



## Newsletter of The Southern Fly Fishers Club

December 2020



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# The President's Report

Allan Russell

Fellow Fly Fishers

Well folks, we come to the end of the year and this is my last President's report for 2020 - and what a year it's been!

It is probably one that we are all glad to see come and go - remembering that most of the developed world is still in strife and will remain so until the vaccines can be distributed.

In Australia we are in a good spot. Restrictions have been lifted and we are at last able to socialise and head out fishing.

One great example of this was last weekend's superb Christmas barbecue held in the grounds of the club rooms and what an occasion it was. The weather was a bit inclement but it didn't dampen the spirits. A great deal of behind-the-scenes organisation went into the success of the social event and special thanks to Julia and Chris for all their help. Thanks also to our superhuman treasurer Bryan for making the event possible by securing the modified liquor license we required to hold the event outdoors.

Needless to say, the barbecue was a great social gathering for the club and immensely enjoyable so thanks to all involved for their support

With the lifting of movement restrictions, the Club has been busy with trips and in this newsletter there are reports on two great trips we undertook. We have trips aplenty coming up with the proposed Tasmania trip to Julian lakes being a notable one.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Committee for their commitment to the club this year and for their support generally. Amongst a raft of new initiatives, there is good news in this newsletter about an in-house fly-fishing course for beginners and novice fly-fishers.

During the past month, I received an e-mail from Julian Hart, advising me of his retirement as a Member. Julian is a long-standing member and, at 77, has decided to leave some fish for the younger Members to catch! In a wonderful gesture, Julian has donated his extensive collection of equipment to the Club. We thank Julian for this gift which will be put to good use and wish him all the very best.

It is our intention to again hold meetings at the club from February onwards. We shall be putting in place a CovidSafe Plan and details thereof will be e-mailed to members in due course – check your e-mails.

And so, finally, I wish you all a great Festive break everyone and come back refreshed and recharged for 2021 and until the new year then,

Sincere good wishes,

Allan.

## Committee – Officers and Delegates 2020 - 2021

The Officers and Delegates for 2020 – 2021 are:

<b>President</b>	Allan Russell	<a href="mailto:president@southernflyfishers.org.au">president@southernflyfishers.org.au</a>	0437 240 323
<b>Vice President</b>	Garry Mulvey	<a href="mailto:vicepresident@southernflyfishers.org.au">vicepresident@southernflyfishers.org.au</a>	
<b>Treasurer</b>	Bryan Macpherson	<a href="mailto:treasurer@southernflyfishers.org.au">treasurer@southernflyfishers.org.au</a>	0419 313 807
<b>Secretary</b>	Grant Dawson	<a href="mailto:secretary@southernflyfishers.org.au">secretary@southernflyfishers.org.au</a>	0447 722 916
<b>Trip Coordinator &amp; Licensee</b>	Peter Suzic	<a href="mailto:trips@southernflyfishers.org.au">trips@southernflyfishers.org.au</a>	0423 503 974
<b>Webmaster</b>	Bruce Quig	<a href="mailto:webmaster@southernflyfishers.org.au">webmaster@southernflyfishers.org.au</a>	0402 141 460
<b>Committee</b>	Graeme Renfrey		0448 713 948
<b>Committee</b>	Chris Mastwyk		0439 016 530
<b>Committee</b>	Julia Williams		0419 750 845
<b>Committee</b>	Dean Gordon		0408 549 005
<b>Committee</b>	Gerard Carmody		0434 033 856

## Club Caps for Sale



**SFF Club caps are \$10ea at the regular**

**available for purchase at Wednesday club meetings**

## **Important – CovidSafe Plan**

In anticipation of re-opening the Club Rooms early in the New Year, the Committee is currently formulating a CovidSafe Plan which will apply to everyone visiting the Rooms. Once completed, a summary of the Plan will be e-mailed to all Members and you are urged to read through it. If, when you get it, you have any queries regarding its operation or suggestions for improvements, please e-mail them to the Secretary at [secretary@southernflyfishers.org.au](mailto:secretary@southernflyfishers.org.au)

The Club will be applying stringent hygiene and social distancing measures in the Rooms and Members are requested to comply with the plan.

Most importantly, if you have any flu-like symptoms, do not visit the Club Rooms.

If you develop symptoms after a visit to the Club Rooms, please get tested and if you are positive, advise a Committee member immediately. The Club will then work with the DHHS to ensure any Club Members who may be similarly infected are contacted and get tested. Similar rules apply to trips – if you have symptoms, do not join Club Members on a trip and if you develop symptoms after a trip then get tested and if you test positive, let a Committee member know.

The importance of this notification process cannot be stressed enough.

## **Members Beware**

Members are urged to be vigilant regarding scam e-mails. These scams have proliferated during lockdown and there are currently some very sophisticated scams in operation. In some instances, they may purport to come from the Club, fellow members or Committee members.

If you receive an e-mail requesting, in particular, your bank account details or a payment request it may well be part of a scam and we urge you not to respond.

If you have any suspicions, contact a Committee member for clarification before taking any action.

## **General Meeting Minutes**

No General Meeting Minutes are available due to the cancellation of the Members' meetings until such time as the current Corona Virus restrictions are lifted.

