



THE FLY FISHER

Newsletter of The Southern Fly Fishers Club

AUGUST 2022

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THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This month's President's Report is re-produced from the minutes of the Club's Annual General Meeting

Another year has passed and I am delighted to see many new and old friends here tonight. To those Members touched by the virus and in isolation we wish them a speedy recovery and safe return to fishing this year.

As President I have been blessed with a fantastic Committee this year. The Club is in great shape and I am grateful to have the experience of working with so many dedicated Committee members. We have just heard from Bryan confirming the Club is economically strong with a growth in membership envied by other clubs. Your Committee has put a hold on increasing membership fees for another year. While the costs of running the Club are rising, Members should note it is the hard work of a few individuals such as Bryan and one-off donations from present & past Members families like Joan Worrall that keep us in the black. These donations sometimes need to be managed and we appreciate Members such as Peter Gadd and his team who have stepped up, organised the auction process and coordinated with John's family to ensure John's legacy survives. We recognise it is a time consuming and often emotional process and we give our thanks.

Looking ahead, the Club's small assets are all up to date or new and I am happy to report we need very little more in taking the Club forward. Thanks to Grant Dawson and John McIntyre, who sit on the combined clubs' committee, our tenure in the combined clubroom is secured for another two and a half years.

It's great to see our Club is back to fly fishing, fly tying, competition casting and our Members taking an interest in interclub activities such as the Wastell trophy run by Ballarat. The Gerry Bolt and tri-club competitions with Red Tag and Yarra Valley have been resurrected for this October and our own Ossie Griffiths trophy will be finalised in December with presentations to be made at the Christmas party. It's all good fun again!

For the benefit of new Members, we are a Club of volunteers and tonight is about recognising their contributions. A lot happens in this Club - behind the scenes, Members work tirelessly to run trips, coaching courses, clinics, produce club publications, raise funds, make awards by hand, communicate with members, share their expertise on fishing, clean the pool, turn sausages at BBQ's, clean the gutters, stack the fridges. You all deserve recognition with apologies to anyone I may leave out.

Thanks to Peter Suzic for his work on Team app and scheduling our trips this year. Ross Bailey for his behind-the-scenes extensive guidance and advice on timing, venues, access and all the things that make trips successful. Peter is in need of an apprentice to help with

trips this year so we are hoping to see some new faces on Committee, new volunteers are welcome at any time.

The reintroduction of our winter fly tying course took a bit of a stagger this year being interrupted with a lockdown and I thank all the participants and tying demonstrators who contributed to getting this course up and running again - Geoff Churcher, Allan Russell, Tony Hyett, Peter S, Chris Mastwyk and Ross again, all great mentors.

Congratulations go to Bob Martin, David Beconsall and Ben Thompson all gaining credentials as qualified casting instructors this month. The Club also has a new Australian Casting Champion in Bruce Ratcliffe who has battled through some adversity recently but still finds the time to help members and return to the top of his game. Many of you have attended the Tuesday night casting sessions run by Bruce, Bob and David this year. We are all so lucky to have both the enthusiasm and expertise in coaching such an important part of our sport.

Bruce Quig and Graeme Renfrey have been administrating our Facebook account with the task being taken over by Chris Mastwyk this year. Chris updates our website and always has a hand up to volunteer when needed. Bruce still finds time to advise and help with security matters related to our Gmail account ensuring Grant and Bryan can keep open the communication with members.

Thanks to Gerard and Rob Casamento for their entertaining presentations, contributions to the Fly Fisher and initiating the new Members' introduction course last year. We are hoping we can restart this valuable program for new Members later this year.

Thanks also to our delegates to the Council of Victorian Fly Fishing Club's (our conduit to the state Government) and Australian Trout Foundation who attend regular meetings and report back on fishing related issues when they can. Peter TeHennepe has recently stepped down as Secretary of the CVFFC after several years of service but maintains his role as club delegate and also needs an apprentice. Grant has offered to assist Ivo Kavelj at the ATF so we look forward to regular progress reports.

Bill Jeans our librarian has given the library a good shake up this year and it is looking fine. Bill spends many hours in the rooms constantly organising and chasing the rabble who forget to return items. This time often goes unrecognised and we do appreciate it. Thanks Bill.

Tony Hyett, thanks for being the Club's licensee - but you still have to pay for your drinks, not tonight though.

Club Awards

Now to two very important awards, The John Worrall award is..... not going to Tony. Peter Gadd and John Worrall were great friends and I have asked Peter to present this award on John's behalf.

John Worrall Memorial Award

John Worrall AOM was a great friend and admired life member of this club. His experience and involvement in community organisations and clubs such as surf lifesaving were highly respected and he supported and advised this club's Committee members over many years. John initiated and funded the award in his name to recognise the contribution of a relatively new Member who demonstrates a willingness to take on responsibilities for the Club and encourages further efforts. Traditionally, John presented the recipient with a Galvin reel from Hurleys and with the recent funding raised from the donation by John's family, I am privileged to present the same award.

This year the award goes to Bob Martin

President's Award

The President's award.....No, Tony you don't get this one either.

