

# tight lines



established 1932

Newsletter of the Red Tag Fly Fishers' Club  
AUGUST 2020

# 2020 Red Tag

## Committee

- **President:** Barney Stephens
- **Vice President:** Vin McCaughey
- **Secretary:** Bill Jackson
- **Treasurer:** Don Amour
- **Trip Coordinator:** Dan Mamrot
- **Leff Andropof (Casting Coordinator)**
- **Craig Bolch (Development Program)**
- **Sean Ehlert (New member coordinator)**
- **David Honeybone (Library)**
- **Andrew Rodda**
- **Tony Ryan**
- **Frank Groeneveld**



*Red Tag acknowledges the woi-wurrung and boon wurrung language groups of the eastern Kulin nations on whose unceded land we walk and fish. We pay our respect to the ancestors and elders, past, present and emerging. We recognize their continuing connection to land, water and culture.*

## Editorial

Welcome again to the Tigt Lines Newsletter. Since joining Red Tag I have been involved with this newsletter, and over that time the club has relocated club rooms, almost doubled membership, fought back from social isolation rules by embracing apps and social media, and expanded into online virtual meetings for information and fly tying. So now is a good time for a fresh set of eyeballs to take the reins of this newsletter.

David and I have had a hoot of a time cobbling it together. We owe much of the positive feedback to the club for letting us occasionally go silly, and to the active members who regularly contribute content.

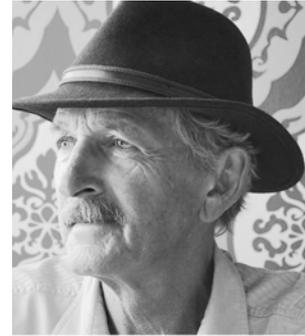
Thank you.

*David Honeybone & Andrew Rodda*

(Eds.)

# President's Message

**July 2020**



Well, just when it seemed as if we were beginning to return to some sort of normality, COVID slammed the Melbourne metropolitan area and the Mansfield shire.

During that brief window of opportunity before the lockdown was reintroduced, we had resumed casting at the pool most Saturdays, and even had one real fishing trip with a group up to Cosgrove.

The next few trips were slotted in and the situation was slowly beginning to look up. But, the rest, as you say, is history!

As I write this I'm hoping that the situation does not become worse and we have to go into stage 4 restrictions. Those members who are fortunate enough to be living outside of the stage 3 restriction areas must be keeping their fingers crossed.

During this time, our club rooms at the East Ivanhoe Bowling Club have been having a minor facelift so we will eventually be able to benefit from the work being done there.

There are moves afoot by the Banyule City Council to rationalise sports activity within Ivanhoe under the banner of the Ivanhoe Park Precinct.

The council is putting forward that Ivanhoe only requires one council-owned bowling club and that the East Ivanhoe bowling club and the Ivanhoe bowling club should amalgamate. The question of which site will remain has yet to be finalised, but the EIBC have recently signed another 2-year lease. We should know by September.

Our fly tying nights have been missed by many since we have been unable to come together. Dan Mamrot has been keeping us busy and informed with his Fly Challenges that he's been posting on our TeamApp.

We have also had our first step into going live with Zoom presentations of tying flies, once again with Dan leading the way and yours truly attempting to make it look easy. There are a few technical difficulties that we are working through to improve the quality of the picture, but the interaction that occurs with a live presentation makes it somewhat closer to the usual format. The questions, extra advice and chat given during and after the presentations was terrific.

We are keen to get feedback and suggestions for future shows and would also encourage other members who would like to join in and present something.

Your committee are still working away behind the scenes to ensure that the club is as well prepared to emerge from this pandemic as it can be. If you would like to consider nominating for a place on the committee please have a chat with any current members before our Annual General Meeting (via Zoom) in August.

Stay safe everyone

Regards

*Barney Stephens*

# Trip

## The Mamrots' hit Big River.

*“See that Dan? Deer hunting isn’t so hard!”*

**W**e had just turned onto Big River Road, and out of the darkness appeared a young sambar stag. He ran alongside us briefly, as they often do, before disappearing into the gully of thick scrub to our left. This was the beginning of our last trip of the 2019 trout season. I was joined by my dad (Ed) and older brother (Jared), all fresh out of isolation, we were truly champing at the bit to get into a river (somewhere).

Big River was the choice; far enough away from the usual suspects, (all of which had received a significant ‘post-iso’ flogging) yet accessible enough to provide us with plenty of options should water levels be too high or turbid. The choice was made to head up high into the headwaters, and bar only a lone hunter, we were the first vehicle up the track in a long time. We hastily changed into our waders, rigged up our rods and set off into the thick bush. We negotiated the labyrinth of game trails, noting the lack of other boot-prints and distinct smell of fowl in the air, heading ever-toward the distant sound of running water. A feeling of impatience combined with nervous energy took hold and we lost sight of one another. The faint sound of dad swearing (“Why do they have to make these f%#ing fly rods so bloody long!”) gave way to the sounds of the water weaving its way amongst the rocks and through the trees.

*We were here!*

Just as my older brother uttered the phrase “We’re on... Where’s dad?” I had unhooked the bead headed pheasant tail nymph from my guide, made my first cast and connected with a healthy little rainbow. A quick laugh and a high five later and the trout was unhooked in the



water, swimming off to recover. Eventually dad caught up and we continued working through the river, employing a 'dad-casts-first' hierarchy. Several hundred metres more than a dozen trout and countless tangles untangled later, we decided to head back to the car for a change of location (cue Pepsi Max, sandwich and muesli bars).

