



Late September means one thing...

Red Tag goes west.



tight lines
Newsletter of the Red Tag Fly Fishers Club
October 2018

Club Trip

The red tag club encourages all members, old and new alike to attend the many activities throughout the year. As part of the new member development program, a club trip to the Eildon Trout farm gives some good reward to fishers with all levels of experience. David Honeybone reports on the most recent excursion.



A small yet hardy band (Bill, Marshall, Chris, Vin, Richard, Frank, Dan, Paul and myself) arrived at the Eildon Trout Farm on Saturday, September 15. Weather was variable, bright sunshine to violent squalls tending to hail but after a pep talk from the friendly manager Bastien we were soon in amongst them. Congratulations to Paul who caught his first fish on the fly and Richard had three before you could say Woolly Bugger. Not to be outdone Frank landed the farm's biggest Redfin (Bastien confirmed this) plus a load of trout. Everyone caught something even me on the club's 9 wt rod. Our two hours up we moved to Eildon town centre for some lunch and to plan afternoon sessions. Stream craft sessions were organised whilst Richard and Paul stayed on at the trout farm. Marshall and I ended up on the pondage and tried to stay upright in a strengthening wind. All-in-all a good day and thanks to Peter for organising and Vin for being the co-ordinator. For new members reading this who are still to have a go the trout farm trip is a great way to work on your casting and land a few fish. Confidence is everything.

-D.H.

Editorial

A new look newsletter.

As you can already see, the newsletter has changed in appearance. Given the club, after many years at Fairfield, is changing venues, the editors, (actually me, I can't lay any of the blame on David), thought it might be time to freshen up the newsletter. Also, on a technical reason, I'm also moving away from the *google-docs* system and trialling some new beta-software. So for the next few editions, there may be some changes as I bed down the look and get my head around whether the software is any good. As always feedback, (good or bad is appreciated). But more importantly, written or photographic contributions from all members is essential for a good newsletter. There is only so much that can be cobbled together by a few regular contributors.

Tight Lines & thanks.

Andrew

Red Tag Meeting

Our Next Activity Meeting is to be held at the club's new location.

**The East Ivanhoe Bowls Club,
153 The Boulevard, on
Tuesday October 2nd @7:30pm.**

The meeting agenda is an orientation of the facilities. Red Tag encourages all members to attend.

Thank you

The red tag committee wish to thank all members that gave their time and effort in helping with the move from Fairfield to East Ivanhoe.



Library

A big thank you to Anthony Urban who has donated a number of books to the club.

They are:

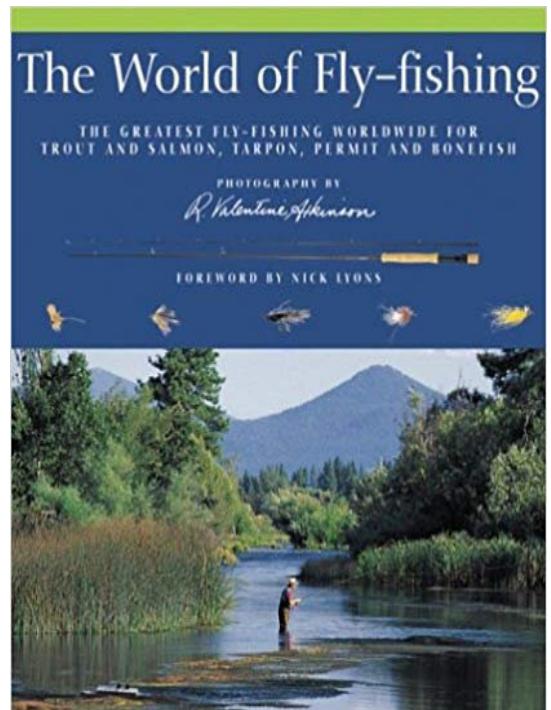
- **Saltwater Fly Tying** by Frank Wentink
- **Saltwater Fly Patterns** by Lefty Kreh
- **Rod-Building Guide** by Tom Kirkman
- **Fishing guide to Sydney-Hawkesbury** by Gary Brown

The World of Fly-fishing described by Amazon as:

"A sumptuous celebration of the ancient art of fly-fishing, as well as an encapsulation of every fly-fisherman's dreams. The World of Fly-fishing sweeps us along on a worldwide journey to experience the beauty and thrill of fishing for trout and salmon, tarpon, permit and bonefish. The fly-fishing destinations have been chosen for the interest and variety of their fishing, and for the impact and beauty of their landscapes. Revered figures from fly-fishing's literary hall of fame, such as Zane Grey and Roderick Haig-Brown, keep company with some of the best-known contemporary writers, including Tom McGuane, David Profumo and John Gierach. With more than 300 stunning photographs from the highly individual lens of renowned photographer R. Valentine Atkinson, The World of Fly-fishing is an irresistible visual and literary feast of the sport."

