



Fly Line By Line

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Official Monthly Publication of Yarra Valley Fly Fishers Inc.

YARRA VALLEY FLY FISHERS INC.

Lillydale Lake Reserve

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Club Room Phone 9739 5728

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Ray Malins		Trevor Jacobson

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* Front Cover

Nice 5 lb rainbow Caught by Stumpy on a Czech nymph
at
“Rosco’s Fishing Lodge Dam”
Tranquil Rises, Flowerdale.

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Meetup

PRESIDENTS PAGE FEBRUARY 2019

A Happy New Year to all YVFF club members and families. The year 2019 is here and a new Summer, Autumn, Winter and Spring brings a whole new season of fishing opportunities to us and challenges to our fishing skills.

We are still short of committee members and I need at least three more committee members and several Sub Committee Members to help to spread the load and to ensure the committee and the club can function properly and provide the services which club members should have. Remember the club is run by volunteers and unless you volunteer the Club cannot function as it should.

My Mobile No is **0418 310 792** Ring me!

Don't complain if you don't volunteer.

I think all our casting could do with some fine tuning including mine and this is easily accomplished by attending the casting clinic Sunday mornings from 10.00 am till noon and receiving some expert tuition if needed. This is also a chance to find out from other club members who is going fishing, where they have been fishing, what places are firing and which flies are catching fish.

Fly tying will be starting on Wednesday 6th Feb. and Paul Pavone our gun fly tier can suggest flies to suit the season and will be teaching how to tie some of these. If you wish to learn fly tying come along on Wednesdays to see what happens which is generally a lot of talking mixed in with some fly tying and which even if you don't tie flies is a good social night and you might decide to also join in the tying part.

Ray Malins is assisting with trips and keen to organise trips for 2019 but he needs club members to help him. He is organising the **Dave Jenkins Day** which is in memory of a past club member who loved fishing small streams. Please contact Ray re this trip.

Typical Dave who was very short sighted rigging his gear at Khancoban.



Fund raising will be important this year and we have three Bunning's events planned for the year Sunday 17th March, Saturday 6th July and Saturday 5th October please put all these dates in your diary for 2019 as volunteers will be needed. It's good fun.

We still have some club apparel for sale at discounted prices check it out at the next general meeting on the 14th of February.

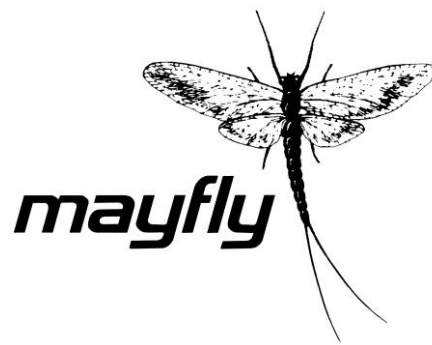
Looking forward to a great Fishing year with the club in 2019.

Lynton.



Want to know where this is ????

Ask Ray Buckland !!!!!



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Dave Jenkins Day – Saturday 9th Feb.

Following the cancellation of this day last year due to very heavy rain the day has been rescheduled to Saturday 9th February in the Noojee Area.

I hadn't fished this area until Aron and I checked it out last week fishing the Latrobe River getting quite a few takes on Dry Flies and we both caught Brown Trout – Lots of fun on light rods.

I used a 6' 6" three weight rod I had purchased from Jim last year and it was perfect for this river and made passing through the vegetation along the banks easy!

The other river we looked at was the Toorong River a bit further down the road with access via three bridges which also looked promising.

We observed quite a few Grasshoppers swimming downstream during the afternoon and all but one I observed were taken by the rising trout.

That makes me propose that this year at Fly Tying on the Wednesday night before a Club Trip we will tie a fly we think is appropriate to the trip location and time of the year – Paul will show us how to tie the chosen fly – don't miss out!

The other change we will try is to meet at the club where possible so people can "pair up" and travel together making it easier for those who don't know the area and create a "club atmosphere".

For this trip to get us on the water by around 9 am we should plan to leave the club rooms by 8 am.

The meeting spot at Noojee for those not going via the club will be a picnic area with BBQs on Loch Valley Rd on the north edge of town.

