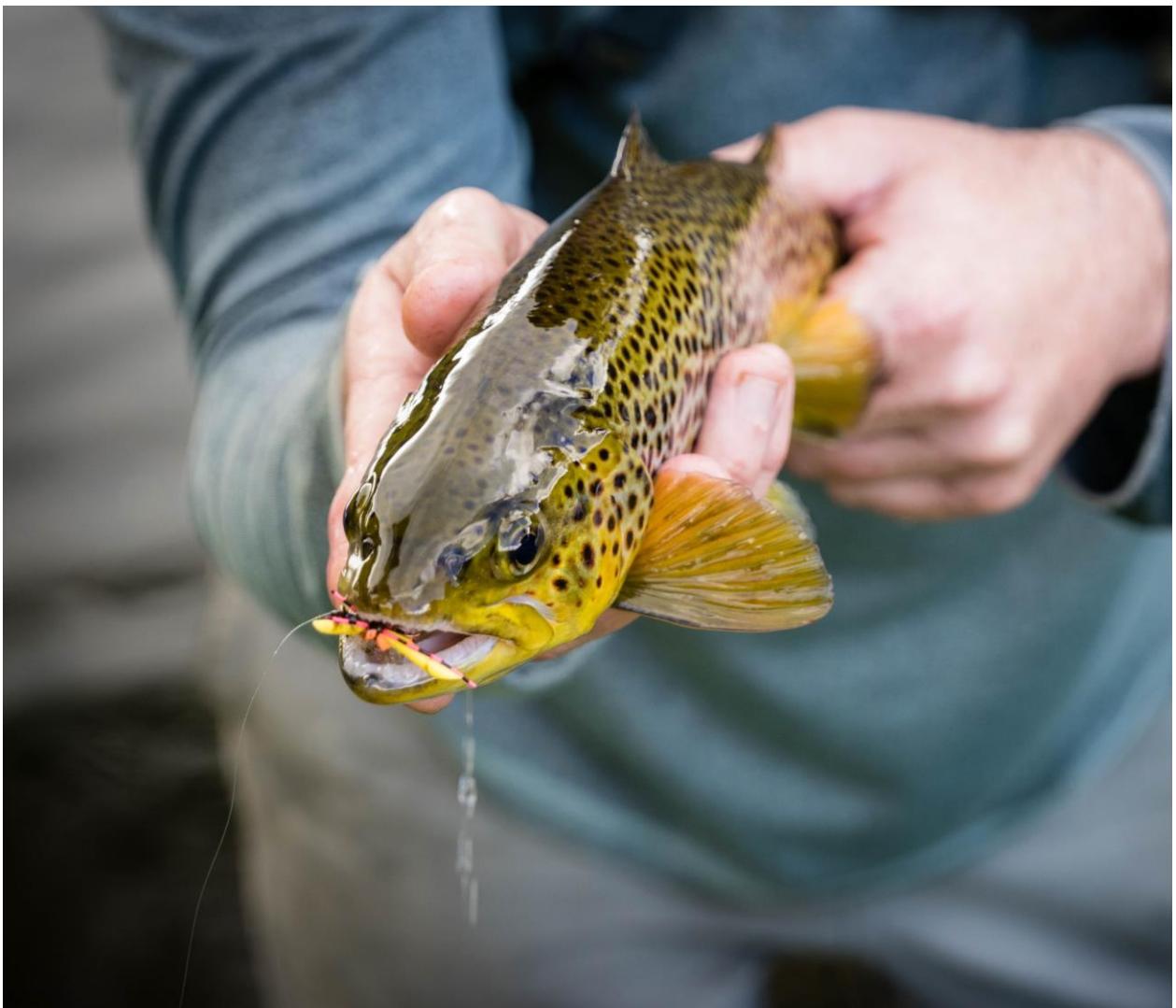


FRESHWATER



April
2017

Autumn 2017

FRESHWATER

A LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

As you are probably aware Peter has stepped down from publishing Freshwater, a shame really, as he was doing a magnificent job. However, as of now the magazine will be published by myself as Chief Editor, so please keep your articles and photographs coming. You can send them via email to: stewie54@live.com.au. Geoff Buckland and Geoff Barrett will continue to assist as sub-editors and I'm pleased that Yusef Khadembashi will also assist with production and editing.

If you are not yet aware, 2017 will be the 50th Anniversary of the club. To mark this milestone the club is organizing a dinner/dance that will be held on 28th October 2017 at Fremantle Boat Club. Hopefully members, past and present and their partners will support this historic event. It will be a ticketed affair and will cost \$40 per person. Tickets will be on sale soon and I would appreciate it if all persons interested in purchasing tickets for this exciting event contact me as soon as possible.

It has been brought to my attention that a "For Sale" sign has been put up at Knights dam. The word from Ken is to carry on fishing as normal and if circumstances change he will let the club know.

It is nice to report that all our dams have a fair to good head of water in them. I also see from Facebook that several members have been down to Pemberton over the past few weeks (good to see the cottage getting plenty of use) but had mixed fortunes regarding catches. While quite a lot of fish were seen in both rivers and dams, they proved hard to catch. Hopefully fishing will improve as the cooler conditions increase.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dave McVeigh, Mario, Sarah, Graham Minkey and John Kaljee for their efforts at the clubs Busy Bee last November and again Mario as he has just recently taken care of sanding and oiling the decking at the cottage. Remember, we have a beautiful accommodation/club house down in Pemberton which is the envy of many other clubs, but to keep it this way we have to look after this asset and from time to time members will be asked to put in for a Busy Bee.

PS: If you visit the cottage and see any weeds please pull them out, unless they are in the parking area as this may leave pot holes.

Catch card returns will be due from the end of May and should be forwarded to Doug Buchanan before the end of June. Remember, this is important information that not only helps with stocking your club dams, but can give us useful information that WATFAA can use to have an input into public stocking. Plus, you can score yourself a free membership for the coming season just by returning your catch card, even if it's empty! PS; don't forget to list your Perch and Marron catches!

