



Number 105



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## President's Letter

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My final report for the year. At time of writing I have only wet a line once and that was more due to the rain! The weather, various family and school functions have conspired against me. On the two occasions I have been near fish "Hughie" has sent down incredible amounts of rain to swell streams and make fishing impossible. I am however hoping that the trip to New Zealand just before Christmas will well and truly break the drought.

Drought, it seems, is now a dim memory. Reports from all areas tell of good water flows in rivers and streams and rising lake levels. The fishing has been excellent. The Society's recent weekend trips to Penarth and the Oberon region have yielded excellent catches. Strong, fat fish, both Browns and Rainbows. My contact up in New England has had superb fishing, once he gets a clear day. Tasmania is fishing well and it goes on.

The Society recently completed its stocking program of various dams in the Oberon area for the year. Fish from last year should be of a legal size towards the end of this season. There is a short report on the latest stocking in this

issue. It augurs well for the two remaining Society weekends booked for Oberon in the New Year – don't miss out on some of the best fishing up that way in decades. Talking trips it was very pleasing to find the Society trip to New Zealand's Stonefly Lodge in April next year filled in only hours after the promotional email went out. When special offers like this are made to the Society we will get them out as soon as possible as it is obviously an area of interest to a number of members.

For the fly tiers amongst you I was recently drawn to the amazing fly tying of Mitsugu Bizen from Japan. Many of you attending the Annual General Meeting at Manly Dam this year will have seen some of his trout flies displayed in a small sample box he had mailed to me. They are great flies. His Salmon Flies are works of art and featured in Catch Magazine Issue 12, the web based fly fishing photography magazine. You can access his web page for detail on how he constructs many of his flies - <http://bsflyworks.blog72.fc2.com/blog-entry-387.htm>.

(Continued page 2)



**Highlights in this issue**  
**Left: Colorado Rainbows**  
 report by Peter Johnson  
  
**Right: Field Trip**  
 report by Gerhard Benz



## Tight Lines by email

If you have given us an E-mail address you will now receive Tight Lines Bulletin by email unless you specifically ask us ([info@nswrodfishersociety.com](mailto:info@nswrodfishersociety.com)) to continue to use the post.

Use of e-mail saves us the cost of printing and postage and you will get your Bulletin sooner and in glorious COLOUR!

## Accessing the NSW Rod Fishers' Society Library

Your Society maintains a fine collection of fishing and angling books in its Library, most of which are available for loan to Members.

A full listing of our catalogue is available on our website ([www.nswrodfisherssociety.com](http://www.nswrodfisherssociety.com)) or upon request by contacting our Librarian on 02-498 6408 (home) or 0418 293 495 (mob)

Books that are to be borrowed are either delivered or posted (if delivery is not possible) to Members.

Borrowing periods by negotiation.

## Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor are always appreciated.

Please mail to the Editor or email to [info@nswrodfishersociety.com](mailto:info@nswrodfishersociety.com).

The NSW Rod Fishers' Society takes no responsibility for the views expressed by correspondents and gives no guarantees as to the veracity of their reports, weights and measurements.

## Presidents Letter (cont)

While it is all in Japanese a bit of persistence in navigating the site will lead you to some good photography which, with practice, will help you achieve flies something like the original! I am in the process of swapping a cane rod for some Salmon Flies which if all goes well they should be here for show at the fly tying night next year.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Committee members for their hard work over the year and wish them, all members and their families a very merry Christmas and a safe start to the New Year.

Tight Lines,

Andrew McKenzie, President

## Fish Outta Water

### Two Great Locations

Offering all the range and the excellent service that we have become famous for - original Superstore - 263 Condamine Street, Manly Vale and City Store - 478 George Street, Sydney in the "Mick Simmons" Building - next to Hilton Hotel - opposite the QVB - Heaps of new in store specials so why don't you check us out

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## Rod Fishers' January Luncheon

Our next luncheon will be held on

**When:** Thursday 6th January 2011

**Time:** 12.30 pm for 1.00 pm start

**Where:** Jonahs Restaurant Located in Hotel NOAH'S On the Beach  
Corner Shortland Esplanade & Zaara Street Newcastle

**Price:** \$40.00 (Bookings Essential)

The next Rod Fishers' Society Members LUNCH will be in the beautiful setting of Noah's On The Beach Hotel Newcastle. The casual relaxing theme of the multi-award winning Jonahs Restaurant, enjoys sweeping views across Newcastle Beach. Last Year this luncheon proved popular among the members, book now.

