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THE VICTORIAN FLY-FISHERS' ASSOCIATION INC.  
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APRIL 2008

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**NEXT MEETING IS AT THE KELVIN CLUB  
8.00PM SHARP THURSDAY 17 APRIL 2008**

ASSOCIATED CLUBS: ALPINE (BRIGHT) • WANGARATTA • BAIRNSDALE • WARRNAMBOOL • LATROBE VALLEY

# APRIL GENERAL MEETING

## Guest Speaker – Pieter Zaadstra

The next general meeting will be held at the Kelvin Club on Thursday 17 April commencing at 8.00 pm sharp. The guest speaker is Pieter Zaadstra. Peter is both an artist of note and a fly fisher. His talk is particularly topical given the forthcoming VFFA Art Exhibition.

Pieter Zaadstra was born in Skraerd, Frisia, Netherlands in 1955. His father Sake Zaadstra studied under the School of den Hague Impressionists, learning the cross-hatching techniques of the Brothers Maris. Pieter grew up in this studio environment, receiving instruction from his father from an early age. At the age of 10, Pieter won his first national art award: the Netherlands 'Gysbert Japix Tekenwedstryd'.

The Zaadstra family migrated to South Australia in 1966. Pieter adapted his skills to the new light of Australian landscape and won numerous Australian art awards. Recognition continued with many commissions, especially as a portrait painter.

After winning a Commonwealth Scholarship, Pieter was persuaded to study accountancy but the popularity and passion for his art continued to beckon. As a twenty-year-old he purchased Burrungule House, where he set up a full time professional studio, and in 1979 a second gallery was built at Compton, near Mt. Gambier.

During the 1980's Pieter's illustrations and fine artworks were widely published. Pieter's interest in the publishing industry led him to gain skills in programming and web design in the 1990's.

In 2005 Pieter and his wife Tanya settled in Tasmania's Tamar Valley and opened a new studio/gallery. Pieter's first Tasmanian book *The Artist and the Fly Fisher* was published in 2007, following from his previous publications *The Flight of the Black Cockatoo* and *Our Australian Kelpie*.

*The Artist and the Fly Fisher* is a wonderful evocation of fly fishing in the Central Highlands of Tasmania. Pieter is not a fisherman, although he is threatening to become one. However, a very long association stretching back twenty years with VFFA member Don Urquhart has led Pieter to become involved with many anglers and fly fishing.

Pieter has managed to marry the text of his book wonderfully well with his superb paintings. The outcome is a beautifully produced book with Don Urquhart unwittingly being "the Fly Fisher" in the title, a fact of which he was unaware until the book was reviewed, and this was made mention of by the reviewer. Don is pleased about this, despite his protestations and feigned embarrassment.

Pieter is currently working on his second book commission in the Fly Fisher series. This will be about fly fishing personalities in the Central Highlands, many of whom are VFFA members.

Members and their guests are encouraged to have dinner at the Kelvin Club prior to the meeting. Please try to be seated in the dining room by about 6.30 pm in order to ensure that the meeting starts on time.

## NEW MEMBERS

The following persons have been admitted as members of this association. James Baumgurtel, Brian Hopkins, Robert McLachlan, Terry Simmons and Matthew Schofield. We trust that their membership will be both long and fulfilling.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 17 April 2008 .....General Meeting  
Sunday 11 May 2008 .....End of Season Barbecue  
Thursday 15 May 2008 .....Scholes Book Auction  
Thursday 5 June 2008 .....Partners Night  
Sunday 15 June 2008 .....Cane Day  
24-27 June 2008 .....Art Show

E. & O. E.



## PARTNERS DINNER

DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR  
BEST FRIEND OR PARTNER TO:

THE VFFA'S – DINNER WITH  
PARTNERS

AT THE KELVIN CLUB  
**THURSDAY JUNE 5TH 2008**

## TRANQUILL RISES

After Ray Butterworth's very informative talk at our October meeting, I spoke to him about his Flowerdale experiment, "Tranquill Rises". Ray has developed a 60 acre property a stone's throw from the King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale. The property has 7 dams, all with trout. One is even named "Little Pine" and those who come to Ray's will find out why.

I recently fished there with Chris Milne. We both caught fish and had a very entertaining day at Ray's beautiful valley watching the bird life, kangaroos, foxes and, yep, the trout rising freely and chasing tadpoles through the pin grass. I did not want to go home.

A 4 weight rod and reel combination is ideal for Ray's, or for the King Parrot Creek just down the hill.

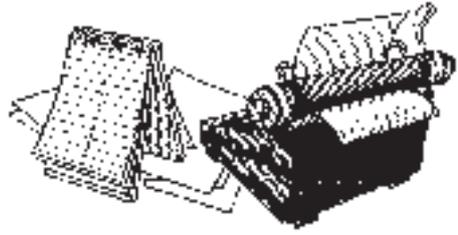
Give Ray a call on 0418 525 445 and pay him a visit. You won't be disappointed.

*David Grisold*

## SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE OVERDUE

Our treasurer reports that a large number of members have forgotten to pay their subscriptions. The cash flow of this association depends on payment of subscriptions. Could those members who have not attended to payment of their subscriptions please attend to doing so.

# From the EDITOR'S DESK



Last month I headed off to Tasmania with Lester Walton for a few days fishing. Lester claims to be a distant relation of Isaac. I thought I would avoid the heatwave that was gripping Victoria and was looking forward to mild autumnal days and crisp, cool nights. Little did I dream that a few days later I would be wallowing like a hippopotamus in the large swimming hole in the North Esk River at Corra Lynn after being burnt to a crisp on the river?

The heat was overpowering during the first few days of my trip. What is happening to our climate? I can't remember weather like this in March in Tasmania, and I have been fishing there since 1968. The rivers were extremely low. The North Esk at Corra Lynn was hardly flowing. The fishing was very quiet. I did manage three good sized browns on hopper patterns one day, but that was a day out.

It is now obvious to all but the most recalcitrant sceptics that a combination of climate change and water abstraction for irrigation is having an adverse long-term effect on river fishing in northern Tasmania. Add spraying of crops and young plantation trees, seepage of fertilisers into rivers and de-forestation of the headwaters for woodchips and the future looks grim. On top of all of this, a large quantity of water will be needed on a long-term basis for the Gunn's pulp mill in the Tamar Estuary.

I spent a few days at Hayes' on Brumby's at the end of the trip. There were prolific hatches of red spinners. Unfortunately, the trout were fixated on taking the flying spinners. I love dry fly fishing and persevered, with little success, with the dry. Lester suffered the ultimate insult. One of the fish leapt out of the water alongside his dry fly. It landed on top of his fly causing it to sink! At the death knock I knotted on one of my own nymphs and, in a relatively short period of time, had four takes and landed a good sized fish. So there is a lesson.

## VALE GRAEME WILSON

It is with deep regret that we announce the passing of Graeme Wilson. Graeme, a one-time member of the VFFA, passed away on Easter Sunday after a short battle with pancreatic cancer. Graeme has been a valued member of the Bairnsdale Fly fishers for the past 25 years. Our sincere condolences to his family.