This year we will obtain 150 Brown Trout [yearlings] as well as 1,000 Rainbow [yearlings] from the Hatchery. Applications have been made and processed by Fisheries for the translocation documents required for moving these trout from the Hatchery to their nominated Dams.

Thank you,

Stewart [Taffy] King



Contents

A LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT	1
NEWS AND REPORTS.....	3
STOCKING OF CLUB DAMS 2017	3
Easter Perch Bash	4
Club News.....	7
ARTICLES	8
Coming Home – My Fly Fishing Addiction	8
September Streams.....	10
MEMBERS PROFILE	13
FLY OF THE MOMENT.....	14
FROM THE ARCHIVES.....	16
WINTER WASH 2017	19
NEW MEMBERS 2016/17.....	20
QUOTATIONS ABOUT FISHING.....	21
CALENDAR OF EVENTS	23
WATFAA COUNCIL MEMBERS	24
DISCLAIMER.....	25

NEWS AND REPORTS

STOCKING OF CLUB DAMS 2017

This year we are purchasing 1000 Rainbow yearlings and 150 Brown yearlings. Translocation documents have already been obtained from fisheries; as soon as the fish are given a clean bill of health the Hatchery will release these fish for stocking. This normally takes place during late June. The Browns will go into Stirling's House Dam, whilst the Rainbows will be distributed between most of the other dams.

I am often asked as to how we work out how many fish should be put into any given dam. Well, I believe that each stocking officer over the years has had their own approach. Mine is to look at previous stocking numbers, amount of food and amount of weed cover in the dam. I also take into consideration water level at time of stocking and what the owner's intentions for the dam are. In addition to all this we have to take into consideration what has previously been stocked. It helps that we have many people fishing the dams early. This and several competitions during April, May and June give some indication towards which dam is firing. The problem is, often we turn up at a dam and not only catch nothing but see no fish moving and immediately assume there are no fish in that dam. Be honest, we all do it! But then you get lucky and you are actually on the water when the fish are firing, possibly due to a hatch or even a change in temperature and you realise just how many fish are in that water.

Remember WATFAA only stock our club dams, Fisheries stock public water. It is down to the recommendation of the FFRG committee regarding what amount and size of fish go where. Keeping this in mind, it is important that members make every effort to return their catch cards. Even more so for those that prefer to fish the rivers and creeks, as this will give our FFRG representatives positive information to take to the table.

Taffy



Easter Perch Bash

By Dave McVeigh

The Easter Perch Bash was to take place 15th-16th of April, so far only 11 anglers had said they could fish the event. I arrived on the 13th with some other anglers to fish for trout before the perch fishing commenced. The 13th saw me fishing the Lefroy at Thompson flats, Glauders Bridge, and the Cascades. The water levels were low so I fished small spiders down any fast water I could find and started picking up small trout. There seemed to be a lot of fish throughout this river probably due to the long winter (which may have led to good spawning) and a mild summer. I finished the first day with 9 fish to 48cm. The next day [Friday] saw Taffy, John O'Sullivan, Jeff Third and I up at first light fishing Gandy's dam. There were a lot of fish showing close in to the bank and feeding on water fleas, I could hear Taffy getting excited on the opposite bank as he had 6 fish feeding around him. I was soon into a hard fighting fish that turned out to be a 46cm rainbow and in immaculate condition. Then it was Taffy's turn and his fish was almost identical. No other fish were caught but the fish were still showing until the sun was high in the sky. I then went with John to fish a shaded stretch of the Lefroy and managed to catch three fish of 30cm on a little dry White Mosquito fly, then headed back to Gandy's to fish to sunset. We spread out on the dam and fished hard but no fish were seen or caught. This turned out to be the same for the remainder of our stay with no evening rise and no hatches of any kind on the dams.

Early Saturday morning before the start of the Perch Bash, I sneaked out to the Lefroy for an hour, but only managed to pull a dry fly out of a fish's mouth. Back at the cottage, everyone was itching to get out fishing and 11 of us headed off in convoy to a large dam on East brook Road. The majority of us had never been to this dam before, so we spread out around the banks and started fishing. I fished 5 or 6 casts then moved along the bank until I found fish. I caught 3 fish in quick fashion and other people moved close by as perch normally are found in shoals, and immediately most people started catching. Tony Bryant was being very consistent and I watched him as he changed his lures regularly and kept fooling the perch. The fishing slowed to a stop and Taffy went off to speak to some farmers. He returned a short while later with good news that he had got permission to fish 4 more dams and off we went. The next dams were only a short drive down the road and were quite small, so we split up and made our way around the dams making 5 or 6 casts then moving. There was no action whatsoever so we decided to move to 2 new dams on Fox Rd. Taffy warned everyone that it was very snaggy and that we would lose a lot of tackle. He wasn't wrong as Steve Agate lost 3 lures in 3 casts. Tony Bryant started catching some very good perch and I think most people caught fish. The quality and size of these fish was very good. Our next stop was Franklins dam and the 10 of us spread out around the dam and fished hard but for some reason the fishing was poor and only a few small perch were caught. I have fished this dam before and seen it produce lots and lots of perch but on this occasion, it was not so good. Back to the cottage for food and drinks, and where Dave Whitelaw entertained us with his stories and great jokes.

Sunday 16th and again I sneaked out to fish the Lefroy before the perch fish, I was fishing a dry fly with a midge dropper and was casting to water that looked disturbed or rocky and caught a fish on the dry under the town bridge. I then joined everyone at Angelo's dam. Taffy was fishing the centre of the dam wall and had caught some huge red fin, including the biggest fish so far. A few others had also success, then the fishing just died and no matter what you fished you could not get a bite.

