

WATFAA



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT Janis Christie

FRESHWATER

SUMMER EDITION 2017

From the President

With the season well under way, the first three months have been terrific in many ways for the club. Many members have wet a line in both public waters and in our own club dams, with mixed success. Several members have managed to catch some very nice fish, the largest of the pick coming from the club's new Bush Dam, a beautiful brown that was caught during the Fish a Fest.

With the weather starting to warm and the flies becoming annoying, fishing will become somewhat harder but not impossible over the summer months. Maybe a night session could be on the cards!

On the first Saturday of the season Recfishwest held a Fresh Water Clinic at Drakesbrook Weir, Waroona, with many of our club members helping out. You may not be aware but one of my ambitions as your president is to raise the profile of the club within Recfishwest and also within the Fisheries Department. The Drakesbrook event, which attracted over 400 visitors, certainly was a great start towards achieving this and I would like to thank all those members that participated. Hopefully you will all be available next year as this looks like becoming an annual event. In addition, the club was involved with Recfishwest during their Breast Cancer weekend, held at Clover Cottage. Myself, Marc Anderson, Tom Watson and John Abordi, joined their ranks in teaching the ladies the art of fly fishing. Apparently fly fishing is one of the best therapies for what these ladies are going through. Thanks Guys!

Fortunately, through being involved with Recfishwest, I met Ruth Prague who is their events officer. It is due to Ruth's efforts that I can honestly say that the club's 50th Anniversary evening ran so smoothly and turned out to be a great success. I would like to thank RecfishWest for their support of the event and in particular Ruth for not only for providing the club with a beautiful venue and a great menu but also for her input during the course of the evening. I would also like to thank our guest speakers whose time and support for the club is always appreciated. They were Paul Omodie (Club Patron), Craig Lawrence (Fisheries Department), Matt Gillet (Recfishwest) and John McConicle (WATFFA). I would also like to thank Neil Coy and David Gellatly as our most senior members of the evening in the cutting of the cake (beautifully made by a friend of Ruth's depicting a rising trout). Thanks also to Geoff Barrett, Tony Bryant and Mick Burman who helped with the evening and a special thanks to Steve Agate for compiling the slide show.

To those members who were able to attend the evening I thank you for your support (some pictures taken during the course of the evening are in this edition)

I would also like to thank Steve Agate for running the Fish a Fest this year (full report in this edition) as he suggests, I did drop it on him. The truth of the matter is if he hadn't, who would have? This is something that I believe the club needs to address and I ask more members to become involved in helping run these events.

It is also that time of year again. Christmas seems to come round faster and faster so I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and hope you all have a very special New Year.



Ho Ho Ho

Stewart (Taffy) King

CONTENTS

COVER PAGE	1
FROM THE PRESIDENT	2
CONTENT PAGE	4
CLUB NEWS and REPORTS	
New members list	5
Clubs 50th Anniversary	6
Fish a Fest	11
ARTICLES	
FLY TYING PATTERNS Cochybondhu	20
Summer Temperature impacts	23
FROM THE ARCHIVE	29
MEMBERS PROFILE	30
Chironmidae	32
CALENDAR OF EVENT	35
COUNCIL MEMBERS	36
DISCLAIMER	37

Club News

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the following new members to the club.

NAME	DATE JOINED
Paul Barkey	17/2/2017
Arturo Sedgwick	1/1/2017
Kevin Hopkinson	27/4/2017
Steve Nicholson	21/5/2017
Michal Sipman	3/6/2017
Paul Read	14/6/2017
Barry Olander	25/6/2017
Darren Meeson	12/7/2017
Dan Ivanoff	13/7/2017
Todd Meheux	28/7/2017
Patrick Tyrell	6/8/2017
David Miller	30/8/2017
Joseph Estermann	5/9/2017



Remember, a way for new members to learn about fishing club waters and where the good public waters are, is to support some of the club's activities and competitions during the season. I am happy to see that many of you have already done this and I hope you enjoyed the experience. I would also like to thank all members that have renewed their membership, we value your ongoing support. I look forward to catching up with you on the water sometime.

A reminder to all members that wearing waders or muddy footwear into the cottage is a large no-no. Also please make sure that you lock the doors and turn off the gas and electricity before your final departure. If you do find anything that you believe requires attention please let a council member know!

Thank you

(Taffy)

50th Anniversary Celebration

Below are photographs taken by Tony Bryant and I would like to thank him for his efforts. The food was excellent and the DJ had (most of) us up and dancing. Special thanks must go to Paul Omodie, Craig Lawrence, Matt Gillett and John McConicle, for their speeches, which were informative with each giving a vision of the club in the past and how it has grown in stature over the years. They also highlighted possible avenues the club may wish to take in the future.



