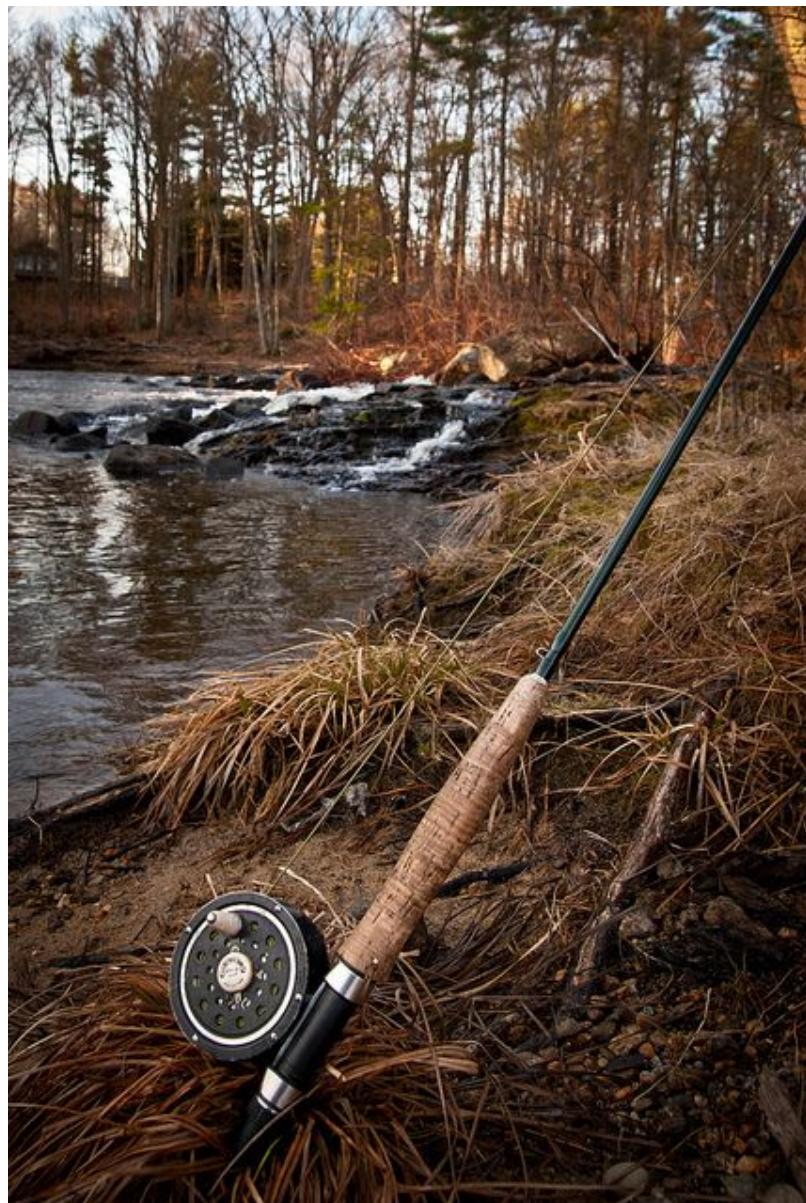


WATFAA Freshwater

Spring 2017



From the President

As you will see this is a bumper issue of freshwater. Thanks to all who have contributed and worked on this copy.

Fishing has been exceptional of late with many fish being caught both in club dams and the rivers. Over several weeks now, Gandy's Dam has easily been the go-to dam with many fish over 45cm being caught and some very large fish breaking lines. Nearly everyone that has fished it lately, has a story to tell. Let's hope this will continue.

We also have a new Bush Dam which has been stocked with some very nice Browns, and will be known as the Bush House Dam. Fishing this dam will commence from the weekend of the fish -a-fest (23rd September 2017). A map of the dam and where to park and any other associated information can be found on the clubs web site.

Stocking has been successfully completed and I must thank John O'Sullivan and the guys at the Pemberton Hatchery for all their help. In addition to the yearlings that have gone in, six of the dams will each receive 2,000 fingerlings that will hopefully help boost fish numbers in the future.

As you are aware the AGM was held on the 29th August, there was a good turnout and I believe it was a great success. Thank you to everyone who attended. As you can see from Doug Buchanan's Record Keeper's Report below, fishing this year has been one of the best for a while, with both river and dam catches up.

Winners of the 2017 AGM Raffle were:

1st prize: Steve Agate - \$90 Gift Voucher from FlyWorld

2nd prize: Ray Weller - \$70 Gift Voucher from FlyWorld

3rd prize: Steve Agate - \$50 Gift Voucher from FlyWorld

Club Member of the year: John Goulding

Winner of One Year Membership (for returning a record card): Shawn Mitchell

Remember, if you are wishing to celebrate the clubs Anniversary

Buffet and Dance, payment must be made by September 16th 2017.

No Payments will be accepted after this date.

Thank you Stewart (Taffy) King

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WATFAA President's Report

2017

AGM Report

Welcome Ladies and Gentlemen to WATFAA's 50th Annual General Meeting.
It is my pleasure to provide the President's report for 2017.

Becoming President is something I am very proud of but by the end of our second council meeting I was starting to wonder what I had let myself in for. Peter stepped down from being secretary due to personal commitments and with no one else in a position to pick up the reins, it was quite obvious that we needed to find someone to take on this task ASAP. This eventually happened with Yusef Khadembashi taking on this very important job and he has settled into this role quickly and skillfully.

As I have already stated this is the 50th or Golden Anniversary of our club.
Which as a club we will celebrate on October 28th 2017.

It all started when three men, namely Captain Noel Parker, Noel Morrissy and John Henderson met in a coffee shop in Subiaco. During their conversation which nearly always involved fishing, Captain Noel Parker suggested that they should form a freshwater fishing club. It is from pursuing this conversation and a lot of energy from Captain Noel Packer that this club was formed. The early days saw many ideas about stocking the local rivers in and around Perth and the South West with trout. The result was that trout could be caught in most rivers and streams, until many of these waterways started to dry up and are now dry for the best part of the year which means they are no longer stocked.

Over the years, the club has been very fortunate to have members who have been willing to, what I describe as, "put in" or give something back to the club. Some contributed financially, some gave time and many have done both. As there are so many members past and present, I am not going to name them but would simply like to say thanks to you all. Their efforts have allowed this club to grow in stature and also allowed the building of the Graham Whitehouse cottage, which is a great asset to the club.

The club is very fortunate in that it has a very hard working and dedicated committee working on behalf of the members. I would like to thank them all for the time and commitment that they have shown in completing their duties as councilors. Namely: Yusef Khadembashi (Secretary and Freshwater proof reader), Mick Burman (Membership), Tom Meredith (Facebook, Website & DVDS), Geoff Buckland (Freshwater proof reader) Peter Taylor, John Kaljee, Bretton Stitfold (Officers), and our Activity trio of Steve Agate, Tony Bryant, and Keith Prout.

This leaves Geoff Barrett our treasurer who puts in many hours on behalf of the club and is also a resilient sounding block for me. In addition to the council there are other people that carry out important jobs for the club, namely Doug Buchanan, (Record cards) Mario Riggio (Cottage Caretaker) and John Goulding (Cottage bookings and Invoicing). I would like to thank them all for their commitment and effort in fulfilling their task in hand.

It is pleasing to see our membership slowly increase, with quite a few younger people among those who have joined the club of late. This is a good omen for the future. It would be great to see some teenagers or more juniors, male and female, fishing alongside their dads or Grandads.

It is also good to see so many members using and looking after the Graham Whitehouse Cottage. I believe this can be put down to the efficient management of bookings by John Goulding and also the improvement of the fishing in both the rivers and club dams in the Pemberton area, during this last year and hopefully this can be maintained in the future.

The club has also run three competitions during the last season namely, the Fish o Fest, the Perch Bash and the Winter Wash. All were very successful and were enjoyed immensely by those who participated.