I think this year I will be breaking with tradition.

The President's award recognises a Member who embodies the spirit of this Club and makes an exceptional contribution over the year. There are many worthwhile candidates - you know who you are and on behalf of the Members I thank you. Sometimes Members' efforts are taken for granted especially if they have made consistent contributions from the same position over a number of years.

This year the award goes AGAIN to Bryan Macpherson but I would like to add before presenting.

I'm not sure if many Members outside the Committee realise the depth of Bryan's contribution. He is the Treasurer, Editor of the Fly Fisher and last month he was the Secretary, all at the same time as well as being the Club's website developer.

His fundraising abilities are exceptional. He answers membership inquiries without delay and most importantly, he gets you blokes to pay your membership on time. He performs miracles!

Congratulations Bryan

Thanks to you all.

Dean Gordon.

COMMITTEE – OFFICERS & DELEGATES 2022 - 2023

At the Annual General Meeting of the Club on Wednesday, 27 July 2022, the Committee was re-elected without change.

The Officers and Delegates for 2022 – 2023 are:

President	Dean Gordon	president@southernflyfishers.org.au	0408 549 005
Vice President	Bruce Ratcliffe	vicepresident@southernflyfishers.org.au	0437 824 959
Treasurer	Bryan Macpherson	treasurer@southernflyfishers.org.au	0419 313 807
Secretary	Grant Dawson	secretary@southernflyfishers.org.au	0447 722 916
Trip Coordinator	Peter Suzic	trips@southernflyfishers.org.au	0423 503 974
Webmaster	Chris Mastwyk	webmaster@southernflyfishers.org.au	0439 016 530
Committee	Bob Martin		0435 091 417
Committee	Allan Russell		0437 240 323
Newsletter Editor	Bryan Macpherson	editor@southernflyfishers.org.au	0419 313 807

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

The Annual General Meeting of Members in respect of the year to 30 June 2022 was held at the Club on Wednesday, 27 July 2022 and was very well attended by more than 40 Members. The minutes of the meeting have been circulated to all Members.

The next General Meeting is scheduled for 7.30pm on Wednesday, 24 August 2022.

Club Caps for Sale



SFF Club caps are available for purchase at \$10 each at the regular Wednesday club meetings.

IMPORTANT – COVID RESTRICTIONS

The Victorian Covid restrictions have been significantly eased and Club operations are now largely back to normal but the virus remains a serious health threat, particularly now we are in the colder months.

All Members visiting the Club Rooms must be fully vaccinated and may be required to provide proof of vaccination. Members may also feel more comfortable wearing masks. To safeguard fellow-members, any Member who is unwell or showing flu-like symptoms should not attend the Club Rooms or Club functions.

In addition, if you are diagnosed with Covid after visiting the Club Rooms, please contact the President or Club Secretary and let them know – they in turn will contact other attendees and notify them.

CLUB NIGHTS

Name tags are available for all Members and can be found in the wooden tray at the entrance to the Club Room. Members are requested to wear them at meetings. If you cannot find your name tag, please speak to the Secretary, Grant Dawson, who will arrange a replacement.

For meetings, Members are asked to bring along small denomination notes and coins for the purchase of drinks, raffle tickets and flies as the Club does not keep a lot of cash on site and providing change for large denomination notes can present problems.

CALENDAR – UPCOMING EVENTS

The Club has a number of planned trips and events as you can see from the calendar below. Please note that more information on these events (starting times etc) is available on the Club's website www.southernflyfishers.org.au under Club Activities/Club Calendar.

Also, if any Member would like to have company on a self-arranged trip, wishes to arrange shared accommodation or wants to car pool, they are welcome and encouraged to do so through the Club's Team App. It is a great way to contact other Members and organize a trip of your own.

Finally, the shortage of Members prepared to act as Trip Leaders is limiting activities – if you are willing to lead a trip, please let Peter Suzic know.

Date	Event/Location	Leader/details
Member Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month		
General Meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month		
Committee Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month		
Club casting is held on each Tuesday evening		
August		
10	Members' Club night	All. 7.30pm
14	Max Kepert Cup	All. Tranquil Waters
24	Club General Meeting	All. 7.30pm
28	Bellarine Inshore	
September		
1	Rivers re-open	
2 - 4	Elidon Pondage - Goulburn	TBA
14	Members' Club night	All. 7.30pm
16 - 18	Millbrook Lakes (fully booked)	Tony Hyett
25		
28	Club General Meeting	All. 7.30pm
October		
7 - 9	Fyans Fly-in at Lake Fyans, Western Vic.	TBA
14 - 16	Wastell Trophy - Ballarat	TBA

NOW DUE - MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

“The best money any Southern fly fisher will ever spend is their \$95 Membership Subscription” – Editor.

To all Members who have not yet paid their 2022 – 2023 subscriptions, a reminder that the fees are now due and the Club does not send out invoices for subscription renewals – it is up to individual Members to calculate their subscription amount from the table below and pay accordingly, using their names as the reference when paying electronically.