*David Grisold*

## CLARIFICATION RE TROUT ERADICATION

The good news for trout fishers is that in the March issue of NSW CFA *Freshwater Fisher*, under the heading 'MDBC Fish Study Tender Closed', Wendy Craik stated:

*"I would like to make it absolutely clear that there is no intention of eradicating trout from Basin streams. We appreciate that an important industry and strong recreational imperatives have developed around trout."*

# President's Message

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I must start this month with a get well to our good mate Les Hawkins. Les was bitterly disappointed to have to cancel his talk at this month's General meeting. Les is suffering with Paget's Disease. On behalf of all members I want to take this opportunity to pass onto Les our best wishes and we hope to see him at the VFFA again soon.

Rick Dobson will be holding an information evening at the Kelvin Club on the 23 May commencing at 7.45. Rick and his team will be discussing all aspects of bone fishing and information on trips he will be running later this year to the Christmas Islands. All VFFA members are welcome. Call Rick and reserve a spot (phone 9432 1501).

VRFish have just released their trout policy and are seeking comment. Please go their website [www.vrfish.com.au](http://www.vrfish.com.au).

At Liars' Night in February many members voiced their concern regarding trout fishing in our state. Please read VRFish's trout policy and make your comments known.

If you want something raised at council regarding trout politics please contact Rick Dugina.

We will also have a David Scholes painting to add to the Book Auction in May. The painting is currently owned by Don Urquart. Don purchased the painting in the mid seventies at David Scholes' yearly art auction at Evendale. The painting is of the Elizabeth River and bridge at Cambeltown.

I received a very good report from trout guide Paul Bourne for the Snowy mountains and Monaro area. Paul is a great mate of Nick Taransky and the two fish together regularly.

The outlook for river and stream fly fishing over the coming weeks is good. The influx of some water and cooler temperatures should see an increase in mayfly hatches. Most common



of these at this time are the large Black Spinners and smaller Blue Wing Olive mayflies. If you are really lucky you might also come across a hatch of Kosciusko mayflies – especially in rivers on the western slopes of the Snowy Mountains. So be sure to carry some fly patterns to cover these hatches as trout feeding well in a hatch can ignore flies that don't in some way come close to what they're feeding on.

A size 14 Black Spinner and a March Brown, Adams or Highland Dun in sizes 12 or 14, as well as a size 16 BWO (blue winged olive) should be in the fly box. The usual fare of Royal Wullfs, Red tags and Parachute Adams will also be useful and a hopper pattern may still bring results for a week or two yet. Autumn is the trout's last chance to gain some condition before the winter spawning – so fish do want to feed when the opportunity arises, but the generally clear and lower water levels, compared to spring, can still make them tricky. It's also worth noting that the sun is lower in the sky at this time and combined with "softer" light, fish will see the fisher more easily than we would like! For further information please give Paul a call on (02) 6452 7650.

I spent a very pleasant Saturday at Ray Butterworth's complex, Tranquil Rises. Ray, Hugh and myself cooked a BBQ lunch, caught some trout and enjoyed a very pleasant afternoon together. As you know Ray is undergoing treatment for cancer and is struggling to maintain the property. The VFFA has spent many very memorable hours at Ray's and I know everybody sincerely wishes Ray the very best for the future.

Over the coming months the VFFA has a very extensive range of activities. Please make note of the dates and talk to the person responsible for the activity.

Don't miss out on our upcoming events.

*David Grisold*

## CLOSING WEEKEND



### **\*\*Magical Mystery Tour\*\***

Sunday the 18 May

Fishing Day and BBQ

Meet at the Gordon Pub, Gordon

9.30am

Please bring own BBQ food and drink

Call Kossie: on 0430 091 300

## CANE DAY 2008



Unwrap a dear old friend  
Or come along and sample the wares  
Of Australia's finest cane rod builders

RED TAG POOL  
FAIRFIELD  
SUNDAY 15 JUNE  
BBQ Lunch Provided

## NEW ZEALAND 2008 SOUTHLAND TRIP

LATE NOVEMBER / EARLY  
DECEMBER (Dates TBA)

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST  
AND BOOKINGS ARE  
NOW BEING TAKEN FOR  
THE NEXT NZ TRIP

CALL OR EMAIL RICK DUGINA  
ASAP PHONE: 0401 963 601  
EMAIL : [edugina@iprimus.com.au](mailto:edugina@iprimus.com.au)

It is proposed that we go back to Athol for a week and do the usual tramping up the Mataura and surrounds. Then, those who wish to or can afford the time would proceed to Nokomai Station or Wanaka for a second week of being spoiled.

There are flights from Melbourne to Queenstown at that time and I would like to take advantage of early booking fares.

This requires an early commitment from members.

GET IN QUICK... CALL RICK



## VFFA Meetings & Activities

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### APRIL

- 17 **General Meeting**  
– Speaker Pieter Zaadstra

### MAY

- 15 **General Meeting** - Auction Night  
and David Scholes Book Auction  
18 End of Season BBQ Weekend

### JUNE

- 1 Sunday Casting  
5 Dinner with Partners  
8 Sunday Casting  
15 Cane Day  
19 **General Meeting**  
– Speaker Daniel Hackett  
22 Sunday Casting  
29 Sunday Casting

### JULY

- 6 Sunday Casting  
13 Sunday Casting  
17 **General Meeting** – Fly Tying  
20 Sunday Casting  
25-27 Art Show  
27 Sunday Casting

### AUGUST

- 3 Sunday Casting  
10 Sunday Casting  
17 Sunday Casting  
24 Sunday Casting  
29 **Annual Dinner** – Speaker Bob Hart  
30 President's Casting Day

### SEPTEMBER

- 18 **Annual General Meeting**

### OCTOBER

- 16 **General Meeting**  
TBA Opening Weekend

### NOVEMBER

- 20 **General Meeting**  
TBA Fishing Trip – Big River

### DECEMBER

- 18 Christmas Dinner

# *David Scholes on Bait Fishers and Other Memories*

A trout's food varies greatly from the tiniest ant, beetles of all sizes, mayflies and any other surface food that comes its way. Subaqueous food ranges from an occasional frog, tadpoles, nymphs and crustaceans. All of this is to be perfectly normal and expected. But suddenly one is confronted by the enormous ugly wattle grub sold in shops, a totally foreign food allured to the trout by smell. Many anglers see wattle grubs and beer cans going together. Their loathing for the grub is such that they'd be happy to see it banned as a bait. Also, the thousands of wattle trees that are cut down to get them would be happy to see this happen!

The range of baits I have seen used has been wide. First I saw a man using an oyster which he tied up into a little ball with white cotton, which remarkably ended up in quite a solid ball. This the trout ate but couldn't swallow, the oyster getting stuck in its throat. The result was that after the fish had been landed, the oyster could be extracted, tidied up and used again! This happened at Woori Yallock in Victoria. On another occasion I met a man named Arthur Plant at Eildon Weir. He used large black cockroaches on a long fly rod. Having chosen a steep rocky edge, he would cast the cockroach out as far as he could. The cockroach was allowed to sink to the bottom and stay inert. The trout has an excellent sense of smell and finds the cockroach by this means. Even so, Arthur would occasionally move it an inch or two, possibly to a better location. As I watched as a small boy, he caught by this means many a bag of trout. Also, Eildon Weir but much later in my life, I came across a bait fisherman who used small lizards in much

the same way as Arthur Plant. This bait may have attracted a trout by sight as well as smell. Whatever the case, it appeared to me to be a particularly unkind and cruel use of a live bait. Of all the bait fishermen I have become friends with, there was an old man with his worn hat and coat sitting on a stool beside a pool between the willow trees, his rod perched on a fork stick and a coloured float showing where his suspended bait was. There he sits, perhaps for hours, watching his float with one eye and seeing the world around him with the other. A little bird may land on his rod, a lizard may crawl across a rock beside him or else a coloured butterfly may land. He notes with pleasure the voices of small birds – wrens, reed warblers and others – while overhead larger ones like crows and currawongs join in the chorus. Thus he sits in perfect peace, aware only of the few things around him, oblivious to the worries of today's world and even to his own minor problems, just one of old Izaak Walton's followers.