If enough people plan to attend the trip a BBQ lunch will be provided at this location around 1 pm.

Please place your name on the "White Board" in the Bailey Room or email me.

rkmalins@gmail.com.

Ray Malins

Trips Sub Committee.

Little Rivers; Big Thrills : By Ray Buckland

Ever since I have been chasing trout with a fly, it is the little mountain streams that keep calling me back. They are invariably located in the most wild and picturesque areas of our state where a cold, clear stream gurgles and cascades over rocks and moss covered logs. And located in these beautiful streams you see feisty rainbow and brown trout smash your fly with the speed of a snake's strike. Then the water erupts and a trout with red and brown spots, or a magnificent flash of pink fights so much above its weight in the highly oxygenated water. You release it back to the stream and wear a perpetual smile all day.

The speed of the mountain trout reveals a different ball game. They hit the fly incredibly quickly and spit it in a nanosecond if you do not have contact with the fly. It is so different to the Tassie Lake trout which give you time for your wife /partner to give birth and finish a congratulatory champagne before you strike. Okay, a slight exaggeration; two seconds as the trout turn over and head for protective sites but the difference is significant I assure you.

Where to start in Victoria: the streams in the Murrindindi Shire like the Little Yarra, Acheron, Steavenson, Taggerty, Rubicon and Royston Rivers. The La Trobe, Toorongu and Tanjilare also very good small rivers to fish and they are not too far away from home.

The best months to fish are Late October to March when the fly activity is at its zenith and with regards to times; the hour before and after dusk. These rivers are under great pressure during the holiday periods and weekends so midweek is a better time to fish.

Suitable equipment: 2 to 4 weight rods from 6' 6" to 8' 6". The shorter rods are ideal for the heavily timbered banks and the overhead cover. The longer rods in these conditions results in many flies being sacrificed to the riparian gods and sometimes rod breakages occur. Woolly buggers of brown, black and green with tinsel are good flies to begin with if you are a newcomer to the sport and they are 24/7/365 options. Also it can take a short time to master an accurate enough cast, and the short retrieves and rests which mimic the movements of smelt and tadpoles which really gets the trout's attention.

Casting: Casting on the small streams requires great accuracy and basically four types of casting. I use a roll cast about 80% of the time because the little rivers I fish have a lot of bush behind me. We must always remember the forward cast and back cast are of equi- distant. With practise we can become very good using the roll cast.

If we have low hanging bush above us, the bow and arrow cast really does the trick. This entails taking the fly in your hand and pulling it towards your body

causing a good bend in the rod. We then release the fly and if you're pointing the rod and line at a desired position for the trout's take it should work. We can use overhead casts if there is minimal overhead bush, and the fourth option is side casts on windy days.

Three valuable pieces of advice: before you go into combat with the trout: spend the first fifteen minutes observing what is on the menu both under the rocks below the surface and the bugs above it. Carefully note the fly's size, colour and contact with the water [dips] because a natural presentation of all of these aspects are what you are aiming to duplicate to catch trout.

The second observation is the structure in the river. The trout take a position where they are safe, where there is a food highway [bubble line] and where they can maintain a position expending a minimum of energy for their safety and food sources. Look for rocks and logs in the stream especially if there are some weeds because the trout will likely to be on the downstream side of this structure waiting to dine on what is on offer.

The third aspect of the hunting with the rod and fly is remain inconspicuous and approach from downstream because the trout always face upstream anticipating the food highway's offers. Wear clothing which blends with the river's vegetation and when you see a fish rising, approach the casting position using the bushes or trees as a cover. I hunt the trout just like I used to hunt the wild pigs in western NSW, using stealth, a silent approach and shrubs for cover. There is usually a lot of cover on these streams for us to utilise.

Enough of the verbiage; now for the serious hunting. The season begins slowly from September and a nymph or two trolled along the bottom gets the trout's attention. Short line nymphing is almost a guarantee of trout when you master the skills entailed. Speak to the young guns in the club or seek Utube titles which demonstrate the relevant skills which will assist you with all aspects of this method. It assures you of success all year round because nymphs are about 80% to 90% of the trout's diet. I use a weighted brown nymph, a red copper John, a caddis variation or a sparkly, brightly coloured hybrid sizes 16 to 12; depending on the size of the nymphs in the stream at the time. This fishing method is used by me for about 6 weeks of the early season because the surface and aerial fly activity is miniscule due to the cold.