Southern Fly Fishers Australia Inc.					
Annual Membership Fees - From 01.07.2022					
Membership Type	Note	Existing Members		New Members Joining	
		Current fees		July - December	January - June
		\$		\$	\$
Member		95		95	70
Member spouse/partner		55		55	45
Concession	1	75		75	55
Junior - under 18		55		55	35
Student - under 22		65		65	50
Country	2	65		65	45
Family special	3	120		120	100
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 3adults, junior and students, of the same immediate family *(+ insurance each person)					
Please deposit membership fees direct to the Southern Fly Fishers bank account :					
Bendigo Bank: BSB 633 - 000 / Account No 172 683 468 and include your name as reference.					

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE – INS & OUTS

The Committee has confirmed the Memberships of Michael Muldoon, Mark Hayman and Brett Jones and the Club welcomes all of them. We look forward to seeing them at the Club Rooms and on Club trips.

MEMBERSHIP DETAILS & CONFIDENTIALITY

The Membership List detailing the names and contact phone numbers of all active Club Members has been updated and the list is now 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 and editor@southernflyfishers.org.au so that your details can be updated.

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

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

The Club has membership of and participates in the activities of a number of Associations involved in fishing, fly fishing and the health and wellbeing of trout in Victorian waters. These memberships ensure the Club participates in decision making and lobbying associated with matters considered to be in the best interests of fly fishers.

The memberships provide for the Club to appoint members or delegates to the various managing Committees. If any Club member is interested in representing the Club on these Committees and would like to contribute or would like more information, please contact Allan Russell.

LUCKY NUMBER DRAW

A reminder to all Members that the Ken's Balls lucky number draw is back in operation at the Members' General Meetings.

On 23 June, number 60 was drawn and Bill Jeans was AWOL and not on hand to claim his \$40 prize! The prize money increases to \$50 for the draw on 24 August 2022 – make sure you are there on the night to claim your prize if your number is drawn.

Good luck to you all.

ANDREWS GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSED FISHING BAN

At the beginning of August, your Club was alerted via a VR Fish press release to a proposal by the Andrews Government to ban recreational fishing at nominated metropolitan waters. For a number of reasons this is of great concern to the Club and this type of legislation can “creep” and in due course affect even more urban and suburban areas – think Lake Wendouree, Lake St George and many others.

Your Club has written to both the Premier and the relevant Minister and voiced its objection to any such restrictions. Members are urged to do so as well.

For your information, here is the press release from VR Fish.

VRFish Media Release

OUTRAGE AS REGULATIONS PUSHED TO BAN KIDS FISHING IN LOCAL PARKS

1 August 2022

VRFish, the recreational fishing peak body in Victoria, is outraged at proposed regulations by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), set to ban kids and families recreational fishing in metropolitan lakes and rivers.

DELWP has released consultation on proposed Crown Land (Reserves) (Metropolitan and Regional Parks) Regulations. These regulations provide for bans to recreational fishing on specified metropolitan and regional parklands such as Albert Park, Karkarook Park, Werribee River, Lower Yarra River, Maribyrnong River, Patterson River, amongst others.

According to the consultation document, banning children and families from fishing in metropolitan park lakes and river sections, while imposing a 10-unit penalty, will help *‘ensure the protection of the environment and cultural values to ensure safe and fair enjoyment.’*

Minister for the Environment and Climate Change, Lily D’Ambrosio, made it clear during the second reading speech for the amending bill introducing the new regulation making power, *‘Good land management includes deterring behaviour that threatens the health of these assets or presents a risk to public safety.’*

VRFish Chair, Mr. Rob Loats, said “Families fishing in metropolitan and regional lakes does not increase the risk to public safety nor environment. Recreational fishing in the local lake is a safe and beneficial activity that creates treasured family memories.”

“Since 2015, recreational fishers have invested more than \$2 million per year of recreational fishing licence fees into recreational fishing initiatives, including to boost family fishing in park lakes.”

“This proposal is clearly an attack on recreational fishing and again shows how out of touch Minister for the Environment and Climate Change, Lily D’Ambrosio, is with local community values.”

VRFish is encouraging recreational fishers to email Premier Daniel Andrews and Minister for Fishing and Boating, Sonya Kilkenny, to inform them that children and families fishing in metropolitan park lakes is a healthy and beneficial activity that should be encouraged not banned.

Media Contact: Ben Scullin 0416 945 759 or ben@vrfish.com.au

OSSIE GRIFFITHS TROPHY

In July, the Club trip to Hepburn Lagoon and neighbouring lakes and dams contributed to the Member scores for the Ossie Griffiths Trophy - and a new cat was thrown in amongst the pigeons! Roy Pollard put in a fine performance (*see his report elsewhere in this edition*) and he and Ross Bailey were the only ones to savour success on the day. The outcome of this prestigious tournament is far from settled as we approach the next event – Eildon in September. To make sure you all read through this newsletter, the tournament leader board is published at the end of this newsletter!