## **Calendar – Upcoming Events**

As the Corona Virus travel restrictions are eased, the Club calendar for trips and events is starting to fill up but Members are reminded that they may be re-scheduled, cancelled or

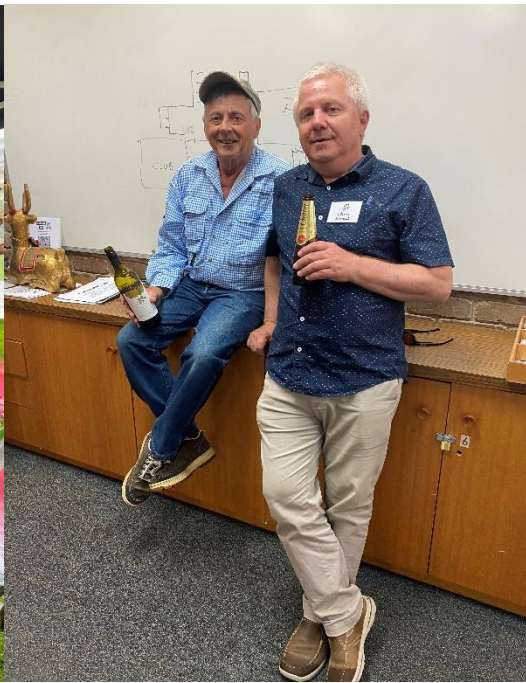
postponed at short notice. The calendar of upcoming events will be updated regularly so please keep checking the updates on the Club's Team App platform.

Date		Event/Location	Leader
TBA		Fly Tying nymphs for early season - 3 Wednesdays	Ross Bailey
TBA		Zoom session with Rick Dobson [Owner of Aussie Angler, Greensborough]	Allan Russell
December	11 <sup>th</sup> – 13th	Big River	Dean Gordon & Tony Hyett
2021			
January or February		New Zealand	TBA
January	10th	Noojee	TBA
	28th	Julian Lakes, Tasmania (to be confirmed)	TBA
February	14th	Goulburn River	TBA
	Late Feb, early March	New Zealand – dependent on travel & quarantine requirements	TBA
March	21st	Marysville	TBA
April	16 <sup>th</sup> – 18th	Barkly River, West Gippsland	TBA
May	7 <sup>th</sup> – 9th	Big River	TBA

## Christmas Party

On Sunday, 6 December the Club held its Christmas Party at the Club Rooms and on the shady, grassed area adjoining the casting pool and this event marked the first time that members could meet at the Club since the introduction of Covid restrictions at the end of March. Despite the inclement weather, it was great to see so many members out and enjoying the friendship and camaraderie of their fellow fly fishers.

It goes without saying that a lot of hard work and effort went into ensuring a successful gathering and special thanks are due to Julia Williams, Chris Mastwyk and Allan Russell for their contributions in making it a success.



## Membership Details and Confidentiality

The Membership List detailing the names and contact phone numbers of all active Club members has recently been updated and a lot of work has gone into reviewing the list to ensure it is accurate and up to date.

Please check your details and make sure they are correct.

If your name does not appear on the list or your contact details are not correct, please e-mail both [secretary@southernflyfishers.org.au](mailto:secretary@southernflyfishers.org.au) and [editor@southernflyfishers.org.au](mailto:editor@southernflyfishers.org.au) so that your details can be updated.

If you do not wish your name and/or phone number to be reflected on the Membership List for privacy reasons, please e-mail the Secretary and your details shall be removed.

## Membership Subscription Fees

Membership fees for members are as follows:

Cat	Membership Type	Annual Subs	Insurance per person	Total p.a.
M	Member	\$80	\$15	\$95
P	Member's spouse/partner	\$40	\$15	\$55
C	Concession – <b>note 1</b>	\$60	\$15	\$75
J	Junior (under 18 yrs)	\$40	\$15	\$55
S	FT Student (under 25 yrs)	\$50	\$15	\$65
CT	Country – <b>note 2</b>	\$50	\$15	\$65
F	Family Special – <b>note 3</b>	\$120	\$15	\$120*
L	Life Member	\$0	\$0	\$0

**Note 1** Govt. Pensions and Seniors Card holders

**Note 2** Permanently residing over 60km from Club

**Note 3** At least 3 adults, junior and students, of the same immediate family **\*(+ insurance each person)**

## Bank Account Details

For the information of members, the Club has changed its bankers. The bank account details are as follows:

The Southern Flyfishers Aust. Inc.

Bendigo Bank

BSB: 633 000

Acc No. 172 683 468

Please make sure your records are correct.

## Casting Sessions Suspended

Members are reminded that the Corona Virus restrictions mean the continued suspension of Bruce Ratcliffe's valuable Tuesday night casting sessions.

Members will be advised as soon as Bruce is able to re-start the sessions.

In the meantime, a working group has cleaned the pond and it remains open for any members who wish to go down and remove the rust from their technique.

## Fly Fishing Courses

The SFF Club recognises that there are members who would like to expand their fly-fishing knowledge or improve their skills in one or more aspects of the sport and that the same desire to learn probably exists in people who would like to take up the sport and join the Club.

To this end, the Club will be running a comprehensive trout-focused fly-fishing course for current members in mid-February. The course will be run at the SFF Club rooms over four nights and consecutive weeks (dates and times to be confirmed).

The course will be run by Rob Casamento; developed and instructed by Club members, including our certified casting instructors.

Content will include:

- Understanding rod, line, leaders, and tippets
- Casting techniques
- Fly choice
- Setting up for fishing dries, wets, and nymphs
- 'Stream-craft' for creeks, rivers and lakes

It is the goal that at the conclusion of the course, members will have the skills to participate confidently in club trips, and a fishing trip to an appropriate location will be organised.

The course will be free to members, with the only requirement being that they renew their annual membership for 2021/22.

It is not meant to replace other specialty courses that will continue to be run separately such as euro-nymphing and fly-tying.

Looking ahead, the course will also be offered to people wishing to take up the sport or who are new to it. Club equipment will be provided to those who do not have rods etc. The courses will be free to them, provided they join the Club.

If you would like to join the February course or require more information, please contact Gerard Carmody at [gerard.carmody@gmail.com](mailto:gerard.carmody@gmail.com) who is assisting with the course co-ordination.