Arriving at a section far lower down (near Dairy Flat Campground), we bush-bashed through to the river once more where unbeknownst to us, the highlight of the trip would take place. We broke out into a clearing yet remained carefully silhouetted against the backdrop of the trees and foliage surrounding the water's edge. The words "You're up, dad" were whispered. As dad stealthily (sort of...) snuck down to the bottom of the pool, Jared remarked that he had sighted a fish working amongst the foam line. An Elk Hair Caddis was selected (we had seen several small white winged moths in the area) and tied on, 'Gink' applied, and the first cast made. A look of satisfaction crept onto dad's face, and rightly so, he had nailed the cast. We watched the fly drift perfectly along the bubble line and as if it was meant to be, a solid rainbow (the fish of the trip) came up and took the fly. Dad casually set the hook, a quick fight ensued, and the fish was netted, photographed, and released. We made our way back to the car with a mutual feeling of satisfaction.

*"It was a near perfect end to an unusual season."*

*Dan Masuroto*



# Red Tag Team

## Member interview: Zoran Vasic

*Thanks to Neil Vincett we begin a new series of interviews with club members.*

The Red Tag club has over 100 members, from all walks of life, age and experience. There are people who have fly fished for 50 years and others who have just started. The great thing about the club is that everyone seems keen to not only fish, but to share their knowledge and to enjoy each other's company.

Fly fishing is one of those sports where no matter how long you work at it you never stop learning.

Zoran Vasic is 67 and has been fly fishing for a little over 54 years, in fact if it wasn't for the 19 trout he caught under Doggett's Bridge [Deep Creek, Lancefield-Kilmore Road] all those years ago he would have given it away and gone back to drowning bait.

He and his family were having a picnic nearby so he decided to cast a fly and see what he could see. He was pretty amazed to fairly quickly pick up a nice trout followed by a further 18 in the course of the afternoon. I would imagine his family would have been pretty impressed with the catch. Not much chance of that many trout under Doggett's Bridge today.

I met Zoran for a coffee in Lancefield (about 2kms from Doggett's Bridge) a few weeks ago so I could ask him about his fishing life.

Zoran was born in Belgrade in the former Yugoslavia and he told me he caught his first fish in the Danube when he was four years old.

After emigrating to Australia with his family and completing his education Zoran worked in many different trades to do with air conditioning and plumbing and machining. He in fact worked on the development of the flexible ducting we see today in air conditioning systems.

I asked him what he liked best about fly fishing and he suggested to me that it was one of those sports where you never stop learning. Although he is very passionate about all aspects of trout fishing, he is currently learning as much as he can about saltwater fly fishing. He has been to Christmas Island a number of times chasing Permit and Golden Trevally and his next trip will be up to Hinchinbrook in far North Queensland [see TeamApp entry for details].

Although a relatively new member of Red Tag he is thoroughly enjoying his participation. He has been impressed by the openness of the people and willingness to share information. He also enjoys the casting session at the Red Tag pool on Saturday morning.



We talked about his favourite fishing spots and he talked at length about the big trout to be had at Lake Eucumbene. He was pretty lucky to spend a fair bit of time fishing for free at Millbrook Lakes back in the days when he was helping to renovate the church in Gordon that later became the Gordon Hat shop.

I asked him what flies he used, and he said one of his favourites besides Grass Hopper patterns and various nymphs was Craig's Night Time. Zoran doesn't tie flies now but back when he did, about 25 years ago, he was keen to get a waterhen for the Craigs. He has always been a keen hunter and a pretty good shot (even if he does say so himself), but try as he might he couldn't get one and was surprised to learn that the little beasts can actually fly. He was not aware that they were a protected species and none of his mates would ever believe him when said he found one dead on the side of the road.

His best fishing moment was easy, that first trout at Doggett's Bridge. His worst moment was up at the Goulburn with a mate at dawn when he hooked up a lovely five pounder only to lose it at the net with a busted hook.

It was great to meet with Zoran and spend some time with him.

*Neil Vincetto*



# Howto:

## take pictures of your flies for TeamApp

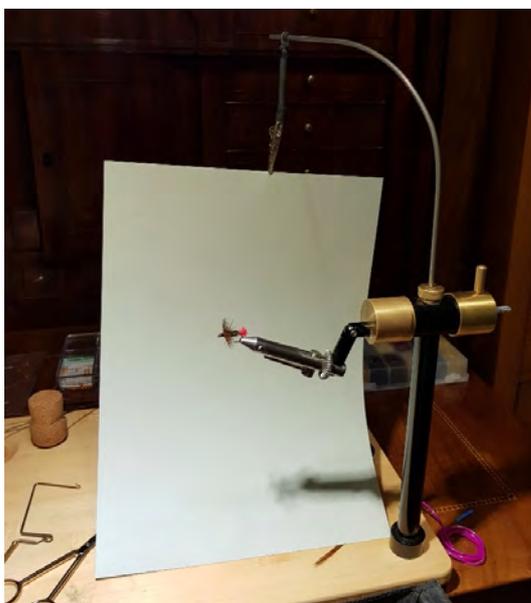
*A technical guide from Red Tag Member Frank Groenveld.*

Since there have been a few members expressing their frustration about not being able to take a close-up picture of their favourite fly for TeamApp, I thought I would share some information that may assist.

### A bit of background (and tools)!

- I use only my phone (android), iPhone will do too.
- Bit of A4 paper for the background
- Download an app called SNAPSEED for FREE (I think). Not sure if it is available for iPhone, but there will be something similar.
- Your lamp that you use for fly tying

### The Set-up:



If you have a gallows attachment, pin the background paper to it, otherwise you can just hold the paper about 10 cm behind the fly.

### *Some technical jargon:*

If you use a white sheet of paper, your "camera" will under expose the image. This is because all camera sensors are calibrated to assume it is taking a picture of an "average" scene (this actually relates to a mid-grey).