John Omodei (Patron)



Craig Lawrence (Fisheries)



Matt Gillett (Recfishwest)



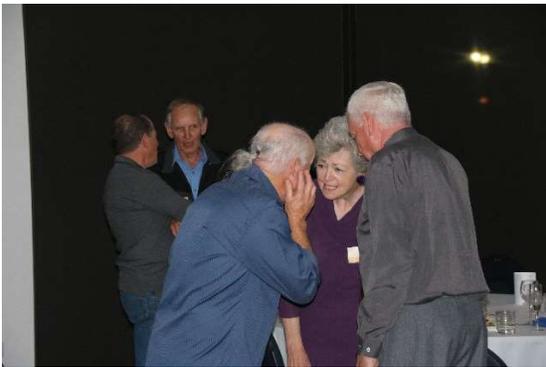
John Mc Conigley

Matt Gillett from Recfishwest and Craig Lawrence from Fisheries spoke about the importance of the Pemberton Hatchery to freshwater fishing in the southwest.









Fish-a-Fest 2017

Stephen Agate

This years Fish-a-Fest took place on the weekend of September 23rd to 25th and although I have attended almost all since becoming a member some 17 years ago, this one was destined to be a new experience for me.

Stewart King (Taffy) has run and organized the event with great success over the last few years but this year he was in the UK. So I was approached and asked if I would run this year's Fish-a-Fest. "You've run it before, do you think you could run it again this year"? I think my reply came as a bit of a surprise: "Ummm, no I haven't mate! I've helped out over the weekend, but I've never run the bloody event!"

"Really? I was told you had! Never mind ... I'll give you all the details you need to know, you can do it!" I agreed to take the reins for him and then he hit me with another one, "I'll need you to do a write up for Freshwater too".

Great, I thought, you've just agreed to do the two things you hate, public speaking and writing an article. Well, I got through the first part, although a little uncomfortably so now for the second part, writing the article..... here goes!

With cottage bookings made, people booked in for the BBQ's and the food ordered and shopping done, I was ready to head off to Pemberton prepared to have a wet and windy weekend with possible thunderstorms. Not really ideal for Fly-fishing was it?

Driving down on Friday the roads were slippery and wind gusts were really knocking cars towing caravans around, making the trip a little treacherous. Reaching Manjimup the rain eased up long enough to collect the bread from Markotis Bakery and the meat from Manji Meat Mart (weren't the steaks delish?), then it started again as soon as I got back on the road. Arriving at the cottage it stopped, just long enough to unload the car, then it really came down and barely stopped all night. By around 8pm the cottage was full and plans were hatched for the early morning fish (depending on the weather conditions) before returning to the cottage for the pre competition briefing.

We awoke around 6.30am on Saturday to yet more rain, thankfully after breakfast and coffee, it had eased off and the skies had cleared up enough to head out to the streams for a fish. I took new member Darren Meeson down to the Hatchery, to see if we could catch that big rainbow that lives under the shed. As Darren is new to fly fishing, I left my gear in the car to give him some guidance. After a few casts and a few tangles, he had a follow from the big guy. A nice heart pumping moment to start the weekend. We tried a couple of the runs above the bridge with no success before heading back to the cottage.



Darren Meeson casting to a Rainbow below the Hatchery Bridge

Briefing over and done with, directions and details of the new club dam given out, new members were matched up with experienced guys to go fishing the streams and dams and we all set off around 11.30am for a 12pm start. I spent the afternoon with another new member, Paul Read and his son William showing them a couple of spots on the Lefroy. The weather held out for most of the day, with only a couple of light showers. After a tough day on the streams, it was time to head back to the cottage to start preparations for the BBQ. Around 6.30pm everyone started to return with stories of fish seen and lost with a few caught and talk of huge trout seen in the new dam. "Bigger than anything on the cottage wall" was one report, with lots of comments about drinking while fishing.

After a great meal skillfully cooked by Shawn Saunders and salads prepared with the help of Brian Ward, Geoff Barrett, David Gellatly and myself, the drinks and stories began to flow.



A couple of new members were attending for the first time and were no doubt looking forward to a weekend of fishing and fine conversation with a sophisticated group of like-minded people... obviously they hadn't attended many activity nights and had no idea what they were in for.

David Whitelaw was, as usual at these events, in fine form with his jokes and stories, with all of us hanging on every word. If you've never heard one of David's stories, you truly are missing out. You can never be sure if he is being serious, or in the middle of an elaborate story heading for a hilarious punch-line. Either way, when he is being serious, he is wonderful storyteller, and when he's having a joke, you'll head to bed with a sore face from laughing so much.

A favorite this year was the recounting of an event that involved a Silky Terrier and a white cat getting into a fight on top of his face while he was sleeping.

Halfway through the evening we got a weather update for Sunday and things were looking pretty dismal. Hail was forecast for the morning with a Thunderstorm rolling in during the afternoon. Not really what we wanted to hear and then the rain started again. It rained non-stop all night until around 6am and we rose from bed to see blue skies.



Early morning on the new club dam

I decided to head to the new dam which has been stocked with browns to have a look for myself, with Geoff Barrett following me to see where it is. We arrived to find Keith Prout setting up and Shawn Saunders coming back to his car looking extremely pleased with himself. He proceeded to show us photos of the two he had caught just before we arrived, an absolute 'stonker' and a smaller one. He decided to swap rods and christen his new 3wt in style on a big brown and less than 20 minutes later, he had done just that with another absolute beauty. Mick Burman and Nick Wellman have since given Shawn the new nickname of "King Brown".