## Armchair Fishing

As we come to the end of our long Corona Virus induced restrictions, we can again dream and plan for fishing trips in far-away places. Fire up the laptop and start a list of places near and far to add to our bucket list of places to visit.

This month, we can visit Zululand in South Africa and hunt fish which, it is claimed, are pound-for-pound the best fighters in the world.

<https://www.flyfishing.co.za/the-tailing-tigers-of-pongola/>

For publication in future editions, members are urged to send the web addresses of their dream places to the editor at [editor@southernflyfishers.org.au](mailto:editor@southernflyfishers.org.au).

## Friday Night Lights

Peter Suzic's Friday night Zoom fly tying sessions continue to be both informative and entertaining. Club members of all skill levels participate and there is a growing anticipation to get out and use the flies tied now that the Covid Virus restrictions are easing.

All members are invited to participate or log in to watch. Check your e-mails or the Club's Team App for details of what Pete is tying and what you need to tie your own or get hold of him for more information.

In the meantime, whether you've been good or bad – try tying the Santa Claus!



## Trip report – Noojee, 15 November 2020

With the easing of travel restrictions, it was an eclectic mix of Southern members who gathered early on a Sunday morning in the Noojee carpark, thrilled to be released by Dan for the Club's first post-Covid trip.

Included in the gathering were two of the Club's newest members – John Esson and Dave Miller and it was great to see them.

The tension across the group was palpable with the prize of a few hard-earned trout from different locations across the Noojee catchment area on offer.

Tony and Chris Mastwyk ventured to the Loch river, spurred on by their desire to hop over huge logs and bow and arrow cast at poor defenseless fish. The trout clearly didn't have a chance!

Ray and John Esson chose the middle beat of the Toorongo with John determined to expand his expletive vocabulary in the company of the club bon viveur. From all accounts, he wasn't disappointed.

Allan, Chris Ormerod and Malcolm Green favoured the gentler pastures of the Noojee car park alongside the La Trobe river.

Grant took Jeff Allen up into the falls and Dave Miller chose bridge number one on the Falls Road, upstream on the Toorongo.

Dean chose to fish the impossible La Trobe behind the trout farm and he gallantly went off alone.

With so much territory covered by such a fine group of fishermen, great things were anticipated.

At lunch time, reports came thick and fast as to how tough the fishing was with waters a little muddy and quite high. The tally was Tony with two on dries and Chris with a couple of hits but no cigar.

Allan's intrepid trio of Mal and Chris Ormerod battled gamely for a single lightning slash at Malcolm's humpy fly but again no score.

Grant and Jeff chalked up two fish at the falls both to dries.

Dave Miller had one fish on a Czech nymphing set up and Dean had two but found conditions very challenging. John Esson came back with a much-enhanced vocabulary care of Ray. Ray took three pampered fish on a rainbow warrior and John took one fish in the afternoon.

Rumour has it that no less than five disenchanted Southern members ventured to the trout farm but lost patience there after a relatively fruitless hour.

At 5 pm we all gathered in the Toolshed pub, quaffing cool beers and eating a variety of good fayre on a lovely evening in the Alpine Region.

We were joined briefly by Ross who took an amazing tally of twenty fish in two hours on bridge no 3 on the Falls Road, primarily using three types of caddis flies. Well done Ross – we all knew there were fish about!

It was a wonderful social gathering and it felt great to be out and fishing with fellow Club members.