On a more sober note, the club's application for funding to look into recreational fishing at Wellington Dam was declined, which was disappointing. Thanks to Peter Taylor for all the work he put into this application. Peter is stepping down from council, which is a loss to us all. I would like to thank him again for the time and commitment he has given to the club during his time on council.

It is important that other members consider joining the council, while it is a commitment, being on council does have a satisfying side to it as well.

Finally, as climate change becomes a greater concern, I believe that as an established fishing club, we should look back and learn from those early years, when the club used to work alongside and with the appropriate fishing authorities, to improve freshwater fishing in the southwest. I would like to see the club in the future, try to make contact with and work more closely with community groups such as Recfishwest, State management authorities such as the Department of water, Fisheries WA, and with local Governments, as I believe they will probably affect our future fishing needs. Only by engaging with these organisations will our magnificent club have any chance to contribute to, or be part of the decision making about trout fishing in the South West.

Thank you,

Stewart King

WATFAA Trophy Winners 2016-2017 Season

Sandover Trophy-Largest Rainbow from a public water

Warren River- R McConigley Rainbow 535mm Lure

Sole Revival-Heaviest Brown for the season

Harvey Dam-Stewart King, Brown Trout, 595mm, midge emerger

Castrol Shield- Largest trout on a fly

Harvey Dam-Stewart King Brown Trout 595mm Small midge emerger

Peter's Trophy –Heaviest Trout on a dry fly

Drakesbrook Dam-Mick Burman Rainbow 445mm, Royal Coachman

Boans Trophy-Heaviest trout by adult new member

Knights Dam John O' Sullivan Rainbow 520mm Wooly Bugger

Rainbow light tackle trophy- Heaviest Brown by adult new member

No Nominations

AAA Trophy-Heaviest trout from a nominated dam

Drakesbrook Dam-David McVeigh Rainbow 470mm on fly

Captain Noel Parker Trophy- Heaviest trout from a nominated river

Collie River-Joe Easterman Rainbow, 450mm, on fly

Howard Porter-Heaviest Rainbow by a junior member

No nominations

John Henderson Memorial Trophy-Heaviest Brown by a junior member

No nominations

Fred Kunzel- Heaviest trout from Serpentine fishery (must be at least legal size)

No nominations

Kristina Richards Trophy- Heaviest Redfin

Angelos Dam-Stewart King, 1.3 Kg

WATFFAA Trophy- Largest Marron Net

Warren River- John McConigley 122mm

Noel Morrissy Marron Trophy-Largest Marron on a snare

No Nominations

Club Member of the Year - John Goulding

Club Fly Casting Champion - Yusef Khadembashi

Winner of one year free membership (for returning a record card)

To be drawn at AGM

WATFFAA Record Keepers Report 2016 – 2017 Season

A total of 39 Record Cards were returned this season, 28 of which recorded fish caught and 11 cards recording no fish caught. Based on cards returned, 532 trout, 241 Redfin Perch and 39 Marron were caught during the season. This represents a 28% increase in the number of trout caught from last season.

Looking at the annual catches for the last 10 years, this year we have recorded the highest number of trout caught since 2010. A total of 241 Redfin Perch were caught, the largest, a 1.3kg caught in Angelos Dam during the annual Perch

Bash. Marron catches were 39, almost double what was recorded last season. All Marron recorded were netted, with the largest Marron being 122 mm.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Trout Caught	1043	793	796	456	415	352	179	256	382	532
Browns	45	19	29	28	34	20	3	4	3	10
Rainbows	998	774	767	428	381	332	176	252	379	522
Trout on fly	922	701	697	413	372	295	157	233	351	507
U/sized trout	361	214	250	133	152	96	69	73	141	151
Released trout	931	762	759	440	402	345	152	251	377	501

The outstanding club dam for the season was Gandy's, producing 27 fish. Many of those fish were large, mature fish. This was followed by Omedies Vineyard Dam, with 20 fish caught. Knights Dam produced 10 fish and Littlefair Rd Dam 7 fish. Starling's Gully Dam produced 3 good quality fish. 3 browns were caught in Stirling's House Dam. There is always the chance of a big one in this small Dam.

Club Dams

Location	Species	Trout caught
Gandy's Dam	Rainbows	27
Omedies Vinyard dam	Rainbows	20
Knights Dam	Rainbows	10
Littlefair Road Dam	Rainbows	7
Stirlings House Dam	Browns	3
Stirlings Gully Dam	Rainbows	3

The most successful fly pattern this season was the Western Minnow. Second was the Brassy

Arse. These were followed by Nymphs, included in this group were a number of varieties. As expected, Black Wooly Buggers makes its usual appearance.

Fly used	Browns	Rainbows	Total
Western Minnow	0	135	135
Brassy Arse	0	61	61
Nymphs B/H	0	47	47
Wooly Buggers	0	39	39

Data from returned record cards indicate that the best months for fishing are; November 167 fish caught, September 75 fish caught, June 65 fish caught, October 65 fish caught, May 53 fish caught and April 50 Fish caught. Best places to fish are; the Leroy Brook 214 fish caught, Warren River 86 fish caught, Norilup Dam Greenbushes 41 fish caught and Harvey Weir 32 fish caught. Harvey Weir also produced some big browns (see attached table).

	Apr	M ay	Number of trout caught by location& month												Largest Trout by Location		Speci es
			J u n	J u l	A u g	S e p	O ct	N o v	D e c	J a n	F e b	M a r	To t a l				
Angelos Dam		1											1	Angelos Dam	150 m m	Rainb ow	
Big Bush Dam				1									1	Big Bush Dam	360 m m	Rainb ow	
Collie River	3	2			1		6	2		1		15	Collie River	450 m m	Rainb ow		
Donnolly River						1	1	2		1			5	Donnoll y River	300 m m	Rainb ow	
Drakesbrook Dam						1 6	1 2	1					29	Drakesb rook	480 m m	Rainb ow	
Eastbrook						3							3	Eastbro ok	1Kg	Rainb ow	

Falls Brook						1	1					2	Falls Brook	460 m m	Rainbow	
Gandy,s		1	10	6	1	2	5	1	1			27	Gandy,s	540 m m	Rainbow	
Grizen dam??								2				2	Grizen dam??	320 m m	Rainbow	
Harvey Dam			3			1 3	1 6					32	Harvey Dam	595 m m	Brown	
Knights			2	3			3	1	1			10	Knights	520 m m	Rainbow	
Lefroy Bk		28	17	2 6	1 1	1 2	8	9 4	1 0		5	3	21 4	Lefroy Bk	480 m m	Rainbow
Littlefair Rd			5	1				1				7	Littlefai r Rd	450 m m	Rainbow	
Lougebrook Dam			1									1	Lougebr ook	350 m m	Rainbow	
Murrey River			1		1	1 3	2	1 0				27	Murrey River	380 m m	Rainbow	
Nannup						1						1	Nannup Bk	100 m m	Rainbow	
Norilup Dam						1 1	1 6	2				41	Norilup Dam	400 m m	Rainbow	
Omedies House Dam		1	1	5		4	8	1				20	Omedie s House	540 m m	Brown	
Stirling Gully			2				1					3	Stirling Gully	470 m m	Rainbow	
Stirling house		2	1									3	Stirling house	320 m m	Brown	
Treen Brook				1								1	Treen Brook	380 m m	Rainbow	

Warroona	1												1	Warroona	300 mm	Rainbow
Warren river	12	9	2 2	1	4	2	3 1	3	2				86	Warren river	535 mm	Rainbow
Totals	50	53	6 5	2	1 4	7 5	6 4	1 6 7	3 0	3 3	6 3	3	53 2			

Report Summary: There is no doubt that increased rainfall in the South West of the state during the summer season has contributed to a significant increase in the number of fish caught during the 2016/2017 season. It is expected that next season should also be very good for fishing. This is because the deep holes in the rivers which have been silted up, have been scoured clean by increased water flow following heavy rainstorms earlier in the year.

