal introduction to the world of aquatic insects and hatches for newcomers and an excellent reference for seasoned fishermen. Available on iBooks, Kindle and more.



Caddisflies, unlike mayflies and stoneflies, have a complete life cycle because they pupate. Pupation is often called a resting stage as the insects transform from larva to adult. This is a Tan Caddis pupa.



Awesome Fly Fishing Gear at Hook Up Bait & Tackle
4/718 Burwood Hwy, Ferntree Gully VIC 3156

Wading Boots



HUGE RANGE

Spirit River UV2



Fly Reels

Abel, Hardy, Shimano + more..



Ask about your FREE membership card to obtain your Yarra Valley discount



What's happening around the club

StreamCraft for beginners Feb 4th - 2017

You've asked for it!! Now its Nike time: Just Do it!! Streamcraft for Beginners—Feb 4th 2017

To register, add your name on the enrolment notice on the notice board in the club-rooms or telephone Trevor Jacobson 0419 162 618



Bank-side and aquatic vegetation, geography, geology are pretty much fixed factors. The climate, water level, temperature, rate of flow are in constant change, which in turn alters things such as dissolved oxygen level, life cycle and abundance of various species of creatures within the habitat.

Eventually you will learn as you travel your fly fishing journey, that to stop on arrival at any given stream and watch, move slowly, watch some more, all the while putting gear together, is a much more profitable exercise than just jumping in and throwing a line. Take the time to observe things like the insect life that is present, the trout that are rising, or lack of, the lay of the stream and where the fish are or may be. The approach for arrival at the water, a walking or wading route, a line control strategy for casting (trees, wind, water flow etc.)

It won't take too long to dawn on you that from what you see, hear and read, that there are ways to go about things for good results.

As you travel up a river and read the river, fish the river and enjoy the fishing, you notice that there are pockets of water, and sometimes stretches of water with few fish, and there are other areas where fish populations are more abundant. This is down to some of the fine detail of how the whole ecosystem works.

Who: All YVFF members

Date: Saturday 4th February 2017

Time: 9am-3.30pm

Location: Yarra Valley Fly Fishers Club-rooms (Lilydale Community Rooms - Lilydale Lake)

This is a beginners course and will cover topics such as: gear selection, fly selection, reading water and presentation techniques

Fishing Trips — February 2017

Dusk till Dawn Fishing at Tranquil Rises Flowerdale.

3.00pm Friday to all day Saturday

February 24th - 25th 2017.



\$60 per person includes 1 night accommodation and fishing rights Friday pm and all day Saturday.

This picturesque Flowerdale property is set in a valley of cascading pools (13 in total) culminating in two large dams of which, all are stocked with rainbows, browns and golden trout. There also perch and murray cod in there. Your fee allows you to fish any of these dams and pools

Cabin accommodation with open fire, fridge & cooking facilities on the doorstep of the main dam. Bring a your own pillow and sleeping bag (or linen).

Spacious bunk accommodation provided. Ladies and children friendly

This is a great overnight trip, only an hour from Melbourne; offering great fishing variety, opportunity to try out different flies and fly fishing techniques and knowledge share with others - not a bad venue in the evenings either.

Please note: Fly fishing and barbless or crimped hooks only, and it is a catch and release property. You can fish easily from the banks and therefore gumboots or waterproof boots would be fine.

Ring Sharon Baird to book 0488 031 914

Directions: Collins Rd, Flowerdale - 2nd property on left - look for gate to dam with windmill and cabin viewable from the gate entrance



Does fly pattern matter?

How often is fly choice your limiting factor?

Article by John Juracek —Extract from Hatchmag Magazine December 2016

Certain beliefs are so widely and deeply entrenched in our sport that they're essentially considered givens, and rarely, if ever, called into question. One of the most closely held says that fly pattern matters. Matters in terms of success. We're taught to believe that our choice of fly is responsible for the fish we catch, and that if we merely find the right fly, our success will know no bounds. But does it really work that way? Is our choice of fly that critical? Good question.