Shawn Saunders Ripper Brown

Geoff Barrett was brandished with directions to a couple of spots to try on the streams around Manjimup and he headed off to try his luck. After about an hour Shawn and I decided to try a set of rapids on the Donnelly. As we were getting our gear out of the cars, Shawn pointed out someone walking back from the rapids... it was Geoff Barrett who had just landed a 370mm rainbow and thanked me for pointing him in the right direction. I knew I should have fished here first before telling anyone else about it... LOL

We headed off through the bush to the rapids, where I landed a nice little 250mm rainbow on an Orange & Copper Woolly Bugger, my only fish for the weekend, no monster, but so worth the effort.



My Rainbow from the Donnelly

After lunch I headed back to the Lefroy behind the Hatchery to try my luck. From the bridge I could see the big fella under the shed cruising around his pool. I decided to put a cast in from up there and see what happens. From the corner of my eye I could see a bloke walking his Labrador coming across the bridge and with plenty of time, I cast my fly out to the tune of him yelling "Get back here ya mongrel". His dog flew past my legs, around the guardrail and leaped into the pool off the bridge with a huge splash that scared away every trout within about 200m. Trying not to laugh (I can only imagine the look on my face) he explained that my casting action looked like I was throwing a stick and the dog was determined he was going to get it. I can tell you, at the time I wasn't laughing very much.

I finished my day at Knights Dam, but after only about 25 minutes, I'd had enough for the day (think I might be getting on a bit) and headed for the cottage, leaving David Whitelaw, John Goulding and Alex Kaiko still fishing. As I turned onto the road, the heavens opened up with a huge roar and it rained non-stop all the way back to the cottage.



The Sunday night BBQ was expertly cooked by Mick Burman with salads prepared again by the usual suspects, with help from Paul Barkey and Alex Kaiko, while I tallied the results from the catch cards. More drinks and more laughter and stories began to flow. David Whitelaw, while walking around the top end of Knights dam ended up on his backside, although he said it was ok because no one saw him.

While Ryan McConigley took great joy in relaying the story that John McConigley tried to turn his Suzuki into a submarine, not on a river crossing, but on a bush track. The puddle was so deep the water was halfway up the doors. Ryan and Patrick couldn't open them and had to climb out of the windows to get help to tow the car out.

It's nice to know that even WATFAA Legends can still make rookie mistakes occasionally. It gives the rest of us hope doesn't it?



Now, down to the serious end of the weekend, the results!

It was decided that there would be the usual prize of a bottle of wine for the biggest trout from a club dam and the same for the biggest trout from a river or stream.

20 fishermen took part this year and almost everyone caught at least one fish.

Over the 1½ days a total of 50 trout and 4 redfin perch were caught.

27 of the trout were legal size.

Biggest trout from a club dam went to **Shawn Saunders** with an absolute cracker of a brown from the new club dam, measuring 580mm and pulling the scales to 5 ¼lb. Well done mate, a top effort!

Biggest trout from a river or stream went to **Ryan McConigley** with another beautiful brown measuring 525mm from the Warren River, also a fantastic catch, well done Ryan!

Longest total length of legal size trout caught went to **Shawn Saunders** with an impressive total of 3.29m for 8 fish. Remember, this doesn't include the 4 under sized fish he caught.

The second longest total length of legal size trout caught went to **Ryan McConigley** with 1.585m from 3 fish.

An honorable mention goes to **Alex Kaiko** who caught an equally impressive 10 trout. Seven of these were caught in Stirling's Gully dam, which just goes to show that the fish are there and persistence pays off.

The **raffle** was drawn by Christine McConigley, with the prize of a nice bottle of Glenfiddich 12yr old single malt whiskey won by **Keith Prout**.

There were also 3 twin packs of spinner lures with one given to each of the kids who attended, **Rosie and Sarah McConigley** and **William Read**. Happy fishing guys!

I kinda enjoyed organizing my first Fish-a-Fest and a terrific weekend was had by all – at least that’s what they told me! Running the event after Taffy and Dave Humphrey before him, I had some pretty big shoes to fill.... Lucky I wear size 15 shoes... hahahaha!

A big thank you to everyone who chipped in over the weekend with food preparation, cooking, washing dishes and cleaning up on Monday morning. I hope I haven’t forgotten to mention anyone, but my apologies if I have. Many hands make light work, terrific bunch of people you all are.

Steve Agate

Nice job Steve and thanks (Taffy)



FLY TYING PATTERNS

Cochybondhu

Hook: TMC100 / Daiichi 1330 # 12-20

Thread: Brown 6/0 or 8/0 Uni Thread

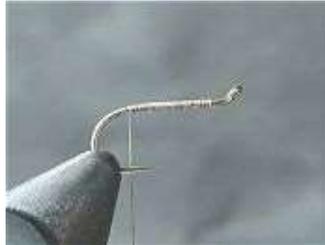
Tag: Gold Tinsel

Body: Peacock herl

Hackle: Brown Cock



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 flat gold tinsel. Tie this in at the rear of the hook extending towards the back of the fly. This tinsel is to be wrapped flat around the hook to create a little bit of flash at the back of this particular pattern. Once this is securely attached trim the excess and lay a couple of thread wraps to disguise the cut and give a nice even flat bed of thread to tie on.