When it begins warming up in mid October you can begin tying on some dry dun type patterns like parachute Adams, blue winged olive, twilight beauty or October dun. A red humpy, royal wulff, orange stimulator or a muddler have their role too. The fuller bodied flies with bright colours like red orange and yellow certainly fish well in faster, sometimes dirtier water which is likely at this time of the year. Another possibility is a tandem rig covering the surface feeders with a larger fuzzy fly like the muddler, stimulator or red or orange humpy. We then attach a favourite nymph about a metre below and this covers

the mid stream feeders. This method is very successful and as the season progresses and it is warming up and the catch ratio of dries to nymphs increases in favour of the dries.

From about mid October, especially on the humid days, the flying ants appear and these hatches really get the trout feeding. Millions of ants will do that. The termites appear first and these are usually followed by the larger red ants in November. Tie on size 16 and 14 ant pattern and your success depends on matching the colour and size well and casting them accurately. Some duns like the Adams, Kosciusko and various para duns appear in significant numbers at this time of the season too. Once again size 16 and 14 in most mayfly species are appropriate.

Dry fly fishing really steps up in November when the emergers of the mayfly species are active and these include CDC variations, possum emergers, Klinkhamers and foam emergers. In December the spinners [adults] of the above named mayflies in black, red, orange and Kosciusko spinners and the Royal Wulff are high on the trouts diet. Don't forget the beetle patterns, black, brown, geehi, gum beetle and red tag which are highly effective in the high Summer period.

When Summer really comes into prominence in January and February the grasshoppers come on and this is the most exciting method of fishing. This is the only time of the year you can cast a shocker where the fly lands like a kid's first belly whacker and you can catch a trout. The key to success is observation and you will note in the paddocks over time the grasshoppers begin small and green and eventually morph into a beige with red, black and yellow body parts. Once again colour and size are the key to success

The hoppers must taste like crayfish or chocolate because trout smash these fly patterns with reckless abandon. This is a great time to take your kids trout fishing because the wariness of the trout is lower than at most times. The variations which are very successful are any of the deer hair variations, Dave's hopper, any Rick Keam variation [depending on the season] or the Wilson hopper.

At this time of the fishing season I seek out the streams which have the cooler water because of higher altitude or underground spring feeds. These features keep the water temperatures more consistent and several degrees below the streams which do not have these advantages. Once the temperatures rise up from 18 to 22 degrees, trout activity diminishes significantly. Their feeding patterns slow up and they just lie up in undercut banks or at the bottom of deep pools. It is a good idea to carry a small thermometer to give you that edge of temperature awareness when the temperatures are in the 30's for a period.

Okay, a true confession; probably the main reason I fish the small streams is the opportunity to duplicate a battle with a trout which tests all your skills, equipment and guile. I caught a powerful female brown trout about 5 lbs in the Tyeena River in Tasmania. Trout and fisherman jumped from pool to pool, losing skin and scales in contact with the many rocks and had racing heartbeats for many minutes. The catch and release of this beautiful fish was a joy beyond belief.

As I was walking back to the car I thought 'How can I create more of these special moments with a large, fighting trout in a magnificent river?' Oh yeah; scale down the equipment from a 6 weight to 2 or 3 weight and you will have a comparable battle. Hook up a rainbow of about 430 mms on a 2 weight and I can tell you I lost a similar amount of skin, bruised several bones and had a heart rate of 300, [all right it may have been 160]. Don't take my word for it; bloody well get into these superb streams and find out for yourself!





Stream Craft Day Report

On the Goulburn With Lionel Coombs

December 2018

I was asked to write up a "brief" (I have never been known for this) summary of Lionel's Streamcraft lesson on the Goulburn near Eildon from a Newbies perspective.

I was really looking forward to this one and had been waiting with baited breath (excuse pun) for it to finally come up.

Owen arrived at my driveway at 07:58 for an 08:00 pick-up, 10:05 for departure of the demonstration.