Have also accepted a second copy of 50 Places To Fish In Australia And New Zealand Before You Die by Rob Sloane as most of us are dying and we need some inspiration...

If anyone has any back issues of FlyLife magazine they would like to donate please let me know as I am keen to build up a complete collection (over time).



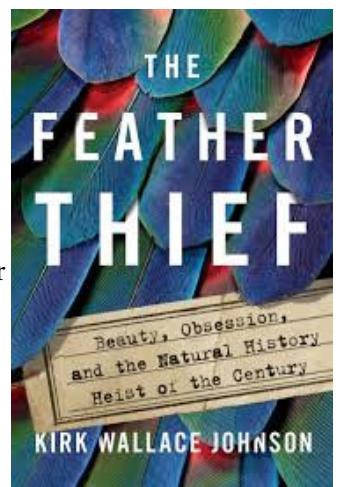
Review:

The feather thief by Kirk Wallace Johnson.

This book blends true crime writing with the art, or what becomes obsession of fly tying. This is not tying as we know it, but the darker sub-culture of tying Victorian era patterns with illegal materials, principally, rare species such as the New Guinea Bird of Paradise. (Made rare by the Victorian fashion's obsession of feathers, all covered in the book).

The author is an Iraqi war veteran who comes to the topic via fly fishing as rehabilitation for post traumatic stress. The book's prose is crisp and the topic forensically researched.

Not once does this narrative bog down, and there is an almost tragic inevitability in the tale, no spoilers... **Highly Recommended.**



In a well received ongoing series, David Honeybone continues his acclaimed.

DE VERBIS GLOSSARIUM (Glossary of Terms)

B

Backing

The first addition to a fly reel to take up space on the spool before the fly line is attached. An unusually strong fish will take you "into your backing".

Barbless hooks are either manufactured without a barb or the barb is squeezed down. This feature makes it easier to remove a hook and minimises the handling and potential damage of a fish you may want to release.

Beadhead

Usually but not always a fishing fly with a bead immediately behind the hook eye. Beads come in many materials, from brass to nickel brass to ceramic and for ultra fast sinking Tungsten. Some beads help a fly sink, but others are floaters. Beadhead flies are usually used as point flies.

Big River (Eildon)

Formed by the confluence of the Springs and Oaks Creeks, the Big River rises in remote state forestry country on the northern slopes of the Yarra Ranges. The river flows generally north, through rugged national park

and state forests as the river descends, joined by thirteen tributaries including the Taponga River, before reaching its confluence with the Goulburn River and Lake Eildon. Spring flows are often too high and cold for ideal flyfishing and it is often late November and December before conditions settle. Lower reaches easily accessed from the Eildon-Jameson road. Big River Road provides patchy access to tens of kilometres of water, although best suited for a 4WD until about Frenchman's Creek. Those wishing to access the upper-middle reaches come in from the south via Marysville. (Weigall, Fly fishing NE Victoria)

Blank (see bugger)

Brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*)

Brook Trout are a slender and elongated fish that generally resemble a Brown Trout in form. Brook Trout can be differentiated by their large mouth which extends beyond the level of the eye. They have an olive-green background body colour with pale, worm-like lines and spots. The pelvic, pectoral and anal fins are dark grey with a prominent white anterior margin.

Brown Trout (*Salmo trutta*)

The Brown Trout is a thick bodied species with a large head, mouth and moderate to large eyes. The mouth extends to below the eyes. Colours can vary depending on factors such as age and habitat. Generally silver to olive-brownish and darker along the dorsal area. They display dark spots along the back and sides, but these can sometimes be indistinct. Most spots are surrounded by a pale halo and are often red below the mid-line.

Bugger (see blank)



Red tag members scouring the club's archives in search of Honeybone's Black Wooly Bugger Pattern.

Report

Talk Wild Trout Conference 2018.

A good number of Red Tag members attended this year's conference at the Darebin Performing Arts Centre in Preston. Aside from the merchandise and catered food were a wide ranging series of informative presentations. Below is one such presentation paper.