**Book now:-** Graeme McIntyre  
Phn: 4957 2824.

Email: [gmcintyre40@gmail.com](mailto:gmcintyre40@gmail.com)



## OWEN RIVER LODGE SOUTH ISLAND, NEW ZEALAND



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## *Manly Dam Cast Off 2010*

### **Q. New Materials and New Rods?**

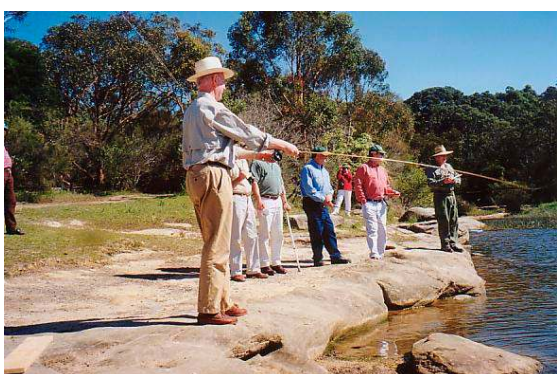
#### **Q. Are Five Weights the New Six Weight?**

This question has emerged over the last few years.

Could the Rodfishers' settle it with a comparison of five weights after the AGM?

Accordingly a variety of old and new "natural" and "synthetic" rods were presented for member's evaluation.

Rods were cast and considered with a few score sheets duly completed and returned.



#### **The appraisal.**

First the "synthetics" to which this reviewer is more accustomed.

There were six on display, ranging from old Sage, Reddington through to Strudwick's, Innovator and Rod and Fly's new Discovery.

Tony Taylor also brought along an outsized "Bloke Riverbugger". This had been used as a double handed switch rod for Canadian steelhead rivers.

All these rods were well built with their own individual qualities.

The 20 year old Sage Graphite 3 along with the marginally younger Reddington Red Fly presented soft power and still displayed great quality despite their age.

The newer rods, a Strudwick SPS, the featherweight Rod and Fly Discovery IM12 and the Innovator Velocity displayed progressively increasing stiffness and speed.

The Strudwick was rated for its control, the Innovator unsurprisingly for its speed and the Rod and Fly for its combination of delicacy with adequate power.

These modern qualities by no means produce a better cast with choice between these excellent rods ultimately a matter of individual style and preference.

The "natural" selection, comprised an 8' Robert Uslan, a Walter Brunner 6', a Nic Taransky 7' Driggs River with a historical semiparabolic taper from the Paul Young Rod company (1920-60).

Andrew McKenzie's his own production a 7' 6" piece and Sean McSharry, a wildcard rod by Mr Zhu from mainland China.

These rods were beautifully finished and all bar one attracted praise, the Uslan and Brunner for their power, the Taransky for its streamside manners and the McKenzie for its capacity to handle larger fish.

Sadly Mr Zhu's piece was something of a noodle. It needs a good dose of Viagra before it can be put to use.

So in summary its a truthful platitude that there are almost no bad rods, just variations, over time, in material, style and price.

Interestingly old but top line examples retain their qualities despite the passage of considerable years.

The five weights are still not six weights but are getting close.

Finally, the enormous Riverbugger? I followed it's history up with Bloke Rods of Ettrick in the Scottish Borders, Mick Bell, the MD informed me its bug as in bugging or Czech nymphing.

Mr Bell also sent a picture of a fish he had caught at the back of his garden the previous evening.



More information about 5 weight rod comparisons can be found on this website. Titled "**5 Weight Shoot Out**" by George Anderson

<http://www.yellowstoneangler.com/flyrodcomparison/brightg.loomisorvissagescotttemplefor.kthomasthomastommorganrodsmithsr.l.winstonrodtesting.asp>

John Smart



## Colorado Rainbows

I was introduced to fly fishing about a year ago by colleagues in Denver, CO, and this being my first visit there since then, I was sure to encourage those who started me on fishing to organise a weekend on one of their rivers (I was there on business and so the weekdays were already full...). As it happens, a day of fishing was arranged on the Big Thompson River at a ranch called Sylvan Dale, which provides private access to the river over about 2 or 3 miles and has a couple of large lakes which can be fished also.

Our group of 6 were joined by Dan, a local guide from The Hatch Fly Shop. We set out from Denver at about 6:30am for a drive of about an hour and a half north west into the Rocky Mountains. We fished the larger of the lakes first after a coffee and were fishing by 9am. There were plenty of large looking trout cruising close to the edges of the lake in plain sight, but getting one interested in my woolly bugger on the end of my line was another story. After three hours, I got not even a second look, but in total our group landed three rainbows, about 14, 18 and 23 inches.

A couple of us moved to the river (about a 15 minute walk away), just before lunch I had a strike on a nymph on my second cast. After such a slow morning this apparently surprised me more than it did the fish, and it was off the hook barely before I knew it was on. This did however indicate more success was to be had after lunch.



September is notoriously hot in Denver, and this day was no exception. By lunch time, the temperature must have been well above 30 degrees C, with bright sunshine and no wind. The water is snowmelt from way up in the Rockies, so is quite cool (I don't know what temperature, but it was cold) regardless of the temperature, and the relatively steep terrain makes for a great trout stream. With big rocks breaking up the flow, some deep pools and fast flowing runs weaving for great lengths in some places. Evidently this is an environment that supports plenty of trout!