I'm sure you have all taken pictures in the snow that make the snow look grey. This is because such a scene is predominantly white, but the camera doesn't know this and assumes, because of its calibration, that it is grey. It is no different when using a plain white background with a tiny coloured subject in the middle of it.

Have no fear though, SNAPSEED is at hand!

## *Lighting:*

Try to avoid direct light from your phone. Using your standard lamp, start with positioning it above, but off to one side a bit and slightly in front of the fly. You can experiment until you get the preferred light bouncing off your hackles, fibres or dubbing. If you use fluorescent light you may get a green cast to the image (the background will look green). This is no longer a big issue since most devices use algorithms to recognise this and mostly eliminate it.

But have no fear, SNAPSEED can assist with auto correction too!

## *The Picture:*

Use a steady hand to take your shot - the pros breathe out when taking a hand held professional photo (no kidding!), but of course, for our purpose you can have that glass of wine in your left hand.

Don't try and get too close to the subject - it will likely be out of focus because your device either can't focus that close or your hand is not steady enough.

Note: the closer you get to your subject, the more exaggerated your "hand shake" movements will be.

Our TeamApp only accepts small size images, so take a picture that has your fly in the middle, like so, or even smaller:

I used an off white, warm colour background paper here and notice that the image is under-exposed, as explained before.



...And here comes **SNAPSEED**:



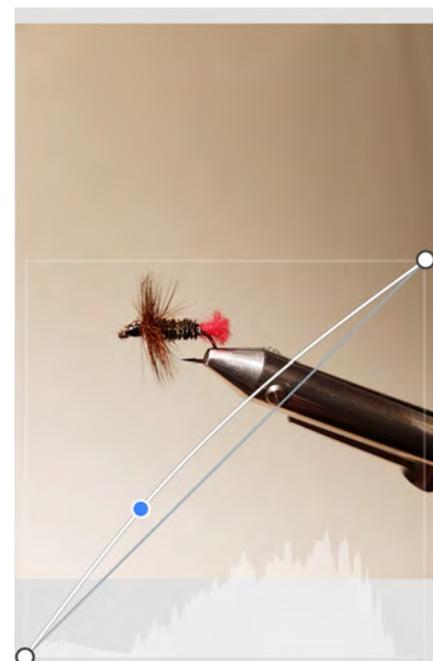
1. Open the app and get your image from the gallery where it has been saved by your phone:

Most of these apps have a number of tools as well as default edits as you can see.

I just use a couple of tools. First I correct a bit of the exposure using the Curve tool:

I make it lighter, since it was underexposed by virtue of the light plain background.

(pull curve up = lighter; down = darker)

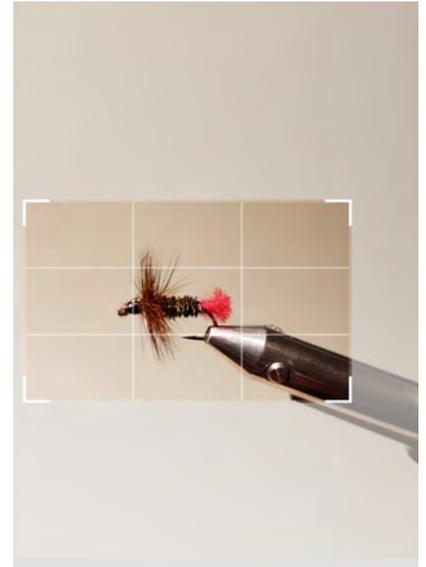


Then I use the crop tool to keep only what I want!

You can now save the cropped image and load it into TeamApp. Since it has been cropped, the pixel size of the image is much smaller (in this case about 750 x 550 pixels as opposed to 4000 x 3000 pixels as taken by my phone uncropped) so TeamApp will like it.

You may think, wow, this is complicated, but believe me that once you are familiar with an App like Snapseed, it only takes a minute or two.

Of course, there is always the option to experiment - turn it into a sepia, or black and white. It is just a matter of playing around with Snapseed and get used to what the variety of tools can do.



### *A final word about pixels:*

When talking about the size of a digital image, it is often expressed as a file size of a certain number of megabytes. Most phones and cameras these days produce huge files, often 3, 12 megabytes and larger. These are way too big for sharing with friends and in some cases just will not open in an app (like the previous version of TeamApp).

What is important for us to know is the pixel size of the image; generally measured in dpi (dots per inch), horizontally and vertically.

Keep in mind that for publishing to print, 250 to 300dpi (ie 300 pixels in an inch) is about all you need. Hence a 3in x 4in image on a page would be fine around 900 x 1200 pixels. A standard computer screen has a resolution of 72dpi. The same picture at the same size on your screen would only need to be about 216 x 288 pixels in size.

Cropping your image as described above does not affect the image quality and that is why it is not a bad way to photograph a small subject intended for a medium like TeamApp.

Well, I hope that this article may assist in some small way to make your masterpiece look as impressive as it should be.

Good tying,

*Frank G.*



# (not the podcast) Review

**That's right!** This column has now become a Youtube review. There is a plethora of information available on the tube for free, and it'll be our pleasure to introduce a few choice channels for your viewing pleasure.



**The New Fly Fisher**

94.4K subscribers

This channel is hosted by the New Fly Fisher television company and has been in production for over 30 (*that's right, 30!*) years! The show has featured several hosts, including Bill Spicer, Tom Rosenbauer, Colin McKeown, Mark Melnyk, Brian Chan and more. Filmed at hundreds of locations and featuring dozens of target species, the show covers everything from trout in Patagonia, to Char and Grayling in Alaska, Pike in Newfoundland, Bass throughout the USA and Bahamian Bonefish. The New Fly Fisher is full of useful information from fly selection for different species to rigging, and leader configurations. This channel is one of the all time greatest, and, better yet, delivered with good old-fashioned Canadian charm!