Climate and Trout - forecast and ground truths

Dr John Morrongiello¹ and Prof. Nick Bond²

1. School of BioSciences, University of Melbourne, Parkville, VIC 3010, Australia.

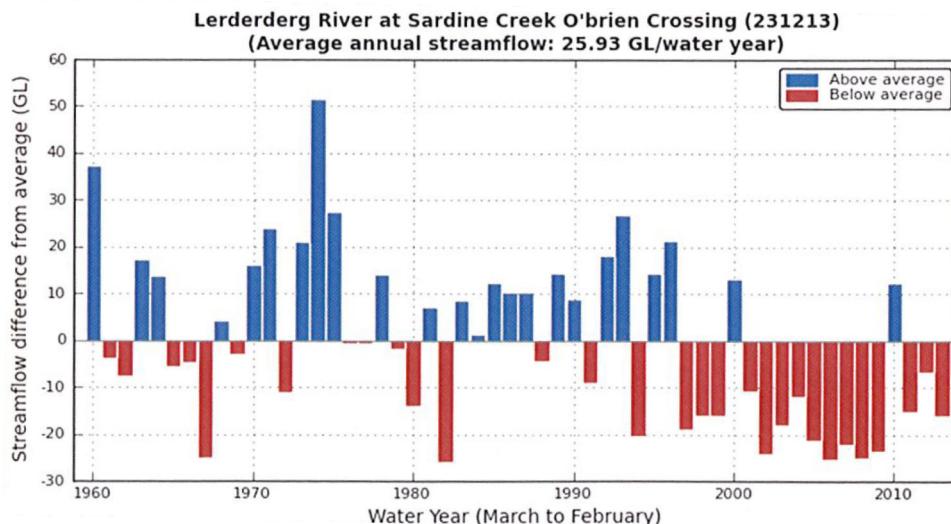
2. Murray Darling Freshwater Research Centre, La Trobe University, Albury, NSW, Australia.

Our climate is rapidly changing. Rainfall has declined across much of Victoria and this has led to significant reductions in stream flow. Air temperatures have increased, and we're seeing a greater frequency and intensity of extreme weather events like heatwaves and climate phenomena like drought. These changing conditions pose challenges for our river trout that need cool, well oxygenated and flowing waters to thrive.

It is essential that we understand how trout have responded to past climatic change so we can make meaningful predictions of how future declines in rainfall and increases in temperature will impact on trout. In turn, this knowledge will help managers make proactive decisions about where, when and on what, resources should be directed to mitigate climate threats to trout and facilitate fisheries persistence and adaptation. Likewise, anglers can benefit from this information about their fishery's future. It can help facilitate engagement in activities directed at improving fishery quality, and even make decisions on where and when to fish to ensure they have a great day on the water.

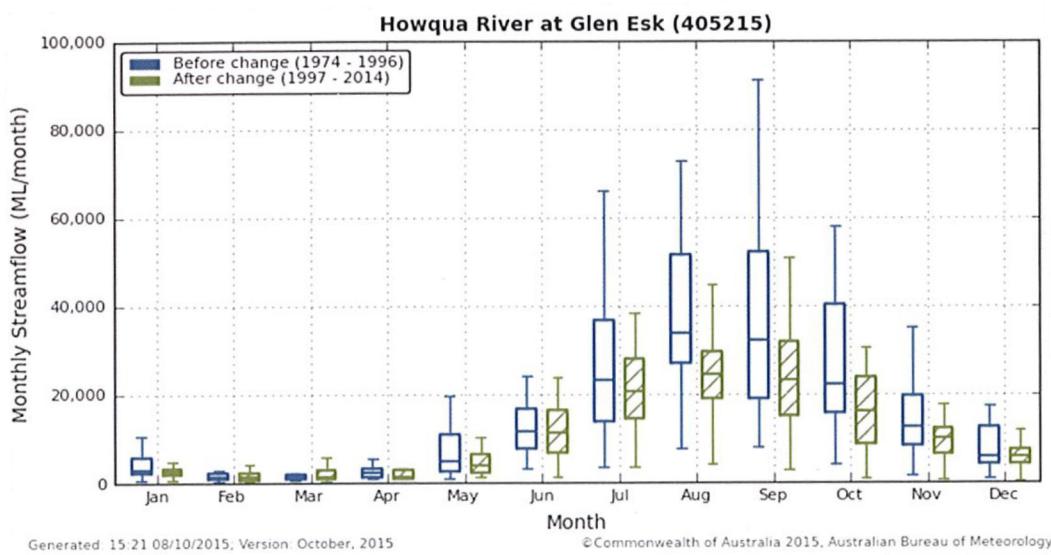
Ground Truths

Recent climatic change has already impacted on Victoria's trout. It is important to acknowledge, however, that not all regions have suffered the same level of rainfall reduction or warming. The Lerderderg River, for example, has experienced significant streamflow declines over the last 50 years, punctuated by an abrupt drop around 1996.