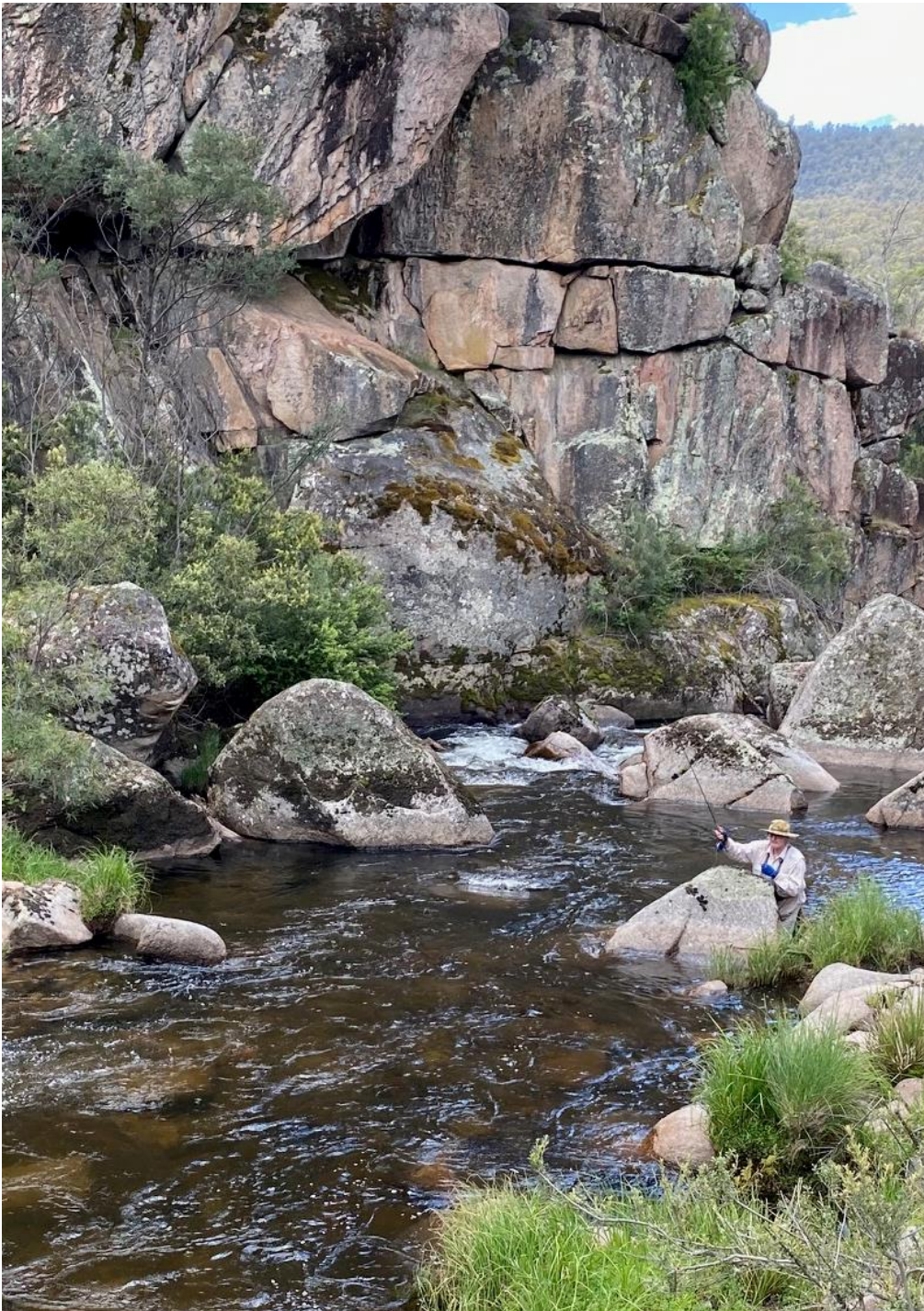
*Allan Russell.*

## **Hard Fishing, the 'Duck' is for sale and all this could be yours! Omeo Region Trip Report, 20-23 Nov**

Two of my sons have done school rowing, one after the other – the second one is now in his final season. Coincidentally, I've not been active or have been on a club trip for about eight years.

Peter Suzic asked me if I would mind leading this trip and, as the high-country area around Anglers' Rest is one of my favourites, I readily agreed. This was followed by several emails and phone calls along the lines of: "Yes, I'm coming on the trip; by the way, who the hell are you?" and after a late date change to allow for Covid restrictions to ease, the date was set for 20-23 Nov.

Ross B, Les P and Geoffrey C were heading up during the prior week and agreed to report on conditions for us.



### ***Grant D – Bundara Gorge***

#### **Friday**

Friday morning was a relatively quiet trip out of post lockdown Melbourne, with fine weather and green fields as far as the eye could see.

Ross, Geoffrey and Les reported fishing several rivers. Most rivers held fish but they were deep and not looking up (particularly the Mitta); there were some exceptions in the Cobungra and the Gibbo. Euro Nymphs seemed the best bet – fishing was not to be easy. Grant D, Gerard C and Alistair all arrived at the Hilltop Hotel around midday. Ray G, David P, Allan R, Graeme C, Carol, & Peter T and Alex H (New member) arrived afterwards. Alistair, Grant and Gerard departed to check out the Cobungra Access point marked on the maps from the Northern boundary of Dinner Plain Airport. Whilst the first 1km is navigable

by 4WD, it becomes a walking track for approximately the next 3km, over hills and into the valley. There's reputedly good fishing in there, however Friday was not the day for it. The excitement of the day proved too much for Alistair and Grant, who returned to the Hilltop for a nana nap. Gerard set off to the Hinnomunjie Bridge area of the Mitta Mitta and caught 3 smallish trout by Euro Nymphing. Later, at the Hilltop, several local farmers were overheard complaining as to where they were going to store all the hay they had cut. Over dinner at the Hilltop we hatched our plans.

## **Saturday**

The day was expected to be fine and 30-31 Degrees. Most of us met over breakfast to discuss the day. Allan and Graeme had already left for the Bundarra where they intended to eat.

We paired up Ray & David, Carol & Peter, Grant and Alistair, with Gerard solo. Alex was turning up a little later.

Allan and Graeme were located in the Bundarra Valley seated at a table with everything but the white tablecloth, tucking into their bacon and eggs on the bank where they intended to fish. Unfortunately, they had parked close to the gate which resulted in an unscheduled meeting with the farmer who informed them it was a bad place to be parked if he was moving cattle. Message to team - don't park near gates!

Ray and David, took the advice to avoid the expected crowded banks of the Mitta Mitta and tributary streams and immersed themselves in the beautiful surrounds of the Gibbo River, downstream. This was not much over half an hour's drive away.

It perplexed them as to why, save for a solitary fish wrangled by David, they produced nothing else. The following day they learned that a dozen or so friends from one of the local flyfishing clubs had visited that section of river they fished the day before. No wonder it was seemingly bereft of fish. It was to become a common theme for the weekend.

Grant and Alistair went over McCoy's and Mt Battery Tracks to fish the Cobungra. After initial success with fish rising to stimulator patterns, Grant touched two and Alistair landed one – the middle of the day stopped the action. Later in the day they went to have their first look at the Gibbo. It looked dark and fishless in the mid-afternoon.

Peter & Carol Trevissino focussed their efforts around Middle Creek where Carol was able to easily watch Peter fishing. Carol is thinking of buying a rod and joining Peter on the water. Peter saw signs of life in the water but did not land any fish.

Gerard fished the Mitta from Joker Flat, using a variety of methods, finding it to be relatively clear and got to really test out some rods he made during Covid iso. He loves his 10' 2wt, catching a few fish of okay size and a few smaller. Usually Euro nymphing, Gerard finally learnt the art of fishing dry flies to sipping trout on 7X tippet from Gary M; a blast on the 2wt 10' rod at Middle Creek Camping ground.