*The New Fly Fisher Youtube Channel...*



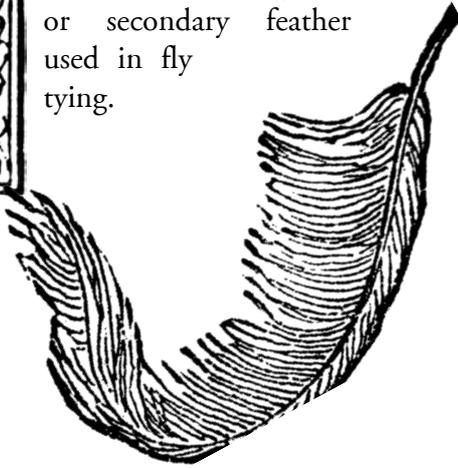
5 “Sex Dungeons” (by Kelly Galloup) out of 5

*Dan Masuro*

## Glossary



Quill - section of a primary or secondary feather used in fly tying.



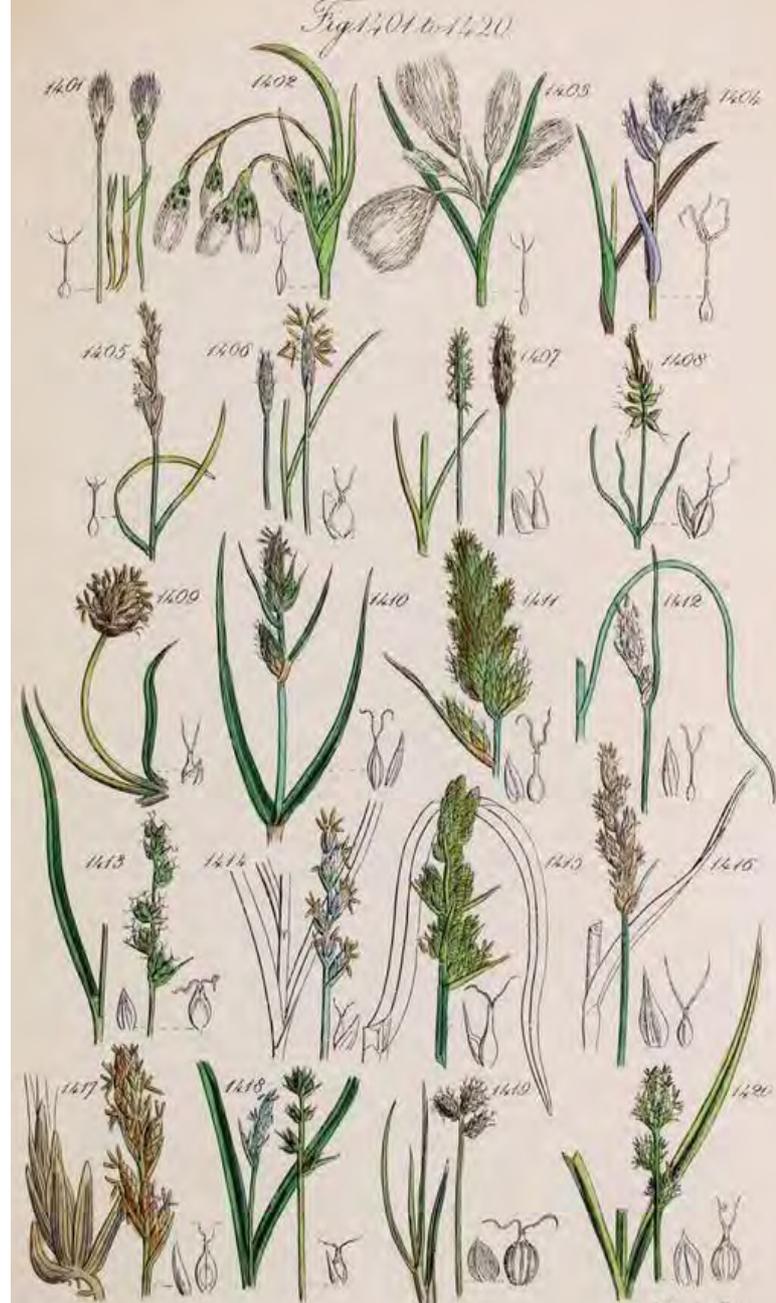
**Rainbow Trout** - Rainbow trout prefer cool and clean water and are indigenous to the west of North America. They can be found all over the globe today due to the advancement of hatcheries.

**Reach cast** - a cast used for adding extra slack in the line, or

when fishing downstream, in order to provide a more natural float.

**Redd** - a hollow scooped in the sand or gravel of a riverbed by breeding trout or salmon as a spawning area.

**Reed:** Whenever you miss hooking trees and overhanging branches there is always *Phragmites Australis* or *Carex* (anything), This fibrous grass and flower head loves nothing more than destroying a back cast or letting the bead nymph dredge up green muck.



**Reel Seat** - mechanism that holds the reel to the rod, usually using locking metal rings or sliding bands.

**Retrieve** - bringing the fly back towards the caster after the cast is made; can be done in a variety of ways; important points of retrieving are to keep the rod tip low and pointed straight down the line.

**Riffle** - a small rapid in a river or stream.

**Riparian** - a term that describes anything of, inhabiting, or situated on a riverbank; often used in connection with ownership and fishing rights.



**Rise** - action of a trout as it rises for a fly on the water's surface.

**Rod Flex** - the manner in which the rod bends during the cast during the acceleration phase of the cast. Tip-Flex rods bend primarily through the tip section, Mid-Flex rods bend down into the middle section, and Full-flex rods bend throughout the entire rod during the cast.