Many of us think that perch are dumb but this is simply not true. This experience showed just what effects angling pressure can have on the fish. They just switch off! Our group of anglers then split up. One group went back to fish the large dam on East Brook Road again and Taffy, John, Jeff and I went to fish a little dam near Big Bush. While we were there Taffy spoke to George Bush about the potential of getting a new trout dam. This dam lies at the bottom of a valley and has a feeder stream and good water levels all year. We fished the small dam that had red fin in but could manage only follows from shoals of small fish, the bigger ones were playing hard to get.



We decided to fish Big Bush and Little Bush as they were nearby. Taffy managed to catch a rainbow of just under 30cm from the shallows of the bigger dam, his first from that dam and he was "over the moon." The other group of anglers that went off to fish the large dam on East Brook Road had a field day with plenty of action and good quality fish caught. In the evening, I went to fish Omodie's House dam and was rewarded with a very solid rainbow of 44cm just before dark. Back at the cottage there was a buzz as everyone had had a great day fishing and the bonus of some very nice fish being caught. Next morning everyone chipped in with cleaning and tiding up before saying their goodbyes. I went off with John to show him some new spots on the Lefroy and Warren. Steve Agate had seen a large brown trout the day before at one of these spots. I fished an area on the Warren and caught a rainbow of 34cm on my little dry Mosquito fly and this fish turned out to be my last of this trip. John and I met another fly fisherman who kindly showed us some more great areas on the Warren and in return we showed him some on the Lefroy then it was time for the long drive home.

In summation, it was a great Perch Bash. We did not catch huge amounts of perch compared to previous 'Bashes' but the size and quality of the fish this year were fantastic. Many trout were also caught by club members and I personally caught 16 rainbows. Our dams look very healthy with plenty of water in them and the rivers and streams have got a lot of fish in them.

I would like to thank the following people for a great weekend:

Taffy, Jeff Third, Dave Whitelaw, John O'Sullivan, Steve Roberts, Paul Barky, Steve Agate, Tony Bryant, Peter Taylor, Yusef Khadembashi and his partner Lisa.

FRESHWATER



I would like to thank Dave for this article and the others for their company over this event. Over the years this event has evolved in the way it allows participants to fish for both trout and red fin during the weekend. I feel it was again an outstanding success for all that fished. Awesome Guys/Girls Taffy

Club News

As I have mentioned, it is the clubs 50th Anniversary and we are holding a Dinner/Dance at Fremantle Boat club at 6pm on 28th October 2017. Tickets are on sale now for \$40.00 per person. Contact me by email and once they have been paid for, I will get the tickets to you. Payment to be made by electronic transaction into the clubs bank account stipulating that it is payment for the Anniversary tickets or via cash to Geoff Barrett at one of the club meetings.

Tom Meredith has organised the purchasing of club hats and caps with the WATFAA logo embroidered on the front. I believe there are five styles to choose from, as well as different colours(caps priced at \$20, broad rims at \$25 each).Contact Tom to obtain this Prized and Iconic Item.

The winner of the casting competition held at the March Activities night was Yusef Khadembashi. Well done! This was not as easy as it looked as there was quite a stiff breeze during the event. Thanks must go to Magoo and the Activities Team for arranging this event.

The April Activity night was Auction night. Forty Members turned up, some there to sell but most there to buy. A total of 66 items went under Monty's hammer with only a small number not reaching their reserves; many bargains were had in the process. Thanks to Monty, Geoff Barrett and Geoff Buckland for their hard work on the night

We are moving into a busy fishing time of the year so check with John Goulding, well in advance to see if beds at the cottage are available for the times you wish to visit.

Stocking of all club dams will take place at the end of June so please, if you happen to catch any of these new fish look after them and return them with care. Please wet your hands before handling fish that are to be returned. Remember spinners and single hooks only in the clubs trout dams, no trebles!

PLEASE DON'T FORGET YOUR RECORD CARD RETURNS. Remember club trophies can only be presented to members that have returned them.

ARTICLES

Coming Home – My Fly Fishing Addiction

By John O'Sullivan

Christmas 2016 saw me visiting my home town of Invercargill NZ with my family. While poking around in my brothers garage I found our fly fishing gear from when we were kids, it was covered in dust and hadn't been touched for 40 years. I brushed off a rod and started casting in the paddock and I was immediately transported back to a time 40 years prior when I was 17 and caught my first fish, a 4lb brown trout on a wet fly (a Purple Grouse). The excitement and thrill of catching that first fish overwhelmed me and I'll always remember it. We were staying at a family friend's house in Athol on the Mataura and the fish went straight into the smoke house. There was no money for fancy gear or lessons and I still have that first reel and line in perfect condition.

The passion had been reignited and I returned, determined to pick up the craft again. I knew if I was going to catch fish I needed new lighter gear and I needed to learn to cast. Several visits to Fly World, which are ongoing; a rod, a line and a reel for every occasion, and don't get me started on the flies! I don't think there are enough flies. Dan Ivanoff at Fly World must love me.



UPPER CLUTHA NZ

Enter Graham Hird, who was intending to go for his IFFF Casting Instructor qualification. Graham needed students to practice on, so I volunteered myself as a Guinea pig for casting tuition. I didn't know what kind of experiments I had volunteered for and this had me worried. Graham's technical knowledge of casting and fly fishing is truly astounding. He demonstrated emptying his complete 30 metre line in three double haul casts. My mouth dropped, and I spent several months flogging away on the grass with Graham as my mentor. Graham has since become West Australia's first certified Casting Instructor.

I decided I was now ready to try and catch a fish. Here I struck a deal with David Gellatly to go down to Pemberton for the Winter Wash. The deal was that I would help him with tree planting on the slopes at the Cottage and in return he would show me around. It was a good deal except that David doesn't stop!

Crawling around on the slopes with his pick in hand "Just 500 more plants to go John, we're nearly finished!" David took me under his wing and I enjoyed it immensely. His resilience and determination is very impressive, not to mention his years of experience and kind and generous nature. We caught some fish!