I was fascinated in Switzerland to see anglers fishing in snowy streams with their short steel rods plunged straight to the bottom vertically, working along the stream in this way. The extraordinary method employed was explained by the fact that in the fast snowy water a trout took refuge behind rocks at the bottom of the stream, unable to cope with the swift flow above and more in a position to take the bait in this amazing fashion. Many anglers are under the misguided advice that trout aren't catchable in a snowy water. But this account must surely prove them wrong. Also in Switzerland near Berne, in a pretty stream not unlike the St. Patrick's River in Tasmania, but swifter and shallower, I saw

them using huge dry flies tied palmer-fashion on number 12 hooks. A 'take-it' or 'leave-it' proposition for the trout in the rapid flow. Compared to all this, one's memory drifts back to Plunkett Greene's beautiful little 'Bourne' in Hampshire, or other English streams where the mayfly fishing is sometimes splendid. I had as my guide when fishing in England, General Sir John Westall, who took me to two stretches of the Itchen River – one above and one below Twyford. Incidentally, General Sir John Westall helped to kick the Japanese out of Burma, but lost one of his eyes in the process!

The stretch of the Itchen below Twyford, on the right bank, I found equal to anything that the Macquarie River could ever offer; or the Dever River – to which he also took me, this being simply a miniature Macquarie. All these rivers are noted for their mayfly fishing at infrequent times.

On our return from Norway, my wife and I flew straight to Edinburgh, hired a car and began visiting many friends along the Tweed. The first branch of the Tweed which offered me dry fly fishing as I know it here was the 'Bowmont' where the trout took the

Red Tag with pleasure. Each tributary upstream was likewise, the 'Teviot' being the main branch which I fished frequently on the Earl of Ancrum's estate. On a subsequent visit to this water in the 1980's I found it all much the same and memories came flooding back. And then the 'Jed' above and below Jedburgh offers more of our kind of fishing found in Tasmania. But more to the subject of this article is that under the roots of the rotten trees in these places are found large round ground crickets which we used to great success as bait.

One must never forget that the trout is an introduced species like the rabbit, fox or blackberry and but for the fact that it does not destroy crops or interfere with orchards, it could be legitimately destroyed or banned from introduction. Both species – Brown trout from Europe and the Rainbow trout from America – are in the same boat so to speak. So what they eat they eat. And be thankful they don't eat our underwater native plants.

*David Scholes*



## **VFFA COLUMBIA SHIRTS**

**SPECIAL OFFER  
\$70.00 EACH**

To order a shirt or two contact  
Hugh Maltby on  
**WORK: 9455 9000**  
**MOBILE: 0400887065**

(you too could look this good in a Columbia shirt)

# *The Best Time To Go Fishing - Lyndon Webb*

The best time to go fishing, of course, is any time you can get out. But we all know that some days turn out a lot better than others. There are days when the water in front of us seems devoid of life, and other days, glorious occasions, when fish are everywhere, and are so obliging and cooperative that it almost seems too easy.

Last February I fished a favourite lake in Tasmania. In the afternoon I fished near the dam wall and saw damn all. That same evening I returned to the dam wall – and caught and released six lively rainbows from 1 to 3 lb in 40 minutes of exhilarating fishing.

The challenge, of course, is to predict those good times when fish will be actively feeding, and avoid fishing in the barren times. Great in theory, but so difficult in practice, as there are just so many variables and factors that seem to have an influence. One consequence of this is that many of my most memorable outings were quite unexpected. On the other hand there have been plenty of occasions when I've ventured out full of optimism and confidence, absolutely certain that conditions were ideal - and caught nothing. As one of the Beetles said, "life is what happens to you while you're planning other things".

Fortunately there are lots of well-documented guidelines. We know that physical conditions and the weather play a part. If the temperature of the water in the lake margins is over the magic 20°C then we know we are probably in for a slow day. Likewise if the barometer has bottomed out, and the day presents howling winds and bucketing rain, it's best to take the wife shopping.

In my recent expedition to Tasmania I spent two days flogging Bronte Lagoon for a miserable return. Then I learned that over the previous couple of weeks the water level

had been lowered by almost a metre, and on the two days I was there it fell a further 30 cm. Regardless of weather conditions, Bronte trout are notorious for going missing when the water level falls.

The seasons play a part – duns appear on Victorian lakes in October (if we're lucky), and grasshoppers are jumping into the rivers in January and February.

The time of the day is important. A Tasmanian guide once assured me that in the summer months the hours from the crack of dawn to 10 am sees the best of it, and then again perhaps from 6 pm to dusk. But if the weather is overcast then the duns at Little Pine and Arthurs will be popping up from noon to 3 pm, and if it's bright and sunny these same mid-day hours provide top polaroiding in the Western Lakes. So how do you make sense of it all?

For years there have been those who have theorised that the sun and moon have a significant influence on fish activity. Polynesian fishermen supposedly planned their fishing around the phases of the moon, and they took it seriously because if they didn't catch fish the family didn't eat. Fly fishing guide and expert fly-tier Mick Hall once assured me that the days leading up to the full moon often see an increase in insect hatches and a consequent lift in trout activity. In the 1920s, John Alden Knight, an American naturalist and fishing guide, suggested a link between the phases of the moon and the feeding habits of fish. He arrived at this conclusion after a number of years, during which he examined truckloads of data and some 33 factors he thought might have an impact on fish behaviour. In 1936 he published the first of his famous "Solunar Tables". These have since appeared in a variety of formats, a recent version being the "Anglers Almanac" – that little yellow book published by The Great

Outdoors Publications Pty Ltd, and sold in Tackle Shops and Newsagencies for a few dollars.

The Almanac rates each day in the month as 'poor', 'fair', 'good' or 'best' in terms of likely fish activity, based on the phases of the moon. It then gives, for each day, two times when fish activity peaks ('major times') and two other times when there are shorter periods of increased feeding activity ('minor times'). According to the theory, the best times to fish (major times) are when the moon is above the angler's head ('moon up') and when the moon is on the other side of the earth below the angler's feet ('moon down'). The 'minor times' are when the moon is half way between these two. Thus there are two major times and two minor times in each 24 hour period.

Angler reactions to these ideas fall into three categories. At one extreme are the true believers, who are totally convinced and wouldn't dare venture out without their Almanac in their hip pocket. At the other extreme are the sceptics, who place Knight and his theories in the same category as tea-leaf reading and the astrological stuff found in the back of popular women's magazines. In between are those who harbour a healthy scepticism, but remain prepared to listen to the arguments and the findings.