**Rodda** (Andrew) – TAFE, Tenkara and Pies tragic. Tight Lines editor so this will probably be re-written... [haha NOPE!]

**Roe** - a collective term for fish milt and ova.

**Roll Cast** - one of the three most basic fly casts; allows a cast to be made without a back cast; essential for use with sinking lines, to bring the line to the surface so it may be picked up and cast in a normal manner.

**Royston** - The Royston River rises from the Great Dividing Range near Lake Mountain and below Royston Gap, and flows northwest, before reaching its confluence with the Rubicon River, near Rubicon.

The **Royston Power Station**, is located at the mouth of the Royston River, where the river is impounded by a 48-metre concrete slab and buttress that diverts water into an aqueduct that carries water for 2 kilometres into the neighbouring Rubicon Valley to the Royston Power Station forebay.

The river is not readily accessible nor heavily fished in its lower reaches. Brown and rainbow trout as well as river blackfish can be caught. (Wikipedia.com)



*Rubicon* – one of the most popular and heavily fished freestone streams within day trip distance of Melbourne. It offers a variety of water. The lower reaches meander toward the Goulburn through a series of snaggy sandy bends. It changes to rock and gravel



*Some old Italian bloke looking for his woolly bugger after hooking reeds. While crossing the Rubicon.  
NB: Tenkara Rod in hand.*

near the Thornton-Taggerty road before rising up to become a steep tumbling mountain stream along with its tributary the Royston. (Weigall, Fly fishing north east Victoria)

### *Running Line*

(1) the long, thin part of a fly line that connects to the backing at the reel end

(2) a thin line attached to the back of a shooting taper (shooting head) line; may be 20 to 30 pound monofilament, braided nylon, narrow floating or sinking line, or other material; usually around 100 feet in length, it allows the fly fisher to quickly change the type of line being used by interchanging only the head section; used frequently in saltwater situations, especially for striped bass.

### *Run*

(1) the pulling out of line a hooked fish makes while trying to escape;

(2) a section of stream where relatively shallow water goes over a rough or gravel bottom and then into a pool.

(3) Something the eds. would never be seen doing.

*David Honeybone*

# Club Trip

## Just before lockdown 2.0

### *First day on the water: Cosgrove Reservoir*

This had been a long time coming. Over the last eighteen months, I had learned the basics of fly tying from the masters at Red Tag, casting from my expert coaches Leff and Marshall, had purchased my gear, mainly from FlyFinz, and was feeling ready.

I collected my waders, rod and flies based on advice from Red Tag TeamApp: the Woolly Bugger, the Bloodworm, the Stick Caddis. I drove out to Cosgrove reservoir, about an hour and a quarter from my home in Croydon, stopping for coffee and ended up in the car park on time as everyone was getting changed for the day.

I put my waders and boots on (should I have set my rod up first?), got some great tips from Vin and others, and headed down to where Bill Jackson was. Bill was going to be my guide buddy for my first day on the water. I am very grateful to him for spending a lot of the day encouraging me and setting me up comfortably in the water.

After some handy hints from Andy, including that the Woolly Bugger imitated a fish and wasn't an insect, we moved to the edge of the water. Wading in for about 5 metres I began casting, being aware of the reeds involved in the back cast and keeping the fly in the air and landing it flat on the water. Thanks Leff and Marshall again! On Bill's advice I learned that the retrieve was to help simulate the movement of the small fish that would attract the trout. The figure of 8 varied with the short pull.

Others fished near the wall and around the edge of the reservoir. I think one fish was caught during that session. After finding out that the mud vacuumed my legs like a mother gripping on to her child, we moved around to new positions, avoiding the reeds.

Barney called the move to Newlyn Dam, and we travelled in a convoy. Barney spotted a number of well fed trout close to the outlet, and Bill, Neil and I left him to them and continued along the reservoir. We waded out to 6 to 10 m and cast in a semi-circular fashion searching for trout, casting and retrieving. Bill was using a different rig of hooks and floater, and it seemed to me that the casting was easier as it was possible to see the reach of the cast. The NZ strike indicator might be the next purchase!



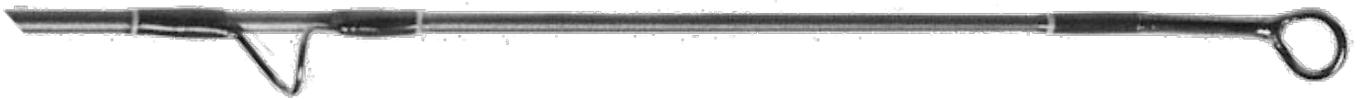
It was really enjoyable to spend time in the water, manoeuvring through the mud, balancing while casting, and learning the retrieve. Travelling back to the east from Newlyn Dam on the backroads in the late afternoon sun is a very pleasant experience.

My postscript for the day: I have a pair of Korkers wading boots which are very comfortable and support my ankles very well (I have broken my right ankle badly several times). However, I wasn't aware of the running joke about the number of detachable soles that end up in waters around Australia. So when I arrived back home I found one less sole on my boots. I contacted Korkers in the US, and they replaced it immediately at no cost. I will stick with them, as that service earned my loyalty.

Thanks Andy, Vin, Barney, Bill, Janie and Neil for a great day. Nil fish, but I learned a lot during my first enjoyable day on the water!

Cheers.

*David Williamson*



## Club News

### The Red Tag Online Code of Conduct

#### *Intended Use*

The Red Tag Fly Fishers would like to ensure that all our members act in the appropriate manner when attending online events and using our social media. Recently the club has been using an online forum (Zoom) for our own meetings and activities as well as invitations to other club online activities. The club has social media apps (e.g. Team App, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, etc.) which are widely used to interact internally and with the general public.