3/ Next tie in the gold tinsel and wrap it firmly (don't break it though!) back toward down the bend of the hook to about a third of the way around the hook bend. Then very carefully wind back over itself back towards the thread where you started. Tie off with the thread and remove the excess tinsel. Then move to step 4.



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 the shank length short of the hook 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 Cochybondhu is a Welsh pattern representing a particular beetle found there. While it doesn't imitate anything particularly precisely it is a fantastic all round terrestrial pattern. Tied in all sizes from #12 down. When fish are gently sipping small terrestrials from the surface such as ants and beetles the cochy is the fly of choice. It is also a fantastic lake fly enjoying great success in Tasmania even on those large, pedantic Dee Lagoon rainbows.....you know the ones with 20/20 vision! Also while on lakes it can be extremely effective in small sizes when fishing to trout taking emerging chironomids. This is a versatile fly that is both easy to tie and quite durable, qualities that are very important to just about every fly fisherman around.

Acknowledgement: Goulburn Vally Fly Tying School

Summer temperature impacts

I found these article from the Victorian Fisheries Authority about the effect of summer temperature increases on trout, very interesting so I am reproducing them here for your interest. Source: <https://vfa.vic.gov.au/recreational-fishing/wild-trout-fisheries-management-program/summer-temperature-impacts>



Trout are a cold water fish species and high summer water temperatures can reduce feeding and increase mortality. It is not known how trout respond (behaviour, movement and mortality) in Victorian streams experiencing high summer water temperatures.

Action: Conduct a trout tracking study using acoustic tags and listening stations in the Delatite River to determine how river trout respond to annual fluctuations in water temperatures e.g. mortality or movement. If they are moving, where are they going?

- **How will this help?** The trout behaviour study will help anglers and fisheries managers understand the behaviour of trout in response to water temperature. Anglers may be able to adapt their fishing practices in response to trout movement. Fisheries managers, in conjunction with climate experts, will better understand how water temperatures affect the fishery in the future.

Are summer water temperatures adversely impacting river trout fisheries?

Jason Lieschke, Canran Liu, Andrew Pickworth, John Mahoney
Arthur Rylah Institute, DELWP

Aim:

To determine how river trout respond to changes in water temperatures e.g. When it gets too hot, do trout move or die? If they are moving, where do they go?

Background:

Anglers in north east Victoria have expressed concerns about the status of wild trout populations with reports of poor fishing across many streams, particularly during the summer of 2013-14.

Trout are a cold water species, when the water heats up we don't know whether they die or actively move away.

Cool water refuge is likely to be found in higher altitudes (upstream) or in deeper habitats (e.g. Lake Eildon or deep pools). An improved understanding of fish response to increased water temperatures may benefit anglers and give them a better idea where to find fish and adapt their fishing practices accordingly. Fisheries managers will also gain an understanding of how water temperatures may affect the fishery in the future.

What did we do:

We placed nine acoustic receivers in the Delatite River from Mirimbah to Lake Eildon in October 2014. The transmitters, which are implanted in the Brown trout, send out an acoustic signal into the water at regular intervals (see Figure 1 below). When they are in range of a receiver, the signal from the transmitter is picked up, and the ID of the fish is recorded, along with the date and time.

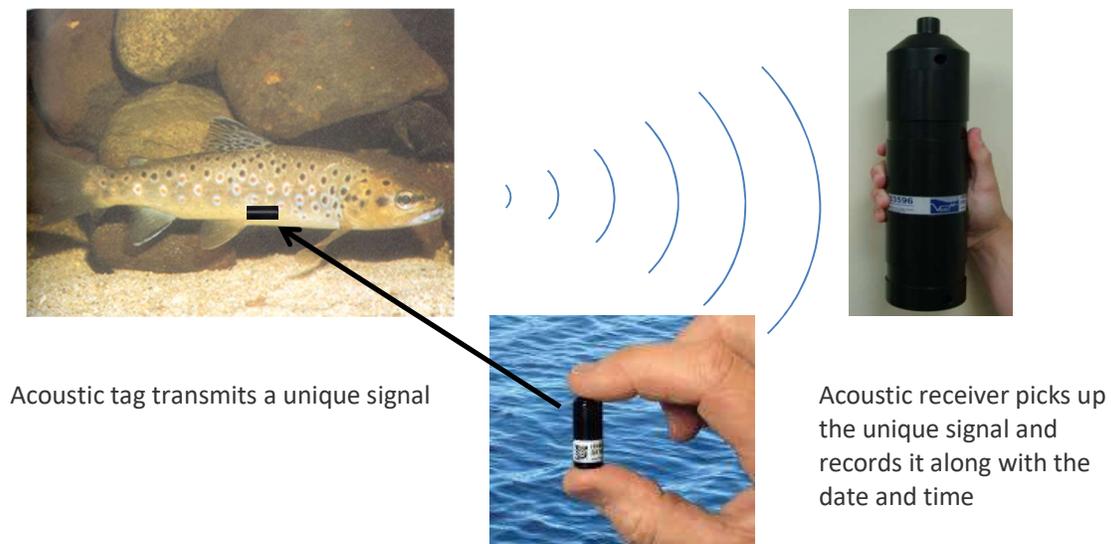


Figure 1 How a transmitter and receiver work.