This year we saw a 100% increase in the number of cards returned. It is very pleasing to see that members are making the effort to support the club by completing catch cards. This is reflected by an increase of 30% of fish caught. From the information provided members know the best location to fish, the best fly to use and the best month to go fishing. This information is invaluable to the club and in particular new members. However, perhaps the main reason for completing record cards is to enable the WATFAA streams and dams committee to establish the best management policies for stocking the farm dams. In addition, the information taken from your record cards in conjunction with the Fisheries Departments telephone survey is the only record of freshwater fish catches in Western Australia. Once again I would encourage members to accurately record all Redfin Perch caught and removed from the waterways of the South West. It is important that WATFAA members are seen to be actively participating in the control of Redfin Perch. I take this opportunity to thank members who have completed cards this season and wish you luck in the draw for the free membership. For those who did not return cards, please make the effort.

Have a great season and I look forward to recording your catch.

Doug Buchanan

WATFAA record keeper, July 2017

Thanks Doug for these excellent and thorough reports (Taffy)

Western Australian Public Trout Stocking - 2017

Ex-Broodstock Rainbow:

Location	Fish Number
HARVEY DAM	1900
DRAKESBROOK DAM	200
WAROONA DAM	0
LOGUE BROOK DAM	0
BIG BROOK DAM	200
	Total
	2300

Rainbow Yearlings:

Location	Fish Number
LOGUE BROOK DAM	1500
WAROONA DAM	1000
COLLIE GORGE	1000
DONNELLY RIVER ¹	2000
WARREN RIVER	4500
BLACKWOOD RIVER	3500
GLEN MERVYN DAM	500
BIG BROOK DAM	1000
BRUNSWICK RIVER	0
DRAKESBROOK DAM	1500
LEFROY BROOK	2000
HARVEY DAM	7000
MURRAY RIVER	2000
KING RIVER	0
PRESTON RIVER	0
SERPENTINE RIVER ²	500
NOROLUP DAM	500
	Total
	28500

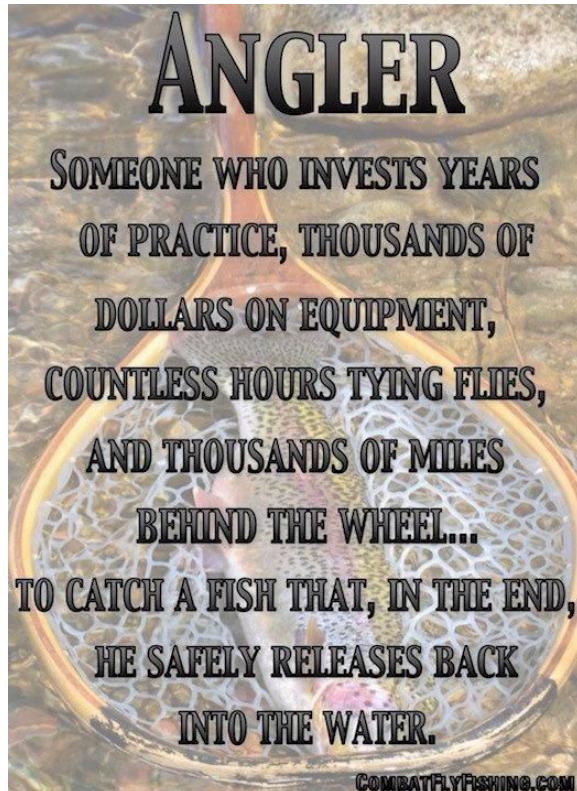
Brown Yearlings:

Location	Fish Number
TREEN BROOK	300
LEFROY BROOK	1500
WARREN	2000
COLLIE GORGE	1000
DONELLY	1000
HARVEY DAM	700

Fry stocking locations

LOCATION	Fish Number	LOCATION	Fish Number
BLACKWOOD RIVER	35,000	Beedelup Brook	10000
Carlotta Brook	15000	Barlee Brook	10000
Balingup Brook	10000	Record Brook	5000
Hesters Brook	10000	Pine Creek	10000

Maranup Brook	5000		Manjimup Brook	10000
Mokerdillup Brook	15000		Dampier Gully	5000
Nannup Brook	10000		WARREN RIVER	20000
St. Johns Brook	15000		Big Hill Brook	10000
St. Pauls Brook	5000		Quinninup Brook	5000
Geegellup Brook			Smith Brook	20000
LOGUE BROOK DAM	20000		Dombakup Brook	10000
Logue Brook			Treen Brook	15000
MURRAY RIVER	60,000		Lefroy Brook lower	40000
Big Brook	10000		East Brook	10000
Nanga Brook	15000		Wilgarup Brook	10000
Marrinup Brook			BRUNSWICK RIVER	10000
Cypress Form	10000		HARVEY RIVER	10000
Oakley Dam	2000		Falls Brook	10000
COLLIE RIVER			McKNOES BROOK	5000
Below dam	40000		DRAKESBROOK DAM	18000
DONNELLY RIVER	60,000		SERPENTINE RIVER	20000



Winter Wash 2017



The Winter Wash competition was held on the long weekend of 3/4 June. The following 18 people attended and the gathering was a tremendous success; Nick Dirnberger, Phil Moore, Brian Ward, Nick Wellman, Mick Burman, Shawn Saunders, Tony Bryant, Steve Agate, Paul Kuenen, David Gellatly, Taffy, Tom Watson, Peter Taylor, Steve Roberts, John Kaljee, Paul Barkey, John O'Sullivan and David McVeigh.

The camaraderie and laughter had by all remind me why these club events are so special. The fishing was hard work, particularly for those fishing the rivers and streams, where they faced low clear water. Dam water was also a little low, even with some rain the week before. The conditions were conducive to fishing without extremes.

The Dams:

There were 18 fish caught in the dams between mid-day Saturday and 6:00pm Sunday. People had been divided into five teams and the dams fished were Little Fair, Omodie's, Bush Dams, Knights or Gully, and Gandy's.

The winning team was Mrs Simpson, which comprised of Nick Wellman, Mick Burman, Sean Saunders, and Tony Bryant. They each won a first class round world air ticket (Or it may have been a bottle of the good oil). They caught a total of seven fish. The most fish caught was four by Shawn Saunders.



(The winning team)

By the end of the competition on Sunday, the biggest fish caught was a tie between Mick Burman and myself, each with a 50cm rainbow. Mick's was a war horse and my fish was in great condition, caught on my 3wt rod (I snapped the tip off my 5wt in the door the night before). There were several fish caught that came within a whisker of 50 cm, all in healthy condition.



(Mick's War horse on the left-my fine fish on the right)

The average length of the 18 fish caught over the weekend was 423 mm. Successful flies included Woolly Buggers, Western Minnows and their variations, Buzzers, Nymphs, Red tags, Mrs Simpson, and a Worm fly. No dam fish were caught on dry fly.

The dams showed fish sporadically, some in pockets, and then they would switch off and come on a bit later. With the exception of Gandy's, where some good fish were had midday. Knight's also produced.

Familiarisation for new members:

The weekend was an excellent opportunity for new members Paul Barkey (Scottish Paul), and John Kaljee to familiarise themselves with the Cottage water ways, and to get some help from other more experienced members. John had a crack at a couple of nice rainbows sitting midstream in a ripple. They wouldn't take. Bad luck big John, your turn next time. John has a background of Club

competitive fishing in South Africa and put in a skilled display of casting over the two days.

After a determined effort and guided by David McVeigh, Scottish Paul caught his first trout in a stream. Congratulations. (Size doesn't matter- let's not go there!)

Rivers and Streams:

A few people fished the rivers and streams prior to the competition with a few fish being caught, including a couple of browns and a Perch. The fish were coupling up for spawning, displaying their bright red colours and making rudds in the gravel.