In order for fly pattern to matter, to be the sole factor underpinning our success, it must first be made the *limiting* factor. By that I mean all other variables in the game are accounted for. Imagine for the moment that we're fishing to a feeding trout on the Madison River. For our fly to make the difference, several things need to happen. Our approach to the fish must go unnoticed. Our casts must be accurate and timely. The fly should float free of drag (unless intentional). In short, we have to fish flawlessly. Only then can we properly attribute success or failure directly to fly pattern.

If these or any of the other numerous variables that routinely present themselves on-stream aren't accounted for, we simply can't definitively say that our fly is making the difference. (Well, we could, and often do, but we'd be wrong.) And herein lies the rub. Very, very few anglers possess the skills and ability to make the fly the limiting factor. If on a regular basis you're one of them, congratulations. You're operating in rarefied air—air reserved for the masters of this sport. Most of us will never attain that level, which means that some other aspect of our fishing—presentation, usually—jumps to the fore and compromises our success. Am I suggesting then that we simply fish whatever fly we want, whenever we want? Not at all, though if you're so inclined that's certainly one way to proceed. I think there's more to it than that. While we may not own the skills to make the fly the limiting factor *all* the time, the flies of the average angler will still act as the limiting factor *some* of the time.

Here's how. If we accept the premise that casting skill is the primary limiting factor for most of us (a premise virtually all professionals accept), it will be no surprise that during a day's fishing most of the casts we make will in some respect be flawed. But not every cast. Even the most inexperienced anglers among us will make a number of good presentations during a day's fishing (if only by dint of random, good fortune). When these occur at the right place and time, it's possible that the fly pattern could make a difference.

Given this, I think a sound strategy entails using a fly that fits the situation we find ourselves in, and then not worrying about it. If there's a *Baetis* mayfly hatch taking place, fish a *Baetis* imitation. If fish are eating caddis, use a caddis. But don't get carried away thinking that a specific *Baetis* or specific caddis pattern are needed. They aren't. There are dozens of examples of both that will work just fine, and the fish don't care on which one they get caught. When fish aren't feeding on a specific insect, we have even more room to manoeuvre. Just pick an appropriate size and style of fly for the water and season you're fishing—could be a nymph, streamer, attractor dry, whatever—and fish it with all the skill you can muster.

...cont....

Around the traps — Fly fishing articles

This doesn't mean that there aren't relevant differences among flies. There are plenty of reasons you might choose one pattern over another, but these stem strictly from the fisherman's point of view. For example, I favour a Sparkle Dun for my *Baetis* fishing. (Editor's note: see February week #3 YVFF fly tying 15th February) I like this pattern because it imitates both an emerger and a dun, it floats well, it's highly visible, and possesses great durability. But I harbor no illusions that it's the only pattern that will catch trout when they're feeding on *Baetis*. It's merely *my* preferred fly.



In the end, I believe it's safe to say that fly pattern can matter, but not nearly as often as we think (or as we're told). Choose a fly pattern that suits your fishing and then fish it with the utmost care. Make your presentations count. That's something that really does matter.

Club Merchandise

Contact Ian Richards: 9723 6246 or

Shane Symonds 0430 384 423



**2017 YVFF Club Merchandise range
currently being re-designed.**

**Stayed tuned for release date to be
advised**

Need Warm Waders

Recognised as the warmest, most durable
and safest waders in the water,
proven by 15 years of use
by YVFF club members.



No useless frills, bells or whistles
Just good honest hard working waders
Quick turn around easy wader repairs
Made here in Victoria for decades



OCEANSUITS

Factory 3/101 Wedgewood Rd Hallam

Ph 9702 4993

e: sales@oceansuits.com.au

www.oceansuits.com.au

FISH WITH THE BEST

SIMMS

AIRFLO

EDEN
FLY FISHING GEAR

ORVIS

R.L.
WILSON
FISH CO.