CASTING

It has been a very active and rewarding month for the Members who are involved in casting. In addition to the great results achieved at the Australian Casting Championships (*refer to the separate article*), Bob Martin, David Beconsall and Ben Thompson all passed their tough examinations and are now Certified Casting Instructors (CCI) through Fly Fishers International (FFI). A fine effort and congratulations to you all.

July also saw the final round of the Brunn Shield (*refer to the separate article*) where the Club came up just short of claiming the trophy.



Bruce Ratcliffe and Bob Martin continue to hold their valuable Tuesday night casting and coaching sessions. The sessions commence between 18.30 and 19.00 and all Members are invited down – whether you wish to practice or get some expert tuition or advice.

If you are going to be there on a Tuesday evening, please let Bruce or Bob know by sending them a text message – their numbers are listed in the Membership List in this newsletter.

The pool also remains open at any time should Members wish to go along and spend some time practising on their own.

Competition casting is another great way to improve your casting skills and accuracy. If any Member would like to try their hand at competition casting or get a better understanding of what is involved, please contact Bruce Ratcliffe or Bob Martin or chat to them on a Tuesday evening.

ARMCHAIR FISHING

The natural beauty of places where trout are found never fails to impress me. The Chilean Andes, with their wide-open spaces, rugged mountains and beautiful rivers is just one of many such places and the cold waters provide outstanding fishing conditions.



Go to the excellent and enticing website at <https://www.chilepatagonia.com/> to see more.

Members are invited to submit their dream destinations for inclusion in future newsletters.

MAX KEPERT CUP

After a two-year Covid-induced absence, the Max Kepert Cup is back and will be held at Tranquil Rises near Flowerdale on Sunday, 14 August.



Max Kepert

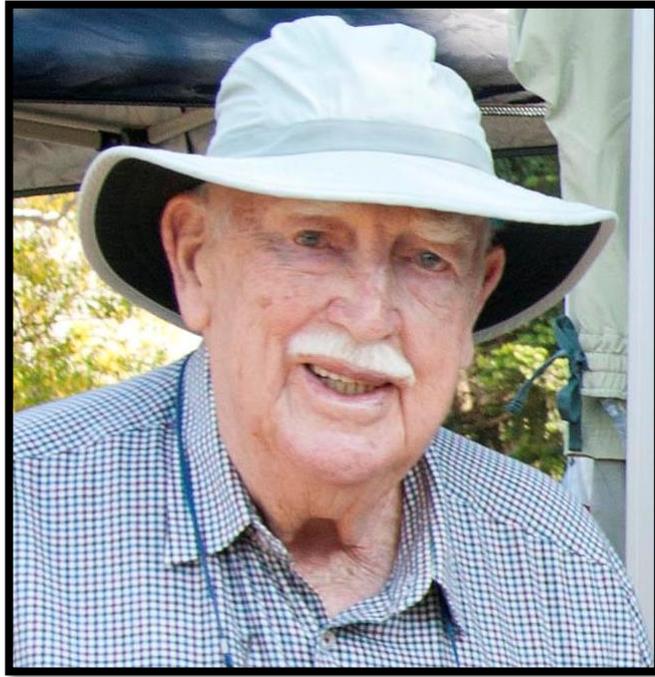
The details and rules of the competition, the programme for the day and the cost per participant have been circulated to Members but if you need further information or would like to car-share, please contact Dean Gordon or Pete Suzic.

For catering purposes, Members attending are requested to let Dean Gordon know.

JOHN WORRALL AUCTION

A good turnout of Members was on hand for the auction of John Worrall's fishing equipment on Wednesday, 13 July and they dug deep into their pockets to ensure that every lot was sold.

There were some fine items on auction including rods, reels, jackets, tying equipment and flies and with the entire proceeds going to the Club, auctioneer Chris McMahon did an excellent job of coaxing bids from many of those present. Thanks to all the bidders and to Chris.



John Worrall

Thanks too to Peter Gadd and his assistants who gave up their time to sort, identify and label all the gear beforehand. A fine effort.

Most importantly, the Committee and Members would like to record their thanks and appreciation to John's widow Joan and the whole family for the donation of John's gear. The funds from the auction will be set aside to fund the annual John Worrall Award – ensuring that John is remembered for many years to come.

HEPBURN TRIP REPORT JULY 2022

Roy Pollard

The weather forecast in the Ballarat area was for a low of 3 and a top of 10 not-so-balmy degrees. So, for someone who feels the cold, this was enough warning for me to dress in multiple layers of thermality (I think I just invented that word). I also had some new toasty-warm neoprene waders which I had purchased from BCF specifically for Winter lake fishing. The occasion was the Club's Hepburn Lagoon trip and at around 9am I met the rest of the intrepid anglers at the Prunty's Road access point. Being a Saturday, it was actually a pleasant change to head this direction without having to battle work-day traffic.

Gear wise I'd brought along my G.Loomis 9'6" 6wt plus both floating and intermediate lines and in my fly box the usual array of Buggers – both green and black, plus Magoos, Tom Jones, Stick Caddis, Buzzers etc.