Four receivers were placed above the Mansfield water supply offtake and five below, including one in Lake Eildon (Figure 2). At seven of the acoustic receivers, instream temperature data loggers were also placed, recording water temperatures every hour.

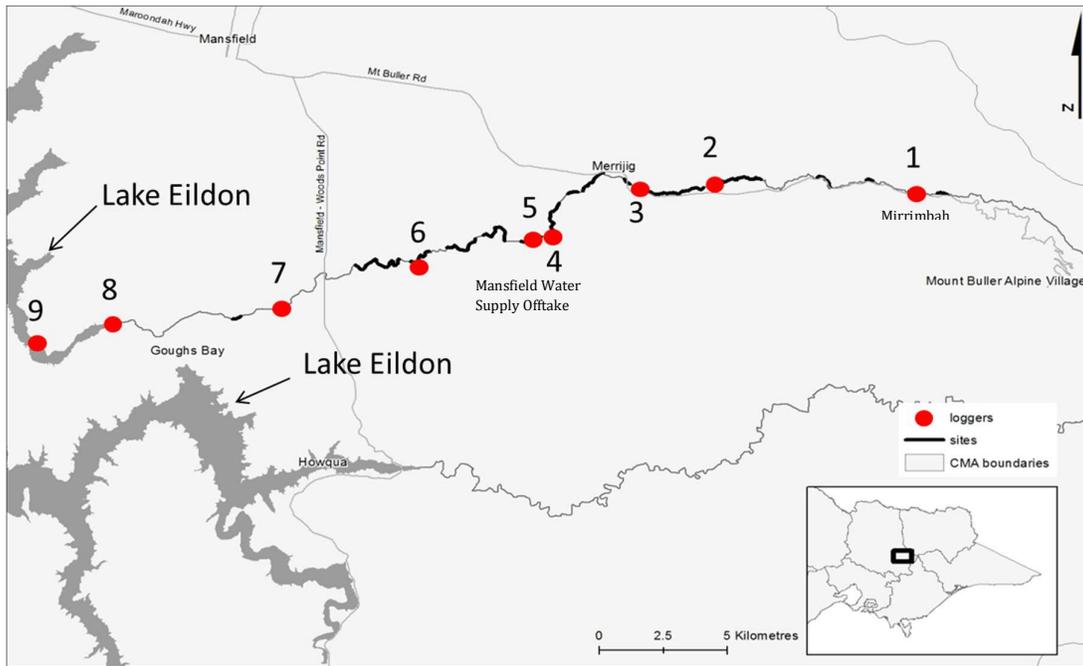
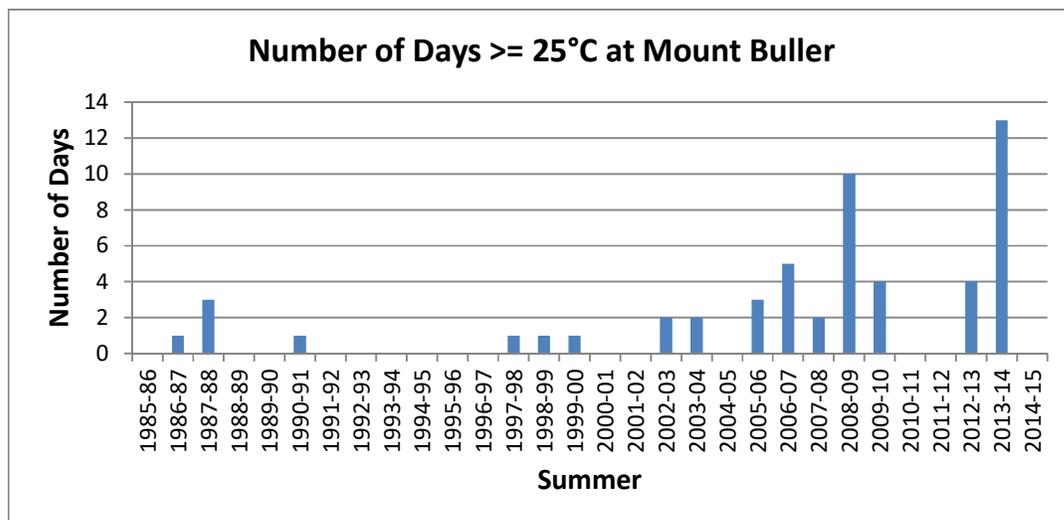


Figure 2. Location of receivers in the Delatite river.

Note darker sections of the river represent areas where brown trout were tagged.

The Summer of 2014/15 was mild compared to previous years. For example, during the millennium drought and in the summer of 2013-14 the number of hot days was greater compared to the summer of 2014-15. As we have no previous instream water temperature data, the maximum daily temperature from Mount Buller was used as a surrogate for instream water temperature (Figure 3.). These “hot” days would have also caused water temperatures to increase.