It was while sitting in the Cottage having a beer with Graeme from Augusta that I had a revelation. As I looked around the room I felt the camaraderie and years of experience that was in the room. It hit me, this was it! I had come home after many years. Home to the family and community of Fly Fishing. I shed a tear! I was home! I don't know why there had been a forty-year hiatus, except to say that life had got in the way.

I have made new friends. My fishing buddy David McVeigh has amazing skills and knowledge. As well as his vast knowledge and research, it is masterful to watch David in action. He will read the play on the water and adapt quickly. If there is



DRAKESBROOK WEIR AFTER STOCKING

a fish around, David will find them. Awe inspiring indeed. (Hitting the electric fence at Gandy's with his rod tip several times in a row is not too masterful though.) I enjoy fishing with David.

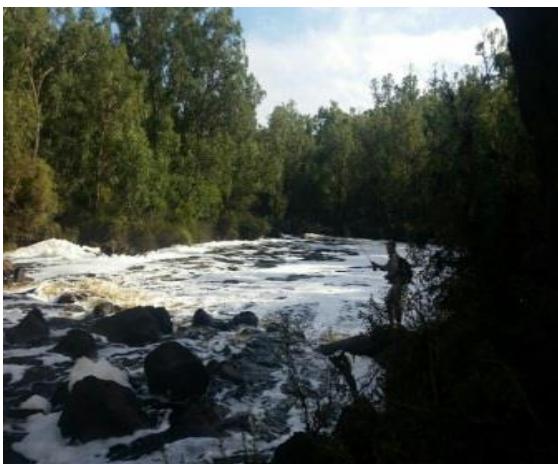
Another person with vast experience is Peter Taylor. Peter has tremendous depth of knowledge of everything fly fishing. Sometimes he can be found helping Dan at Fly World, you must bring coffee though.

I find people are willing to help and share if you are willing to ask, and put an effort in. Not everyone can make it to a meeting, or head out on their day off, so I would encourage everyone to keep the passion and magic of Fly Fishing alive, and to nurture, support and protect the Fly Fishing community. Everybody has a secret spot. (More than fair enough, although Peter said his are only secret because he forgets where they are)

Take a break if you need to, however don't give up. Keep going! It's up to us to get out there and keep the art alive. The rewards are there! I see that catch and release is paramount in protecting stocks when fishing in waters where required to do so. I feel like a kid in a lolly shop, I'm learning. (After all I have a 40-year void to make up for). There may not be enough gear and flies to keep me going, so I'll probably have to start making my own.



DAVE MCVEIGH ON THE COLLIE



THE MURRAY AFTER MARCH FLOOD



THE MURRAY LATE MARCH

38CM RAINBOW - FEW AND FAR BETWEEN

As Steve Parker said to me at my first WATFAA meeting, "the passion never went away; it was just dormant for a while."

I truly feel I have "come home" and I intend to keep the passion and excitement going. I am more than happy to share it around, after all that's what it's all about.

Tight lines

John O'Sullivan

**Thanks John, great article hopefully an inspiration to others who may have lost their passion for fishing.
Taffy**

September Streams

By Dave McVeigh

I had a call from Taffy enquiring if I was going down to the perch bash at Easter. During our talk, I said “you have your hands full being club president, dams stocking manager, and now managing the club magazine, Freshwater”. So I offered my assistance, “OK, can you do a story?” says Taffy and I gladly accepted. I sat down with pen and paper and thought I will write about the start of the season last September. The start of 2016 season started with me not knowing where to fish. Last year I fished on the Serpentine and had it all to myself until a huge fish kill late in November. I had plans of fishing feeder streams that flow in to our dams as there are always fish up them in September.

In the case of Falls Brook there is always the possibility of large brown trout. The Collie and Murray rivers were also an option. The first spot I fished was the Murray river at Dwellingup and as I drove along the dirt road following the river I was surprised how high the river was flowing. I started fishing some of the crossings and sets of rapids but I was not having any luck. Driving further on up river I fished a spot near Yaragil and picked up a fish on a Green Pheasant Tail nymph. That was it for the day but I was at least off the mark for the season. The Murray is a great river only 50 minutes from my home and one morning in mid December I fished a short session and caught 8 fish. One day someone will catch a very big fish from it. It's on the cards so give it a go. It's a great place to fish!

The next trip was to Drakesbrook Weir. This is a very pretty dam with a feeder stream. When stocked with brood stock a lot of these large fish go up this little stream and fishing for them can be hectic. On the first trip I caught 8 fish from around the dam fishing small nymphs and a size 14 Green Woolly Bugger. Some of these fish were caught from a rock peninsula that sticks out in to the dam on the far side. It's a fantastic spot to fish from! On my next visit to this dam I caught 5 fish to 48cm in a short 2hour trip. All fish were taken on my little Green Nymph and the Brown Nymph that was fished 15cm up the tippet received no action whatsoever. All these fish were males! The trout fishing on this dam dies off very early in October so it is best to fish as much in September as possible. I finished up with 18 fish from this dam in September with many of them over 40cm.



DRAKESBROOK FISH

For the first time in 2016, I went to fish Harvey dam and as I drove over the first causeway I could see anglers dotted along it. I drove to the far end of the dam and stopped on the last causeway, watching for signs of fish. It looked shy of fish so I drove around to Falls Brook and went for a fish. There were some people fishing and there were a few large rainbows cruising in the stream so I cast my little Green Nymph in to some fast white-water and took a fish.