The club has a wide demographic of members and the following code of conduct has been developed to outline the standards of behaviour expected for online events and use of Red Tag social media.

1. Be respectful of other members.
2. Do not use derogatory or harmful comments towards other people.
3. Do not distribute or post information that
  - a. is illegal or that advocates illegal acts or facilitates unlawful activity;
  - b. threatens or intimidates any person or suggests violence, hatred or discrimination toward other people;
  - c. uses inappropriate and/or abusive language or conduct;
  - d. contains inappropriate religious or political messages
  - e. encourages the use of controlled substances;

Behave in an online forum and on social media as you would if you were face-to-face with members.

# Club News

## Women in Fly Fishing

Red Tag Fly Fisher's member Niki Duckstein is involved with Women in Recreational Fishing Network which is supported by Victorian Fisheries.

This network has been created to encourage females to participate in the fishing activity with the family (not just to observe). It is linked to the Target One Million drive to increase participation to get one million Victorians fishing by 2020. Our aim is to establish an interactive Facebook group for women to enable them to talk, gain and share knowledge to engage in recreational fishing activities in a comfortable manner. Female anglers of all levels will be encouraged to join, post and learn from one another.

In summary this network will:

- promote the benefits of fishing as a healthy and positive outdoor activity for the family.
- provide a space for females to discuss, share, engage with other females and ask questions.
- address barriers and offer solutions to encourage more women to go fishing and promote positive images of women in recreational fishing.
- provide women with the education and knowledge to give them the confidence to fish.

*C31: On this episode, the guys from Talking Fishing were joined by Niki Duckstein and Tiffany Newton from the Women in Recreational Fishing Network. They discussed all things for female fishing plus all the regular segments. It was a big episode!*



# Library Report

## The Dry Fly: new angles

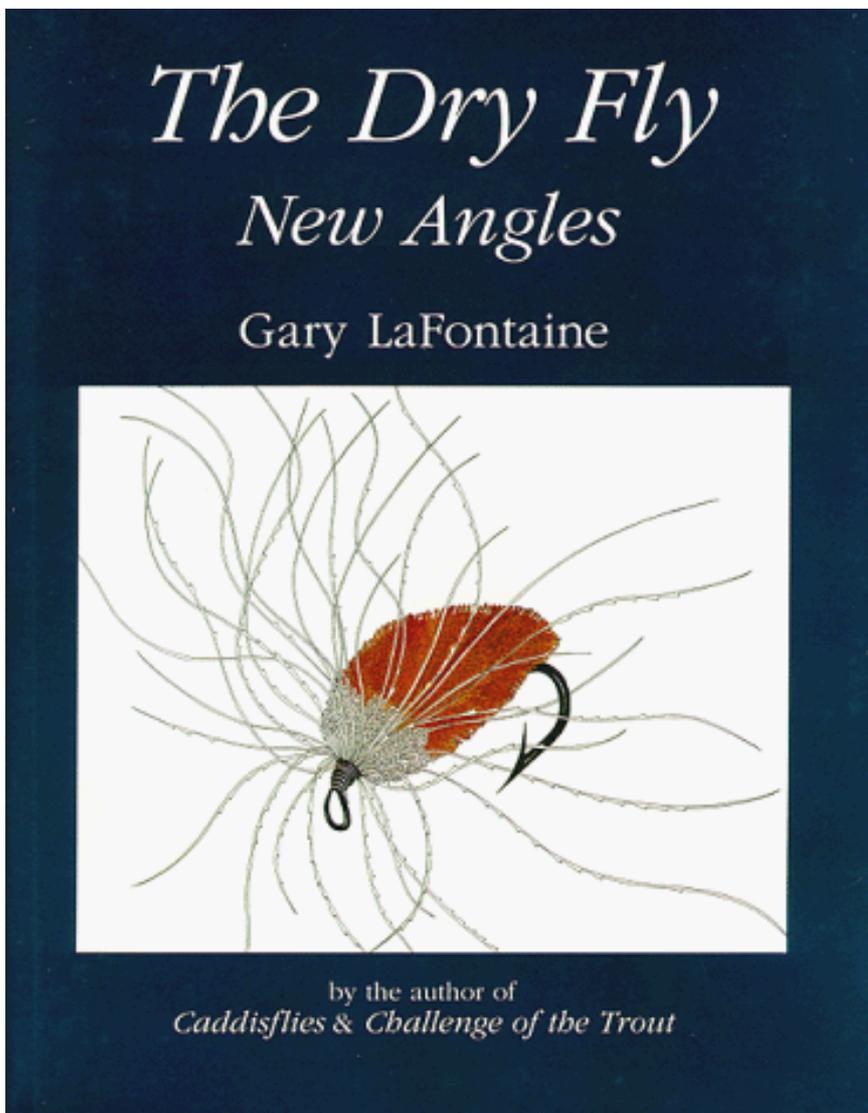
*Gary LaFontaine*

The author of *Caddisflies and Trout Flies: Proven Patterns* presents his vast knowledge about catching trout on dry flies in *The Dry Fly: New Angles*, an advanced resource for the serious fly-fisher. Combining years of fishing and tying experience with keen observation and lucid prose, LaFontaine organises his information into several theories about trout behavioural patterns and fishing strategy. He starts with three basic schools of dry fly-fishing: empiricism, generalism, and naturalism. The empiricist relies on remembering which flies worked on certain rivers, regardless of the hatch; the generalist relies on presentation of a few favourite flies, also regardless of the hatch; and the naturalist tries above all to match the hatch with exact imitations. LaFontaine shows why each of these schools is flawed. Basing his ideas on close laboratory study and

underwater diving, he argues that a knowledge of primary and secondary strike-triggering characteristics is paramount to catching fish--a school of thought that, in certain conditions, will exaggerate an imitative trait on a fly to attractor-like effect. Beneath all this is the science of when to use imitators and when to use attractors, when to float a fly high on the surface and when to float it low, like an emerger.