I was with David McVeigh on the Lefroy Brook when he spotted a solo rainbow with a large head poking out from under a log. He was a bit difficult to get to and David had to crouch behind another log and cast over, letting his fly drift down to the nose. After several drifts David got a touch on the fish, he thinks it was a fowl hook as the fish shook and turned sideways. It was a magnificent huge male in excellent condition with his winter colours, a trophy fish worth mentioning as it would have sat comfortably on the Cottage wall. The fish floated down stream and no more could be done as he disappeared under some fallen logs. It was very pleasing to see a fish of that size and condition and nice work by David to get a touch on it.

Running of the Bulls:

At Omedie's, a rampaging young bull got excited by the cows in the next paddock and ran along the back wall, and down one side of the Dam, sending John, David, myself and Paul into the water. He was moving and took a swipe at David's back pack on the way past. Afterwards, safely back on dry land, we decided he was a baby and that we should have stood up to him, made ourselves wide and shown him who's boss (What!).

Mick's Mass Rising:

Mick thought he was onto a nice hatch with a mass rising when he realised his team was using a slingshot to lob pebbles out in front of him (nothing to say here!).

The Finger Fish:

Tony Bryant caught a finger fish when he left a dropper poking out of his vest.

(Tony's pre-season fingerling in its bright red winter colours)



Management Meeting:
On the Saturday night, Peter Taylor and Mick held a round-table management meeting to discuss team fishing strategies for the following morning.

(The management meeting)



On the Monday morning John Kaljee cooked up a bacon and egg storm for the crew, then it was clean up time. David Gellatly had been mountain goat around the garden slopes again, and gave instructions that he hadn't finished with the garden hose. It had to be laid out correctly with ALL the kinks taken out. We complied and then took off before he could inspect it! David expressed concern at the lack of small fish being caught, which led to a discussion around stocking. How? Where? When? Etc.

Shawn's cracker:

A few guys turned up at Gandy's for a quick fish on the way home. Shawn Saunders was on the right hand bank and spotted a fish coming down close to shore. It had by passed Mick's fly and was coming his way. Shawn got off a cast out past the fish and laid his buzzers on top of the weed bed. The fish took the end fly and Shawn hooked up. He landed a cracker of a fish that went 55cm and 4.25lb. Excellent sight angling by Shawn and his personal best.



(Shawn's cracker)

In traditional fishing style, some people did well one day and not the next, hit and miss. Everyone put in a mammoth effort. There were several hook-ups and snap-offs (mainly Gandy's), with too many nice fish and close calls to mention everything.

A wholehearted thank to Taffy and the Club for organising the event, keeping the tradition going, the BBQ, the laughter and the support, and to all those who attended. Good fun.



Tight Lines
John O'Sullivan

(Photos supplied by Steve Agate, Shawn Saunders, Mick Burman)

Thanks John, a very conclusive report. Taffy

My Holiday to Canada - Part Two

By Dave Humphries

After we had taken a look around the countryside we decided to walk up to Kimloc Lake up in the Mountains north east of Nakusp.

Well, what a hard slog up a steep mountain track for 4.5kms, with a back pack filled with waders, reels, food, drink etc. plus my rods. We were also warned about the cougars and bears in the area - so we stayed together!

We got there in the end! The walk was picturesque but very hard going and we were worn out - but what a lovely little lake! We saw Trout straight away!



Had a rest then put on my gear, rigged the rod and put on a Black Gnat then a Brassy arse. I fished for about two hours and caught nine on both flies. They weren't big, around 300mm but a lot of fun. Lost one really nice one, saw him

turn over and take off with the Brassy Arse. I had him on for a few seconds then gone, but that is always the way isn't it?



We then had the return walk! That was hard on the knees and ankles and wearing as well. Got back to the car and that was me absolutely 'cream crackered'.

We then travelled to another lake where I was hoping to drown a fly on the way to Wells Grey Provincial Park but the camp site was full, so that put a spanner in the works. We carried on to a town called Little Fort where we turned off towards Bridge Lake looking for somewhere to camp.

We found a camp site tucked away in the forest on the edge of Lake Janice and stayed for a couple of days - it was so nice! There are many lakes in this area that are all joined together by small brooks.

I fished in the evening and caught six, the biggest only about 320mm but great fun. Caught them on a Black Gnat and Brassy Arse.

We arrived at Wells Grey Provincial Park and on the way I stopped at the Little Fort Tackle shop. Asked him where I could go fishing in Wells Grey. He was very helpful and told me what to fish with and where to fish. I bought some flies



and a new fly line. He stocked every line you could think of - drawers and drawers of them!

We camped near the Myrtle River where I fished a couple of times for about an hour and caught a few small ones. The Clearwater river was very fast running and hard to fish because of the speed of the flow over rocks so I fished the slack water and to my surprise caught some fish - Great!!

We looked around the Park doing the tourist bit and did some fishing as well. We stopped off at all the tourist spots and if it looked good, I had a go with the fly rod, picking up a few, one of which was a 500mm rainbow.



Every spot I tried I successfully caught at least one. What a buzz! Saw the salmon jumping at Parries Chute. They were around 15 to 20 pound. That was a great thing to see and tick off my bucket list.



This salmon looks small but it's not, the river was huge.

We walked to one of the best spots for fishing at the falls that was at the bottom of Clearwater Lake. I looked at the falls and said to Kay “Wow this looks great for fishing, got to have a go” I had to go back and get my rod about 1km away but it was worth it because after half an hour, I had nine fish and lost some, all on a Brassy Arse.

There was one place the guy in the tackle shop said was really good, called Horseshoe Bend on the Clearwater River. It was about a 3km walk into this place and part of the track had fallen down a 40metre drop into the river so the path faded out. It looked great and I found a spot where I could get down to the water.



I put on a Hopper, supposedly the thing to fish with here but no luck! I tried a Black Gnat, still no luck. So moved up stream to the first bend and tied on a Hopper. After a few cast into different areas caught a small rainbow. A few more casts and I decided to change to a Black Gnat and caught a couple more. There were no fish rising so I put on a Brassy Arse and caught another. Changed the fly again to this large weighted Bead Head Olive Woolly Bugger (weighed a ton), cast out and caught another. I had lost a few as well by this time. On this river you can only fish single barbless hooks.



The river flowed into the Horseshoe Bend over a shallow rocky bottom then dropped off a ledge into the deep water, then up onto a sandy bottom section where the water flattened out and flowed for about 50 metres. It then went onto a rocky deeper section with a big boulder in the middle of the river where it caused a fast rip each side of the rock. This is where I fished next!

I caught a couple here as I waded across towards the large rock in the middle. Got just about within casting distance but did not dare go any deeper as the flow was too strong. I cast out to the run at the side of the rock and just about every cast hooked a trout, some landed some not. The largest I caught there was a 520mm rainbow that took me about 10 minutes to land. I had to back out and up the river at the same time to a shallower section like a groyne in the middle of the run, the water just wanted to take me down with it. The current was a bit too strong.



When I finally landed the trout I don't know who was more exhausted the trout or me. I lost count of how many I lost but caught another eight there, all over legal size. I fished on the Horseshoe Bend for about 3 to 4 hours, so not bad!

Then the walk back! That's the hardest bit because you don't want to come away.

"I'll be back". We travelled south along the Thompson River; just past Spencers Bridge and decided to have lunch. We stopped on the side of the River, "Sorry Kay, got to have a cast or two". Fished about a 200 metre section of the river and caught a few all on the Brassy Arse. Nothing big, all around the 300 mm mark. Fished for about 45 minutes and then on our way again.

Next spot I fished was the Fraser River at Emory Creek camping area. The creek looked good but quite hard to walk up so I stuck to the main river. Only there for one night! Fished the Fraser River and caught four of what I think were Whitefish of about 320mm on a Brassy Arse.



Thompson River.