Grant and Alistair took Callaghan's Rd, McCoy's then Mt Battery Tracks across to the Cobungra where they found clear water and immediate noises of fish rising. Grant quickly dropped two and Alistair caught a 1.5 pounder before things went quiet soon after 11am, despite heading up river for over a kilometre.

## **Sunday**

Sunday was again expected to be around 30 degrees but with some instability and a likely thunderstorm in the afternoon. Allan and Graeme set off to Bright via the Victoria river. They later fished the Buckland, stayed at Porepunkah caravan park then home Monday.



Dave had a sore back, so he and Ray decided to take in some of the sights of the Mitta Mitta valley and around Mount Hotham which neither of them had seen in forty years. Some great and seriously ancient memories were recounted - a wonderful time. It surprised Ray as to how many people had come to the region. He met three he knew . . . simply extraordinary. Clearly the exodus from the city was high on the agenda of many.

Gerard and Alex paired up to cross McCoy's and Mt Battery and fish the Cobungra, where Gerard caught a brown on dry of ~1.5 lb with the last drift. They then moved to the Mitta where Gerard thought he was doing okay Euro nymphing upriver from Joker campground, catching a fish while a trio of Puddle Pirates (competition fishers) walked past.

He felt a little despondent soon after when they told me they had caught 20 (each!) Bye and bye, a terrific time with an opportunity to meet new members along with those who had been less active in recent years. I do look forward to expanding the experience on future club trips.

The day started sunny but became overcast, which increased with the humidity until the storm broke to not very much local rain. Grant and Alistair searched for fish in the Bundara Gorge (upstream from the highway bridge) where grant spotted a nice 2+ lb fish in a slow run, which Alistair was able to hook with a stimulator.



### ***Bundarra Gorge Brown***

Alistair spotted a fish about to take Grant's fly in a similar pool – he spotted it too late to warn Grant as it appeared vertically rising from the black depths to a stimulator. These fish were deep, but they were looking up.

In the final build up to the storm, there were good hatches of caddis particularly, with fish rising well to them. As soon as the storm broke, the caddis disappeared and with them the fish.

On their return to the cars, they bumped into Donald Beveridge of Bundarra Cabins who passed on his regards to Southern – we've used his accommodation on previous trips.

A team Dinner was held that evening at the Golden Age Hotel.

### **Monday**

Monday was for the return home for most and there were tropical volumes of rain mid-morning to add some challenge to the trip.



***Pete T near Middle Creek camping area on the Big River.***

Gerard is thinking it might be a good idea to consider a tree/trout change and buy the Blue Duck to live on the Mitta (the property is now for sale @ \$1.4M – well within Gerard's budget).

***Alistair Capp***

## **Southward Ho & Up the Mountain**

***The continuing adventures of Dave Reid in New Zealand***

After many weeks of lockdown in Victoria and then planning, travelling from Melbourne, arriving in Auckland, being whisked off and quarantined in Hamilton - the freedom and relaxed atmosphere told me I was back in New Zealand.

We drove down the North Island, staying in Taupo for a night where I fished a small tributary. Finding a spot was more difficult than expected in mid-week with plenty of people but it wasn't nearly as bad as the Goulburn on a good day! The first spot I tried had an old boy setting up and we got talking. On his first cast - bang! A nice 5lb rainbow in full spawning colours. Needless to say, that whetted the appetite and after discussing flies and tactics I jumped into the car and headed upstream to a spot he recommended. I only had a couple of hours to fish and the spot had cars parked at it – damn tourists! We went for a walk to see if we could see anything, with my wife walking ahead. She spotted a pool full of trout and came running back. Sure enough, it was like a David Attenborough documentary on Alaska - about forty plus fish doing their thing. I just started casting and wading regardless of my lack of waders and the freezing cold water. It was engrossing, the fish didn't spook but just moved aside with every cast. It was amazing to see rainbows refuse everything in 3ft of water - from eggs to Ray's favourite, the RW. I then got a job call and had to leave but needless to say (like the Terminator) I will be back.

We continued south and there was an air of excitement when we arrived in Christchurch just in time for opening. I won't bore you with those details as my purpose was my trip south for the opening of the high country and fishing Southland.

We left Christchurch, heading for Alex in the south. The weather gods had blessed us and apart from snow on the hills, it was looking good on the met forecasts we have come to trust. With neither maps nor a plan, we 4 intrepid anglers had decided to fish Southland and surrounds for a week then head back north to meet up with the Canterbury fly fishing clubs' annual "big" trip to Twizel where 30 anglers would be fishing for the weekend.

First stop for 2 of us was Lumsden. The weather could not have been better as we made a few purchases with Trev at Hurley's and headed out. Note to self, Lumsden wasn't the best for us - the Riversdale pub was better value and closer to rivers. It served better food and had rugby and other sports on the TV which were high on our agenda après fishing.

On day one we went on the Mataura but it was slightly high and discoloured due to the snow, making site fishing difficult and not what we were there for. We pulled the pin quickly and headed for a tributary we knew. It was clear as a bell with normal flows. We observed a truck at the top bridge so dropped to the lower and fished up from there. It was hard going, seeing no fish in the main river at all and I had the feeling we were stirring someone else's porridge. We were not seeing any fish which was worrying but eventually I got a bit of luck when I spotted and followed a side braid which opened out a little and there I found a nice fish feeding. It was quite fussy and didn't look at much and ate nothing. We couldn't work out what it was going for but it was still feeding. My mate Mike and I threw the box at it, even the wiggly worm but no luck! I then saw quite a big spinner and looked into my box for my big version of a pheasant tail - size 6. Yes, 6! I had tied something up after seeing a hatch of big flies on a small stream years ago and caught quite a few fish from the pool on my next visit. So here goes nothing I thought as I tied her on. First cast, the fish followed it 6 feet down stream. Next cast, bang - hooked it. It jumped, ran then spat the hook and to our

amazement, went back on station unfazed? So, cast again, hooked it again and this time it was hooked well.