All participants were in attendance by 09:55.

Please folks, if ever you book into a field trip and are not coming or are running late – it is a common courtesy to call and advise – this the second Stream Craft trip I have done, and twice now – we waited for a missing person to arrive, who didn't and did not make contact to advise either.

We met up exactly on time at a little track off the Eildon Back Road just after Thornton Bridge over the Goulburn.

Peter and Alfredo appeared to be the first to arrive.

The group consisted of Owen, Jim, Trevor, Peter, Damien, Alfredo, Ray, myself and of course, Lionel.



Peter came down from Yarrawonga, a 2 hour drive. Trevor arrived on his trusty Motor Bike Steed, the rest of us in Comfy Cars.

After a short introduction, we travelled by vehicle to a small clearing further upstream on the Goulburn and clambered into our wading gear. We then set about walking along the cliffs of the river bank for some time before being able to get down to water's edge where it was then possible to inspect the water at close range. The distance we walked in total was approximately 3 km's to the boat ramp at the Eildon Riverside Caravan Park.

Along the way, Lionel stopped and gave in depth (pun intended) explanations of what we were looking at - and for.

A number of trout were seen by members of the group but on the day, these were fairly scarce opportunities.

We were guided through many differing aspects of casting and presentation, from Nymphing to Dry Casting. I was amazed at how effortless Lionel seemed to be able to deliver his fly, so easily and accurately but even more so, how few false casts he made all day. I am guessing he might have had a bit of experience in fly casting (Sic).

At the boat ramp, we stopped for a bit of a spell and were shown the box of flies Lionel had chosen for the day - I believe there may be a pic of this in this report from Owen.



There were kayakers practicing in the currents near the boat ramp, providing competition for space on the water, and we had to contend with their presence!

We must have looked a strange lot to them, only Lionel had a fly rod, many of us had wading sticks and all of us wore waders, if not

for the one fly rod we may have been perceived as quite an odd bunch of bushwalkers, not that we probably weren't.

We had a bit of a snack from our packs and then set off for the return to the vehicles.

Main group returned along river, Owen and I chose the more leisurely route along the road, to the amusement of some cattle who became curious..... their previous experience with the electric fence which separated us enforced a measured distance at an invisible border.

Cows are not stupid ... I'm not convinced that humans share the same intelligence at times ... neither Owen or I tested fate with any of the "insulated" fence strands !!!!

It was a great introduction to the Goulburn ... and we fragmented to make our return home.

Lionel, Trevor, Peter, Owen, Jim and myself enjoyed a light lunch, sitting outside the Thornton Take-Away, on the Melbourne side of the two in competition for patronage.

Other members of the group either chose to make their return home or chose to splinter off and do some fishing.

We chose to return home but on the way, Owen took us to some great looking fishing spots on the Acheron River, the Taggerty and Steavenson River's at Buxton and Marysville, a little lake in Marysville and also one in Healesville.

Some notes I made from the day were :-

Broad brimmed beige cotton hat – angled down front and rear.
Breathable waders and shirts/vests – beat the heck out of my "Aussie Disposals" one-piece waders with rubber boots – my jeans were quite damp when I managed to escape from them at day's end.

Flies – even on day anticipating rain.... Dead animals - eagle, tortice and cow dung on most of the paths – insect repellent absolute must for any adventure.

Bright sun, threatening rain in afternoon, not one drop and almost no breeze at all.

The Goulburn was almost blue clear water, green weed swaying in current, logs with sticks looking like stationary fish, 2 fish spotted, high banks, difficult for most to get down to river, many trees, not so much an issue to get fly out onto the water, getting fish back a challenge.

River level was high, water temp 11 (ideal 14 – 16 and low) water released for irrigation twice/year, cow pats, two fence gates, electric fences, canoeists.

Lionel used his preferred 5wt rod with removable 6" sections – chosen rod for all time. 10'6"-11' good for the Goulburn.



Czech Nymphing - Belly in line, mend casting, wobble jaggging on retrieve and little short jaggging downstream can entice fish.

Gravel run – drop off – look for these, they are hot spots – fish lurk in the drop off.