I met a guy fishing for Sturgeon with his family and he showed me a photo of a sturgeon he had caught on this river. The picture had four people holding this 10ft 3inch long fish. The guy said that when he hooked this fish he had to jump in the boat with his son at the helm and chase it down the river because of its power and it took at least 20 minutes to bring it in - Wow!!

We then set off towards Vancouver and decided to take a detour. Stopped at a lovely looking river (which the name escapes me) where there were these huge fish swimming around feeding. On went the gear, grabbed my rod and tried to catch one of these monsters. I used just about every fly in my box but not even a sign of interest. As I was putting on another fly one of these fish swam right past my feet - I could have grabbed it! To my surprise they were not brown trout as I thought, I don't know what they were, but they were double figures in size. They might have been small sturgeon, but I am not sure? I then packed up and we went on our way.

Later we decided to find somewhere to have lunch and drove into a town called Chilliwack off the Hwy, through to a park close to a small river called Chilliwack River. We had our lunch in the park and decided to find the river. Had to walk along a track through the bush with all the blackberry bushes (yeah, still couldn't get away from them) then came to the river and what a lovely stretch, very fast but shallow! Caught fish in the slower sections, behind the boulders and down on the bend where the river dropped into a deeper section. Caught 12 rainbows here in an hour. Not big about 200 to 300 mm but great fun. Lost a few as well but that's fishing! Didn't have my camera!

We had to leave to get to our accommodation in Vancouver and I had no idea what driving was going to be like in the city - Bloody terrible!! That was the last time I fished. We travelled to Vancouver Island next for a few days then back to the main island to board our seven-day cruise ship to Alaska - Great stuff!!



Glazier Bay Alaska.

If you ever get the chance to go to Canada, take your rod as there are loads of trout and other types of fish in the rivers and lakes. It is excellent fishing. I certainly hope to return one day!

I was told that if you want to catch the really big ones in the summer, you really need to fish the lakes in a boat, trolling the bottom. Not my type of fishing! Late autumn, winter and spring are the best times to catch them from the bank in the lakes.

I highly recommend fishing in Canada if you're lucky enough to get the opportunity. A couple of things: If you hire a car, look at what you are paying for because they don't tell you about the tax and also the insurance is horrendous - So be warned! Everything you buy has its tax added onto the advertised price. All the services such as eating out have a tipping system in place of around 20%. Wages for these workers are pretty low so the tip makes up a lot of their income. I must admit the service, because of this, is of a really high standard.

When we left Perth we had to fly first to Sydney, then to LA, then to Vancouver. It was a long, long flight! LA Airport customs/immigration is a nightmare! Lucky for us we were priority clearance because we only had 1.5 hours between our arrival and departure flights. Well, we nearly missed it - So slow!

Apparently you can be in the queue for up to 2+ hours. In that 1.5 hours we had to collect our luggage and move it to another conveyor belt in order to have it put onto our next plane.

When I returned I came back via the UK. It was a much quicker and shorter flight as you don't have to go via the eastern states -Much better! So next time I go, I will go via the UK or Europe!

Dave Humphrey

Thanks Dave, this article has been very interesting and mouth-watering and I am sure other members will enjoy it as much as I have (Taffy).



Basic Knots for Fly Tackle

Scientific Anglers pioneered a concept that underlies all other decisions in fly tackle selection: The Balanced System. By this, we mean your tackle-rod, reel, line, leader and tippet should be balanced for better performance.

THE BALANCED SYSTEM

You can easily select balanced components for your system because the fly tackle industry follows a common standard when labeling products. For example, most rod manufacturers label the proper line weight right on their rods, so that any 6-weight rod will balance with a 6-weight line. This is also true for most reels. No matter what quality rod, reel or line you buy, they won't perform properly if they aren't balanced. So check these components of your fly fishing system and make sure they are balanced before you assemble the rest of your system.

Before you start putting line on your reel, find out how much backing you'll need by reading your reel instructions. Then collect the components and spread them out on a flat surface with good lighting. A pair of nail clippers is the only tool you'll need to assemble them.

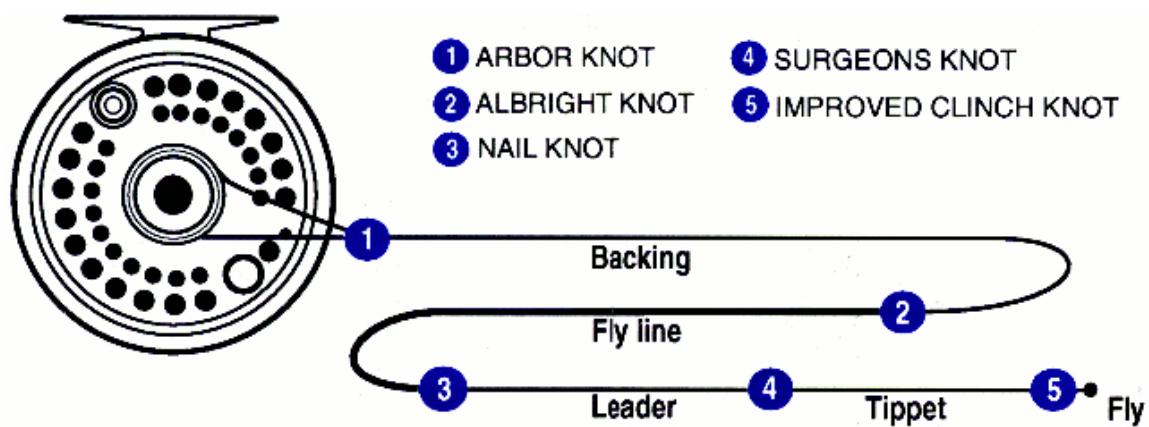
Even if you've done this before, you might want to spend a little extra time practicing the knots we recommend before you actually put the line on the reel. A leader, a piece of rope, or best of all, some old fly line make it easy to practice tying the knots you'll need to securely join the components of your system.

One other thing, most new reels are set up for left-handed retrieve, so if you reel from the right, you'll have to change the set up. This is usually a simple process and instructions should be found in the reel box.

The illustrations that follow show the easiest knots favored by experienced fly anglers.

THE BASIC CONNECTIONS

The following diagram shows the basic fly fishing line connections and knots:

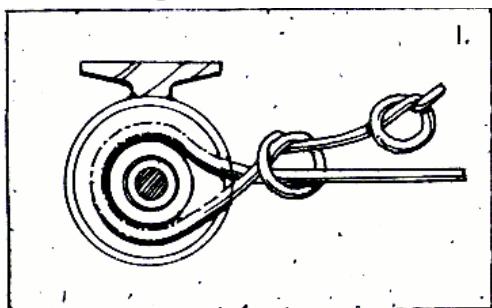


THE ARBOR KNOT, TO CONNECT THE REEL TO THE BACKING

We strongly recommend you attach your fly line to backing, which goes on the reel spool first. Backing comes in different strengths, usually 20 lbs or 30 lbs. There are two ways to determine the right amount of backing to use. You can wind the line on first, followed by enough backing to fill within 1/8 to 3/16 inch from the edge of the spool. Then reverse the process. To avoid this extra step, many manufacturers include a chart with their reels that tells the proper amount of backing.

There are several good reasons for using backing. It lets your line form larger coils on the reel, which dramatically reduces line memory and also helps you wind your line more quickly. And, when you're playing big fish, the extra backing may save that fish when it makes a long run.

To assemble your tackle, many anglers first fasten the fly reel to the reel seat of the rod. With the reel in place, the rod handle and stripper guide will help you wind on components more easily and efficiently. Pull off several feet of line from a spool of backing. Pass the tag end of the backing through the line guide closest to the rod handle. The most basic connection – anchoring backing to the reel arbor (or spool center) – uses the Arbor Knot.



Tie an overhand knot on the backing end and tighten it. Insert this knotted end between the reel foot and the arbor, circle the arbor, and pull the knotted end

out so it's next to the standing part of the backing. Tie a second overhand knot with the tag end around the standing part of the backing.