After several seconds this fish ran up stream then turned and made a b-line for me downstream. I was stripping and moving back as fast as I could and this fish was getting bigger and bigger as it approached me. It was way too fast, went round a snag and ping, it was gone. Needless to say, it was at least 8 pounds on the Tony H scale. It was the only fish we saw.

We found out later we were following a couple of guys with an hour or 2 start which on a small river is not so forgiving.

Next day we headed for the Aparima and it was in great shape. Weather was a bit overcast but the sun eventually came out and we could spot. We spotted and cast to many fish but they were extremely spooky, like the fish the day before. One fish we threw the box at again and I eventually hooked on the wiggly worm only for it to have taken the trailing bit of rubber and pulled that off. The scenery was fantastic but it was tricky fishing and I left it, doubting my fishing skills and if I had lost my mojo as I could not land a fish on a river which should have produced a few to the net.

Next stop was Ranfurly to meet up with the rest of the crew. After a few libations and a late night of frivolity in the resident's lounge we decided to have a crack at a few lakes which can hold extremely good numbers and big fish. After a hearty brekkie we set out for lake 1. A dam similar to Millbrook in size with brown cruising and taking off the top. A lot of fun was had casting and catching rising fish. The other lakes are a lot bigger and were very high and challenging. We pulled a few more fish from them but our hearts were set on the rivers so the next day we fished a river which is at best in early season with the rainbows dropping

back pretty quick after spawning. We had a great day. A long walk, beautiful surrounding with wild deer crossing the river in front of us and many pools with rainbows. The fish again were strangely spooky on a river which gets fished very little but this trend followed us nearly everywhere we went. Very strange indeed! Anyway, we did succeed on nymphs, no dries and the Mojo had returned. The other rivers in the area were again slightly high and dirty and from the river flows we could see better water in the Mackenzie country so we upped sticks and headed over.

Our first stop was a tributary and we arrived to find an old club member just about to get into his waders, a real character standing telling us what was happening in his Y fronts and singlet. He said there were heaps of people and that he and a couple of other members, one an exceptional fisherman, were going downstream to walk back up so we could go upstream. We agreed but said we may walk down past them and fish up behind if the upstream beat was no good and if he agreed, which he did.



We sat down for a brew waiting for the sun to hit the water and had a chat as he headed off to join the others. While sitting there, 2 utes came past. One guy stopped, asking us is it always so busy as there were people everywhere and he had seen 6 in a party all fishing up. Too many really for a small stream unless they were very patient. He shot off downstream but the other ute went upstream - which I had a bad feeling about.

When the sun hit the water, we started and saw fish immediately. The water was slow and the fish in the pools had plenty of time to inspect our flies. We fished on, getting the odd fish and getting broken, knowing there was better water up ahead and that the fish would be heading into the riffles soon so maybe some dry fly action. As we turned the bend our

jaws dropped - the feared white ute! The dirty illegitimate had jumped us! Dirty so and so. It really does drop your faith in fly fishermen. It was a work ute so we took the number and will call his work to see if he was on work time etc. This was the polite action we thought about - you can imagine the rest. We left him a note too, NOT HAPPY!



Anyway, rant over, we pulled the pin, walked down past the old boys fishing up looking at all the big fish from our vantage point. Long story short, we fished up, catching a lot of fish and some on the dry as they moved into the riffles. Everyone caught and we were all happy. So on to Twizel.

We met at the RSL and after drinks and catch ups we retired to our allocated houses. We usually stay at the home of Steve Carey, the local guide but he has retired and there was something wrong with the house. Steve was around, as he usually is, with a drink in his hand and he reckoned the Tekapo was the best he had seen it in many years and he was right. The flows had been isolated to 2 real braids/channels on the left going up from the iron bridge with nothing on the other side and no didymo in either braid which was unbelievable. The fish were rising and there were lots of them and for a change, not too fussy. We fished all around and had good days fishing. Our last day was saved for the best.

We rose early with anticipation of many big fish. We were going into the headwaters of a renowned river which people rarely get access too without a guide and a helicopter. With the stories of the past running through our heads, we got access and drove in (my helicopter having developed technical problems!) The convoy inched along the 4wd track on a stunning morning, with the mist starting to lift and the sun beating down. Further and further we drove into the hills and when we arrived, the rivers were stunning. Some would fish here,

some there and we would go exploring over the hill. We headed off, across street falls and swampy land till we eventually found a track that went up. In fact, it went up and up and continued up out of sight. Hmmm, was this a good idea? It was marked but some small trees growing on the track indicated it was not a regular route. Ahh, to hell with it we are here and we started to climb. Up and up we went, heads firmly on the headrests and backs in the seats. The front of the car looking into fresh air was disconcerting but at 1200m it plateaued and the view was magnificent. At one point I thought I saw an Air New Zealand jumbo flying below us - it felt that high. Our biggest concern was controlling the descent but fortunately we were in a 100 series Cruiser and it coped better than us with the steep declines and the sheer drops.

We parked up and got ready. The water looked amazingly clear with nice glides and beautiful blue pools. We walked a few meters and I spotted 2 rainbows. My mate Tim cast and picked up one and the other bolted. He got a nice jack about 3lb. That was the last fish we saw or spooked. We walked and spotted in very fishy places but nothing. We cut our losses and returned to the others further down only to find them walking out not having seen a fish. We were all gutted. Two of the other boys had a big 4wd as well and got into some but again nothing like the myths and legends lauded to - but I suppose that's why it is called fishing.

As we discussed things around the cars I thought there must be something here somewhere, so I strolled downstream to a small confluence pool and managed to spot and hook a brown of about 5lbs. I was happy with that after a great adventure with friends in the high country.

