



**CANBERRA ANGLER'S ASSOCIATION
Inc.**

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Newsletter – Aug 2005

Coming Events

Make sure you have your diary clear for the next CAA meeting (Wed 10 Aug) which is the Annual General Meeting. It is important that we get a good roll up to ensure we have requisite quorum to vote in our new committee. I understand that we have firm nominations for each position, so don't be deterred from attending thinking you might be 'dobb'd in' for a position. Also, the annual presentations of trophies will occur - another big haul for Peter or will Geoff cleanup - get along and see the outcome.

Reminder again of the club's 60th Anniversary celebrations at the Weston Club (Royals Rugby) on Sat 21st October. We are still looking for clues on how to run down past members to ensure we send them an invitation. Also, any suggestions on an appropriate speaker would be welcome

Some Photos from Mark F's Album

The fishing shots are from a trip to Wonboyn NSW earlier this year:





A family who ties flies together ...

Mum notices Katie is very quiet. Embarks on search and rescue. Finds Katie with feather duster, destroyed, feathers everywhere. Katie has scissors and paints and paint brush. She is painting some feathers. When asked what she is doing, Katie says "tying flies and I'm dyeing the feathers". Time to tie some flies.





Talking About Fly Tying

Some more fly talk from Mark F.

Vice Squad

Quill Bodies (AK Best style)

John McGuane, one of the best fly fishing writers of our time, said, "AK Best's flies make me shiver". Best has been pejoratively described as John Gierach's sidekick, which is ironic as Gierach learnt much from Best, a professional fly tier. Best these days now enjoys recognition in his own right (See April 2005 Fly Rod & Reel) and to be fair to Gierach, he has always been effusive in his praise of Best and his flies, particularly the quill body – AK Best's signature fly.

I'm a big AK fan too. But his flies don't get much of a run in Australia, which is strange because they are crisp, lean, and simple.





Perhaps they are seen as too specific to American insect species, however, many American flies are accepted here and AK's flies often are derivations of well established patterns (see the Red Quill below) and are more about techniques that can be tweaked to our conditions. Last Easter I was casting to a fish rising on a glassy pool. It ignored every standard dry fly in the box. Not a single take. I eventually saw mayflies on the surface and realised the quill bodies were a pretty close imitation. The olive quill (pictured) was taken on the first cast. So there.

On the downside AK's quill bodies require materials not entirely easy to procure, particularly the dyed quill bodies and hen hackle for mayfly wings. The quill bodies need to be stripped and dyed, which is way too much trouble for most people. Strangely, dun hen hackle is rather hard to get. Note: you can get high quality hen hackle, but they are no good for winging. You need standard pullet hackle. Once you have the materials, quill bodies are great.

Henryville Special



The Henryville Special was a fly I tied ten years ago as a likely caddis pattern. Never worked. Until this year when there were caddis drifting across a small lake. The only thing they would take was the Henryville or something close to it.

Yabbies



Two months ago there was a photo in this newsletter of the author landing a nice brown. That was on the New England Yabby pattern (pictured). The pattern is in Leuver's "Fur and Feather". I have replaced the lead eyes with something a bit more up market. I also like to dye the palmered hackle tan as the badger shows up too light (I think).

Hollow Fly



The pictured fly is called a "hollow fly". This is not a pattern but a technique. The technique is to reverse tie the bucktail (or other material) so the tips point towards the eye. When tied in, you bring the thread in front of the tie in point, push the tips back past the bend of the hook then build up a thread dam that eventually points the tips backwards. The hair sticks out from the shank and flows back in an arc. Two or three bunches are tied in. The effect, as the name suggests, is to create a fly that has "body" because it is hollow inside. It is said to have remarkable swimming qualities, but I am yet to use mine.

Beware: the technique is easy to describe but getting the quantity and the length of bucktail, and the push-back tension right so that the fly tapers properly is difficult in practice. A number of tiers people on the net have noted that it is more trouble than it is worth.