I used a large grasshopper pattern with a small prince nymph dropper (and, unusually for me, kept it attached all afternoon!) My first cast after lunch into a pool behind a large boulder in the middle of the stream was taken by a rainbow trout of about 13 inches. About 30 or 40 metres upstream came another rainbow. This pattern continued for a couple of hours, with rainbows and browns of about 11-13 inches being found reasonably easily as I moved upstream about a mile, and with the aid of using my big grasshopper like a strike indicator, caught without too much fuss.



The highlight came after landing a small rainbow. Dan, our guide, came to ask if I wanted a photo. "Sure" I said, removing the hook from the fish and tossing it downstream (the fly, not the fish). I was preparing to ask the fish to smile, when an unexpected tug on my discarded line signalled another fish, which, with Dan's help, I retrieved and in doing so found another small trout, leaving me with a rainbow, a brown and a camera all ready at the same time!. This was a real treat.

I moved back downstream and managed to land another one following that, but they had calmed down in the afternoon and so by 5pm we packed up for the day and headed back to Denver. I landed 6 for the day.

I would recommend anyone heading through Colorado not to miss an opportunity to have a fish, it is really great. I carried most of my own gear with me as I had some room in my luggage. I was not overly pleased that Qantas made me check-in my rod as it's classed as a weapon, although I know a few trout in plenty of rivers would argue that it is harmless! When all my luggage failed to appear in Los Angeles, I was even more displeased. Luckily it was located and retrieved within a few hours. I declared all my fishing gear on my return home to Australia, the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service did a terrific job cleaning my wading shoes!

Peter Johnson



## *Oberon Fishing Report*

It was great to see the Oberon district Irish-green and saturated, with most paddocks too wet to cross even with a 4WD! So, the three of us who made up the RFS members party had to do lots of walking to get from the Hammond's cottage to the various fishing "hot spots" on the property. Without further ado, to the fishing report:

**Fish River Creek:** Flowing well and fast, clearing. Some rising fish during daytime, decent polaroiding conditions. The creek on the property holds a good population of browns and rainbows, most of them probably lake fish which had stayed behind in the creek after their winter spawning run.. Over the weekend, we caught about 15 of both species, rainbows up to 3 pounds, all well recovered from spawning, and browns up to 3 ½ pounds, the latter being particularly strong and muscular fish.

**Penarth farm dam:** Overflowing with beautiful clear water, not much weed. Morning and evening sessions not successful – glassy conditions, fish stayed at home. A chance visit around lunchtime one day had a strong wind ripple across the dam surface, with trout rising and boiling everywhere! On closer inspection, the fish were feeding on mayfly duns – there was a whole armada of them drifting along on the waves. A quick switch to a dry Shaving Brush pattern soon brought results; the fly disappeared in a big swirl, and a fat rainbow took off to the far end of the dam. The initial run went well into the backing, but after almost 20 minutes of "never give up" fighting, the fish was in the net – 48 cm, exactly 4 pounds of super conditioned silvery fish. At lunchtime the following day, the wind was even stronger, but the mayflies were hatching again, and the fish were after them, albeit in smaller numbers. Another fish, almost a replica of the first one, was hooked and landed before the rise stopped abruptly.

**Duckmaloi River:** Fast flowing, slightly discoloured. Fish of similar proportions than the ones in Fish River Creek (both rainbows and browns). Caught and released four between 2 and 4 pounds.

**Stocked Farm Dams in the Duckmaloi Valley:** The browns in the "Chatham Valley" farm dams have already reached legal size. There are also some bigger fish present there (both browns and rainbows), but they are all difficult to catch. The rainbows stocked in three

dams on "Lochgarry" near Edith are all about 6 inches long. We found them rising freely everywhere, a very pleasing start to the Society's stocking programme. These fish should reach legal size towards the end of this season. Members will be kept informed about further stocking efforts, and progress of the previous crop.

**Oberon Dam:** Following heavy rain on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November, all the streams in the Oberon district are again in flood, and will probably remain unfishable for a while. Oberon Dam was therefore the only fishing option on the way home. The dam is 40% full and rising fast. Water clarity at this stage is not too good, particularly around major stream inflows. But it is certainly fishable. Conditions on Tuesday morning (Melbourne Cup Day!) were atrocious – six degrees, gusty south-westerly, and a thickening fog rolling across the lake!



There was a large midge-hatch underway in sheltered spots, the swallows scooped them up, but not the trout. Only one fat brown trout took pity on me, and accepted my trusty Black Clumsy in a shallow bay. At 44 cm / 3 pounds a very respectable fish, which had dined on scrub-worms and small green nymphs. A lot of fruitless searching for a single fish! But, having only caught redfin during my 5 or 6 previous visits, I was nonetheless pleased to see that the trout are still there in Oberon Dam after all.