Multi colour mono line in differing sections allows visual check on depth of wet fly.

Lionel changed to sinking line and used a Woolly Bugger with flash that he had tied at the Club on the Wednesday prior. A small rainbow running in the current took it near the boat ramp.

Hares Ear Nymphs – Silver and Bronze Bead Head.

Polarizing, Nymphing.

Basics, running nymph along bottom in current. Can spend 4 hours on section covered – wet nymph fishing upstream, wooly bugger on return at chosen spots where fish seen. Patience when viewing river – keep back and low, use shrubbery/trees as cover, keep out of any strong backlight. Ducks serve no indicator as to fish – pelicans do – on weirs, pelicans looking for stunned fish – so too Trout looking for small fish. Water hens in numbers feeding in lake will dig up food for trout – trout lurking for spoils, spents.

Lionel has sound knowledge of River – knows where holes are from many years' experience in fishing river when low/drought – big advantage when river high.

Easy casting – simple delivery in one mend cast from river to target. – keep small belly in line and watch colored mono... easy to see when nymph runs along bottom or hits rock – belly disappears on strike – simply lift rod and keep line tight. Find color of mono that works for each person. Yellow Lens Spotter's Glasses – great for low light / evening fishing ... hard on eyes during middle of day in bay fishing. All impressed with color of lenses providing clear vision through the water. May not be available as "over-glasses" for those needing corrected lenses – contact supplier.

Eildon Riverside Caravan Park – formerly Blue Gums.

Swallows – there were many of these birds feeding on insects just above the water – a good indication that trout might also be looking for any food settled on the water.

Rocks – if snagged on a submerged rock, run the line back up river to unsnag

Uni-Knots – Lionel is a big fan of these knots.

Loop on leader to connect tippet – this saves a lot of line when changing tippets... simply run each loop through both of them to make the connection – easy to remove as well...

Many places along the Goulburn to park and fish the river along banks.

West side of the River better – East side is more troublesome for access.

Again, it was a great day.



Thank you to all who made the day possible and many thanks to Lionel for a most cohesive and informative demonstration.

Also thanks to Trevor for his additional information and guidance when the group split occasionally.

By Ross Burgess.



Jig Nymphs

Stumpy's Fishing Adventures

National Fly Fishing Championships at Falls Creek
November 2018

Took Tony Buckland with me as a controller, but the event got cancelled due to snow and blizzard conditions. This meant that the controllers could fish, and Tony (Buckland's Lake) caught this lovely coloured Brown in the Upper Mitta.



***With Thanks to Ross Macher.**

WOMEN IN FLY FISHING

Fly fishing gets you out in the sunshine, reconnects you with the outdoors and lets you relax and recharge.

You know you deserve it... Get in touch with nature and back in touch with yourself.




SAVE THE DATE OPEN DAY

FUN FOR EVERYONE - ALL WELCOME

Sunday March 17 | 10am - 4pm

Southern Fly Fishers (Australia Inc)
Combined Clubrooms, Highett Reserve
33 Turner Rd, Highett

LoveFlyFishing.org.au

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CASTING

Come and practice your casting on Sunday mornings 10.00am – 12.00 noon on the lawn in front of the club rooms at Lilydale Lake.

Bring your own Rod and Reel or use one of the club's extensive range.

Have a cuppa and catch up with your fellow members and up coming club events.

Members will be notified of any future casting courses and competitions.

All members and guests most welcome.

FLY TYING RETURNS

8 PM WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 6th 2019



Introduction to fly tying course starts today.

Special flies for up coming trips.

We're looking for experienced Tyers to assist with teaching.
We're looking for intermediate and experts alike to share their skills on a Wednesday night.
We're looking for members who would like a cuppa and a chat.
Share your fishing stories and maybe pick up a hint or two.

Please come down a check out the fun.



Any inquiries Paul
0407851190
secretary@yvff.com.au

Fly of the Month

Charlie Boy Hopper



When fishing the Noojee area for the Dave Jenkins Memorial Day you should carry lots of mayfly emergers, caddis pupa imitations and some terrestrials including ants, cicadas and grasshoppers.

Designed by Charlie Craven, this is a pattern for catching fish, tied in yellow, tan or olive, trout just love them.