I confess that my interest in this stuff was tweaked a few months ago by an article by Neil Grose in the 'Tasmanian Sportfisher' magazine. Neil is a prominent Tasmanian guide, the author of some fine angling books, and the editor and publisher of an impressive magazine. In the article Neil draws upon his experiences as a professional guide, chalking up some 1,100 days on the water over 12 years, whilst guiding and fishing in all sorts of locations and weather conditions. During this period he kept meticulous records, and became convinced that the data in his fishing diaries matched the predictions from the Angler's Almanac.

To quote from his article:

"I found in practice that (the Almanac's rating of days as 'poor', 'fair', 'good' or 'best') didn't have as much impact on proceedings as expected - I have had awesome days on 'poor' predictions, and the opposite on 'best' predictions. The key for me is the times of peak and minor activity - here in lays the real value that has proven itself to me over 12 years of guiding."

"I first started taking notice of the Almanac when I started fiddling around with loch-style fishing in 1996. ... I was matching my results to the Almanac, and after a while a clear pattern began to emerge. The major times as predicted saw good activity, but not necessarily fish on the end of the line. The minor periods (6 hours after the major periods) would see a shorter period of action, but a much better catch rate. If there were long periods of predicted 'poor' days, then the overall activity would be reasonably poor, with spikes in activity to coincide with the predicted times. If there were several 'best' days in succession then the fishing would be good with an increased level during the predicted times."

(A vital point:) "If there is one constant throughout, it is the observation that the weather and general conditions will always over-ride any predictions. It doesn't matter how good the almanac predicts a day, if it features a howling south-west wind, the barometer through the floor and it's pelting with rain, it generally ain't gonna be a great day!"

"At one stage I tried to work out a correlation between predicted peak times and mayfly hatches, only to fail miserably for many years before a pattern emerged. In deeper water there seemed to be no correlation at all. However, in shallow water it was closer to the predicted times, but not within them. I am still trying to find the key, but I am coming to the belief that the moon above/below theory has more influence on

nymph activity rather than the actual hatch process. This would account for dun hatches being further outside the predicted times as the water becomes deeper.”

(In relation to stream fishing ... ) “Most of my observations are restricted to the St Patricks River and the Meander River. I have had many times where fish are seen under banks or deep on the bottom as opposed to on station in the runs and riffles, especially on days rated as ‘poor’. The Meander is a good case in point ... On days rated as ‘best’ I would find that the fish will rise to dries all day long, while ‘poor’ days would really only on reflection produce dry fly action during the peak times.”

“The closer that trout get to spawning time the greater the influence the moon cycles have on them. While guiding during April in Arthur’s Lake you could just about set your watch to them! You had to find the fish first of course, but once located they would go silly in almost perfect concert with the predicted times. If the major time wasn’t until 5pm, then you’d know you were in for a lean day till then. It isn’t that you wouldn’t catch anything till then, it is just that you would experience a definite

increase in activity once you approached the predicted time.”

So there you have it. The Almanac works, or at least one very competent and experienced Australian trout fisherman says so. But then, as Neil concedes in his article, the results might be a little self-supporting. If I commence fishing at 11 am, say, on a day when the major feeding period is predicted to commence at 12:30 pm, then I can assure you that when 12:30 comes around my interest, anticipation and expectations are significantly heightened and my concentration is more sharply focussed. So perhaps because I’m trying a whole lot harder I’m more successful, thus confirming in my mind the value of the tables.

One more thought. Let’s say I’ve arrived at a favourite lake on a day when the Almanac tells me the fishing should be ‘best’, with a major feeding period commencing at 12 noon. All I now need to do is discern where the trout will be, what they’ll be feeding on, and thus what fly I need to tie on and how I should fish it. But that of course is another article, or book, or perhaps even a whole lifetime of learning.

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(PS: since writing this contribution I discussed the Solunar Theory ideas with Bill Classon – well-known editor and publisher of a number of popular Australian fishing magazines and books, and a very experienced and successful angler as well. Bill is also quite convinced of the value of the tables and their predictions).

## MAY AUCTION

David Scholes’ personal collection of fly fishing books will be auctioned at the Kelvin Club on the evening of Thursday 15 May. A catalogue of the books to be auctioned is included on pages 13-19 of this newsletter.

David Scholes is Australia’s pre-eminent fly fishing author. He was also a member of this Association. His books have great sentimental value and it is expected that there will be strong competition. Don’t miss out.



# ANGLING LIBRARY of DAVID SCHOLES

The library of David Scholes will be auctioned at the Kelvin Club on Thursday 15 May commencing 8 pm sharp. David Scholes is Australia's pre-eminent fly fishing author. He had close ties to the VFFA. He was for many years a member of this association. The late Fred Stewart, a former VFFA President, was his mainland angling mate. In his books David has recounted many an angling adventure with Fred. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for you to acquire one of David's books. Each book will be presented with a document of provenance signed by our President, David Grisold, certifying that it came from David's library.

The catalogue reproduced below is provisional. Some of the reports may be batched. There may be a few books added. A limited number of souvenir catalogues are being produced. These will contain biographical material, quotes from some of David's work, and photographs. These catalogues will be available on the evening of the auction for a modest and yet to be determined fee. Don't miss out as they are bound to become collectors' items.

It is a great privilege to be able to auction David's books. Don't miss out on the auction. It should be a memorable night.

ED. & PUB.	AUTHOR	TITLE	CONDITION	SIGNED
<b>BOOK 1</b>				
1st/2004	NSW Rod Fishers' Society	<i>The Flowing Stream - 100 years of angling...</i>	MINT	No
COMMENTS: No 436 of a limited edition of 1,000 copies. Gift to David Scholes and signed by Marty Rogers - October 2004. Multiple authors - edited by Peter Gibson.				
<b>BOOK 2</b>				
1st/1994	Tony Ritchie	<i>Dry Fly-Fishing for Trout</i>	MINT	Yes
COMMENTS: Gift to David Scholes from the author and signed by the author.				
<b>BOOK 3</b>				
1st/1994	Tony Ritchie	<i>Finding Feeding Trout</i>	VERY FINE	Yes
COMMENTS: Gift to David Scholes from the author and signed by the author. Top left hand side of front cover faded. Nothing major.				
<b>BOOK 4</b>				
1st/1949	John McDonald*	<i>The Complete Fly Fisherman</i>	FAIR	No
COMMENTS: The Notes and Letters of Theodore Gordon. *Edited with an Introduction by John McDonald. D.W. Scholes signed facing frontpiece. Dust jacket damaged and glued onto a backing card.				
<b>BOOK 5</b>				
1st/1910	F.M. Halford	<i>Modern Development of the Dry Fly</i>	GOOD	No
COMMENTS: No dust jacket. With Compliments - J. Malcolm Gillies sticker inside front cover.				
<b>BOOK 6</b>				
1st/1950	Vincent Marinaro	<i>A Modern Dry - Fly Code</i>	GOOD	No
COMMENTS: Inscribed "To David Scholes... Joe Brooks." Dust jacket damaged otherwise in good condition.				
<b>BOOK 7</b>				
1st/1979	Tony Orman	<i>The Sport in Fishing</i>	MINT	Yes
COMMENTS: Inscribed "To David Scholes best wishes Tony Orman."				
<b>BOOK 8</b>				
	John Waller Hills	<i>A History of Fly Fishing for Trout</i>	FAIR	No
COMMENTS: Cover damaged by storing in damp. With Compliments - J. Malcolm Gillies sticker inside front cover.				
<b>BOOK 9</b>				
1st/2000	Seth Norman	<i>A Fly Fisher's Guide to Crimes of Passion</i>	MINT	No

COMMENTS: Inscribed inside facing front page "David Scholes."