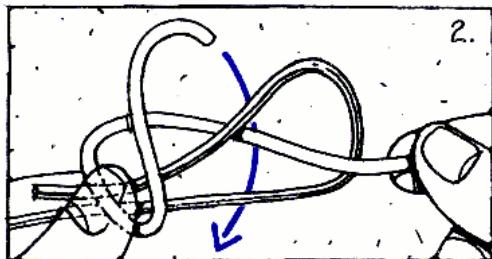
Holding the reel in your left hand, pull on the standing part of the backing with your right hand, snugging the knots against the arbor. Trip the tag end, and wind the backing onto your reel.

Make sure the line feeds from the guide on the rod to the bottom of the reel. If not, you're winding in the wrong direction. Make tight, smooth layers across the arbor as you wind on the proper amount of backing.

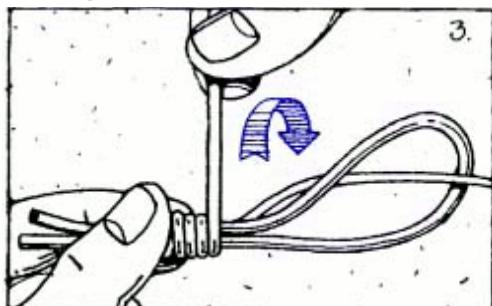
The next step is attaching the line to the backing and winding it onto the spool.

THE ALBRIGHT KNOT, TO CONNECT THE BACKING TO THE FLY LINE

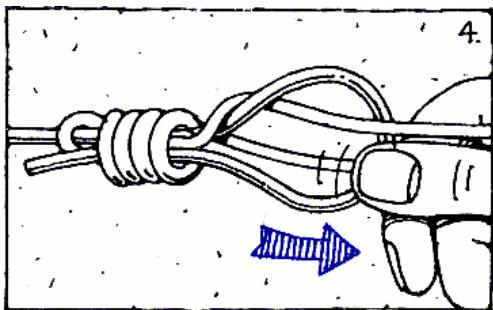
Use the Albright Knot for tying backing to fly line.



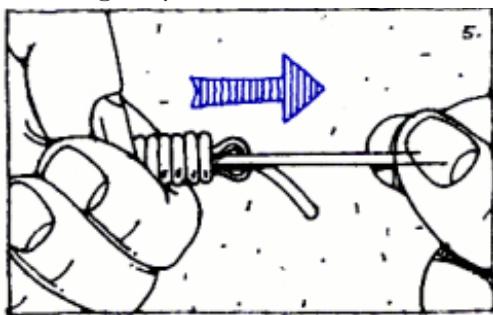
Unwind 2-3 feet of fly line from the plastic spool it came on (make sure you unwind the end marked "this end to reel"). Start by doubling back a couple of inches of fly line and hold the loop with your left thumb and forefinger. From the right, insert about 10 inches of the backing through the fly line loop.



While holding the loop, pinch the backing between your left thumb and forefinger, and use your right hand to wrap the backing tag end back over both strands of the fly line and the backing. Start next to your fingers and working toward the loop end, make 10 to 12 fairly tight wraps.



Push the tag end of the backing back through the loop on the side opposite where it originally entered so both backing strands exit on the same side of the loop. Pull on the standing part of the backing to remove the loop you were holding in your left hand. Pull both ends of the fly line backing.

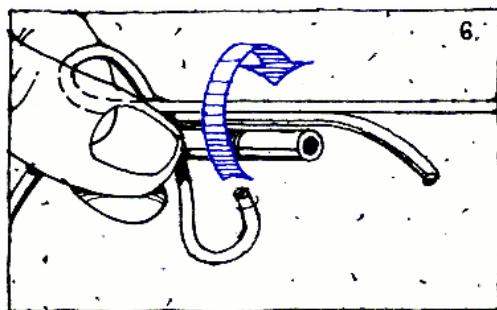


Pull gently on both ends of the fly line loop with your left hand; squeeze the knot with the fingers of your right hand and work it down to the loop end, but not off the fly line. Moisten the knot. Hold the standing and tag fly line strands in your left hand, and the tag and standing backing strands in your right hand. Pull as tight as possible. Clip off the tag end of the fly line and the backing. You're now ready to wind the line over the backing onto the spool.

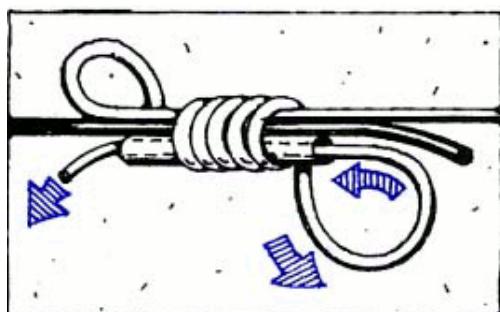
Here's where a friend can help by inserting a pencil through the hole in the line spool and holding it while you wind the line onto the reel spool under slight tension. Once the line is fully transferred to the reel spool, you should have approximately $3/16$ inches between the line and the outside rim of the spool. As a final touch, put the pressure sensitive label, "Fly Line Marker," on the reel spool so you can always tell what line is on that spool.

THE NAIL KNOT, TO CONNECT THE FLY LINE TO THE LEADER

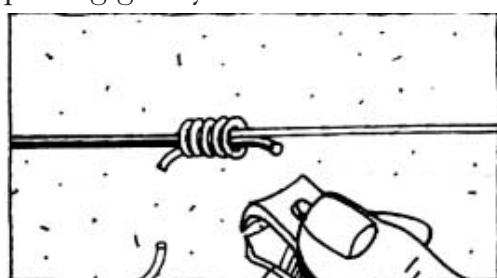
You may use the Albright Knot for the leader to line or a slightly more complicated, Nail Knot, can be used for a smoother finish. The Nail Knot requires a small diameter tube, such as the barrel of a ballpoint pen, a nail knot tool, or other similar object about twice the diameter of the fly line. Using a small diameter tube makes the knot easier to tie.



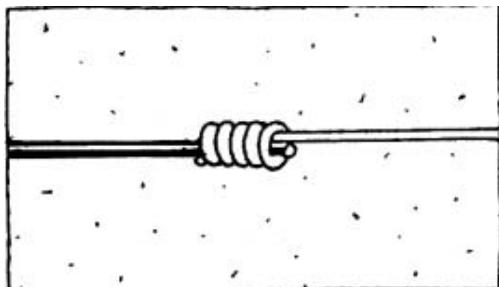
Hold the tube and the end of the fly line with your left thumb and forefinger so about two inches of the fly line and the tube sticks out to the right.



With your right hand, form a 2" loop in the heavier end of your leader. Pinch down and hold this loop with your left thumb and forefinger next to the tube and fly line. Use your right hand to grasp the short leg of the leader loop and make 5 snug wraps over the tube and fly line. These wraps should butt against each other, and be at least $\frac{1}{2}$ " to $\frac{3}{4}$ " from the end of the fly line. Then slide your left thumb and forefinger forward to hold the wraps so they don't unwind while you work the tag end of the leader butt through the tube from right to left. Carefully remove the tube by sliding it to the left. Semi-tighten the knot by pulling gently on both ends of the leader. Don't pull on the fly line!

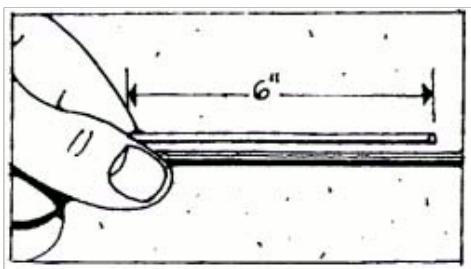


Moisten the knot area, inspect the knot wraps for smoothness, and tighten the knot by simultaneously pulling on both ends of the leader so it "bites" into the fly line. Then pull hard on the fly line and leader to "seat" the knot. Finally trim the leader tag end and the fly line end.