Lerderderg River annual average streamflow anomalies for the period 1960 -2013
(Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning records). Streamflow anomalies are the difference between a year's average flow and long-term average, with blue bars representing wetter than average years, and red bars drier than average years.

In contrast, some streams have not experienced a long-term decline in flow. Rather they show a step change in average conditions. For the Howqua River, this step change (a technical term used to describe an abrupt shift in average flow conditions) also occurred around 1996, with conditions prior to this generally wetter than those in more recent years. Further, we see that this step change was predominantly brought about by a decline in late winter and spring stream-flows (August- October). This is a critical period for trout as fry are emerging from their gravel nests and adults are beginning to put on condition after a slow winter.



Howqua River average monthly stream flows before (blue) and after (green) the 1996 'step change' (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning records). Data are shown as 'boxplots', a tool used by scientists to illustrate the central tendency and variability of data for a given time period (here months).

Forecasts

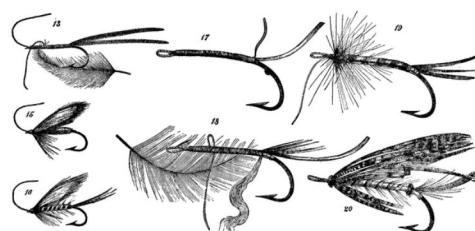
The impacts of reduced rainfall and streamflow on trout was clearly seen during the recent Millennium Drought (1997-2009). During this period, much of southern Australia experienced record low rainfall, and the flows that kept our favourite trout streams cool and well oxygenated were reduced to a trickle. A 2005 survey of upland streams revealed some stark results. Across Victoria, there was on average a 20% decline in trout numbers, and a 20% decline in the number of sites occupied by trout compared to data from 1998. Like flow changes, however, things were not the same in all regions across the state. For example, no patterns in abundance and sites occupied were observed in the upper Yarra catchment, a region which only experienced relatively small declines in stream flow. Conversely, the Central Highlands and Grampians districts, regions that got very dry, suffered a 55% and 100% decline in trout.

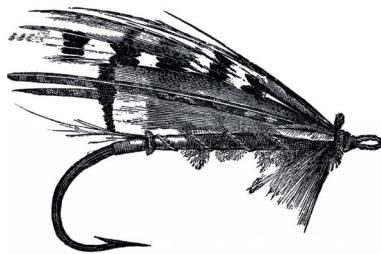
Fish biologists can use their understanding of how trout have responded to past environmental change to forecast what Victoria's trout fisheries might look like in the future. For a trout angler, the predictions are sobering (Bond et al. 2011). Under a range of climate change scenarios, we could see a 35-50% decline in trout distribution across the state by 2030 without management intervention. We are now performing a novel regional 'downscaling' of state-wide climate change impacts to identify areas highly vulnerable to further drying and warming, and those relatively resilient to future change. This information will be used to help prioritise management activity.

The good news is that we have a range of tools available to help manage our trout fisheries. These could include targeted revegetation to maximise stream shading, identification and protection of fish thermal refuges, promoting angler behaviour that enhances post-release survival, managing dams to optimise water temperature in downstream reaches, stocking, and even selective breeding of 'drought-tolerant' trout.

Authors: Morrongiello, J & Bond, N 2018, 'Climate and trout - forecast and ground truths', in Victorian Fisheries Authority (ed.), Talk Wild Trout Conference Darebin Arts & Entertainment Centre, Preston, Victoria, Australia.

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Fly Tying

Fly tying is a really great activity that the **Red Tag Club** runs twice a month. It is also a great opportunity for meeting members away from the water in small groups, (rarely more than 8 or 9 at a session).

The nights are divided into beginners and intermediate/ advanced

Beginners & Intermediate

- For all members interested in learning the art of fly tying.
- For members capable of tying flies, but want to share their knowledge to newer members.
- For new members wanting to get involved in the club gradually. (It can feel a bit intimidating).
- For all members needing to tie up a new batch of simple patterns lost to the bracken, rocks, trees... It happens to us all.



Advanced (Usually the 2nd Tuesday of each month)
Tuesday October 9th 7:30pm (\$2 donation for materials)

The 007 Nymph

Presentation Tips: Cast to cruising or tailing fish and left stationary or hung under a dry used as an indicator. A very effective fly for fish feeding on snails.