Gerhard



## *“Currango”...Uniquely Australian*

“Currango” Australian Heritage is a unique location and it was our privilege to be sharing a week with Bert and Adrian Maroya.

Stuart Beal and I arrived to be greeted by Arthur Adams QC and Stuart Rowland, from Melbourne. David Ryrice and his two sons along with Andrew Sinclair, and Serge Pellizzoni making up the total compliment.

We were to enjoy a memorable time with such a diverse group of avid fly fishing and cane rod enthusiasts.



**Pine Lodge**

The plan was to centre ourselves in Pine Lodge and pursue our fly fishing daily from there.

The Pines is the rambling “mens’ hut”, built for the station workers in 1917.

Protected by the historic Currango pines, the building offers rustic accommodation for large groups in six rooms.



**Bert topping up the Fountain**

The pleasure of using this accommodation is the large living/dining/kitchen area with its an open fire complete with a traditional fountain for hot water, an adequate fridge, and a wood burning combustion stove with oven. This proved ideal for the traditional roast.

A gas barbecue is provided in a well constructed shed and a small wash-house provides old-fashioned showers at the rear of the cottage with a pit loo further afield..

Lighting is from solar power.



**Currango Homestead**

Currango is steeped in history and the individuals who lived here were exceptional bush people.

Occupation of these alpine regions by the hardy souls who tended the leases in this high country required a special affinity with the country.



**Currango Homestead**

This was the home of caretakers Tom and Molly Taylor.

Bert, Adrian and the rest of the team had known the Taylor’s personally for many years.



**Currango Creek Brumbies**

*(Continued page 7)*

## *“Currango”...Uniquely Australian*



**Kangaroos abound near Currango Homestead**

Currango Station's buildings include the oldest surviving continuously-occupied homestead in Australia's Kosciuszko National Park. It is also the largest and most intact example of permanent settlement above the snowline in the country, and has great historical significance as one of the most important links to the first European settlement of the area.

The Homestead and the other remaining habitable buildings are also highly significant for their architecture, and the importance of their preservation is now widely recognised. It has over twenty-five remaining buildings and ruins which span 150 years of settlement in the Park.

Currango Station is located near Tantangara Reservoir, in the Kosciuszko National Park in southern NSW. As the crow flies, it is about 30km from the township of Adaminaby to its south-east, and about 65km from Tumut to its north-west

Built in 1895, the Homestead is the centre of Currango Station and the residence of the caretakers.

An area of special significance is located on the far side of the timbered area to the north of the Lodge and Bert and Adrian were keen for us to see and feel this spot.

It is best described by Tom and Molly's son Ted in his book 'Reflections of Ted Taylor' published in 2001.

### **(Reproduced with approval from Ted Taylor)**

*When the Park bought "Currango" from Australian Estates in 1946 and we came back here to live Dad made this his headquarters while the grazing was on. At the end of the grazing in 1969 Mum and Dad acquired a life-tenancy lease at "Currango" which they relinquished in 1988, getting too old to stay here any longer. They used to go to Adaminaby in the winter time and come back out here in summer. During the time they were at*

*"Currango" fishermen came from all over the place, from Melbourne, Sydney, and everywhere to stay and those people still come back here today. They have formed a club which they've called 'Friends of Currango' and they come here on working-bees to restore "Currango" which is a great thing.*

*In 1985 both Mum and Dad received the Man From Snowy River Award, the prestigious award for people in the high country who contributed a lot to the area over the years. And, not just because they were my parents, I think they really deserved this award.*

*Dad died in 1992. Mum passed away on 16th December 1997. I had brought her up to "Currango" in February that year, when a working-bee was here. She was able to meet all the fishermen who have been coming here for thirty-odd years. She really enjoyed the day so it was good. She loves these mountains. I think we all do. When you are brought up in this country it sort of grows on you. It doesn't matter where you go this is still home. Mum had forty years at "Currango" and lived in these mountains nearly all her life.*



*I put in a memorial plaque for Mum and Dad down beyond the Round Yard, looking out across the plain.*

*The inscription on the plaque is - "In Loving Memory of Tom Taylor and Mollie Taylor" - with their dates of birth and death beside them. Underneath is written - "Two Great Mountain Legends who left a Legacy of Love and Optimism", which they did. They had love for everybody and were always optimistic about things. That will stand there until the end of time, I presume.*

*(Continued page 8)*

## *“Currango”...Uniquely Australian cont..*

*Some Friends of Currango were there. People who have been coming here for about thirty-eight years. They all came down to the plaque after we'd set it in. Kim Jellbart gave a talk which was very hard for him and there was no way I could have said anything. It upsets me now, to talk about it. When I went down one morning to pull the boxing off the concrete work round the memorial, and looked out across the plain there were thirteen brumbies there, it was great to see them. I only wished I'd had a tape recorder another morning because on the other side of the plain, there were three or four dingos howling so it was a great tribute.*

*Mum and Dad would have loved it.*

Tom was a Ranger for the NSW Department of Lands. Currango was the central location for his work, and Tom monitored the stock numbers on the high plains, overseeing the gradual reduction of grazing, until it ceased altogether in 1969.