What I take from the trip is that you need to be flexible when you are fishing and you must be prepared to move or travel or whatever as you never know what obstacles will pop up to try and spoil your fun.

My next big trip is in December into the Canterbury high country but that may change with time – I cannot wait.

***Dave Reid***

## **Humour**

***Once again, with thanks to Bruce Ratcliffe.***

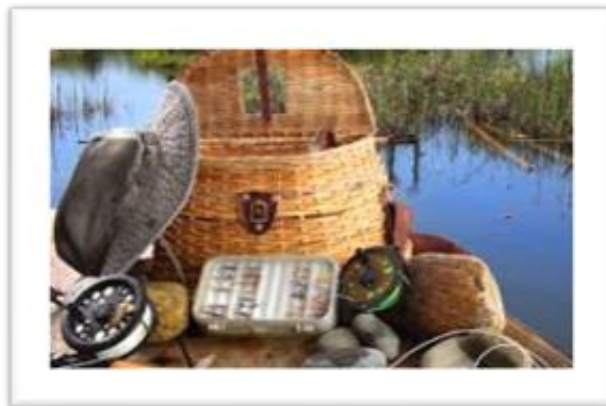
## ***“Charles Bradley” Flies for Sale***

You may have noticed the new fly boxes on top of the fridge in the clubrooms? Fly boxes is a bit of an understatement as you will understand if you have seen them recently. These new display cabinets contain a vast array of flies that the club managed to secure at a preferential rate.

The usual donated flies will also be located in these display cabinets, so you will still be able to get yourself a genuine Max Kepert fly.

The flies are for sale at \$1.50 each. Please see Julia Williams for purchases and payment on the night.

## **Members' Marketplace**



The newsletter provides members with the opportunity to buy and sell fishing gear. If you have something to sell (new or used) or you are looking to purchase an item, send the details through to [editor@southernflyfishers.org.au](mailto:editor@southernflyfishers.org.au), together with your mobile number and e-mail address. If you are a seller, a photograph of your item will be a big help. The advertisement will be put together and this will enable buyers and sellers to make contact and provide a useful marketplace.

**For Sale:** 1 Temple Fork Outfitters (TFO) TICR 4 piece, 9ft, 10wt rod (valued at over \$400), complete with an Aluminum Fly Reel & 9wt DT intermediate line suitable for Fly Accuracy Casting, complete with an aluminum Spare Spool. \$200 for the package - no offers.

Alternatively, it is offered as a proven package consisting of the Rod, with an Okuma Integrity 10/11 saltwater fly reel, loaded with a Scientific Anglers, Striped Bass, Weight Forward Density 3 Fly Line, (the best saltwater line there is). \$350 for this ready to go saltwater outfit.

**Contact:** Ted Whittam [tedwhittam41@gmail.com](mailto:tedwhittam41@gmail.com)

**For Sale:** My late father was a keen fly fisher who had accumulated a considerable number of reels, rods and flying tying gear. Of particular interest is his collection of vintage Hardy reels, vintage rods and a considerable amount of genuine fur, etc for tying flies.

I am presently in the process of cataloguing and selling my late father's flyfishing items and would appreciate you informing any members and friends who may be interested in purchasing any items. I may be contacted via email or on the mobile number listed below.

Sincerely,

Anthony

***Dr Anthony Clarke***

[anthonyclarke@pobox.com](mailto:anthonyclarke@pobox.com)

Mobile +61 (0)403 911 911

## Members' Bargain Table

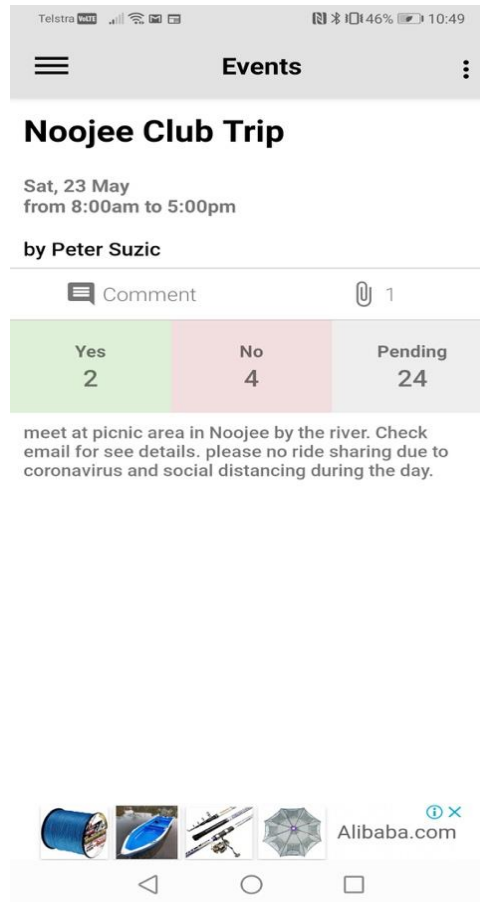


At each General Meeting Night (4th Wednesday), there will be a table set up for Members to offer items for sale/auction.

Only 2 people per meeting will be allocated space on the Member's Bargain Table so if you are interested in selling your goods you need to be allocated a date. You must register your interest and details of the items with the Secretary, Grant Dawson prior to the night on 0447 722 916 or email: [secretary@southernflyfishers.org.au](mailto:secretary@southernflyfishers.org.au)

## SFF Club Mobile App

The club now has a mobile app based on the Team App platform which is proving valuable for Member communication. This smartphone app allows easy and immediate access to club information on your phone. Amongst the initial features are chat rooms, trip information and rsvp's, newsletters and a calendar of events/trips.