Beginners: (Usually the last Tuesday of each month)

Tuesday October 23rd 7:30pm

The Blob Fly Pattern

These are very vibrant colored fishing flies. They are very simple to tie using 15mm Chenilles.

A good half dozen...

As our thoughts turn to rivers and streams, one generous member, (thanks B.) suggested these beauties to consider tying or buying before we get our collective feet damp.

The Parachute Adams

Size 12 -14

The Adams is a traditional dry fly. It is considered a general imitation of an adult mayfly, flying caddis or midge. It was designed by Leonard Halladay from Mayfield, Michigan in 1922, at the request of his friend Charles Adams. The Adams has been considered one of the most popular, versatile, effective and best selling dry flies since its creation.



Royal Wulff

Size 12-14

It is an attractor pattern and a descendant of both the Royal Coachman fly and the Wulff style of hair wing flies named for Lee Wulff.



The Red Tag

Size 12-16

The Red Tag is an artificial fly originally designed as a dry fly for grayling and trout in the north country of England. The fly pattern, when



Intermediate & Advanced

For members who:

- Want to improve technique
- Want to develop consistency
- Be challenged with more complex patterns with a range of materials. *woven nymph pattern anyone?*

introduced into Australia, particularly Tasmania, became extremely successful and popular for brown trout and remains today as one of the most essential flies for Australian fly anglers.

Stimulator

Size 14-16

The Stimulator fly was originally developed by Randall Kaufmann to imitate a stonefly adult. It can be seen as a grasshopper, caddis or even large drake mayflies! It is also a great dry fly for fishing a dropper underneath - during summer we see Stimulators with Buzzers suspended below, the Stimulator looks like a caddis or sedge. The bushy profile and deer hair make the Stimulator a highly buoyant fly.



Humpy

Size 12-14

This popular western pattern comes in many variants of colour, wing and tail materials, hackle and single and double hump. The Humpy is also tied in two styles, short and fat and the long and slim version.



Elk Hair Caddis

Size 12 -16

The Elk Hair Caddis is considered a searching type pattern as it resembles the general form of adult caddisflies or small stoneflies.



A fond farewell.

On Tuesday September 25th, the Beginner's Fly Tying Session, hosted the last members' event in the Artist Hut at Fairfield Park. Surrounded by walls stripped bare and cardboard boxes full of bits and books, it wasn't until the end of the session that the significance of the night became apparent.

Not much was said at the time, but it is worth reflecting on the events, yarns, (tall stories and true), that have taken place under the possum piss soaked timbers of this little space.

A moment's reverie at times only interrupted by the assault of a golf ball on a wall, roof or car. (Is there a target painted here?)

I still consider myself a new member of this club, and while the rustic character of this building suits the very nature of fly fishing, it is time to move on. To a space where a tree is not just a possible toilet stop, and a cup of tea does not require a thermos.

The club is more than the building it is housed in, and there are many ways to define a home.



Contact Red Tag

Web: <http://www.redtagflyfishers.com.au/>

Mail: PO Box 5095
Alphington VIC 3078

President: Tony Ryan

Vice President: Vince McCaughey

Secretary: Bill Jackson:

0414 254 229 e:bill.jackson@bigpond.com

Treasurer: Don Amour

Upcoming Events

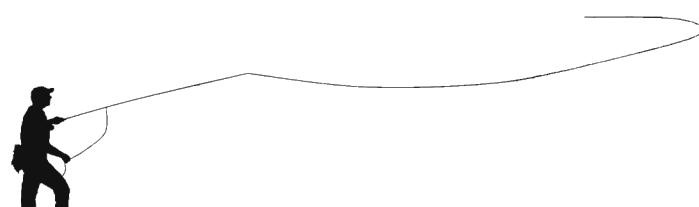
October						
Wednesday	3	RED TAG	Activity Meeting [9]	Yarra Bend Clubroom	7.30	pm
Sunday	7	RED TAG	Gerri Bolt Trophy - Tri Clubs (FISHING)	Moorabool	TBA	
Fri-Sat-Sun	12 - 13-14	SUNSHINE	Stawell Fly In (FISHING & FAMILY)	Lake Fyans	TBA	
Wednesday	17	RED TAG	Committee Meeting [10]	Yarra Bend Clubroom	7.30	pm
Sat - Sun	20 - 21	BALLARAT	Wastell Trophy (FISHING) inc. the Red Tag Ted Barkley Trophy	Creswick District	10.00	am

Netted Pics



Frank with a beauty. Looks like we need a bigger net!

David with a cocky or two



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