If you find a run with overhanging grass and an under cut edge, drop one of these patterns loudly on the bank side of the bubble line and hang on.

This grasshopper imitation is so good and easy to tie we teach it in our introduction to fly tying course.

Dressing:

Hook: Dry fly hook size 06 to 12

Thread: tan

Body: Tan, olive or yellow 2mm foam.

Under wing: tan web wing or sparkle tinsel.

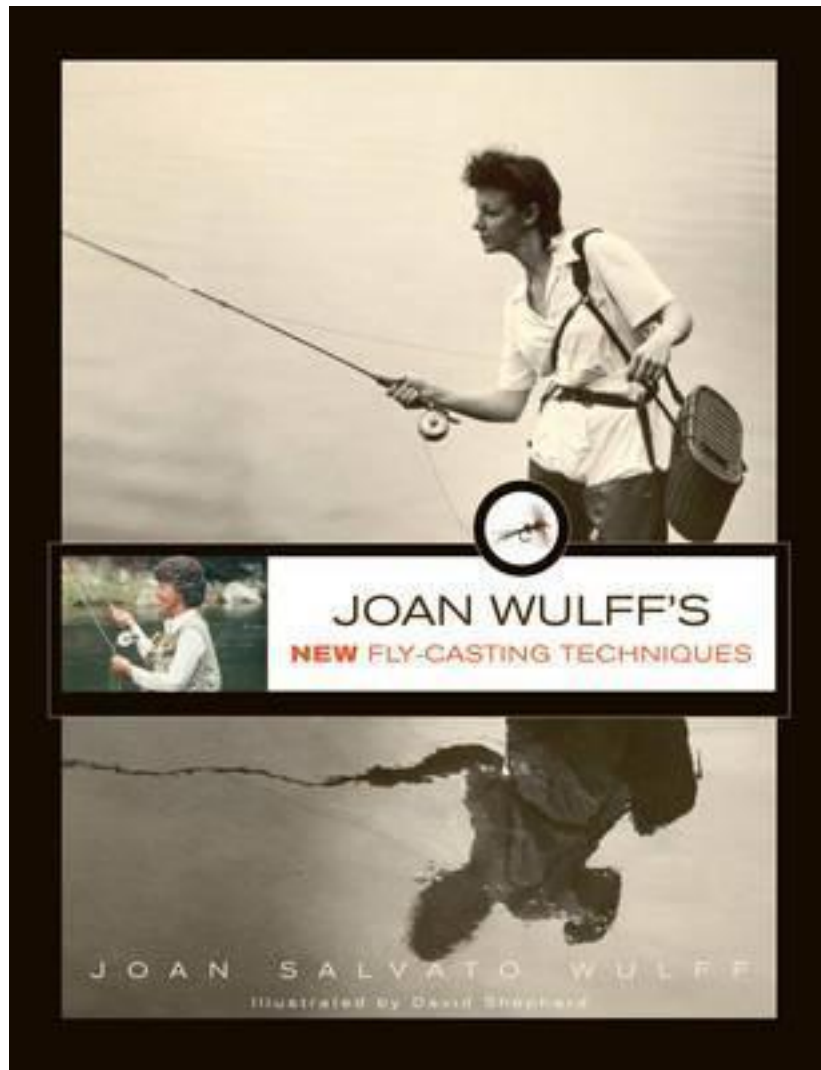
Wing: Natural deer hair.

Legs: Rubber coloured to suit the body

***From the Fly Tying Desk of Paul Pavone**

Library

Book Of The Month



A richly illustrated guide that offers precise terms for every part of the cast, with sections on line speed, improving accuracy and distance, loop control, and much more.

General Meeting

The next YVFF General Meeting will be held at the
YVFF Lilydale Lake Club Rooms
Thursday 14th February 2019
Commencing 7.30 pm Sharp

From the Editor's Desk.

We trust you enjoy reading the February 2019 YVFF Fly Line By Line.

Deadline for Contributions for the **March Edition** is **Monday 25th February 2019.**

Wishing you all a Happy, Prosperous and Safe New Year.

Tight lines and fun times on the water to you all.

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.**