The Taylors witnessed the construction of Tantangara Reservoir, and the flooding of much of the Currango Plain. This is the highest part of the Snowy Mountains Scheme.

Stuart and Chan Garner, commenced as caretakers in 2003.

### **Warrigal Reigns Supreme at Currango**

The conditions could not have been better, a rainbow arced above and the gathering mist subdued the light and absorbed the sound.



The mist was light but the visibility good for the spectacle we were about to witness.

The hunt was on.

Suddenly the big old man eruption from the wet foliage,

of the prolific kerosene bush, surrounding us.

He came crashing through, seemingly oblivious to our presence, and quickly departed into the scrub on the other side of the track, his upper body visible for some distance in the chest high scrub.

While not the main participant in the scene that was being played out before us, he had decided not to wait around and went past us almost within touching distance without realizing we were there, so intent was his focus on getting away.



The reason for his sudden departure appeared. Loping at an easy but purposeful gait, the golden Warrigal, with head pushed forward and all senses alert, crossed a clearing in the scrub. He was intensely focused on the fleeing doe just ahead.

Another golden missile closed ranks while a third skirted out a little wider.

This pursuit would have an inevitable end. Warrigal had selected the weakest and most vulnerable, and nature, in its most basic form, had revealed itself to us today.

We felt somewhat in awe and privileged to have been witness to an event very rarely seen in Australia.

We are accustomed to seeing TV documentaries of big cats hunting game in the tundra, showing rather graphically the predator prey relationship.

Our Australian bush, appearing as an outwardly docile environment, often disguises the reality of raw nature at work. Most Australians can only ever imagine it.

The opportunity to witness this is rarely achieved.

*(Continued page 9)*

## *“Currango”...Uniquely Australian cont..*



*Warrigal on the Currango Plains*

Warrigal is an elusive creature, preferring to remain hidden from view.

He occupies the top echelon in the predatory world of the Australian bush, and claims it with authority.

Brian Quinn

### **Henry Kendall's...The Warrigal.**

*The warrigal's lair is pent in bare,  
Black rocks at the gorge's mouth;  
It is set in ways where Summer strays  
With the sprites of flame and drouth;  
But when the heights are touched with lights  
Of hoar-frost, sleet, and shine,  
His bed is made of the dead grass-blade  
And the leaves of the windy pine.*

*Through forest boles the storm-wind rolls,  
Vext of the sea-driv'n rain;  
And, up in the clift, through many a rift,  
The voices of torrents complain.  
The sad marsh-fowl and the lonely owl  
Are heard in the fog-wreaths grey,  
When the warrigal wakes, and listens, and takes  
To the woods that shelter the prey.*

*In the gully-deeps the blind creek sleeps,*

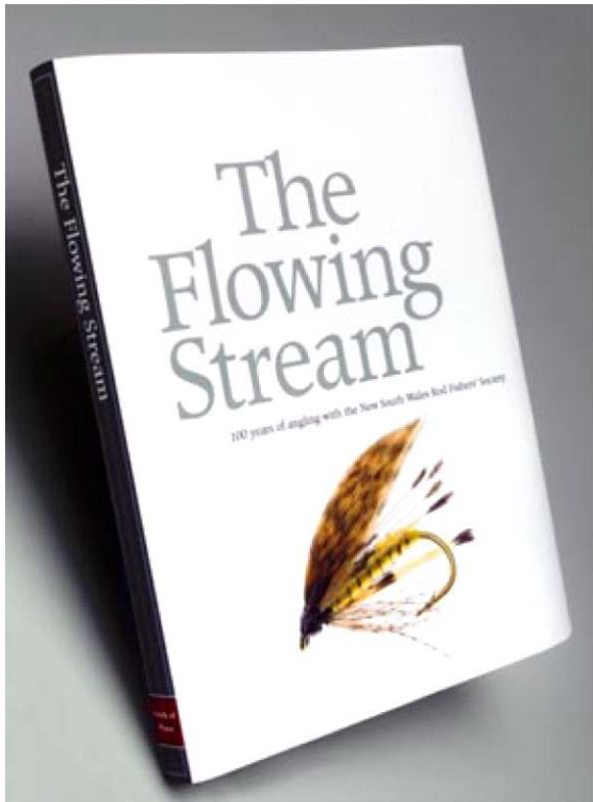
*And the silver, showery moon  
Glides over the hills, and floats, and fills,  
And dreams in the dark lagoon;  
While halting hard by the station yard,  
Aghast at the hut-flame nigh,  
The warrigal yells, and flats and fells  
Are loud with his dismal cry.*