The club recognises that not all members may have smart phones or make use of the app. The information provided by the app is therefore in addition to all of the existing communication channels so that no-one is disadvantaged.

To use the SFF App you need to download Team App onto your smartphone. Download Team App here (<http://teamapp.com/app>).

Launch Team App.

Then:

1. Sign-up to Team App. You'll be sent an email to confirm your registration.
2. Log in. Then search for Southern Fly Fishers and request access to join the members group that apply to you.

## Advertisements / Sponsors



*Hurley's*  
**FLY FISHING**

[www.hurleysflyfishing.com.au](http://www.hurleysflyfishing.com.au)

**10%**

Visit the **Bentleigh** Fly Fishing Store to receive some great advice and a **10% discount** for SFF members.

## Accommodation Offer

Myrica Cottage, self-contained with beautiful décor and all amenities, is located in Bellbrae, Victoria 5.5 km from Anglesea. Solar powered, environmentally friendly and accommodating

up to five people, it has two bedrooms, a superb lounge and dining area, self-equipped kitchen and bathroom.

With abundant Australian wildlife, a private fly fishery (catch-and-release only) and walks on over 200 acres of natural bushland it is perfect for fly fishermen, birdwatchers, bushwalkers, bike riders, photographers, nature lovers, horse riders (own horses) and international guests. For hire to those who are willing to share with the native flora and fauna by leaving the pristine premises as found, with kangaroos on site and a spectacular wedge-tailed eagle's nest. Tariff \$300 per weekend (Please confirm). For information call Allan Roberts on 0412 560 452.





# Membership Nomination Form

## Southern Fly Fishers Aust. Inc.

PO Box 388 Moorabbin 3192

Nomination date...../...../.....

Nominee's Name.....Signature.....

Address..... Post Code.....

Phone contact(s) Home.....Mob.....

I consent to my name and phone number being included in The Fly Fisher each month YES / No

Email (Please print).....

Occupation .....

Proposer.....Signature.....

Seconder.....Signature.....

**\*\* Membership category and applicable fee for 2020 -2021**

Ca t	Membership Types	Existing Members			New members Joining (pro rata)			
		Annual Subs+	Ins. per person	Total PA	Jul to Sep	Oct to Dec	Jan to Mar	Apr to Jun
M	Member	\$80	\$15	<b>\$95</b>	\$95	\$75	\$55	\$35
P	Members spouse/ partner	\$40	\$15	<b>\$55</b>	\$55	\$45	\$35	\$25
C	Concession (Note 1)	\$60	\$15	<b>\$75</b>	\$75	\$60	\$45	\$30
J	Junior (under 18 years)	\$40	\$15	<b>\$55</b>	\$55	\$45	\$35	\$25
S	FT student (under 25)	\$50	\$15	<b>\$65</b>	\$65	\$53	\$40	\$28
CT	Country (Note 2)	\$50	\$15	<b>\$65</b>	\$65	\$53	\$40	\$28
F	Family Special (Note 3)	\$120	\$15	<b>\$120*</b>	\$120*	\$100*	\$70*	\$40*
L	Life member	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

**Note 1** Govt. Pensions and Seniors Card holders

**Note 2** Permanently residing over 60km from Club

**Note 3** At least 3 members, adults, juniors and students, of the same immediate family \*(+ insurance each person)

If possible, please deposit direct to the SFF account with Bendigo Bank: BSB 633 - 000 / Account No 172 683 468

Please include your name as reference.

Alternatively Cheques should be made payable to **Southern Fly Fishers Aust. Inc.**

### Club use only

Membership category code\*\* ☐

Date submitted to Committee...../...../.....

Approved by committee Yes / No

Applicable fee paid Yes / No

Notify: Secretary ☐ Editor of F/F ☐ Treasurer ☐ Register number

.....

**\*\*\* Membership is subject to confirmation by the Committee of Southern Fly Fishers Aust. Inc. \*\*\***

# Correspondence

## 1. CORRESPONDENCE IN

- City of Kingston – response to our Grant request for pool maintenance – No!
- Submission to – request for grant to fund pool maintenance.
- City of Kingston – signage request – No!
- Letters of support for SFF application to VFA for a Small Grant have been received from: Kingston Council, Sunshine Fly Casting Club Inc., Calder Fly Fishing Association and Ballarat Fly Fishers Club.

## 2. CORRESPONDENCE OUT

- None

## Useful Information and Contact Details

We invite you to join and participate in the Club's activities. Our aim is to support members in the enjoyment of the sport of fly fishing, the environment and the social camaraderie.

Meetings are held every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at the

**Southern Fly Fishing Clubroom and Casting Pool**

located in **Highett Reserve**,

Cnr Chesterville and Turner Roads, Highett. Melways 77 J 9

**(Look for the "Combined Clubrooms" entrance at N° 33 Turner Road)**

### Membership Benefits:

- Beginners' & advanced casting tuition
- Competitive casting & fishing events
- Beginners' and advanced fly tying classes
- Discounts from sponsors' retail outlets.
- Stream craft & fly fishing techniques
- Specialist guest speakers
- Monthly fly fishing discussion group
- Regular day & weekend fishing trips
- Annual interstate & overseas fishing trips
- Saltwater fly fishing activities
- Regular newsletter
- Public liability insurance for club activities

Membership enquiries to: [membership@southernflyfishers.org.au](mailto:membership@southernflyfishers.org.au)

Website: [www.southernflyfishers.org.au](http://www.southernflyfishers.org.au)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/www.southernflyfishers.org.au/>

"The Fly Fisher"

If undeliverable return to:

The Southern Fly Fishers

PO Box 388

MOORABBIN VIC 3192

**Wishing You and Your Families all a Wonderful, Merry  
Christmas and may 2021 be Filled With  
Everything You Wish For**