(Amazon.com)

*David Honeybone*



# Fly Talk

## The Peeping Stick Caddis

*by Mick Hall*

Caddis larva come in two forms, those that build portable homes (Stick Caddis) and free living. All caddis larva have a hardened section near and including the head, whilst the bodies are soft and range in colour from off white through to a dirty yellow and some have green bodies in a variety of shades. They also have a set of claws at the end of their bodies. Stick or case caddis use these claws to cling onto the inside of their portable case.



*Free living Caddis larva (Family Hydrobiosidae)*

Caddis can be found in all sorts of water from fast flowing streams to marshlands and lakes of all kinds. The case caddis that build their homes from leaves, sticks, reeds or spun silk are generally found in slow moving waters or more dominantly in still waters. Those that use sand or very small stones are normally found in streams.

The importance of caddis as a food form cannot be underestimated; early research into favoured food forms by A Dunbavin Butcher M.Sc. showed in his rare booklet, *The Freshwater Fish of Victoria and Their Food, 1950* that Caddis represented around 60% of the food source for Blackfish, 20% for Redfin, 40% for Rainbow Trout and around 30% for Brown Trout.

Interesting stuff but at a guess in some waters these figures would be higher for the crafty old brown trout. Either way, knowing what exists in your favourite waters is a long way to being successful on a regular basis.



*Bruisers Lagoon in the Highlands of Tasmania; a great Stick Caddis water. It was on this water that I witnessed Malcolm Crosse take and release two nice Browns using his Simple Caddis.*

Stick caddis come in a range of sizes from around 10mm up to 20mm and they also have a range of preferred material that they build their cases out of. This is where you need to get down and have a look. Even standing knee deep and just looking into the water around weed beds will tell you a lot. Just let the water settle and you will see them slowly swimming around. Over time you will establish which are the best size to use and the best colour for the peeping head; some prefer cream to chartreuse, others green but my all round preference is chartreuse.

If you can catch a stick caddis and give it a little squeeze, the animal will be pushed out and it should be noted that because the grubs hold on to their case with those claws of theirs, they will most probably die from this exercise. So the best thing to do is give it a good squash but don't waste it, eat it.

Fishing with Stick Caddis imitations has been around for a long time. The great Dick Wigram led the field during his day, closely followed by J M Gillies but the pattern that stood out for better than thirty years was Wigram's version; it also created many mutations. I am not sure if these two flies were tied by Dick but the bodies are definitely tied after his design.



*JM Gillies version of the Stick Caddis circa 1960*

*Tyer unknown; check out the copper wire ribbing - Circa 1950*

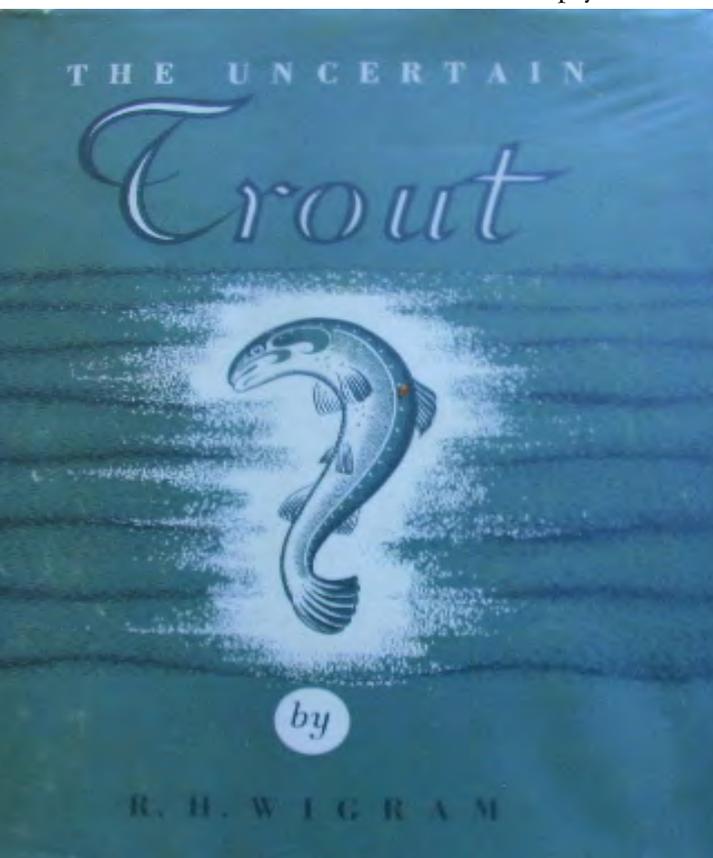




*Tyer unknown; note the use of an up-eye hook - Circa 1960*

The great Dick Wigram wrote a very informative piece on stick caddis in his last book, *"The Uncertain Trout"*, published in 1951.

His studies included an autopsy taken over the season 1945-46 and the stomach contents were recorded from at least one fish on any one fishing day over that eight month period and it shows:



September: Meander River - Male 2lb., 31 caddis and two frogs

October: North Esk River - Male 1 1/2 pounds, 106 caddis

November: South Esk River - Female 2 1/4 pounds, 27 caddis, 1 stone fly

December: Lake River - Female 2 1/4 pounds, 90 caddis, 1 dragonfly, 5 mayfly

January: Meander River - Female 2 pounds, 31 caddis, 14 beetles, 2 mayfly

February: Macquarie River - Female 3 pounds, 130 caddis, 1 dragonfly larva, 4 grasshoppers

March: Brumby's Creek - Male 1 pound, 9 caddis, 3 mayfly, 5 beetles

April: Lake River - Female 2 1/4 pounds, 37 caddis, 4 beetles, 1 shrimp.