As it turned out, the weather was surprisingly mild, even taking into account my head-to-toe multiple layers, and I soon worked up a sweat traipsing the sheep trails along the south-western shoreline. The surface action was non-existent as I flogged my streamers wherever a rare gap appeared between the annoyingly prolific perimeter weed beds. No one else appeared to be catching anything so I made the decision to switch direction and try around the 'island' on the eastern shore.

This area had marginally less weed and offered comfortable wading. At about 11am I saw my first fish for the day when one swirled as I 'hung' my fly at the end of a retrieve. It's amazing what a little swirl does to one's heart rate! It gave me incentive to keep trying but alas there was nothing else to be seen. Nearing 1pm I was ready for some lunch and a rest, so I headed back to the car and decided to try Newlyns, about 5 minutes up the road. Being a Saturday, there were a few cars in the picnic area, mostly bait fishers sitting on comfortable chairs watching their rods. Not really what I call fishing... I parked to the left and ventured into the water. By now I had switched to a small Magoo variation with damsel eyes and a gold bead.



My Magoo variant

There was a stiff south easterly blowing into my face which made for very difficult casting. This forced me to cast at 90 degrees which meant instead of casting straight out, I was casting across the shoreline. The wind was causing plenty of wave action resulting in 'my' shoreline somewhat resembling a frothy washing machine. Hmm, I thought, these conditions should concentrate the food right where I'm casting. I wonder if the trout have followed the food? Less than five minutes later I had my answer.

After several casts across the shoreline in knee deep water, I had my first fish, a nice 35cm brown which, after a slow morning, lifted my spirits considerably.



Newlyns brown #1

A few minutes later I had my second fish, a solid 42cm brown. And then two casts later, I had my third, a beautiful 45cm brown. I was chuffed. The planets had aligned and I had stumbled upon the perfect location.



Newlyns brown #2

I fished the area for another 30 minutes without further success. Dean had texted to say the guys had moved to Moorabool, so I packed up and headed in that direction, feeling good about the world.

The southern shoreline was protected from the breeze and the guys were spaced out every 100 metres or so. No one appeared to be catching anything and the fish weren't moving. I switched to an intermediate line and cast my Magoo a few times but this shoreline is a little too shallow and I was picking up weed on each cast. As I couldn't be bothered hiking around to the deeper western shore, I switched back to a floater and decided on plan B.



Newlyns brown #3

Before this Winter, I'd never heard of a buzzer fly. I'd also had zero experience fishing a Stick Caddis. However, I knew that Chris Mastwyk has had considerable success fishing a Stick Caddis under an indicator. And at the Club, Tony Hyett is often waxing lyrical about buzzers. So, I took this information onboard and earlier in the week I Googled 'buzzers' and found a simple pattern to tie – orange thread for a hot spot, black thread for the body, a strand of flashabou for the head and a coating of epoxy resin. They looked very sparse (which I'm told is good) but whether they would catch fish...



My simple buzzers

My plan B was to combine my newly learnt knowledge (thankyou Chris and Tony) and try my new buzzer about a metre under an orange indicator. I cast out and within minutes there was a big swirl under the indicator. Damn! Lack of direct contact with the fly on my part had meant I'd missed the take. When fishing moving water (rivers and streams), keeping contact with my flies is something I do automatically, however my brain is not hard-wired to remember this when fishing lakes – my excuse being that I'm still relatively new to this lake fishing business. In speaking to Ross Bailey later, he recommends a slow figure 8 retrieve.

Fortunately, I didn't make the same mistake twice and 15 minutes later when my indicator disappeared, I was in direct contact with my fly and immediately struck. To my amazement I was into yet another solid fish and I held my breath as he dashed for freedom. After a short fight he was safely contained in my little stream net. 43cm of very fat rainbow. The rest of the guys had just finished for the day so I was happy to call it quits also. A nice way to finish.



Moorabool rainbow

After a slow start I had an excellent day on the water. I was delighted with my buzzer and pleased to learn a different approach to lake fishing, especially when the fish are hard to find. Plus, my new neoprenes kept me warm and dry.

AUSTRALIAN CASTING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Following on from the successful staging of the Victorian State Casting Championships at the Club, the Australian National Casting Championships were held at our facilities over the weekend of 16 and 17 July – and what a weekend it proved to be for our Club Members. Southern Fly Fishers was very well represented with seven members competing and for those who don't know, the championship consists of 6 events - 3 distance events on the Saturday and 3 accuracy events on the Sunday.

Each of the distance events proved very challenging with temperatures at single figures and a stiff wind coming out of the north and the wind collapsed many back casts into unmanageable spaghetti.

Notwithstanding the challenging conditions, there were some good casts landed - for example the winning cast in the 120 gram double handed event was over 64 meters.

Sunday's events were well attended with some good scores again posted, particularly in the dry fly event which had 3 equal first place finishers.

The sun made an appearance later in the day and several contestants commented again on what a great venue the Southern casting facility is. Thank you to Allan and his wife for managing the BBQ and keeping everyone fed.