**BOOK 10**

1st/1968 Sir Hudson Fysh *Round the Bend in the Stream* NEAR MINT No

COMMENTS: Inscribed on frontispiece "David Scholes."

**BOOK 11**

2nd/1970 W.E. Frost and M.E. Brown *The Trout* FINE No

COMMENTS: Fontana publication in paperback.

**BOOK 12**

1st/1968 John Turnbull *A Fly on the Stream* VERY FINE No

COMMENTS: Some damage due to dampness on front outside board cover.

**BOOK 13**

9th/1985 Southland *Trout Fishing in Southland New Zealand* VERY FINE No

Acclimatisation Society

COMMENTS: Inscribed inside front cover "To David Scholes with the Compliments of... Peter M. Cullen (business card). Soft cover. Original letter enclosed to David Scholes from Peter Cullen.

**BOOK 14**

3rd/1941 John Waller Hills *A Summer on the Test* VERY GOOD No

COMMENTS: No dust jacket. Signature inside front cover. (?)

**BOOK 15**

1st/1876 William Henderson *Notes and Reminiscences of my* FAIR Yes

*Life as an Angler*

COMMENTS: Photo of and signature by author. Few pages slightly damaged. Private circulation. With Compliments - J. Malcolm Gillies sticker inside front cover.

**BOOK 16**

1st/1946 L.J. Wackett *My Hobby is Trout Fishing* FINE No

COMMENTS: D.W. Scholes inscribed on facing page inside front cover.

**BOOK 17**

Major General *The Major Goes Fishing* GOOD No

Geoffrey Brooke *A Fantasy of the Chalk Stream*

COMMENTS: Binding coming loose.

**BOOK 18**

1st/1951 Roderick Haig-Brown *Fisherman's Spring* GOOD No

COMMENTS: Inscribed inside front cover " To David... From Jim Boswell... Dust jacket tacked to inside of cover - front and back.

**BOOK 19**

1st/ R.H. Wigram *The Shannon Rise* VERY GOOD No

COMMENTS: D. Scholes inscribed on outside front cover.

**BOOK 20**

1st/1948 Roderick Haig-Brown *A River Never Sleeps* GOOD No

COMMENTS: Owner's name inscribed on page facing front cover. David Scholes inscribed on page facing front cover.

**BOOK 21**

1st/1899 H.G. McClelland *How to Tie Flies for Trout and Grayling* FAIR No

or (*The Trout FlyDresser's Cabinet of Devices*)

COMMENTS: Inscribed by Chas. H. Harrison 20/9/00 Launceston Tasmania.

**BOOK 22**

1st/1937 Bernard Alfieri and *Where to Catch Salmon and Trout* FAIR No

W.J.M. Menzies

COMMENTS: Inscribed Sgt Scholes R.A.A.F. Alroad with his London address.

**BOOK 23**

1st/1978 Ron MacKenzie *The Ratbag Mind of Dinas Vawr* FINE Yes  
 COMMENTS: Inscribed Copy No.12 with added inscription "For David Scholes etc... Ron."

**BOOK 24**

1st/1977 Charles McLaren *Fishing for Salmon* VERY GOOD Yes  
 COMMENTS: Inscribed "To David Scholes with best wishes... Charles McLaren." Original letter enclosed to David Scholes from Charles McLaren.

**BOOK 25**

1st/1963 Charles C. McLaren *The Art of Sea Trout Fishing* VERY FINE No

**BOOK 26**

1st/1884 Edward Hamilton M.D. *Fly-Fishing for Salmon, Trout and Grayling* GOOD No  
 COMMENTS: With Compliments - J. Malcolm Gillies sticker inside front cover.

**BOOK 27**

1st/2000 Seth Norman *The Fly Fishers's Guide to Crimes of Passion* MINT No

**BOOK 28**

5th/1947 Arthur Ransome *Rod and Line* VERY GOOD No  
 COMMENTS: Inscribed with David Scholes signature inside front cover. Slight damage to dust cover.

**BOOK 29**

1st/1970 Neil Robson & David Scholes *Tasmanian Angler* VERY FINE Yes  
 COMMENTS: No number - proof copy. Signed by both authors. Includes newspaper review of book. Also includes two colour photos of a river somewhere.

**BOOK 30**

2nd/1930 John Waller Hills *A Summer on the Test* FAIR No

**BOOK 31**

1st/1998 Don Gilmour *Trout Fishery of Tasmania* GOOD Yes  
 - Volume III - 1950 - 1999  
 COMMENTS: Spine and top of front cover badly faded - otherwise good. Signed by author October 1998.

**BOOK 32**

1st/1973 Don Gilmour *The Tasmanian Trout* VERY FINE No  
 COMMENTS: Includes newspaper review of book by David Scholes.

**BOOK 33**

1st/1953 Mosely and Kimmins *Trichoptera of Australia and New Zealand* FAIR No  
 (Caddis-Flies)  
 COMMENTS: Inside front cover is water damaged - not badly.

**BOOK 34**

1st/1992 Bryn Hammond *Halcyon Days* VERY GOOD No  
 COMMENTS: David Scholes inscribed on frontispiece. Damaged dust jacket otherwise very good condition.

**BOOK 35**

1990 Alfred Ronalds *The Fly-Fisher's Entomology* VERY FINE No  
 COMMENTS: Slight marking on back outer back cover.

**BOOK 36**

Michael Joseph *Muriel Foster's Fishing Diary (with slip case)* MINT No  
 COMMENTS: A Fishing Diary compiled and illustrated by Muriel Foster between 1913-1949. Included is a printed history of Muriel Foster.

**BOOK 37**

1st/1959 Cooma-Monaro Historical Society *Historic Kiandra - A Guide to the History of the District* GOOD No  
 COMMENTS: Some written notes and jottings by David Scholes on pages 70 & 71. Included is a map and various brochures

on the Snowy Mountains. Staples inside front cover have rusted badly.

**BOOK 38**

Pub. Proof R.H. Wigram *The Fly* MINT No  
COMMENTS: Leather-bound copy. Inscribed 'For David Scholes... Mike Stevens May 2002.

**BOOK 39**

1st/1947-8 John Rodgers *English Rivers* GOOD No

**BOOK 40**

1st/1971 Rodger Hungerford *Guide to Trout Angling* FINE No  
COMMENTS: David Scholes inscribed on frontispiece.

**BOOK 41**

3rd/2001 R. Slater *Rod and Line in Tasmania* MINT No  
COMMENTS: Limited edition of fifty, published by Stevens Publishing - 2001. Inscribed by David Scholes inside front cover.

**BOOK 42**

1st/2004 Rob Sloane - Editor *Short Casts* MINT Yes  
COMMENTS: Inscribed 'David... Best Wishes, Rob Sloane

**BOOK 43**

1st/1952 J.R. Harris *An Angler's Entomology* GOOD No  
COMMENTS: Inscribed by David Scholes inside front cover. Pencil marks and notes by David Scholes scattered throughout book.