### The Wigram Stick Caddis tied by Mick Hall. Hook Mustad R72 size 12

This in its own right shows the importance of the stick caddis as a major food source. Although Wigram does not state that the caddis flies were adult flying insects or part of, one is led to assume the discussion is all about stick caddis. It should also be noted that, apart from the Snowflake Caddis, Wigram rarely talks in depth in any of his works about adult flying Caddis.

In this work he also details the dressing for his Stick Caddis, as seen on page 36, and I quote:

*There are many methods by which a reasonable copy of the Caddis case or stick can be made, but I have found that the following is the most effective: Hook, No. 1 or 2 (new scale), long shank. The body is made as follows:- Fasten to the hook with black tying silk a piece of the centre quill from the thick end of a rooster's neck feather - allowing a quarter of an inch to extend past the bend of the hook, and leaving one-eighth of an inch clear at the eye. Tie in at eye a short length of raffia dyed brownish olive green. Build up the body with this raffia, thicker at the eye end of the hook, and covering also the protruding piece of quill. Finish raffia at eye and cut off waste. Tie in one turn of a short dark brown or black hackle and form a good sized head with the black tying silk. The whole fly from eye to tail end should be just under three quarters of an inch long.*

*NB: Wigram in his original pattern did not allow for the colour of the grub's body to show, which I am told he did in later versions. It is obvious that the casing represents a tip of a reed which is commonly used by Caddis grubs where available.*



### The Peeping Stick Caddis as adapted by Mick Hall

The best pattern I have seen in a very long time was first shown to me many years ago by a chap who called into Hook Up in Ferntree Gully and naturally, it caught my eye. You know, I can see this guy's face, but I fear his name is lost to me and for that I do apologise. Using a strand of peacock stem for the body was new and very innovative; I was truly impressed. The pattern is as follows.

- Hook: Mustad R72
- Size: 10-8
- Body: Stripped peacock stem wound over dubbing any colour and finally dyed with a dark green marking pen with dark brown over
- Head/legs: Peacock Herl
- Grub: Chartreuse synthetic knitting yarn and burnt at the end to create the grub's head.



### Peeping Stick Caddis, as tied by Mick Hall

*NB: On the original as shown to me, the Peacock stem had been dyed to a similar colour as shown. It was the use of this case material that caught my attention. The peeping head had been around for some time but I must reiterate, this was new and very creative.*

#### SMALL PEEPING STICK CADDIS AS DESIGNED BY MICK HALL

As designed by Mick Hall to imitate the small Silk-cased Caddis

- Hook: Mustad R72
- Size: 16-14
- Body: Uni-Flex White and treated with marking pens as described above
- Head/Legs: Peacock Herl
- Grub: Chartreuse synthetic yarn and treated as above.

**NOTE: Uni-Flex is also known as Flex Floss and a heap of other names.**

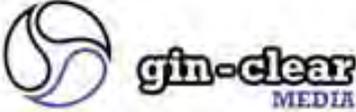
Some species of Stick Caddis actually build their case from self-generated silk; these guys are very common and a favourite food source.

*Did you know, we even have aquatic Caterpillars!!!!!!!!!!!!!!*

*Mick Hall*

# Sponsors

*With thanks for their own going support.*

 <p>Aussie Angler Fishing &amp; Tackle Gear: Rick Dobson: 30 Sherbourne Rd. Greensborough T: 9432 1501</p>	 <p>Big 4 Taggerty Holiday Park 3380 Maroondah Hwy Taggerty <a href="mailto:book@big4taggerty.com.au">book@big4taggerty.com.au</a> T:(03) 5774 7263</p>	 <p>Like Tasmanian fishing news on facebook? <a href="http://www.tasfish.com">www.tasfish.com</a></p>
 <p>Subscribe to essential flyfisher's newsletters for exclusive offers. <a href="http://www.essentialflyfisher.com.au">www.essentialflyfisher.com.au</a></p>	 <p>FLY TYING MATERIALS, VISES &amp; TOOLS <a href="http://www.troutlore.com.au">www.troutlore.com.au</a></p>	 <p>Supplier of quality fly fishing tackle and equipment. <a href="http://www.adrenalinflies.com.au">http://www.adrenalinflies.com.au</a></p>
 <p>Mayfly Tackle</p>	 <p>fly fishing DVD's and films Rise Festival Australia <a href="http://www.gin-clear.com">www.gin-clear.com</a></p>	 <p>Hurley's Fly Fishing Gavin Hurley 489 South Rd. Benteigh T:9532 1583</p>
 <p>NEVER MISS A MOMENT</p>	 <p>Unit 19-20 52 Corporate Blvd Bayswater <a href="http://www.afn.com.au">www.afn.com.au</a></p>	 <p>Ahead of our time since the beginning</p>
 <p>THE FLYFISHER.COM.AU</p>	 <p>Jim Baumgurtel 4 Trade Place Lilydale Vic 3140 <a href="http://www.flyfinz.com">www.flyfinz.com</a> m: 0410 423 430</p>	 <p><i>Slickness down to a science</i></p>
<p>Twig &amp; Stream</p>  <p>Fly Fishing &amp; Casting</p> <p>0412 168 020 <a href="http://twigandstream.com">twigandstream.com</a> <a href="mailto:twigandstream@gmail.com">twigandstream@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>This space could be yours!</b></p> <p>contact Red Tag!</p>	 <p>Rio Fly Lines</p>