At the end of the competition, Southern could proudly boast three champions:

D Grade Winner – Brett Jones

C Grade Winner – John McIntyre

A Grade Winner and Australian Champion – Bruce Ratcliffe



A suitably proud Bruce Ratcliffe with his Champion's trophy



Bob Martin is all concentration



John McIntyre – another Club winner



Brand new Member Brett Jones with his trophy

Clearly those Tuesday night casting sessions are starting to pay off. The Club once again invites all Members to come down on a Tuesday evening and have a flick under the lights and maybe get a few casting tips along the way.

The full results are detailed in the Pdf attachment to this newsletter.

BRUNN SHIELD FINAL ROUND

The final round of the Brunn Shield took place in cold and windy conditions at the Club's casting pool on 31 July. Despite a strong showing and getting their best result in nearly thirty years, the Club team was unable to match Ballarat who again proved to be worthy winners of the trophy.

Congratulations go to the winners and thanks and congratulations go to the Southern team who were strong contenders throughout the competition and did exceptionally well to finish as runners up.

Thanks also to Allen Bingham and his wife Mary who gave up their time to run the barbecue and to the many Members who made sure the club facilities were in great shape for the event.

HUMOUR



COMMEMORATING MARIA SHANKLIN – A PIONEER AUSTRALIAN FLY TIER

by Beverley Ronalds (Beverley, now living in Perth, is the great, great grand-daughter of Alfred Ronalds.)

One hundred and fifty years ago a talented fly tier was in business in Sale, Gippsland. Maria Shanklin (1832 - 1884) designed, made and sold artificial flies imitating local insects to catch Australian bass from the Thomson and La Trobe Rivers. She also made flies in her factory suited to tempting brown trout after they were introduced to Australia. Her display of 108 artificial flies won a medal at the International Exhibition in 1880 - 81. The evidence suggests that Maria was the first person to establish a significant fly tying industry in Australia, and she holds a special place in the history of Australian fly fishing.



Fishermen agreed that her most killing fly of all was the “Wennol”, which is Welsh for the swallow, shuttle or shuttlecock. It was dark on the back and white underneath, similar to the colours of a swallow, and it might have resembled a shuttlecock in shape. The Wennol remained the fly of choice for nearly fifty years until the local Australian bass disappeared from the Sale area. Maria learned her skills from her father Alfred Ronalds. She was three years old when he published his classic book *The Fly-Fisher’s Entomology* in London. As a young teenager she was managing his business in Wales tying artificial flies for the market, and she established her own fly tying enterprise on the other side of the world a decade after his death. An illustrated article on Maria’s pioneering flies set against a background of the early history of fly fishing in Australia was published in *The American Fly Fisher* journal, Winter 2021 issue.

It is available at: <https://www.amff.org/thejournal/journal-2020s/>. A biography of Alfred Ronalds authored by his great-great-granddaughter in Australia is being published by Medlar Press. *Commemorating Maria Shanklin – A Pioneer Australian Fly Tier ...* by Beverley Ronalds

(Beverley, now living in Perth, is the great, great grand-daughter of Alfred Ronalds.) Maria Shanklin – a superb Australian fly tier in the late nineteenth century JULY 2022 VFFA 17 Alfred Ronalds (1802-1860) is well known in the international fly fishing community for his ground-breaking book *The Fly-Fisher's Entomology*, first published in London in 1836. He has a special connection with Australia, however, to which he migrated in 1848, spending the last decade of his life in Geelong and Ballarat. *The Fly-Fisher's Entomology* showcases Ronalds' remarkable mix of scientific, artistic and practical talents. His pioneering month-by-month catalogue of recommended flies combined angling prowess with original biological research into the insects that trout eat. He identified each insect using both its formal classification and common names and illustrated the natural fly and its imitation in precise coloured pictures, so that it could be readily recognised and replicated. There was soon strong demand for his artificial fly patterns and he developed and sold an innovative fly book containing examples of all of his 47 flies alongside their names and brief instructions for their use. Over a century later, fishing tackle manufacturers were still advertising the fly book, indicating the enduring popularity of *The Fly-Fisher's Entomology* and Ronalds' flies. With his book being a success, Ronalds was ready for a new challenge. His brother Sir Francis Ronalds, who had assisted him in researching and writing *The Fly-Fisher's Entomology*, took over production of the fourth edition (aided by his sister and brother-in-law) so that Ronalds could leave fly fishing behind and bring his children to Victoria. Here he made his mark in new ways as an artist, mapmaker, miner, engineer, and nurseryman. His final resting place in the Ballarat Old Cemetery was restored by the VFFA in 2008. His fly fishing knowhow lived on in Australia through his daughter Maria Shanklin, who established her own fly-tying business a decade after Ronalds' death. A small part of the insect collection Ronalds made when researching *The Fly-Fisher's Entomology*, now held by the Oxford University Museum of Natural History. Beverley Ronalds.