Hard Head



This fly was tied by wunderkind Katherine Flint, aged 3. The head material is something called "soft body", which in fact dries hard and is really impressive. It is less expensive than epoxy, very easy to work with, doesn't yellow. I have started using it a lot on saltwater flies, but it would work just as well with streamers in freshwater. It is affordable (\$10.00-\$11.00 or so), so if any club member is interested I can order it in.

MINUTES OF CAA MEETING 13 Jul 2005

There was no formal meeting on that date, we had a guest speaker demonstrating professional fly tying.

NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers

Here are some interesting extracts from their most recent newsletters:

Background on the Commonwealth government's salmonid review

The Commonwealth government is conducting a major review of salmonids (trout and salmon) in Australia.

In February this year the Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Heritage called for tenders from consultants to conduct "An Updated Overview of the Impacts of Introduced Salmonids in Australia". The Request For Tender document outlined the following tasks:

The purpose of the review is to produce an updated and broadened version of the 1996 report *Overview of the Impacts of Introduced Salmonids on Australian Native Fauna* by P.L. Cadwallader. DEH will publish the report so that it will be available to scientific research staff, key interest groups, conservation and fisheries agencies and the general community.

The consultant is to

- contact relevant government agencies, researchers and industry organisations.
- establish a review panel to provide objective comments on the draft report.

The selected consultant is

Agriculture Victoria Services Pty Ltd which is part of the Victorian Department of Primary Industries. The project is being led by Wayne Fulton, Victorian Statewide Leader Aquaculture & Freshwater Systems.

A review panel has been formed

The panel has since been selected and members are:

- Wayne Fulton – Statewide Leader Aquaculture & Freshwater Systems, Victorian Department of Primary Industries. Program Leader Freshwater Products and Strategies Australian Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre.
- Dr. Andrew Sanger – New South Wales DPI. Previous experience in native fish taxonomy, endangered species conservation and trout fisheries management.
- John Diggle – Tasmania. Scientific background in freshwater fisheries, now Director of Inland Fisheries Service in Tasmania with responsibility for salmonid fisheries and aquaculture as well as native fish conservation.
- Rick Keam – Victoria. Former member Australian Trout Foundation and Victorian Fly Fishers Association. Has previously reviewed impacts of salmonids on Australian native fish.
- Tarmo Raadik – Department of Sustainability and Environment Victoria. Extensive experience in native fish taxonomy and conservation in South East Australia.
- Dr R M McDowell – New Zealand. International expertise in relation to native fish taxonomy particularly the galaxiid group. Has also published extensively on fisheries management issues including salmonid impacts. Can provide objective assessment of New Zealand information.

The review will

- summarise the introduction of salmonids into Australia, the species present, their distribution, utilisation and biology;
- review research on the impacts of salmonids on native species, together with relevant overseas work, particularly that done in New Zealand which shares several native taxa with Australia;
- present the findings of the review so that it clearly indicates the nature of the impacts, salmonid species involved, species impacted, and location.

- critically review the research methods used to measure and monitor the impact of salmonids in Australia.
- critically review the research based evidence on salmonid impacts and assess the strength of that evidence and overall quality of the research.
- compare and assess the impact of salmonids on Australian native species against other threats impacting on these species (eg the impact on native species of salmonids compared to the impact of altered environmental flows).
- identify and prioritise the gaps in knowledge about the environmental impacts
- recommend research to fill the identified gaps in knowledge about the environmental impacts of salmonids
- provide an overview of the economic value of the salmonid industries in Australia.
- consider the social and economic impacts as they relate to both industry (eg aquaculture and recreational salmonid fisheries) and conservation management initiatives (eg undertaking threatened species captive breeding programs).
- critically review the research methods used to determine the social and economic impacts identified above.
- identify and prioritise the gaps in our knowledge about the social and economic impacts of salmonids in Australia.
- recommend research to fill the identified gaps in knowledge about the social and economic impacts of salmonids.
- review and evaluate the current tools, techniques and practices used in relation to the humane capture, handling or destruction of salmonids.
- include a clear description of each of these tools, techniques and practices (including any standard operating procedures and/or codes of practise to guide managers in the use of these tools, techniques and practices);
- focus on the non-target impacts and animal welfare aspects of using these tools, techniques and practices to manage salmonids;
- review the cost effectiveness of these tools, techniques and practices.
- include an emphasis on the effectiveness of each option in managing salmonids for the protection of threatened species and ecological communities;
- identify and prioritise the gaps in our knowledge about the humaneness and cost effectiveness of the tools, techniques and practices identified above.
- provide recommendations on areas of future research that will fill these gaps.
- in relation to the impacts on native species, review policies and regulations relating to the introduction and stocking of salmonids, and the management of self sustaining salmonid fisheries;
- identify ways in which new, including philanthropic, sources of funding could be used to enhance our understanding and management of the impact of salmonids in Australia