*On the topmost peak of mountains bleak  
The south wind sobs, and strays  
Through moaning pine and turpentine,  
And the rippling runnel ways;  
And strong streams flow, and great mists go,  
Where the warrigal starts to hear  
The watch-dog's bark break sharp in the dark,  
And flees like a phantom of fear!*

*The swift rains beat, and the thunders fleet  
On the wings of the fiery gale,  
And down in the glen of pool and fen,  
The wild gums whistle and wail,  
As over the plains and past the chains  
Of waterholes glimmering deep,  
The warrigal flies from the shepherd's cries,  
And the clamour of dogs and sheep.*

*He roves through the lands of sultry sands,  
He hunts in the iron range,  
Untamed as surge of the far sea verge,  
And fierce and fickle and strange.  
The white man's track and the haunts of the black  
He shuns, and shudders to see;  
For his joy he tastes in lonely wastes  
Where his mates are torrent and tree.*





# The Flowing Stream

100 years of angling with the New South Wales Rod Fishers' Society

Our Centenary publication, *The Flowing Stream*, can be purchased at Society functions or by mail order. *The Flowing Stream* includes a history of the Society, 75 fascinating extracts from our past journals and numerous photographs and illustrations. This is a highest quality hard cover book with dust jacket, containing 164 pages of full colour printing on heavy satin art paper.

*The Flowing Stream* is a Limited Edition of 1,000 individually certified copies, with numbers 1-200 reserved for Members of Rod Fishers.

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## *Jindabyne Field Trip*

As it turned out to our surprise, the four RFS Musketeers got upgraded to a 4 bedroom / 3 bathroom / 2 fridge / spa bath / billiard room mansion at 11 McLure Circuit in Jindabyne for the annual mid November fishing week! The reason for the change of venue from the old digs, Platypus Lodge, was that it had suffered extensive water damage allegedly due to a possum committing suicide in a downpipe, thus flooding the place and making it uninhabitable for several months. Most unfortunate for the possum (and the owners of Platypus Lodge) but we ended up in the Ersatz accommodation with a bedroom each and enjoyed that luxury, even though the views out the back were over the Jindy Caravan Park, rather than the lake, as at Platypus.



Our first days fishing (Saturday 13th November) poured with rain all day, we got drenched, caught nothing, and were thus off to a bad start.

The **Thredbo River** rose about 30cm following the rain, and was a fast flowing torrent of clear water for most of our stay. We found late spawning rainbows in the usual spots (Apple Tree Flat, Sand Islands, Iron Bridge), but only managed to catch three of them, as with most of our casts, our flies were drifting way too fast over the fish's heads. It was hard going too, wading against the strong current. In addition to vigorous regrowth along the banks, lots of driftwood had lodged amongst the bank side scrub, a legacy of a prior and even larger flood. All in all, not an inviting place to fish during our stay this year!

The **Moonbah River** was in even larger flood, brown and unfishable. So we retreated after a 30 second inspection. For the first time in many years, **Wollondibby Creek** was flowing nicely and relatively clear, but an expedition from the mouth up to the Perisher road bridge showed no signs of trout even in the deepest pools.

**Lake Jindabyne** was at 80 percent capacity – lots of water between the fish! We visited many times, fishing mainly around Hatchery Bay and Hayshed Bay. At all times of day there were zillions of midges about, with midge-balls forming everywhere, drifting along in the breeze in shallow water. However the rises to those were few and far between. Only one large brown was spotted close to shore over submerged grass, chasing midge-balls, and that fish was successfully spooked by yours truly, never to be seen again. However three “exotics” were taken in Lake Jindy, being two twelve inch brook trout and an Atlantic Salmon of about a pound. They were also midge-ball feeders, but took the trusty Black Clumsy for no good reason at all.

A half day excursion to Braemar Bay / **Lake Eucumbene** proved a bit more successful than our many Lake Jindy visits, in that two largish rainbows of about 3 pounds each were hooked and landed. However both fish were long and lean, and should have weighed quite a bit more. So they went back in the water with a stern instruction to work on their condition.

*(Continued page 12)*

## Jindabyne Field Trip *Cont..*

In an effort to find somewhat friendlier river fishing than what the Thredbo Beast had to offer, two of us went to the **Gungarlin River** for the day, ending up on the lowermost stretch, having followed the Island Bend Fire Trail to where it crosses the river (locked gate there). An absolutely idyllic spot, maintained immaculately as a camping / picnic spot by the NPWS. We had the place all to ourselves that day! The river was flowing fast and strong, but crystal clear. However, as during previous visits, only small rainbows and one suicidal brown up to 12 inches were to be had, even though some of the pools in that stretch are absolutely enormous! We had great fun chasing those little fish on dry flies (shaving brushes) all day long in this truly exquisite environment.