**BOOK 44**

1st/1989 Robert Sloane *More About Trout* MINT No

**BOOK 45**

N/A A Scottish Tourist *Angler's Guide to Scottish Waters 1977* FINE No  
Board Publication  
COMMENTS: Included are various brochures and hand-written notes relation to David Scholes trip to Scotland in 1977.

**BOOK 46**

1958 C.S.I.R.O. *The Trout Fishery in Tasmania* FINE No  
COMMENTS: A soft-cover brochure detailing a study by Dr. A.G. Nicholls on the Tasmanian Fishery. Examination of the fish population to see if overfishing is occurring - also information on conserving and improving the fishery.

**BOOK 47**

2nd/1987 Greg French *Trout Fishing in Tasmania* VERY FINE Yes  
COMMENTS: Inscribed To David Scholes... Greg French 3-11-87. Soft cover edition.

**BOOK 48**

1st/1998 Roy Dean *Memories of the Shannon Rise* VERY FINE No  
COMMENTS: Inscribed by publisher - 'To David Scholes... Michael Stevens. Soft cover edition.

**BOOK 49**

Jack Pollard - Editor *Australian and New Zealand Fishing* FINE No  
COMMENTS: Inscribed by David Scholes on frontispiece. Fading and torn dust jacket, otherwise very good condition. A review copy sent to David Scholes by Paul Hamlyn Press Officer Amanda Blake. Review details on card included in book With Compliments note.

**BOOK 50**

2nd/1965 Charles Ritz *A Fly Fisher's Life* POOR No  
COMMENTS: Badly damaged dust jacket. Water and long-term dampness damage to cover and interior much in evidence. Inscribed twice by David Scholes inside front of book.

**BOOK 51**

3rd/1997 Rob Sloane *Fly Fishing Fundamentals* MINT No

**BOOK 52**

1st/1988 John Roberts *To Rise A Trout* MINT No  
COMMENTS: Inscribed 'Dear David... Pat 1990.

**BOOK 53**

2nd/1959 Bernard Venables *The Angler's Companion* GOOD No  
COMMENTS: Stamped D.W. Scholes twice inside front cover. Dust jacket badly damaged otherwise good condition.

**BOOK 54**

2nd/1966 Sir Hudson Fysh *Qantas Rising* VERY GOOD Yes  
COMMENTS: Inscribed 'To David Scholes... Hudson Fysh, Launceston, 13th November 1967. Slight damage to dust jacket and cover otherwise good.

**BOOK 55**

1st/1970 Sir Hudson Fysh *Wings to the World - The Story of Qantas* NEAR MINT Yes  
COMMENTS: Inscribed 'For my friend David Scholes... Hudson Fysh, 3/11/70.' Banner attached - QANTAS 50th Anniversary. Slight damage to ends of the dust jacket otherwise in very good condition.

**BOOK 56**

C.F. Walker *Brown Trout and Dry Fly* GOOD No  
COMMENTS: D.W. Scholes has been stamped in two places inside front cover.

**BOOK 57**

1st/1955 Ernest G. Schwiebert, Jr. *Matching The Hatch* GOOD No  
COMMENTS: Dust jacket badly damaged. D.W. Scholes has been stamped once inside front cover.

**BOOK 58**

1st/1966 Douglas Stewart *The Seven Rivers* MINT No  
COMMENTS: Inscribed on inside front page David Scholes. Covered in clear plastic.

**BOOK 59**

1st/1959 George Patterson *Chasing Rainbows* FINE No  
COMMENTS: Small amount of damage to dust jacket. D.W. Scholes has been stamped twice inside front cover.

**BOOK 60**

1st/1953 C.F. Walker *Chalk Stream Flies* VERY GOOD No  
COMMENTS: Damage to dust jacket on front and spine.

**BOOK 61**

1st/2004 John Brookes *Lifelong Pleasure - Seventy Years of Fly Fishing* MINT No

**BOOK 62**

1st/1950 L.J. Wackett *Studies of An Angler* GOOD No  
COMMENTS: Inscribed inside front cover David Scholes. Small amount of damage to top front of dust jacket.

**BOOK 63**

4th/1985 Sidney Spencer *Clear Water Trout Fishing With Worm* VERY FINE No  
COMMENTS: Fading on part of front and spine of dust jacket.

**BOOK 64**

1st/1991 Peter Leuver *The Fisher's Log Book* VERY GOOD No  
COMMENTS: Slight damage to front cover.

**BOOK 65**

1st/1938 R.H. Wigram *Trout and Fly in Tasmania* FINE No  
COMMENTS: Inscribed inside front cover David Scholes. Dust jacket in excellent condition.

**BOOK 66**

1st/1951 R.H. Wigram *The Uncertain Trout* GOOD Yes  
COMMENTS: Front facing page damaged extensively by silverfish. Photo of author in book signed by him. Dust jacket in quite good condition.

**BOOK 67**

1st/1961 George Patterson *Angling in the Andes* VERY GOOD No

<b>BOOK 68</b>	R.D. Baird	<i>A Trout Rose - Being a picture of the upper waters of the Itchen and... fishing in those streams</i>	GOOD	No
COMMENTS: D.W. Scholes has been stamped once inside front cover. Badly damaged dust jacket.				
<b>BOOK 69</b>	1st/2002 John Gooderham & Edward Tsyrlin	<i>The Waterbug Book</i>	MINT	No
COMMENTS: Inscribed inside front cover David Scholes from Marty R. 11/02.				
<b>BOOK 70</b>	1st/2002 Greg French	<i>Frog Call</i>	MINT	No
<b>BOOK 71</b>	1st/1968 John Child	<i>Australian Pond and Stream Life</i>	FINE	No
<b>BOOK 72</b>	1st/1958 Joe Brooks	<i>Complete Book of Fly Fishing</i>	GOOD	Yes
COMMENTS: Inscribed "To David Scholes... Tight Lines, Joe Brooks." March 23rd 1959. Slight damage to dust jacket and spine at the top.				
<b>BOOK 73</b>	1st/1966 Jack Pollard - Editor	<i>The Scream of the Reel</i>	VERY FINE	No
<b>BOOK 74</b>	1st/1993 Graeme Bourke	<i>Come Fly Fish With Me</i>	VERY FINE	Yes
COMMENTS: Signed by the author. Inscribed inside front cover David Scholes.				
<b>BOOK 75</b>	1st/1991 Peter Leuver	<i>Fur &amp; Feather</i>	MINT	No
COMMENTS: Inscribed inside front cover David Scholes.				
<b>BOOK 76</b>	1st/1978 Max Stokes	<i>Tasmanian Trout Fly Patterns</i>	VERY FINE	Yes
COMMENTS: Has the typical 'rusty staples' situation which all first edition copies seem to have. Inscribed "To David, with many thanks for your assistance & encouragement, Max Stokes, 9/2/78. This is David Scholes proof copy obtained prior to him writing his foreword in 1977. It has pencilled changes noted in text.				
<b>BOOK 77</b>	1st/1999 Brian Cadle	<i>With Rod and Reel Angling Memories...</i>	MINT	Yes
COMMENTS: Number 22 of 100 copies. Soft cover limited publication of Brian Cadle's poetry.				
<b>BOOK 78</b>	1964 The House of Hardy	<i>Anglers Guide and Catalogue for 1964</i>	VERY FINE	No
COMMENTS: Inscribed inside front cover "With Compliments, Don Gilmour".				
<b>BOOK 79</b>	British Standards Institution	<i>Printers' and Authors' Proof Corrections</i>	FINE	No
COMMENTS: The Proof and Corrections card that was used by David Scholes to assist him in his writings.				
<b>BOOK 80</b>	Wales Tourist Board	<i>WNWDA Guide to Fresh Water Fishing in Wales</i>	FINE	No
COMMENTS: Number of pages marked throughout book by David, some creased on top corner.				
<b>BOOK 81</b>	1st/1977 Don Gilmour	<i>Trout in North-Western Tasmania</i>	GOOD	No
COMMENTS: Booklet produced by The North Western Fisheries Assn. to commemorate their 50th Year of Service to Angling. Fading on front cover otherwise in very good condition.				
<b>BOOK 82</b>	1940 Alcock & Pierce	<i>"With Rod and Reel"</i>	VERY GOOD	No
COMMENTS: RETAIL ONLY 1939-40 Fishing Catalogue.				