Timing

The project started in May 2005. The consultants had to establish the review panel within three months of starting the project. This has been done (see above). A draft report is due within twelve months of starting the project and a final report within 18 months.

CFA's input

The CFA was invited to comment on the draft tender specifications, and did so in January 2005. The CFA generally queried the intention to devote NHT funds to this issue when a much greater benefit might be gained from researching matters such as habitat restoration, environmental flows, carp management, fishways, etc.

Stakeholder consultation

At this stage it is not known whether there will be a public consultation process but we believe there are ongoing discussions about this.

Neither the CFA nor any other freshwater recreational fishing organisation has representation on the review panel. Some recreational anglers have pointed out that apart from Rick Keam the review panel includes only scientific representatives, even though one of the groups most likely to be affected by any outcomes of the report will be recreational anglers and despite the fact that the RFT specified that the review panel "must be recognised for their expertise in the issues addressed by the draft report" and "represent key stakeholders".

While some anglers are reportedly concerned that the review will possibly be used to develop an anti-trout agenda, there seems to be a fair balance of viewpoints on the review panel.

New inland fishery guide from DPI

DPI has released a comprehensive new guide to inland fishing in NSW. 'A Guide to Stocked Lakes and Dams in NSW' was jointly produced by the Department of Primary Industries and the Australian Fishing Network (AFN).

The guide details the inland waterways which have benefited from the State Government's fish stocking program. It covers 93 water bodies across the state and provides details on local facilities, the size of each water body, accommodation, stocking history, fish species and fishing and boating information. It has also been designed as an educational tool with information on pest species, size and bag limits, and general fishing rules.

More than 30 million trout, salmon, Australian bass, Murray cod, golden perch and silver perch have been released in NSW over the past four years, with many of these fish going into freshwater dams and lakes listed within the guide.

'A Guide to Stocked Lakes and Dams in NSW' was funded through the Freshwater Recreational Fishing Trust, which invests funds from the sale of recreational fishing licences into a range of projects to improve fishing, including fish stocking. The book costs \$24.95 and will be available through the DPI website, www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au, and Australian Fishing Network agent stores.

More info on DEH salmonid review

Damian McRae of DEH has contacted us with comments regarding our summary in the last Freshwater Fisher of the DEH project "An updated overview of the impacts of introduced salmonids in Australia".

The comments are aimed at clarifying the role of the review panel and to advise of a change made to the project to better enable stakeholder views to be considered in this process. Damian has made the following points:

- The nature of the project is to produce a report that updates a previous review of the scientific literature that will summarise current knowledge on a range of issues in relation to introduced salmonids in Australia, identify knowledge gaps and provide recommendations on the best way to fill the gaps identified from a national perspective. The intention is not to review the management of trout fisheries in each State. The consultant will ultimately be responsible for the content of the report. The review panel is not to act as a 'decision-making body' on the report's content, but rather to provide advice to the consultant on the scientific rigour of the report.

- The consultant for the project, Wayne Fulton, has established a review panel that:

a) collectively has the ability to provide a broad range of backgrounds relevant to salmonid fisheries, including a scientific, angling, historical, and socio-economic expertise; and

b) deliberately does not seek to represent specific interests (or organisations) so that the review panel can provide the perspectives noted above in an objective way.