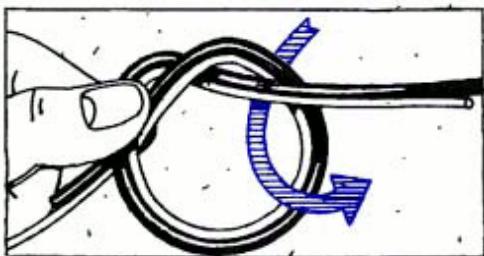


THE DOUBLE SURGEON'S KNOT, TO CONNECT THE LEADER TO THE TIPPET

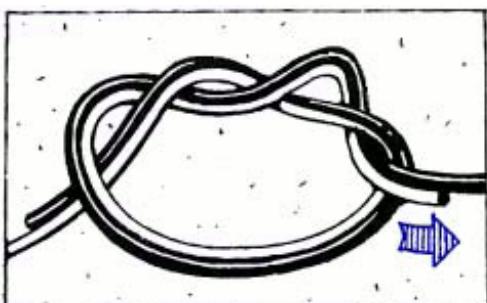
The easiest and fastest knot for attaching the tippet to the leader in all kinds of conditions is the Double Surgeon's Knot.



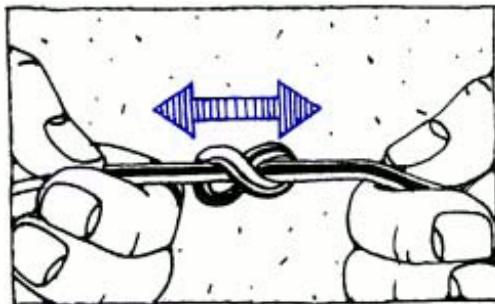
The Double Surgeon's Knot requires the leader and tippet to be placed side-by-side so they overlap (for about 6") with ends facing in opposite directions. Pinch the standing leader and tippet tag end with the left thumb and forefinger and use the right hand to tie an overhand knot with the leader tag end and the tippet.



The entire length of the tippet must be passed completely through the overhand knot loop; even though the leader tag end is only about 5" long. Don't tighten the completed overhand knot!



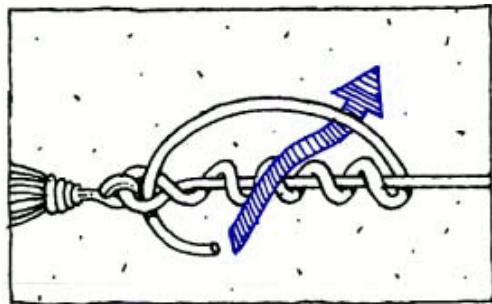
Grasp the completed loop with the left hand and make another pass through the same overhand knot, passing the full length of the tippet and the leader tag end through a second time.



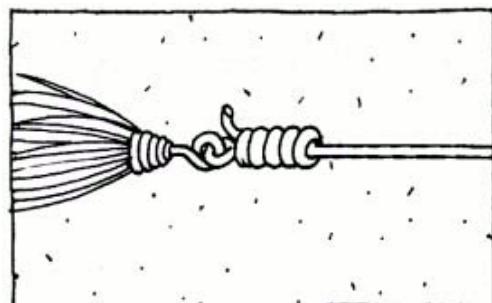
Draw the loop down by simultaneously pulling on leader and tippet. Moisten the loop; grasp the leader and tippet tag on the left with your left hand, and the tippet and leader tag on the right with your right hand. Pull all four ends simultaneously to snug the knot tight. Trim tag ends.

THE IMPROVED CLINCH KNOT, TO CONNECT THE TIPPET TO THE FLY

The final knot in putting your tackle together is the Improved Clinch Knot, which we recommend for tying a fly to your tippet. The turtle knot is also good. Insert 5" to 6" of tippet through the hook eye. Make five turns with the tag end around the standing part of the tippet, winding away from the hook.



Push the tag end through the opening between the hook eye and the first wrap. This creates an open tippet loop over the wraps. Push the tag end through this open loop and pull slightly until the knot begins to close.



Moisten the knot area. Alternately pull on the standing portion of the tippet and the hook until the knot snugs up against the hook eye. Trim the tag end.

You have securely joined all the pieces of your tackle system – backing, line, leader, tippet and fly – and you have learned the basic knots of fly-fishing. The most important of these is the Improved Clinch Knot – the one you use to tie on your flies –because you will use it the most. So make sure you can do this one easily under any condition. Heavy winds, poor light and toughest of all, when that big fish is working the shallows!

EFFECTIVE KNOT-TYING

Few knots are 100% of the line's rated strength but if you moisten all knots before drawing them tight, tighten them slowly, and test every knot by pulling on it – hard – you will reduce the chance for knot failures. Be sure to replace leaders, tippets and lines when they show wear or abrasion. Never discard used monofilament anywhere but in a trash receptacle or recycling bin.

FLY CASTING

With your balanced fly-fishing system in hand, there's one more thing to consider before heading off to your favorite waters. It has often been said, "The worst time to practice casting is when you're fishing." The excitement of working on feeding fish makes it pretty tough for most of us to do our best casting, let alone think about practicing! So get instruction and practice before you get into the field. They are the keys to success.

Acknowledgements: Scientific Anglers

From the Archives

THIS ARTICLE WAS PRINTED IN THE CLUBS MAGAZINE IN 1982

Extracted from S.T.L.A.A. Annual report - 1978

FROM FISH TO FISHING

I believe it was Aldo Leopold who once observed that all fisher men and hunters pass through three phases in their pursuit of fish and game. They begin as learners, gradually develop into efficient harvesters and finally, if they keep at it long enough, they become philosophers. I must agree, particularly as it applies to fishing. Question is which of the three phases is the most fun.

First things first, of course. We all have to learn how to tie knot's and cope with the aberrant behavior of trout and no one can deny that catching a fish, especially in the beginning, can be a truly exiting experience. There's no way you can skip the harvesting period you get a lot of solid satisfaction from cashing in on what you know, when you come off the water high rod for the day and earn a reputation for being a bloke who can always load his stringer even when the fish are coming hard.

But if you keep fishing long enough you'll probably discover that the act of catching a fish, while still gratifying, is no longer as significant as you once thought it was. The emphasis now shifts from the fish to the fishing. You've already caught hundreds of fish and a few more don't really matter very much. Now you can be perfectly content to stand in a trout stream and do nothing but watch migrant birds flit among the trees. You can row your partner along the shore of a lake without ever picking up your rod, and enjoy every minute of it. You can even stop fishing and idly watch the clouds drift by, and maybe take a nap. If you catch a few fish, you probably let them go. If you don't catch any, well you still have the birds and the cloud shapes to think about.

In "The Philosophical Fisherman," the only fishing book I have read more than twice, Harold Blaisdale tells a story that seems to bring the point I'm trying to make into focus. A fisherman of advanced years who had never caught a trout finally got his hook into one. He chased downriver after it in wild excitement, stumbling over rocks and falling and picking himself up, shedding blood and skin, until he finally reached a state of utter exhaustion.

A bloke who happened along at that time watched the furious struggle for a while. Then he tapped the flushed and panting fisherman on the shoulder and pointed toward the trout with the stem of his pipe.

“It ain’t really none of my business,” he said, “but before you kill yourself I want to remind you that the thing out there on your line ain’t nothing but a fish.”

MEMBERS PROFILE

John Abordi



1. Where were you born and where did you grow up?

I was born and grew up in Maylands, Perth.

2. Can you remember when you first became interested in fishing?

I remember fishing and crabbing from a young age, both in the Swan River at Maylands and the Peel Harvey Estuary at Falcon (Mandurah). I took up fly fishing in 1997, encouraged by a couple of ex-students of mine from Como Secondary College, we began fishing for flathead and flounder at Point Walter before joining WATFAA in 1998.