*Figure 3. Number of days temperature is 25°C or above at Mount Buller.
Used as a surrogate for water temperature where instream water temperature data is not available.
Note there were no days 25°C or above in summer of 2014-15.*

Trout movement and temperature

We investigated the relationship between fish movement, fish length, water level and water temperature and found that:

Larger fish were more active;

Fish movement increased as water level increased;

Fish movement increased slightly as temperature increased, however, movement increased abruptly when temperature was above 22 °C (Figure 4);

One hundred brown trout were captured via electrofishing between Lake Eildon and Mirimbah between October and November 2014. Captured fish were anaesthetised, measured for length, weighed and tagged (acoustic transmitter and externally tagged with a t-bar tag). Fish ranged from 19.5 cm to 57 cm fork length and 100 to 1860 grams (4lb). Fish were tagged throughout the whole river, with over 22 river kilometres fished. All fish were released back into the river.

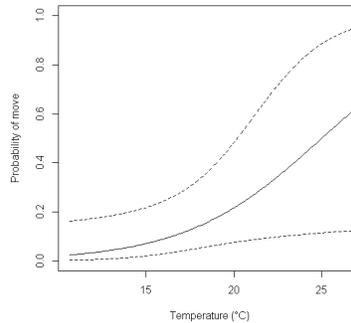


Figure 4. The probability of a fish moving and water temperature.



Photos of capturing trout via backpack and boat electrofishing and a brown trout following implantation of a transmitter.

Key findings and implications to date:

Water temperature

The water temperature of the river increased as soon as it was out of the forested area (see Figure 3). The peak temperature at Receiver 1 (Mirrimbah) was 23.1 °C with a daily variation of 7.2 °C. The peak temperature at Receiver 2 was 27.8 °C with a maximum daily variation of 9.8 °C. The peak temperature at receiver 7 was the highest at 29.0 °C, however its daily variation was only 5.6 °C, not as much as the upstream sites.

Where did the trout move?

Ninety three fish did not move large distances (typically they moved < 2.5 km);

Seven of the 100 fish were recorded on multiple receivers, i.e. from 3 to 7.5 km apart;

One fish moved upstream from receiver 6 to receiver 7 (i.e. 3.5 km);

Six fish moved upstream from receivers 2 and 3 (i.e. 7 km);

No fish moved downstream;

The fish that moved from receiver 2 to receiver 3 all moved with the peak in temperature and most returned back to their original location one week after initial upstream movement, which correlated with a decrease in temperature following a large rain event.

Summary of movement

Larger fish were more likely to move than smaller fish;

An increase in temperature was more likely to trigger a long distance movement (between receivers) and this movement was always upstream. However, most fish didn't move;

No fish moved as far upstream as Receiver 1 (Mirrimbah), where temperature did not go above 23°C, suggesting that fish found a place where they were not temperature stressed before reaching this area.

The summer of 2014/15 was a mild year (as evidenced by Mount Buller maximum daily temperature);

Temperature increased dramatically and had a high daily variation once the river flowed out of the forested area.

Next steps:

There are still 70 fish with transmitters that will be active over the summer of 2015/16; As a bonus, we will also get spawning movement (if any) for these fish for the 2015 spawning period (yet to be analysed).

I found this article intriguing to say the least. Although this has and is taking place in Victoria I wonder if any of this information could be used in our South West. (Editor)



FROM THE ARCHIVES

THE 'STRINE' LANGUAGE

WHEN FISHERMEN MEET

HIYAMAC
LOBUDDY
BINEARLONG
COPLOURS
CETCHANENNY
GODDAFEW
CODENCARP
ENNYSIZETOOM
CUPLEAPOWNS
HITTINHARSORDALIKE
SHRIPENWORMS
FISHANONNABODDUM
RYDONONABODDUM
WHATCHADRINKIN
KANNASWAN
IGODDAGO
TUBAD
SEEYAROUN
YEAHTAKIDEEZY
GULUCK

Taken from the WATFFA journal 1972 volume 2

MEMBERS PROFILE

Dave Humphrey



1/Where was I born and where did I grow up:

I was born at home in Hampton Hill, Middlesex in the UK. I grew up in Hanworth and Hounslow, Middlesex, UK.

2/ When did I get first interested in fishing

I think it was when I was 7 years old when I used to go fishing for the Stickleback and minnow in the Crane river just down the road from where I lived. Later I used to catch them using a worm and rod and bent needle.

When I was about 8 my Uncle Derek took me freshwater fishing and that was it I was hooked. He was a very keen fisherman.

3/ My best Fishing Memory:

I used to fish a lot on the River Thames in Twickenham, Middlesex at a location known as the double steps, just opposite the swimming pool and Ell pie island and caught a lot of different fish here. Used to travel on the bus to get there as often as I could. I have very fond memories of this fishing period in my life.

4/ The most unusual fish ever caught:

When I was 11 I caught a Brook Trout on Maggots in Twickenham. Why this is unusual is there had not been a Trout caught on the Thames for about 10 years prior to then and at that time I did not know what it was and this guy told me that it was a Brook Trout then took it and told the papers that he caught it in the Thames. So he got in the papers with MY TROUT "ÄRSEHOLE".

5/ Fly fishing for Trout is my most favorite way of fishing:

I had always fancied trying Fly fishing and when I was about 23 I bought a fly rod and reel and gave it a go in the Lake District UK River. I Did not know how to cast and got in a right mess caught an eel

though. Still carried on with trying to master it and as I got better at casting I enjoyed it even more. Took me over a year of a lot of fly fishing before I caught my 1st Trout a 1kilo Rainbow.