- DEH believes that if the existing review panel is revised to include specific interest group representation, the expanded panel may feel that they have to take a particular view depending on who they represent. DEH is concerned this may polarise the review panel process.

- DEH believes it is important that stakeholders are able to have input to the development of the report. DEH and the consultant have agreed to include a public comment stage in this project. Stakeholders will be invited to comment on the draft report after the review panel process has been completed. DEH will publish the draft report on its website and stakeholders will have a period of six weeks in which to provide comments to DEH. The consultant will be required to consider the stakeholder comments in preparing the final version of the project report.

It is Freshwater Fisher's understanding that DEH has also provided the following responses to the questions concerning 'why revisit Cadwallader's 1996 report?' and 'why trout?':

- 'Some important work has been done since 1996. Cadwallader's 1996 report did not (it was not required to) address in detail the socio-economic issues that are a significant part of introduced salmonids in Australia. This project will allow this work to be consolidated into one up-to-date report.'

- 'DEH may undertake similar projects on other groups of introduced freshwater fish, including translocated native species, in the future. If such projects proceed the result will be a set of up-to-date national reviews on the environmental and socio-economic impacts of introduced freshwater fish species in Australia.'

Read the original 1996 Cadwallader salmonid review

P.I. Cadwallader's original 1996 document "Overview of the Impacts of Introduced Salmonids on Australian Native Fauna" is still available by downloading it from the Commonwealth DEH website, <http://www.deh.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive/publications/salmonids/>.

Another close shave on Eucumbene

Another Eucumbene tragedy was narrowly averted on 9 July when two anglers fell from their boat on Lake Eucumbene at Yen's Bay. The two men had been fishing when rough weather came up. They both stood up at the same time to retrieve their lines and upset their boat. Both men were able to make it to the shore and one walked to the roadside where he waved down a passing motorist. The

motorist raised the alarm with police who were then able to find the second man huddled against a tree on the bank, with his oilskin jacket frozen through. He was subsequently treated at Cooma Hospital for severe hypothermia and eventually recovered. According to the local police he probably wouldn't have lasted another 15 minutes in the cold and snow.

Unexpected catch with licence buyouts

The recent fuss about commercial fishing buyouts doesn't just affect salt water anglers—it could reflect badly on the recreational fishing licence concept that we have always strongly advocated.

All the licence moneys received from both freshwater and saltwater anglers are pooled into one fund which is then divided up (with 28% currently going to freshwater fisheries). The rest of the money is used for saltwater fisheries, including the buyout of commercial fishermen's licences, which was meant to remove around 250 commercial fishing operations from the industry and protect estuary fish stocks. It seems that between 20% and 30% of the commercial fishers that have been accepting large sums from DPI to buy them out of their licences, have simply turned around and bought unwanted or under-utilised licences from semi-retired or inactive commercial fishers, often at a bargain price.

The price of licence buyouts was calculated on the last three years of catches. Ironically this means that the bigger and most successful commercial fishers were paid large sums to buy them out, but there was nothing stopping them from then buying out the licences of smaller operators, and of course nothing to stop them from using their considerable experience and expertise to turn those marginal licences into prosperous operations.

The net result is that in many cases the licence money is being used to line the pockets of large commercial fishers, and the smaller, less successful fishers are being removed from the industry.

The commercial fishers aren't doing anything wrong: they aren't breaking any laws, and you can't blame them for wanting to make a buck—but those are OUR bucks that we paid for our recreational licences. Some changes to the buyout system are obviously needed.

Factors Relating to Boating Fatalities—Lake Eucumbene

John Flakelar of the NSW Rod Fishers' Society produced a report and submitted it to the NSW Coroner to assist in the coming coronial enquiry into the accidental drowning of CFA executive members, Eddie Collett and Robert Moss, whilst fishing from a boat in Lake Eucumbene in 2004. The report covers many aspects of the dangers and precautions to be taken when fishing from a boat in high mountain impoundments and is a 'must read' for those who engage in these activities.

The report is available on CFA's web site

<http://www.freshwateranglers.com.au/John%20Flakelar's%20Report.htm>