3. What is your favourite fishing memory?

My first fly fishing trip to the South Island of New Zealand in 1999, catching Browns and Rainbows in waters we could only dream of in WA. Together with a trip to Slovakia in 2004, where I fished for Australia in the World Fly Fishing Championships and was introduced to fishing for Grayling and the Euro nymphing technique.

4. What is the most unusual fish you have ever caught?

Brook Trout, in Dee Lagoon Tasmania, perhaps not so unusually, but certainly one of the prettiest trout.

5. What kind of fishing do you like best and why?

Fly Fishing, for the places it takes you, the thrill of hunting that one fish, and that direct contact you have with the fish. Plus, I'm still learning new techniques with each trip.

6. When did you join WATFAA?

I joined WATFAA around 1998, after a chance encounter with a member, now past, Sid James, who was walking around the small ponds at Barden Park in Maylands doing his weekly exercise with a fly rod in his hand. He told me about the club and I've been a member ever since.

7. Why did you become a Member?

The obvious answer is to gain access to some of the best trout fishing opportunities in Western Australia through our farm dams. In those early days, I'd spend many a winter/spring weekend in the Pemberton area, often driving down early, fishing the farm dams then hitting the rivers, staying late, for the evening rise, and driving back to Perth for a day's fishing. In addition to that was to meet some other likeminded anglers, to learn more and develop those friendships. Hopefully in my time, I've managed to pass on some of that knowledge to others.

8. What developments would you like to see in the freshwater fishing scene in WA?

This one is a difficult question, the realist in me understands the limited nature of the freshwater scene, particularly concerning trout, we are faced with in WA and it isn't getting any easier. Hence my yearly fishing trip over east in the guise of attending the National Fly Fishing Championships. Harvey Dam promises so much as does the prospect of establishing a new freshwater fishery at Wellington Dam. Bringing freshwater opportunities closer to Perth and encouraging young anglers into the sport would be high on my wish list.

FLY TYING PATTERNS

Miss Knobby X

Hook: Tiemco 5263 # 8 - 12

Thread: Nylon Monocord stretch fabric invisible thread (from haberdashery)



Body: Yellow chenille

Overwing: Pheasant breast

Legs: Orange Pheasant tippets

Legs Mk 11: Rubber from Occy Strap

Head: Deer Hair, mixture of green, natural, yellow and brown

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 piece of material, the chenille to form the body of the hopper. This point should be roughly level with the barb on the hook. Once this is completed go to the next step.



2/ Tie in a fair length of chenille. However this time don't worry about removing the excess, instead give it a few wraps of the thread and leave. This will assist in getting the required bulk needed with such patterns. When you have done this proceed to the next step.



3/ Take the thread and hold it away from the hook. Keep it taught and then take the chenille in your other hand. Wind the two together so that you have one combined chenille/thread rope. Then wind it forward towards the hook eye with each successive turn ahead of the last. Go all the way to the hook eye. With this example we didn't take the chenille all the way instead adding some more later. Tie off and trim excess.



4/ In one turn take the thread back approximately 1/5 the hook shank length back towards the rear of the fly. This is where the rest of the materials will be tied in and is where the rear of the head will be. Select two good sections of Pheasant Tippets and tie in on each side of the hook. This will represent the orange on the Hoppers Legs and should be equal to the hook shank in length. See next step for more detail.



5/ See that the Pheasant Tippets are roughly equal in length to the hook shank. Also they are tied in at about 35 Degrees to the hook shank when viewed in the vertical. This is the perfect example. Try and get the two bunches roughly level. This is reasonably easy if you use the black banding to measure them off against each other.



6/ Next find a good pheasant breast feather, better known as a church window feather. Tie it in so that it is flat over the top of the fly. This is similar to many other patterns such as the Craig's Night-time. The overwing should be large enough so that it extends just over the rear of the fly when tied in. Go to the next step to see how it should look from above.



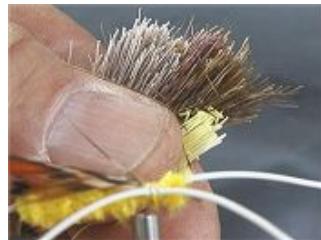
7/ We have not added any more materials in this shot. Notice how the legs are just obscured by the church window feather. This is the perfect size although ideally it would be aligned slightly better although with such a big fly it really doesn't matter. Trim the excess feather stub and take a couple more turns to secure.



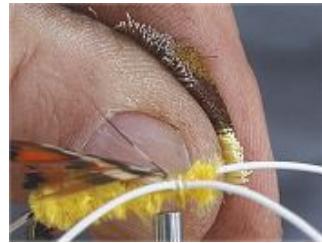
8/ Now get the legs that you sourced by cutting an Occy (Octopus) strap up. Tie one on each side of the hook forming an X shape. The tying in of this material should not be in the same plane. Tie these legs in by wrapping in an approximately 3 mm wide area. This will allow you to tie in the head and not get the legs are messed up. Trim the legs to meet size requirements. Front smaller and rear. Move to Step 9.



9/ Take several colours of Deer Hair. Make sure it's the hollow type that flares and therefore floats well. We like to use natural, brown, Olive/Green and Yellow. Pinch them off together making sure you have them long enough to equal the hook shank. Rough stack it in your fingers as we don't want it neat. Pinch it so that the tips are fairly even and the stubs can be clipped as shown. measure against hook if you have to.



10/ Clip the deer hair close to your fingers as shown. This will be the very front end of the head. Don't worry if at this stage you think you may have too much hair as you can clip it to suit later. Bring it in place above the hook holding it there between the thumb and forefingers of your left hand. See the next step for more info.



11/ This is the view from the front. Pinching the hair in place you can see that the hair is kept on top of the hook. We will not be spinning it as in other fly patterns. To ensure this you MUST not spin the hair. To do this don't wrap the first wrap around the hair. Take the thread from directly below and split the hair up the middle as shown. Pinch in place with the left hand's fingers and use the right's to tie in.



12/ Initially splitting this hair helps to prevent it from spinning. Now that it has been split start wrapping with the thread. Make sure you wrap in the SAME plane and do not let go of the hair with your left hands fingers. Don't let it spin. Use between three and six turns, each on top of the last to lock it in place. You can then take the thread to the hook eye and add a couple of half hitches or whip finish to complete.



13/ Now that the head is secured we can start to trim the fly to look the way we want it to. Start by making a blunt bulky head. See illustration to the right and the one below for side and top profiles. Trim flat on top and sides and take this back well into the body of the fly. Be careful not to trim off the legs or any previously tied part of the fly as having to start again now can be heartbreaking.



14/ This is how the fly should look from above. Not the way everything is balanced i.e. even length of legs both rubber and orange pheasant tippets and the perfect positioning of the overwing church window feather. Also note how well the different colour deer hair comes together and the distinct shape of the head from which the knobby part of the name is derived.



15/ Another view of the fly this time from below. See how the chenille extends all the way to the hook eye. Once again notice how everything is in balance e.g. the legs. The clear monofilament thread we use for this fly is not only incredibly strong (great for deer hair patterns) but also almost invisible. Also the mottled church window feather represents the camouflage of a hopper very well.



16/ The very last step is to remove the fly and get a marker pen. Geoff uses a brown one and marks bands on the legs every few millimetres by actually rolling the leg on a flat surface using the nib of the marker. This way ensures that you get a good even mark right around the rubber legs.



FOR YOUR DIARY - 2017

September 23rd - 25th

Fish-a-Fest

October 28th

50th Anniversary Buffet/Dinner Dance

**All tickets for the 50th Anniversary Function MUST be paid IN FULL
as we need to finalise numbers**

CLUB NIGHTS

Held at 4 The Esplanade, Mount Pleasant (Rowing WA) 7.30 onwards

Every second Tuesday of each month

The following are the likely events for the upcoming calendar activities nights.
They can be subject on short notice to change.

AUGUST 2017 Clubs AGM

SEPTEMBER 2017 Meet the Council & Open Forum plus Vidio

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.co m.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
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