The other fish there were really panicky as they had been heavily fished for nearly two weeks which made them really difficult to catch, so I left them alone. I did hear that a young lad had caught a 6lb brown trout the stream, his first fish on a fly. I went back to the dam and had some luck fishing a blob under an indicator in the ripple. Harvey dam has not been kind to me this year although I did manage to catch some nice fish to 48cm. I also caught good fish from the stream, but most of these were from one tight area. One of our members caught more than 20 fish in one day and 12 fish another day from the same spot. The rest of the dam was quiet but the people fishing from boats have had a good season with many large fish caught. This year the last fish I caught from the dam was the middle of October while in other years I have caught fish right up until the second week in December from spots dotted around the dam.

I travelled down to Pemberton for the Fish-a-Fest a day early and fished the Lefroy river at Broken Bridge. Taffy showed me around this stretch as I had never been to this area before. This section of river is in farm land and the sheep eat the blackberries along the river banks making access easier. There were a lot of fish in this stretch and in no time, I had landed 4 using a Brown Woolly Bugger. The next day the comp started and I fished Omedie's dam and caught 4 fish using blob flies under a strike indicator. Taffy joined in using the same method and caught fish as well. Gandy's dam was my next stop with a strong blustery wind blowing towards the gate and stump. I have never had much success fishing in these conditions and I started fishing Damsel flies on a sink tip line but I didn't have a bite. So, on went a blob and casting out in to the waves it didn't take long before I was in to a fish. Fishing blobs can be very effective when nothing else is happening and they can turn a bad day into a great one, although some fisheries have banned them. Day 2 of the comp and off I went to fish Knights but had no luck there so back to Gandy's where I didn't have any luck either but Taffy, fishing next to me, caught a nice fish. I decided to go to fish the Lefroy and caught a fish from just below Clauders Bridge on a Brown Woolly Bugger then back to Broken Bridge where the Brown Woolly Bugger again was successful in catching another two fish. The fly I used had a bead and extra lead wire. This was needed as the water flow was very strong and a normal fly would just hang up in the water. The day after the comp quite a few people decided to have a fish on the way home and I think most fished at the Broken Bridge. I fished with my trusty Brown Woolly Bugger and landed 2 fish. This was a great trip south and I managed 14 fish. The comp was fantastic and I believe more than 60 fish were caught.



FALLSBROOK FISH

FRESHWATER

One river I had yet to fish this September was the Collie River, this is a spot that I fish a lot. It is probably one of the most viable trout waters in W Australia. The trout population in this river is in decline and I believe that the stocking management for this river is to blame, as they decided to trial Triploid fry, which would only have been fodder for the perch. This is a shame as I believe that this river could produce large rainbows and brown trout if managed and stocked properly. Hopefully they will revert to past stocking procedures where it was stocked with yearlings and x brood stock fish and this will take place sooner rather than later.

I arrived just as the sun was rising through the trees and a mist was coming off the water, I fished some off my spots but had no luck, most of my fish from this river are caught on beaded nymphs but I wasn't having any luck so I fished a section of fast water with a woolly bugger, and got a fish right at the back of the run and had to drag the fish back through the rapids to the net it went 36cm. I fished the rest of the morning without any other action and no fish seen. That was to be my last fish for September looking back at my records I caught 37 fish and had a great time, get out there and have a fish. Three Flies I use a lot are:

The Green Pheasant Tail

This little nymph has caught a lot of fish from streams for me I have fished it next to other flies and it has out fished other flies many times over. I would usually fish this fly under a strike indicator and fished down fast or moving water. This fly can be tied on a size 12 or 14 and the size of beads can be changed to suit the flow or depth of water.



The Brown Woolly Bugger

I fish this fly down stream and use the flow of the current to take the slack out of the line, I also put some life into the fly by giggling rod top as the line is sent down stream, extra lead wire can be used to get the fly down strong currents.



The Blob

I fish this fly under a strike indicator and cast this out in to the ripple, if there is no ripple; the fish will not take it. The ripple puts life in to the fly. This fly can be fished with a sink tip line and retrieved very slowly; it can also be cast out aloud to sink and retrieved with a very fast Roly-Poly.



Thanks Dave nice article, It's surprising how many good fishing spots there are close to Perth.

Taffy

MEMBERS PROFILE

By Steve Roberts

I was born in Horsham, Sussex in the UK and left for NZ when aged 11.

Dad managed the local football team and my brother was also a gifted player, neither had any interest in fishing. When only 5 years old, I remember walking along the river Arun and watching people catching roach and carp and this is what I wanted to do. My first rod was a cheap bamboo rod and wooden reel where you had to pull out the line before casting (much like a fly reel). Luckily my next door neighbour was a keen angler and we used to fish for roach and rudd together, often sneaking into the grounds of Christs Hospital, an elite private school where the boys had to wear full length robes and yellow socks. They had a few lakes where perch, dace and eels were plentiful and we hardly ever got chased off.

After moving to NZ my father started training track athletes, one of which had a boyfriend called Tony Orman who later wrote several books on trout fishing and deer hunting. He started me off with spin fishing the local Hawkes Bay Rivers but unfortunately we never progressed to fly fishing. I remember him putting the occasional fly and shot on the spin rod to tempt the odd fussy trout.

It's hard to recollect my favourite fishing memory as I was a commercial fisherman for 3 years but catching a 3lb American brook trout in a dam at the back of Taupo at 14 would be amongst them as well as a few 20lb snapper from the beach. The first on fly would have been in the late 70's and would have been a rainbow in the Esk River.

The most unusual fish (outside of commercial fishing) would have to be a large Sawfish in the Kimberly.

Fly fishing is what I like best and regret not learning it properly many years ago. I would seriously recommend anyone starting out to get good tuition before bad habits set in. I didn't join WATFAA until 2007 because I didn't know it existed and joined to locate fishing spots and the camaraderie with other anglers.

The developments for freshwater angling that I would like to see would include the serious management of fisheries in public waters even if fees are involved for fishing certain areas and the releasing of fish once caught. Also, would be great if bait fishing was banned (or policed) in trout waters.