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7th MASTERS WORLD FLY FISHING CHAMPIONSHIP

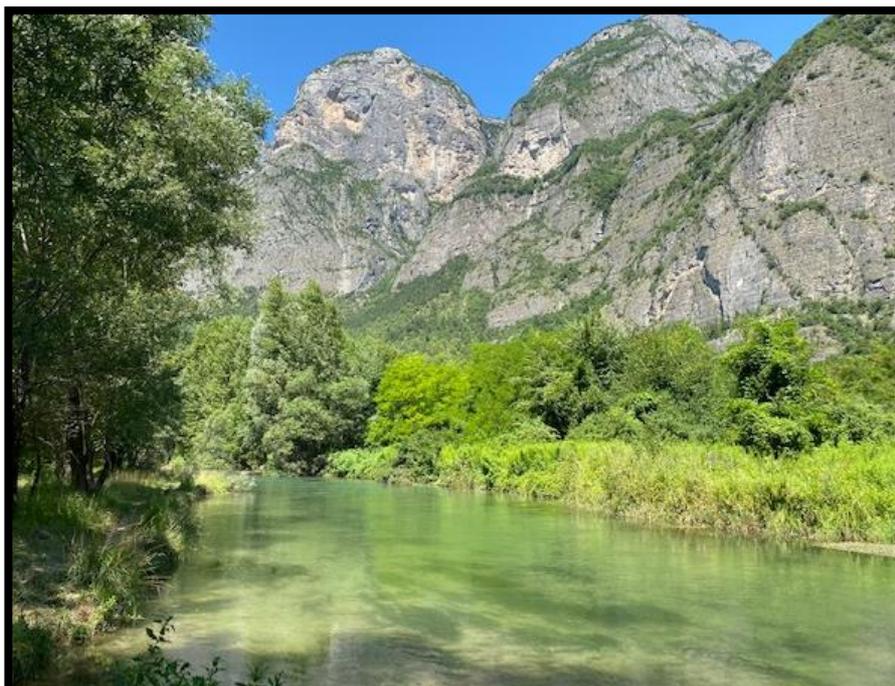
Southern's former Australian Champion Fly Fisher and great Club Member Gary Rapley recently represented Australia at the 7th Masters World Fly Fishing Championship in Italy. We caught up with a somewhat jet-lagged and tired Gary immediately on his return to Melbourne and he gave us this (rather modest) quick report:

The competition was the 7th Masters World Fly Fishing Championship, held this year in the incredibly scenic Trentino district of Northern Italy, near the Austrian border.



The competition comprised of anglers from 18 countries, with 16 national teams of 5 and also 5 individual anglers from countries that didn't enter teams.

The three rivers that were fished during the competition were the Sarca, the Noce (pronounced Notchey) and the Chiese. The Sarca and the Noce both had 2 sectors of 17 beats while the Chiese had 1 sector of 17 beats.



Competitors were split into groups of 17, with one person from each country in each group, and the groups all fished each sector once.



Species that we were fishing for included Brown Trout, Marble Trout, Rainbow Trout and Grayling.

The Australian team started strongly and was in 10th position after day one, but slipped back to 13th by the end of the competition.

I managed to sneak into the top half of the competition and finished 39th overall.

Not the results we were hoping for but we all learned a lot and will no doubt be better from the experience.

Gary Rapley

FLIES FOR SALE

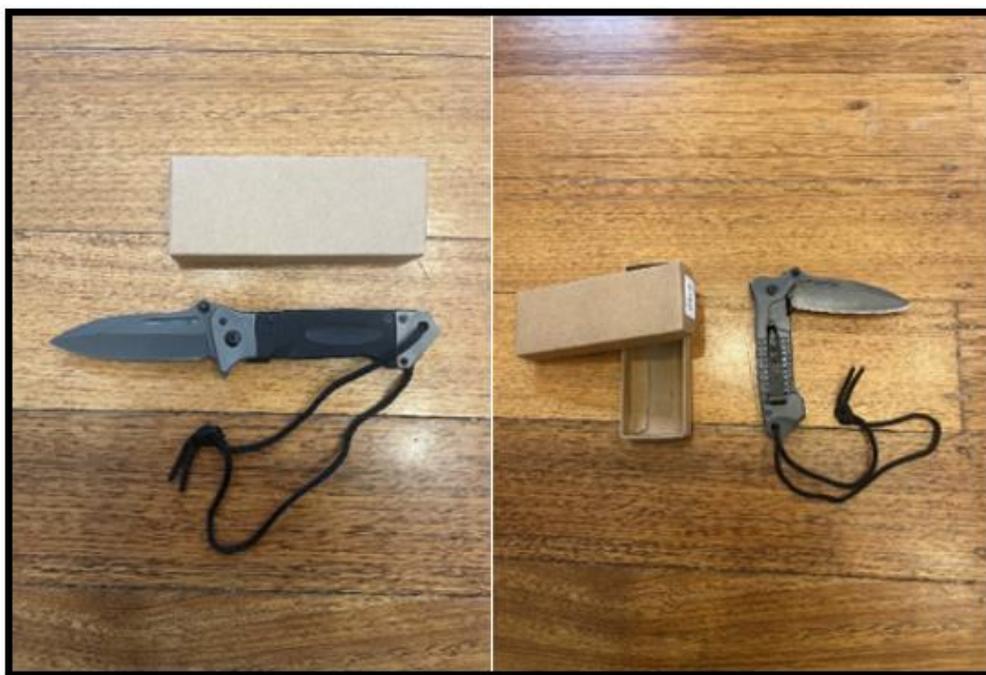
As the rivers are about to reopen, we remind Members that the Club has a fine selection of good quality flies available for purchase by members. The Club managed to secure the flies at a preferential rate and they are on sale at \$2.00 - \$2.50 each. Please see Tony Hyett for purchases and payment on the night.