*The Gungarlin River*

The mandatory excursion to **Rainbow Lake** was undertaken and we managed to make a few browns jump at the end of our lines.

All in all, another most enjoyable outing. Food and drink was of the usual five star standard, and the billiard comp on our last evening was convincingly won by Team PJ!

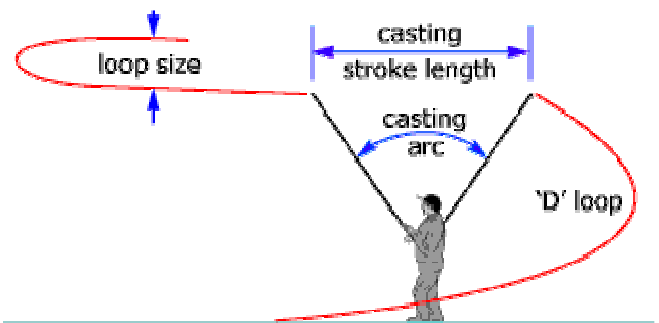
Cheers Gerhard



## Casting Day

Talented and practised fly fisherman such as those of the Rodfishers membership are keen consumers of fly fishing literature, new gear of any kind, fly tying materials, etc but, if my own experience is a guide, less often present themselves for formal tuition. Why would we need to?

So one bright Sunday in August two slightly curious groups of Rodfishers assembled by a little lagoon in the wilds of Liverpool.



*The cast*

Under Andrew McKenzie's watchful eye we deconstructed our technique into its constituent parts and set recognising and then solving problems common to many fly fishers. Things such as poor timing, sagging back casts and wind knots were explained and corrected.

With a new mantra ringing in our ears, The Stroke, The Arc and The Loop, we scientifically rebuilt our technique and prowess.

By the end of the sessions, tight fast and accurate loops were flying effortlessly.

I learnt many things but two stand out; casting problems are not generally the fault of the rod and I should have done this years ago.

John Smart



## *Rodfishers' Society Stocking Program Update*

This was the last RFS field trip for calendar 2010 – another event full of highlights! For starters, on Friday 26/11 the delivery truck from Triton Trout farm arrived from Tumut, 500 km to the south. Three RFS members assisted Ewan from Triton Trout in the day's stocking program. About 1,300 rainbow troutlings, each about 2 inches long, were merrily swimming around in the holding tank on the back of Ewan's truck. The first bucket-load of 100 went into the Penarth farm dam. Another 300 were delivered to the two dams on "Chatham Valley", and the rest into three dams on "Lochgary". Following Ewan's instructions we tossed them in, rather unceremoniously – see photo!



It only took about 5 minutes for the troutlings to adjust to their new surrounds, cruising in small groups, sipping flies off the surface, as if it was just another day in the office for them.

It was also very pleasing to note that the two larger dams on "Lochgary" were covered with rings of rising fish. Both dams had received an initial stocking of rainbow fingerlings in April 2010. Those fish seem to have survived the winter in good numbers, and are currently all about 6 – 8 inches long. They should reach legal size by the end of this season.

On the two dams at "Chatham Valley", only the odd rise could be observed. One legal sized fish was caught and released, a fat brown of about 12 inches. There is also the odd large fish present, but these are difficult to catch. Both dams were stocked by the Society with brown and rainbow fingerlings. The stocking program will be continued, with a further assessment down the track.

Having emptied his tank, Ewan left around 2 pm for his trip home to Tumut – a 1,000 km round trip for him that day! We then set off to commence some serious fishing in the nearby Duckmaloi River. Yours truly had a horrible afternoon, losing three Clumsy's in a row (together with assorted lengths of tippet) in some unstoppable bruiser browns and rainbows, who used the assorted obstacles in their home pools (submerged

roots, weeds, and branches) to break off our acquaintance fully on their terms.

It was not till the end of our session that a 3-pound brown turned out a bit more docile, and was successfully landed and released. My two comrades, Chris Blyth and Shaun Wormald, did much better, both landing several nice browns and rainbows up to 3 pounds on Royal Wulffs and emerger patterns (see photo of Chris with a nice rainbow).



Fishing the same stretch of the Duckmaloi the following day, Chris hooked and landed a 3 pound brown on one of Peter Leuver's emergers. On removing the fly, he noticed another fly embedded in the throat of the fish – it was one of the green/black Clumsy's I had lost in a fish the day before!! How's that for gullibility... and, importantly, an indication of how short a trout's memory can be.