STEVE PLAYING A SAWFISH ABLY GUIDED BY MARIO

FLY OF THE MOMENT

THE RED TAG

1/ First off wrap a nice even base of thread starting from near the front of the hook and extending to the point where you are going to tie in your first part of the fly, the tail. This point should be roughly level with the barb on the hook. Once this is completed and you have a good bed of thread proceed to step two.



2/ Now take a piece of red wool and tie in a fair size clump. Red Tags come in all sorts of configurations and some like to tie in a large wool tag and others a small one. Tying in a bigger piece gives you the option when trimming to make it whatever size you want. This one will be tied with a very large tag. Once this is completed move to the next step.



3/ Now trim the wool to suit. That is work out what size you want the tail to be and cut the excess off. This step can be done now or once the fly has been tied off and completed. It would be advisable for those unfamiliar with the pattern to trim it at the end. Also remove the excess wool to the right side of the thread and wind a few wraps over it to strengthen.



4/ Next take two pieces of good bushy peacock herl. These should be tied in extending to the rear of the fly and with the bushiest side of the feather on the outside. This will allow a good body to be easily constructed as the wrapping of the herl around the hook shank will cause it to stand out at right angles to the hook. Trim the excess and wind the thread forward to a point roughly 1/3 to 1/4 the shank length behind the eye.



5/ Now take one of the herl pieces and very carefully wind it forward towards the thread. Make each successive wrap just to the front of the previous one to construct a nice plump body. Care must be taken to avoid breaking the very delicate herl which would mean untying the last step and replacing the broken herl with new pieces. Once finished, tie off and trim the excess herl.



6/ Take the second piece of herl and wind forward toward the thread. This time the object is not so much to make each turn in front of the previous one but more so to avoid crushing the previous herl and also to fill in any gaps that may be obvious to the tier. Winding it in a gentle to and fro motion will help you to not squash the herl already in place. When you reach the thread tie off and trim like in the last step.



7/ We are nearly finished. Select a good quality hackle feather from your cape. Either Ginger or Brown, light or dark. I have used a normal Brown Cock feather here. Tie it angled backwards and with the dull side towards you. This will assist in getting the hackle to stand up correctly right from the very first turn. Once this is tied in trim the excess feather stem and wind the thread forward to the eye of the hook.



8/ Lastly take the hackle feather and carefully wind it forward to the thread. Make sure each successive turn is just forward of the previous one just like in Step 5 with the peacock herl. When you are satisfied with how the fly looks (the one pictured has about the minimum amount of hackle I would use) tie off the hackle, trim the excess and apply a couple of half hitches.



The Pattern

The Red Tag is an Australian Icon. It is a fly that everybody who has fished for trout has some time or another used and more than likely with some degree of success. It is revered on the lakes up top in Tasmania as being probably the single best pattern available. Used in just about every situation it has caught fish consistently; those feeding heavily on duns, at first light in midge hatches, rainbows in wind lanes sipping terrestrials, in shallow lakeside margins when fishing to tailers, moochers and foragers, in 150 feet of water and 3 feet waves, while wade polarising small lagoons in the Western lakes. There is very little more need be said about its effectiveness and status down south.

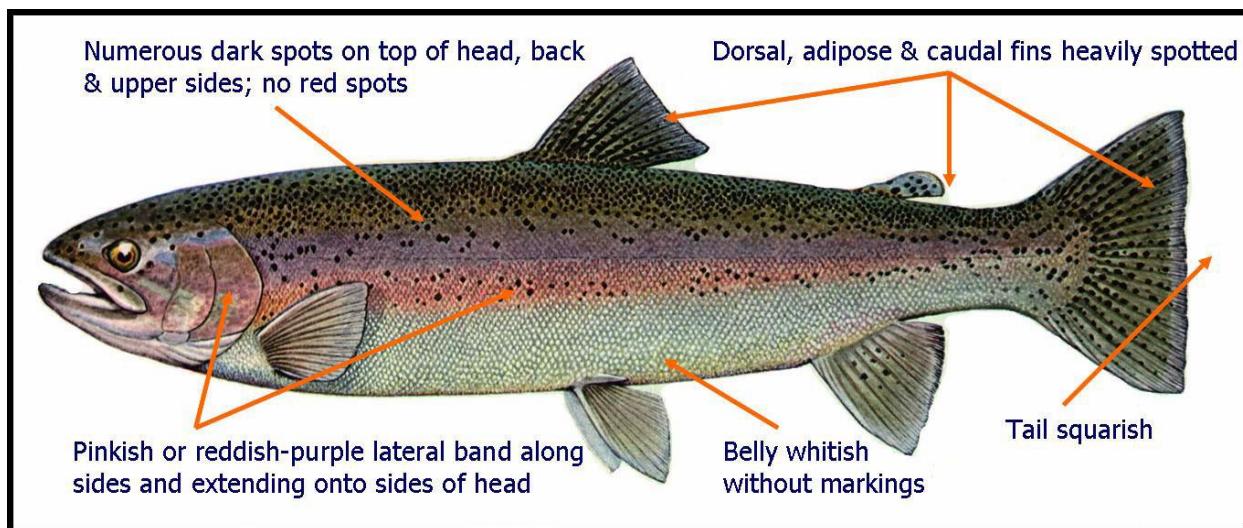
However, it has also proven its usefulness in a variety of situations on the mainland with most fly fishers carrying a good supply of this pattern in sizes from #8-18. Whether on large rivers like the Swampy Plain or Mitta Mitta or the smallest of alpine creeks it should be carried and fished in all these sizes. It will work most times of the year but is particularly good when the weather warms a bit. From about November through to April would be the best time to fish this pattern.

Much has been written about what it represents. Beetles seem to be the consensus and there is a strong argument to be made as the shape, size and colour of both body and tag could suggest these humble insects. Suffice to say it is a highly effective non-imitative pattern that is rightly placed as one of the best of all time by Australian fishers.

Acknowledgement:- Goulburn Valley Fly Fishing Centre

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Rainbow trout



Rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) are good to eat and a popular target for freshwater anglers.