MEMBERS' MARKETPLACE

The newsletter provides Members and other readers 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, 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 provides a useful marketplace.



Bruce Ratcliffe has a brand-new Cold Steel knife for sale - still in the original box. It is perfect for camping & fishing.

Bruce would like \$50 for it and he can be contacted on 0437 824 959.

Competition Casting Rod for Sale

Temple Fork TCR 9Ft. 10 Wt Rod.

Reel with two spare spools & comes with 10 Wt line & leader.

\$ 200 the lot

Owned by **World Champion Ted Whittam** - see Dean Gordon to view.

Mobile: 0408 549005

(Most things in this advertisement are true)

Joanne Lazarou has a large quantity of fly tying equipment and collectible rods, reels and books collected by her late father which she would like to sell. The items are all in good condition and include Hardy Marquis, Lightweight and Princess reels, a Pfluger Medalist reel, a Daiwa SF708 reel and a Leder LC80 reel. The rods include:

A Sage Graphite 111, GFL690 RPL, 2 piece, 9ft rod

A G Loomis F1087, 2 piece, 7wt, 9ft rod

A Sage Graphite 11, 4711LLB, 2 piece 2 piece, 8ft rod

Anyone who is interested should contact Joanne on 0438 059 722 or e-mail her on jlazarou@bigpond.com



Wanted to buy

Pete Suzic is on the lookout to buy an **Okuma Integrity 7/8** reel. Peter can be contacted at psuzic@hotmail.com

SFF CLUB MOBILE APP

The club 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.

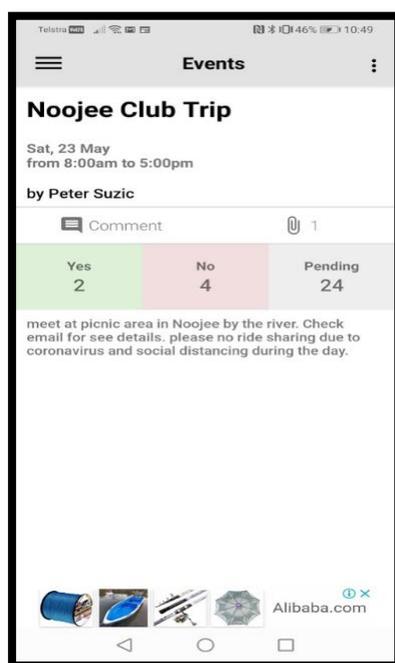
The club recognises that not all Members may have smart phones or make use of the app. The information provided by the app is therefore in addition to all of the existing communication channels so that no-one is disadvantaged.

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.**



New Club members should contact Bruce Quig or Peter Suzic who will ensure they are registered as members on the system and can use the app.

Bruce and Peter can also assist with any problems or training that a Member may need help with.

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Southern Fly Fishers Aust. Inc.

PO Box 388, Moorabbin 3192

Applicant to Complete

Nominee's Name:	
Street Address:	
Suburb & Post Code:	
Mobile Number:	
E mail address (please print):	
Proposer (if applicable):	
Secunder (if applicable):	
Where did you hear about the Club?	
Previous flyfishing experience:	

Club Use Only

Membership Category:	
Date submitted to Committee:	
Approved:	Y/N
Notification to:	Secretary
	Editor
	Treasurer
	Applicant

Membership is subject to confirmation by the Committee of Southern Fly Fishers Aust. Inc. and payment of the applicable subscription fees as detailed below.

Completed forms should be e mailed to secretary@southernflyfishers.org.au

Southern Fly Fishers Australia Inc.				
Annual Membership Fees - From 01.07.2022				
Membership Type	Note	Existing Members	New Members Joining	
		Current fees	July - December	January - June
		\$	\$	\$
Member		95	95	70
Member spouse/partner		55	55	45
Concession	1	75	75	55
Junior - under 18		55	55	35
Student - under 22		65	65	50
Country	2	65	65	45
Family special	3	120	120	100
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 3adults, junior and students, of the same immediate family *(+ insurance each person)				
Please deposit membership fees direct to the Southern Fly Fishers bank account :				
Bendigo Bank: BSB 633 - 000 / Account No 172 683 468 and include your name as reference.				

BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS

For the information of Members, the Club's 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.

OSSIE GRIFFITHS PROGRESSIVE SCORES – LEADERBOARD

Dean Gordon	1040
Roy Pollard	950
Ross Bailey	780
Chris Evans	490
Nigel Lacey	410
Archie Lambrianides, Chris Schmidt & others	100

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^o 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

Website: www.southernflyfishers.org.au

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

"The Fly Fisher"

The Southern Fly Fishers

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