REDFISH

THE WATERWORKS
LAMSON

R

T

Scientific
Anglers

200

REDINGTON

SAGE

HARDY

BUY FROM THE BIGGEST

www.TheFlyfisherOnline.com

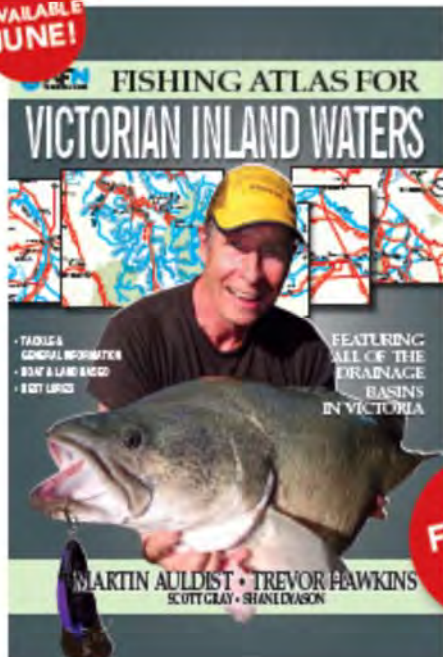
LEVEL 2, 383 FLINDERS LANE, MELBOURNE, 3000 - PHONE ORDER SPECIALISTS (03) 9621 1246



UNIT 19/20, 52 CORPORATE BLVD
BAYSWATER, VICTORIA PH: (03) 9729 8788
AFN.COM.AU EMAIL: SALES@AFN.COM.AU

Come in and have a look at our great flyfishing specials...

**AVAILABLE
JUNE!**



**Fishing Atlas for
Victorian Inland
Waters**
The inland waters of
Victoria offer a diverse
array of freshwater
fishing over an equally
diverse geographical
landscape. From vast
dry plains to the west
where there are few
rivers and lakes to some
of the countries highest
peaks to the east.

\$19.99

**ALL
FISHOS
MUST
HAVE!**



**Fishing Atlas to Victoria's
Coastline**
A highly detailed location guide and
area maps to the entire Victorian
coastline. Available species, best baits,
best methods, times of year, boat
ramps, bait gathering areas, potential
dangers and more.

\$24.99

NEW!



Flyfishing Lakes

\$7.99



Flyfishing Rivers

\$7.99



**Landbased Fishing Guide
to Western Port Bay**

\$9.99



**Landbased Fishing Guide
to Port Phillip Bay**

\$9.99



**Geoff
Wilson's
Fishing
Knots &
Rigs with
bonus DVD**

\$24.99



**Australian
Fish Guide**

\$29.99

DVD COLLECTIONS



\$19.99

EACH

STICKERS

**Sticka Fish Dual Boat
Mirror Image. Small**

Trout \$6.99



Sticka Boat Mirror Pair

\$59.99



\$6.99
**Rainbow
Trout**



\$6.99
**Brown
Trout**

1579

NEW ZEALAND PACKAGE DEAL



Put Yourself
in this Picture...

\$3750

7 nights.
Fully guided.
Sight Fishing

Learn to fish NZ, with the best
local NZPFGA kiwi guides
and your HFFA host.

Southland, West Coast and
the North Island are all on
the agenda.

Oct/Nov/Dec Early season,
less traffic, settled fish,
chance of trophies.

Jan/Feb Summer season, busy, cicadas,
willow grubs, hatches.

Mar/April Late season, dry fly heaven,
low water, amazing dun hatches.

June/July Spawning season, the best
runs on the Tongariro and surrounds.

Book in to the trip of a lifetime as a single
or in groups up to 6. For more information
on our New Zealand guided packages,
please see our website.

Don't miss out!
Call (03) 9532 1583

info@hurleysflyfishing.com.au
hurleysflyfishing.com.au

Hurley's

FLY FISHING