They belong to the family Salmonidae, which originally comes from North America but has been introduced for aquaculture and recreational fishing to every continent except Antarctica.

Rainbow trout were introduced to Western Australia in 1927 to provide recreational fishing in the south-west part of the State. They were originally released into streams between Albany and Gingin, but in most cases failed to establish self-sustaining populations due to the lack of suitable conditions.

In response, various groups of people, mainly volunteers, built a hatchery in Pemberton to breed trout to stock waterways.

In 1971, we [Fisheries] assumed responsibility for the breeding and stocking program at the hatchery, which is now called the Pemberton Freshwater Research Centre (PFRC).

The species is also produced through [aquaculture](#) operations and has a farm gate value of more than \$100,000 a year in WA.

The rainbow trout's upper body is dark olive green to bluish – the sides are lighter and the belly is silver-white. The head and body are heavily speckled. There are often pink, red or orange markings along the head and flanks.

Rainbow trout live from three to six years and can reach 5 kg. In nutrition-rich dams, trout can reach two kg in two years and three kg in three years. However, in nutrient-poor or overstocked dams, growth may be much slower.

Habitat

Rainbow trout is a cold-water species inhabiting freshwater creeks, dams, rivers and lakes. It thrives at 5-20°C but there are mortalities once water temperature increases to 26-27°C. However, the trout produced at PFRC are unique because they have adapted to withstand the higher temperatures of local conditions.

Trout are also intolerant of low oxygen levels caused by heat and stagnation.

In the northern hemisphere, some trout migrate between fresh water and salt water for breeding but in Australia most are restricted to fresh water. However, trout that are acclimatised to sea water at a young age may be reared in marine conditions until maturity. This offers potential for stock enhancement and aquaculture in saline water in WA.

Lifecycle

To spawn, trout need a bed of gravel or small stones, with oxygenated sub-surface water filtering up through the rocky bed. These are usually found in mountainous upper reaches of rivers and tributaries.

However, most rivers and streams in south-west WA have sandy, silty bottoms unsuitable for digging a 'redd' (trough), in which trout lay their eggs. Even if the trout do attempt to mate, silt and lack of well-oxygenated waterflow combine to smother the eggs and larvae.

In suitable natural environments, the female trout digs a deep redd by lying on her side and flapping her tail to dislodge gravel. She releases eggs, which mix with milt (sperm) from a closely accompanying male and become lodged in the redd. The female then dislodges more gravel to fill in the redd.

After hatching, the larvae, called 'alevins', remain in the redd, absorbing the yolk sac. At this stage, they look like tadpoles. Within two months, they become young fish (fry) and emerge to feed.

In WA rainbow trout are ready to breed at about two years of age and females can produce up to 2000 eggs per kilogram of body weight.

Trout are artificially spawned at the PFRC in June each year. Males and females are carefully removed from the brood stock pond and their abdomen gently squeezed to release eggs and milt. The eggs and milt are then combined, and after fertilisation, are washed and placed into incubators.

Once the alevins hatch they absorb their yolk sac and are then raised on a special diet.

Fry and yearling trout (eight to 12 months old) are stocked into south-west waterways each year.

Ex-brood stock trout are also stocked. While these larger fish are stocked for recreational angling, they also play an important role in controlling redfin perch, a feral species.

Diet

Adult and yearling trout eat invertebrates (both terrestrial and aquatic), including insects, beetles and nymphs. They also eat small fish including redfin perch, an introduced species that multiplies in number, eats out the food supply and becomes stunted in size as a consequence. Trout fry and fingerlings (trout that have grown to the size of a person's finger) eat small invertebrates.

FRESHWATER

Predators

Adult trout are the highest-order aquatic predators. However, redfin perch prey heavily on trout fry. Cormorants and other fish-eating birds can prey on young trout and even adult trout if the waterway is bare of cover such as aquatic weeds, logs and rocks the fish can hide under.

ACKNOLEGEMENTS:-

Department of fisheries WA

Illustration © R. Swainston/www.anima.net.au



WINTER WASH 2017

June 3rd, 4th & 5th

- **VENUE Pemberton, on WATFAA Dams**

Fishing in teams of 3 or 4. Each team will have a member who knows where to go and how to fish the dams.

Here is the chance to learn and fish the dams under expert guidance and experience.

START TIME: 12 noon Saturday at Graham Whitehouse Rose Cottage

REGISTRATION: 11am to meet fellow members and arrange teams.

THE RULES: Will be explained at this time so please don't be late.

You will fish to dusk.

SUNDAY: Start time 6am until dusk again.

MONDAY: A "do as you please day" once the cottage has been cleaned.

There will be **TEAM** prizes for the total length of Trout and **INDIVIDUAL** prizes For the largest Trout and Perch caught

There will be a **raffle** plus a **B.B.Q.** Saturday & Sunday night at a cost of **\$15 per night**.

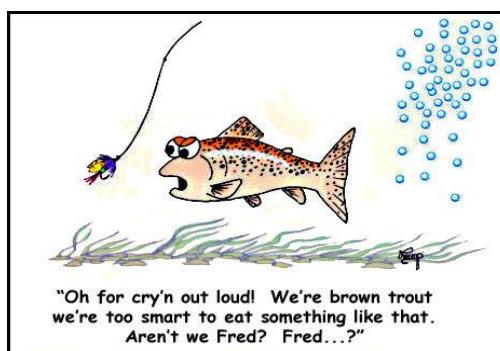
If you wish to eat at "La Rose Cottage Restaurant" Please book the meals when you book for this event.

BEDS will be up for grabs **from Wednesday 10th of May from 4pm** First in best dressed.

Bookings for this event to be made through me and not John at stewie54@live.com.au or ring 0418942899,

See You There,

Taffy



NEW MEMBERS 2016/17

Here is a list of new members who have joined or re - joined since September 2016.