6/ When did I join WATFAA:

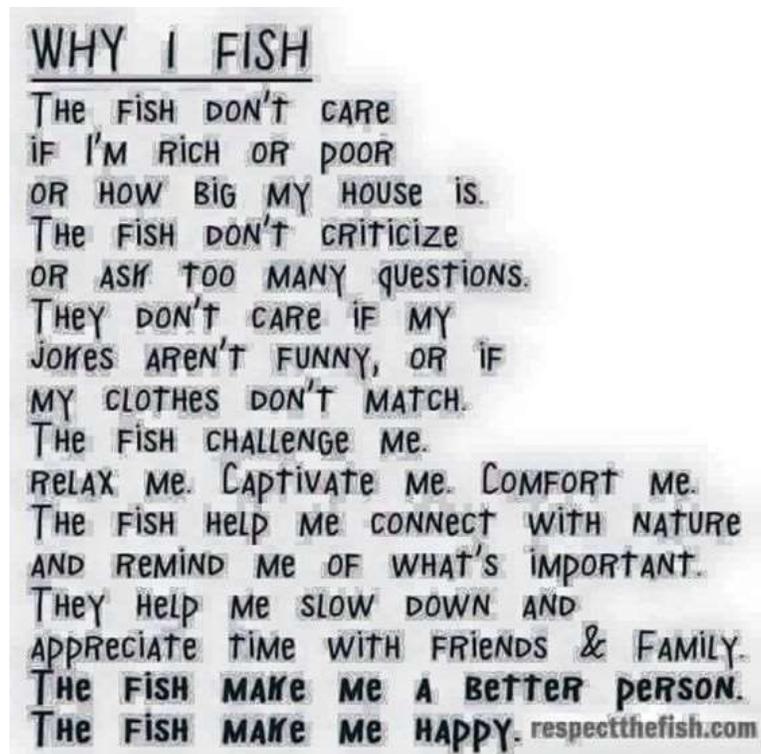
I joined WATFAA in 1996.

7/ Why did I become a member:

I was fishing along with my father in law Ron Cleasby on the local Dams with quite a lot of success. Ron picked up a Leaflet from a tackle shop, so we went to a meeting and joined because of what they had to offer i.e. Dams, cottage and information.

8/ What development would I like to see in the freshwater scene in WA:

I would like to see access to water authority waterways. Find a way to Kill off Blackberries. Find a way to control Carp and other feral fish. "NOT TROUT"!



CHIRONOMIDAE



Chironomidae:

You will find that most anglers carry very few, usually just one or two, midge patterns in their fly boxes, yet midges are available and eaten by trout throughout the year in all the trout streams and lakes. The main reason for this lack of attention for the midge is simply that many anglers just do not believe in the fly's effectiveness. After all, why would a large trout want to eat such a tiny morsel of food? Why would any angler want to fish with such a small fly when a larger one is easier to see, and would seem to be much more attractive to fish, especially the larger ones. Midges are small, usually very small. So small that most of us have a very difficult time tying them on our tippet. It's such a problem that it led to the development of a "midge threader", a very handy device we might add. But make no mistake about it, the little midges are very effective on all trout streams and lakes and yes, they in fact, will catch large trout. It is thought that midges represent about one-half of the insects in streams and lakes.

Although streams and lakes with soft bottoms and weed beds usually have more than other types of water, if the water supports trout it has midges. This includes fast flowing freestone mountain streams. It doesn't matter whether the bottom is muddy, rocky, or sandy. Midge species of one type or another can survive as long as algae exist for them to feed on. Lakes, pond and sloughs are usually loaded with midge activity.

Another important consideration is that midges normally hatch periodically just about year round and are available as food for trout in the larvae, pupae or adult stages throughout the year.

Midges are small two winged flies that resemble mosquitoes. They begin life from an egg deposited by swarming adults as they mate and skim over the surface of the water. Some species deposit their eggs underwater on structure and plants. Some of the species are free-swimming larvae and others form tubes from the bottom materials that they live in.

The bloodworm and glassworm species are free- swimming larvae. These larvae develop into the pupae stage of life and emerge by ascending to the surface of the water where they hatch into the full, grown adults. This emerging process usually takes anywhere from several seconds to a minute or two. Depending upon the species, the adults live for an hour or two, up to a couple of months.

One commonly known fact about the midge is that it provides fishing action during the cold, winter months when nothing else may be hatching. From late fall until early spring, in many locations they are the only thing hatching. This is certainly one great reason to fish midge patterns but it may also tend to cause some anglers to think that the only time midges are effective for trout is during the cold months of the year when nothing else works well. This is a very false belief. Midges may be the best approach to use on any given day during the year, even days when major mayfly or caddis fly hatches are occurring. In many streams and lakes where midges are a major part of the trout's diet, fish may take midges selectively over other much larger flies. Don't make the mistake of assuming that if the weather is nice and warm, you don't need your midge box. That may be a big mistake.

It is not easy to detect that trout are feeding on midges even when they are doing it selectively at the exclusion of everything else. Anglers may spot midges on the water and simply not be able to see trout taking them. It is even more difficult to spot trout taking the emerging midges and almost impossible to see them taking the larvae.