**BOOK 83**

57th Ann. Northern Tasmanian *NTFA Annual Report 1955* VERY GOOD No  
 Report Fisheries Association

COMMENTS: Copy of letter written to NTFA by Dick Wigram and sent from Lake Amesbury, Wiltshire, 24th June, 1955.

**BOOK 84**

63rd Ann. Northern Tasmanian *NTFA Annual Report 1961* GOOD No  
 Report Fisheries Association

COMMENTS: Article by David Scholes 'Little Thoughts on Fish and Fishing.'

**BOOK 85**

64th Ann. Northern Tasmanian *NTFA Annual Report 1962* GOOD No  
 Report Fisheries Association

COMMENTS: Article and chart by Dick Wigram "Four Years on... the Lower Lake River. Article by David Scholes 'Little Thoughts on Fish and Fishing.'

**BOOK 86**

68th Ann. Northern Tasmanian *NTFA Annual Report 1966* GOOD No  
 Report Fisheries Association

**BOOK 87**

81st Ann. Northern Tasmanian *NTFA Annual Report 1979* GOOD No  
 Report Fisheries Association

**BOOK 88**

82nd Ann. Northern Tasmanian *NTFA Annual Report 1980* GOOD No  
 Report Fisheries Association

COMMENTS: Article by Tony Ritchie 'My Season at Brumby's Creek and the Macquarie.'

**BOOK 89**

83rd Ann. Northern Tasmanian *NTFA Annual Report 1981* GOOD No  
 Report Fisheries Association

COMMENTS: Slight silverfish damage to front cover and spine. Article by Tony Ritchie 'My Season at Brumby's Creek and the Macquarie.' Article by J.M. (Maury) Wilson 'Heartbreak at Brumby's.'

**BOOK 90**

1st/1963 University of Qld Press *The Life and Work of Robin John Tillyard* VERY FINE No  
 COMMENTS: Booklet of the Life and Work of Tillyard, often quoted by David Scholes in his own books.

**BOOK 91**

No date. Redpath & Co. *Redpath & Co. Kelso-On-Tweed Fishing Catalogue* VERY GOOD No

COMMENTS: Soft cover catalogue on assorted fishing tackle.

**BOOK 92**

2001 National Weeds Committee *Willows* VERY GOOD No

COMMENTS: Booklet containing information on Willows as Weeds of National Significance and used by David Scholes in his writings on the pest in Tasmania.

**ANGLING - A Country Life Publication:** Nov-53, Feb-54, Mar-54, Apr-54, Jan-55, Jul-55, Aug-55, Sep-55  
 Periodical magazine containing some fly fishing related articles by a few notable angling writers.

**SOUTHERN TASMANIAN LICENSED ANGLERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT - Season 1969-1970**

Article on Increasing Distribution of Macquarie Red Spinner by Max Stokes.

**SOUTHERN TASMANIAN LICENSED ANGLERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT - Season 1970-1971**

Article on Mayfly Transfers Will Improve Your Fishing by David Scholes.

CATALOGUE - *The Rod Box* - Winchester - 1974/75.

CATALOGUE'S - *Tight Lines* produced by ABU: 1959, 1966, 1967, 1971

## WINTER CASTING

Starting Soon

1 June 2008

Please come and share a coffee and one of Nancy's famous cookies with the Master Caster.

Some people come from Tasmania!

Be at the Red Tag Pool, Fairfield

SUNDAYS  
BETWEEN 9AM AND 12 NOON

## THINGS OUR MEMBERS DO WHEN THEY ARE NOT FISHING

**Kevin Hindle gives free advice to  
Grand Prix Racing Drivers.**



The MG Car Club of Victoria provided a fleet of MGTs to squire the Grand Prix drivers on their 'meet and greet' lap just prior to their starting the race. The photo shows Kevin driving the youngest Formula One Racing driver, Sebastian Vettel, around the Grand Prix Circuit at Albert Park. Unfortunately, Sebastian crashed out in the first lap. Whether this is because he did or did not take Kevin's abundant advice is a matter still subject to investigation.

## BULLEN MERRI FISHING WEEKEND & DINNER

20 & 21 June 2008

Richard Goodall is again organizing two days fishing in the Camperdown area and a dinner at the property of Caroline and John Menzies.

The dinner will be prepared by their charming daughter Karenza.

The evening commences at 6.30pm for drinks, BYO (please bring your favourite). Dress sports casual.

Please don't miss this wonderful weekend.

For all enquiries please contact:  
Richard Goodall 9888 9514 or  
Rick Dugina 0401 963 601

## JOSELAND MEETING VFFA Members Welcome

The next Joseland Meeting will be in the Lincoln Room, Best Western Manor Inn  
669 Maroondah Highway, Mitcham

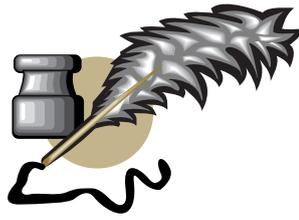
## BOOK AUCTION SATURDAY 19th APRIL 2008

We have the function room booked with round tables of 8-10 people. Payment will be direct to the restaurant on a per couple basis.  
Pre-dinner drinks 7.00 pm sharp.  
Dinner orders at 7.30 sharp.

Cost \$40 per head  
Meal – Choice of 2 Mains on Menu and Dessert

**PLEASE RSVP by 12th April 2008**  
**Telephone Leigh Baragawanath 0407 517 266**

**Also with all those with books for Auction  
– please contact Bill Classon ASAP.**



## DICK WIGRAM'S GHOST

Near Stewarton Bridge there's a beat, along the Macquarie River,  
Where in the timeless eddies, reeds dance and gently quiver;  
Beside the paddock borders, her restless spirit flows,  
And rising trout are thwarted by the wind in gusty throes.  
But by her soothing currents, with strap-weed swinging free,  
Past the old bent willows: that's where Dick Wigram used to be.