Date Joined	Member Name + Number
10/09/2016	Richard Harris 775
19/09/2016	David Ainscough 769
02/10/2016	John Kaljee 776
04/10/2016	Geoff Cullen 777
26/10/2016	John Lowes 762
10/11/2016	Graeme Hird 778
16/11/2016	Alan Kennedy 779
14/12/2016	Grant Rushby 612
01/01/2017	Arturo Sedgwick 784
11/01/2017	Richard Knight 783
17/02/2017	Paul Barkey 782
11/04/2017	Les Float 284



I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back Grant and Les and officially welcome all of the new members into the club. New members are asked to please fill in your probation cards. Remember, one way of getting to know other members or where to fish, is to attend some of the events the club runs during the course of the year. If anyone has any queries about the club or fishing, please feel free to ask. I look forward to catching up with you, possibly on the water or at an activities night.

Tight lines,

Taffy

QUOTATIONS ABOUT FISHING

There are two types of fisherman - those who fish for sport and those who fish for fish. ~Author Unknown

A bad day of fishing is better than a good day of work. ~Author Unknown

May the holes in your net be no larger than the fish in it. ~Irish Blessing

I fish better with a lit cigar; some people fish better with talent. ~Nick Lyons, Bright Rivers, 1977

There is certainly something in angling that tends to produce a serenity of the mind. ~Washington Irving

Somebody just back of you while you are fishing is as bad as someone looking over your shoulder while you write a letter to your girl. ~Ernest Hemingway

The fishing was good; it was the catching that was bad. ~A.K. Best

It has always been my private conviction that any man who pits his intelligence against a fish and loses has it coming. ~John Steinbeck

Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach him how to fish and he will sit in a boat and drink beer all day. ~Author Unknown

Bragging may not bring happiness, but no man having caught a large fish goes home through an alley.
~Author Unknown

If people concentrated on the really important things in life, there'd be a shortage of fishing poles. ~Doug Larson

There he stands, draped in more equipment than a telephone lineman, trying to outwit an organism with a brain no bigger than a breadcrumb, and getting licked in the process. ~Paul O'Neil, 1965

Even if you've been fishing for three hours and haven't gotten anything except poison ivy and sunburn, you're still better off than the worm. ~Author Unknown

There is no greater fan of fly fishing than the worm. ~Patrick F. McManus, Never Sniff a Gift Fish, 1979

If you've got short, stubby fingers and wear reading glasses, any relaxation you would normally derive from fly fishing is completely eliminated when you try to tie on a fly. ~Jack Ohman, Fear of Fly Fishing, 1988

Nothing makes a fish bigger than almost being caught. ~Author Unknown

My biggest worry is that my wife (when I'm dead) will sell my fishing gear for what I said I paid for it. ~Koos Brandt

Scholars have long known that fishing eventually turns men into philosophers. Unfortunately, it is almost impossible to buy decent tackle on a philosopher's salary. ~Patrick F. McManus

There will be days when the fishing is better than one's most optimistic forecast, others when it is far worse. Either is a gain over just staying home. ~Roderick Haig-Brown

FISHING IS MY DRUG OF CHOICE.

I don't party every night, I don't get wasted,
and I don't pop bottles.

I GO FISHING.

I cast as many times as possible,
and then I cast once more.

I read fishing magazines, look at lures,
and organize my tackle.

Late nights will never compare to
hitting the water first thing in the morning.

**YOU CAN HAVE THE NIGHTLIFE.
I'LL TAKE THE FRESH AIR,
THE BEAUTY OF THE OUTDOORS,
AND THE THRILL
OF A SCREAMIN' REEL.**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Easter weekend	Perch Bash
May 27 th – June 30 th	Record card returns
June 3rd, 4th & 5 th	Winter wash
Late August Date TBA	AGM
September 23rd, 24th, 25 th	Fish a Fest
October 28 th	50 th Anniversary Dinner/Dance



CLUB NIGHTS

Are held at 4 The Esplanade, Mount Pleasant (Rowing WA) 7:30PM onwards

Every second Tuesday of each month

The following are the likely events for the upcoming calendar activities nights.

JANUARY 2017 - No Meeting

FEBRUARY 2017 - Tasmania Fishing Report (Recent Conditions)

MARCH 2017 - Casting Comp

APRIL 2017 - Tackle Auction

MAY 2017 - Dry fly setup and Technique Talk

JUNE 2017 - Flyworld - Dan Ivanoff Talk

AUGUST 2017 - Movie Night

SEPTEMBER 2017 - Meet the Council & Open Forum

OCTOBER 2017 - Tackle Auction

NOVEMBER 2017 - Quiz Night

DECEMBER 2017 - Xmas Food & Catch up

WATFAA COUNCIL MEMBERS

Role	Name/s	Phone Number	Email
President	Stewart "Taffy" King	0418942899	stewie54@live.com.au
Vice President	Peter Taylor	0457846995	pjtaylor@westnet.com.au
Treasurer	Geoff Barrett	0433321936	watfaa.treasurer@outlook.com.au
Secretary	Yusef Khadembashi	0423952036	yusef.khadembashi91@gmail.com
Membership Officer	Mick Burman	0414401993	mimamoth@bigpond.com
Stocking	Stewart "Taffy" King		
Freshwater Magazine	Stewart Taffy King – Editor Geoff Barrett, Geoff Buckland & Yusef Khadembashi – Co-Editors		
Cottage Bookings	John Goulding	0407445254	aptgould@iinet.com.au
Facebook, Web & DVD Library	Tom Meredith	0419147650	swoop84@hotmail.com
Cottage Maintenance	Mario Riggio	0417944055	mriggio1965@gmail.com
Activities Team	Steve Agate, Tony Bryant & Keith Prout		steve.agate@bigpond.com
Officers	Geoff Buckland, Bretton Stitfold & John Kaljee		



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