Trout feeding on adult midges tend to hold just beneath the surface where they can easily sip the midges. They make very subtle rise forms and are usually fairly easily spooked since they are holding so shallow. Bad presentations can easily spook them and well as your presence and motions made casting. Wakes made from wading will spook trout holding very shallow also.

Hatch Times:

Midges seem to never hatch when you expect them. They can hatch anytime of the day from early in the morning to late in the evening. Snow, wind and rain seem to have little effect on the hatch times. They can hatch on the hottest day or the coldest day. There are some clues that may, keep in mind we are saying may, help you select the best fishing times however.

Like many other aquatic insects, midge emergence is greatest during periods of low atmospheric pressure, or cloudy, overcast day. This is when the hatches seem to be the most concentrated and the heaviest; however, you may find midges hatching on the brightest days of the year. It also seems that the calmer the water, the heavier the hatch, but this may just be a factor in how well you can see them. Dark, overcast, days, also aid you in getting closer to the fish feeding on midges and makes it easier for you to fool them with an imitation. It takes a lot of midges to supply the necessary energy trout expend even in cold water during the winter season when their metabolism is the lowest. That means trout usually feed on midges for a long period of time, even hours, in order to get enough of them.

Bad weather conditions, especially cold air temperatures, can slow down the emerging process considerably. The freshly hatched midges will remain on the surface much longer drying and exercising their wings.

Fishing Dry Flies:

In slow moving water, such as you may find in pools, midges will often be drifting in the surface film in scum lines or current seams with bubbles present. The emerging midge pupae are not visible and your only clues are the slight bulges made by a sipping trout

A good dead drift is always required to keep from spooking the fish under these conditions. You should get as close to a rising fish, or the spot you expect trout to be sipping midge pupae, as possible. It is necessary that your fly be presented right in front of a trout's mouth because they are simply not going to expend much energy moving about chasing down a single minute size midge pupa. Another reason your presentation must be in the immediate area of feeding is that the trout are usually holding just under the surface and the area they can spot drifting midges is very small. When trout are holding close to the surface of the water, they will not see your fly drifting several feet away. A long leader is usually required, Start with at least a ten feet long leader and preferable twelve. Six or seven X tippetts are usually required. Slow action rods are generally preferred over fast action because they allow the flex to protect the light tippetts needed when you set the hook and fight the fish. It is of course, very difficult to see the adult midges on the water, real or fake. One way to help determine exactly where your fly is, is to cast far above where you suspect the trout are and when you think your fly is approaching the area, pull the fly to create a slight v wake. This will let you know where the fly is. Align it above the fish as best you can before it gets close enough for the trout to notice what is going on. This way your fly will be in line to drift over the fish and you can just about time when it will be there. You may have to make several cast to determine exactly what effect the current is having on the fly and to get the cast and subsequent v drag in line to drift the fly right over the fish.

Acknowledgement James Marsh 2013 (Perfect Fly)

Calendar of events

December activities	12/12/2017	End of year social get together
January	8/1/2018 - 5/2/2018	Marron season
February activities	8/2/2018	Fly Casting Competition
March activities	8/3/2018	
Perch Bash		Easter Long Week End
April activities	12/4/2018	
May activities	10/5/2018	
May Fly's	30/4/2018 - 4/5/2018	
June activities	14/6/2018	
Winter Wash	2/6/2018 - 4/6/2018	
July activities	12/7/2018	
August activities	9/8/2018	
September activities	11/9/2018	
Fish A Fest	22/9/2018 - 24/9/2018	
October activities	11/10/2018	
November activities	8/11/2018	
November Nymphs	22/10/2018 - 26/10/2018	
December activities		

WATFAA Council Members

President stewie54@live.com.au	Stewart [Taffy] King	0418942899
Vice president		
Secretary yusef.khadembashi91@gmail.com	Yusef Khadembashi	0423952036
Treasurer watfaa.treasurer@outlook.com	Geoff Barrett	0433321936
Membership mimamoth@bigpond.com	Mick Burman	0414401993
Stocking	Stewart King	
Freshwater Editor	Stewart King	
Proof Readers	Geoff Barrett, Geoff Buckland and Yusef Khadembashi	
Cottage Bookings aptgauld@iinet.com.au	John Goulding	0407445254
Face Book, Web & DVD Library swoop84@hotmail.com	Tom Meredith	0419147650
Cottage Maintenance mriggio1965@gmail.com	Mario Riggio	0417944055
Activities Team steve.agate@bigpond.com	Steve Agate, Tony Bryant, Keith Prout	
Record cards doug.bucanan62@bigpond.com	Doug Buchanan	
Trophy engraving bstitfold@optusnet.com.au	Bretton Stitfold	
Officers	Geoff Buckland, John Kaljee and Bretton Stitfold	



DISCLAIMER

The freshwater journal is a seasonal periodical providing articles and other information, including advertisements from our valued sponsors. The journal contains official announcement, reports and information (including policy) from the current council of WATFAA. The journal also contains a range of articles and opinions of club members and invited contributors. These articles and opinions which appear in the journal are selected (by the editor) because they are considered to be of interest to our members but the views expressed in those articles and opinions do not necessary represent the policy or view of WATFAA.