The golden years have passed, but still there rests his place,  
Where spinners flutter boldly, then spent, the waters grace,  
Beneath the southern skies, which on dusk are crimson bled,  
Leaping trout display their spots of black and painted red.  
Yes, the golden years have gone, but there's still a sight to see,  
Along the river's path, beyond a bent old willow tree.

Mother England often called him, but he never settled down,  
And I fancy he missed his river with her natural flowing gown.  
Yes, sometimes the old country beckoned, with stirring voices strong,  
But 'twas a distant river that would call him with her song.  
I like to think that he would be content to spend eternity,  
Resting by this river, down past a bent old willow tree.

Along the saggy borders the frogs still chorus nightly;  
Against the azure sky, dragonflies dart and hover brightly;  
Many times her waters have ebbed, then kindly flooded;  
Many times her trees have shed their leaves, then budded;  
And many moons have waxed and waned, over land and seas,  
Since he last wandered, down past the bent old willow trees.

So when you fish the river, and you see a vacant spot,  
Stop, and raise your hat to him; and imagine it's his plot.  
Listen to the skylarks, but hear him whispering on the breeze;  
Then gaze at far-off tiers, but see him stalking on his knees.  
Yes, look and listen carefully, past a twisted willow tree,  
And see the phantom angler, where Dick Wigram used to be.

\*\*\*\*\*

# FLIES OF THE MONTH

## *(For the Angler of Advanced Years)*

In *Lifelong Pleasure, Seventy Years of Fly Fishing* John Brookes detailed some handy hints for the fly fisher of advanced years. It should be compulsory reading for anglers of 65 years and over. And let's face it that covers a fair proportion of the members of this association.

This month's newsletter has no fly of the month as such. Instead I will outline a number of flies that our older and dodderly members with failing eyesight should find useful. Such flies must have three essential qualities. They must be good floaters, easy to see and attractive to our quarry, the trout. Thus, they will remain afloat when the aging angler dozes off, be readily visible when he wakes up and may even catch a trout! Here they are:

### **The Royal Wulff**

The Royal Wulff is a champion floater and the white calf tail wings make it very easy to see and is very durable. It is a coarse and garish fly. It is particularly favoured by our angling brothers and sisters in America where such things are not regarded as being of importance. This fly does not remotely resemble any insect that I have seen floating down a trout stream. Despite all these shortcomings, the Royal Wulff has proved to be one of the world's best trout flies on both lakes and rivers. It deserves its place at the top of the list of flies for the angler of advanced years.

### **The Palmered Red Tag**

This fly should be used by our geriatric members on bright sunny days. It should be tied with hackles on the ginger side of red. It is important that fluorescent red wool is used for the tag. The combination of the ginger/red hackle, iridescent green peacock herl body and fluorescent red wool tag makes the fly very easy to see on a sunny day. Trout in broken streams and the lagoons of the Central Plateau of Tasmania take this fly readily. This fly has in more recent years been dubbed the 'Guide's Tag', which is interesting as John Pilkington and I were using it forty years ago when there were no trout guides in Australia!

### **The Zulu**

I first fished the Kybeyan River in New South Wales on Kybeyan Station near Nimmitabel. They were wonderful times as there had been a long sequence of relatively wet seasons. The Kybeyan was teeming with very large trout. My red letter day came when I landed a brace of browns weighing 6 pounds 11 ounces and 4 pounds 9 ounces and hooked another large fish, all in the one pool. The fish were taking small mayfly duns from the surface. This fishing is definitely not for the elderly angler as the small dry flies that must be used are very difficult to see.

Ron Moulds, the owner of Kybeyan Station, was a fly fisher. At that time Ron was

definitely an angler of advancing years. But he caught his share of large fish from the river. Ron would use a massive and unsinkable Zulu. The Kybeyan was a sluggish and weed-choked stream. Ron would cast his Zulu into the mirrors between the weeds in his favourite pool, the Golden Mile. He would quietly smoke a cigarette while his Zulu sat bobbing in the mirror. In fact, I can't remember ever seeing Ron without a half smoked roll your own in the corner of his mouth. Ron did not even have to watch his fly. All he had to do was wait for the slurp which would announce that a cruising fish had taken the fly and strike. This was ideal as it enabled him to keep an eye out for the snakes that infested the tussocks along the Kybeyan. Rodney Whiteway once saw 14 snakes in a morning in the river.

### **The Last Cast Fly**

This fly does not bear talking about. However, Matthew Seal must have been using it when he landed his last fish from the Great Lake early last century. The trout which weighed twenty something pounds was found alongside his body on the shores of the lake.

## ALL ARTISTS, SCULPTORS & PHOTOGRAPHERS *you are invited to enter the* Victorian Fly-Fishers' Association 2008 Art Show

The Victorian Fly-Fishers' Association (VFFA) is holding a show of angling art at the Victorian Artists' Society in Melbourne next July. For 75 years the VFFA has encouraged the art of angling; now the VFFA is pleased to encourage angling art.

The show is for original works from artists working with watercolour, oils, acrylic, pen and ink, pencil, photography, sculpture or mixed media.

- The artwork must relate to angling.
- It must be new, original, the concept of the artist and owned by the artist.
- Prizes will be awarded for the best in various categories.

The show will open at the **Victoria Artists' Society, 430 Albert Street, East Melbourne** on the afternoon of **Friday, July 25** and will be open to the public all day over the weekend. The works of art will be offered for sale during the show at the sale price stipulated by the artist on the understanding that the VFFA will take 20% commission on all works sold to help cover costs. Full details of the scope of work which will be considered for showing are on the entry form.



For your copy of the **VFFA Art Show Entry Form** please send an email to [squires @eftel.net.au](mailto:squires@eftel.net.au) or call **Paul Squires** on 0427 047 926.

*Entries close on **Friday, May 2** so don't delay and apply for your entry form today.*



## LIBRARY NEWS

All members should remember that the Mick Martin Memorial Library is one of the most extensive collections of fly-fishing literature in Australia. It is valuable in its own right but is a great asset to members wishing to expand their knowledge or who simply enjoy sitting by the fireside and vicariously enjoying the exploits of others. In addition, the library boasts a number of videos on trout fishing. Our librarian Marty Rogers will be available prior to each general meeting to assist members wishing to borrow books or videos.

The library is divided into three parts.

Part 1 Books available for loaning to members.

Part 2 Books available for reference only and not to be taken from the library.

Part 3 Books bequeathed to the Association and not to be taken from the cabinet.

## OVERDUE BOOKS

Our librarian reports that a number of members have failed to return library books on time. Could all those book loving members who have failed to return books promptly do so.

## V.F.F.A. ITEMS FOR SALE

The Association has the following quality items for sale:

Columbia Shirts.....	\$70.00 each
Polarfleece jacket with VFFA logo.....	\$40.00 each
Association ties (blue or maroon).....	\$35.00 each
Cloth badges .....	\$7.00 each
Diaries .....	\$2.00 each
<b><i>The Australian Trout by Jack Ritchie</i></b> .....	<b>\$20.00</b>
<b><i>(Special offer – buy one, get one free!)</i></b>	
V.F.F.A. car stickers .....	\$2.00 each

Members wishing to purchase any of these items should contact Hugh Maltby prior to the monthly General Meeting on telephone 9455 9017.

### VALUED DONORS

**The following made donations for the raffle at the 2006 Annual Dinner:**

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