

## DECEMBER 2015 FISHING TRIP REPORT – ROSS MACHAR

On Sunday December 6<sup>th</sup> the Dave Jenkins Day was held at Doon's Reserve, on the Yarra. My personal thanks to Rob Tregonning for volunteering to be the Trips Steward for the day. Six members attended and caught 5 trout, and apparently I missed out on a great Thai feast, cooked and prepared by Rob's wife. Why is it that I always miss out on great food! I love chicken and Thai salad! Surely you could have saved some for me!

Sunday December 13<sup>th</sup>. Hugh Munroe Day – with Mansfield Fly Fishing Club. Lynton Reid, Geoff Hatfield and I attended and what a day that was. Our sincere thanks to the Mansfield Club. The day was hot, the fish were hiding, but at least I caught 1 trout in "Running Creek", and then ate my face off at the gourmet luncheon provided. I tell you what! They not only know how to fish the Howqua, but they really know how to cook. Scallops, garlic prawns, sausage rolls, kebabs, salads and free beer. In fact, you could have free or four. It didn't matter. The hospitality was unbelievable; we will be back next year, and we will reciprocate. I, unfortunately, did not meet Hugh Munroe, but knowing the people he knew, and the Club that he supported, I know that he must have been a great man. I fully support the future of the "Hugh Munroe Day" and again thank the Mansfield Club for the extraordinary welcome they provided for our club members. Particular thanks to Graham Godber for the invitation and the hospitality.

Tuesday December 15<sup>th</sup>. Eildon Pondage. Two new members, Arthur and Tim attended. Unfortunately I only had about 40 minutes to spend with them using sinking lines at "Bourke St", and then I had to leave. My apologies for my departure, but let me say that I promise to get these two blokes back and let them enjoy a big mayfly or midge hatch. I feel that I let you 2 blokes down, and I will make it up.

Wednesday December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Aron fished the Goulburn and caught 4 trout. Meanwhile I went to Flowerdale to "save" the fish in the low dams. I did save a few, but I found the fish hard to catch, the water mirky, but I still had a great day, and the fish in the other dams are really thriving.

Wednesday December 30<sup>th</sup>. My birthday! I went to Marysville to help our new member Dale get his first trout on a fly. I love doing this because to help a "beginner" get his or first trout can never be repeated. My thanks to Rob Tregonning, because he and I guided Dale towards his first fish, and luckily for us, we got him 2 trout in the Steavenson River, whilst Rob and I landed none! Luckily, Peter Thackeray cracked the code and landed 5 trout from 8 hook-ups, which was 8 better than me. Both Rob and I had plenty of takes, but no hook-ups. Some days the Gods obviously know that I'm out fishing. To hell with them I say; just wait till next time.

In summary, December was quiet with 2 events cancelled. Everybody is busy in December, but the tally increases. November was Shayne Symonds month, catching his first trout in a river. December was Dale Belmore's month, catching his first trout on a fly. Existing Club Members should make a point of introducing themselves to these two young members; they are our Club's future and we should all invest some of our time in them.

Finally, the fishing tally to the end of December is now 40 members that have caught 293 trout, so for the quiet hot December 10 members caught 40 trout on club event days. I expect a quiet January, but then expect February to be a great trout catching month. 2016 is going to be great and I will be working hard to help make it so. It's simple. If you want to go fly fishing, then ring me. Bring it on!

Patagonia, Christmas Island, Tasmania, New Zealand, Broome, Flowerdale – where next?