All up, we "only" ended up with two full days of glorious fishing, as the rain set in on Sunday, forcing us to capitulate, completely drenched, by lunchtime. However, over these two days, we caught twenty-six fish between us, with each member of the party contributing to the total tally (the fourth attendee, John Barry, joined us on Friday evening). We caught mainly browns, and some rainbows, with the biggest of the browns between 3 and 4 pounds. All fish were in great condition, and were released back into the water. Most came from various stretches of the Duckmaloi. We fished Fish River Creek on "Penarth" too, but there were noticeably fewer fish present there, and we caught only a handful up to a pound or so.

The big rainbows in the "Penarth" farm dam are still there – Chris Blyth was broken off by a beauty as we were waiting for the truck from Tumut – but none was landed this time. Members wishing to access any of these fisheries are welcome to contact me for directions. tel. 9387-6641. It's goodbye from me for 2010 – hope to see you on a river somewhere next year – season's greetings – Gerhard.



# *2010 Annual General Meeting*

*New South Wales Rod Fishers' Society*  
*Over 100 years of Fly Fishing - Founded 1906*



## **2010 Annual General Meeting**

The AGM was held at Manly Dam on Sunday, 26th September 2010

President Mr Andrew McKenzie, welcomed members and guests.  
Business was transacted in the normal, efficient, laid back outdoor environment  
around this pleasant waterway.  
The weather was kind to us and allowed a very relaxing picnic lunch to be enjoyed.  
The 5 Weight rod collections were welcomed by many members and included some  
fine cane rods.

### **Appointment of Council Office Bearers.**

The following were elected to the Council.

**Patron**

Lofty Tottenham OAM

**President**

Andrew McKenzie

**Senior Vice President**

Gerhard Benz

**Past President**

Jim Eichler

**Honorary Secretary**

Andrew Harris

**Honorary Treasurer**

Peter Pengilley

**Councillors**

Greg Prowse

Warren Stoyles

Richard Levingston

Chris Blyth

Brian Quinn

John Vaccaro

Off Council assistance will be provided by Geoff King - Editor (Journal)

**New Member**

Keith Sheppard was welcomed into the Society.

**\*Special Note regarding Luncheon Meetings**

Bookings for Luncheon Meetings should be made 3 days prior. Contact: 1896 (previously the Hunter) Dining Room, NSW Sports Club Telephone: 02-9232 8607 between 8:00am - 4:00pm

NSW Sports Club dress regulations: smart casual

Mobile telephones: the use of mobile telephones inside the NSW Sports Club is discouraged.

Doors for luncheons will not be opened before 12.30 pm. Members arriving early are invited to meet in the Ground Floor Bar where drinks may be purchased.

Cancellations must be received no later than 11.30 am on the day of the Luncheon. Later cancellations will be subject to the full Luncheon charge.



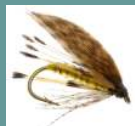
## Advertising

Tight Lines Bulletin has a direct distribution of 350 copies to Members and friends.

The Tight Lines Bulletin is now available on-line and has a much wider readership and following.

Advertising space is available from \$30.00 per 1/4 page to \$50.00 for 1/2 page. Artwork must be supplied.

Contact Jim Eichler on tel. (02) 9949 4069 or by e-mail at [info@nswrodfisherssociety.com](mailto:info@nswrodfisherssociety.com)



# Rod Fishers' Calendar of Events

## Monthly Luncheon\*

Jonah's Restaurant  
Hotel NOAH'S On the Beach  
Cnr Shortland Esplanade & Zaara Street,  
Newcastle

Date: Thursday, 6 January 2011  
Time: 12.30 pm for 1.00 pm.  
Cost: \$40.00

## Monthly Council Meeting

NSW Sports Club  
10 Hunter Street, Sydney  
Date: Thursday, 3 February 2011  
Time: 11.30am

## Monthly Luncheon\*

NSW Sports Club  
10 Hunter Street, Sydney  
Date: Thursday, 3 February 2011  
Time: 12.30 pm for 1.00 pm.  
Cost: \$50.00

## Monthly Council Meeting

NSW Sports Club  
10 Hunter Street, Sydney  
Date: Thursday, 3 March 2011  
Time: 11.30am

## Monthly Luncheon\*

NSW Sports Club  
10 Hunter Street, Sydney  
Date: Thursday, 3 March 2011  
Time: 12.30 pm for 1.00 pm.  
Cost: \$50.00

## Oberon Landowners Dinner

Date: 12th March 2011  
Location: Oberon Showgrounds  
Time: 7.00pm for 7.30pm Start  
Bookings: **Greg Prowse 0414 712 501**  
Email: [growse2@bigpond.com](mailto:growse2@bigpond.com)

## Monthly Council Meeting

NSW Sports Club  
10 Hunter Street, Sydney  
Date: Thursday, 7 April 2011  
Time: 11.30am

## Monthly Luncheon\*

NSW Sports Club  
10 Hunter Street, Sydney  
Date: Thursday, 7 April 2011  
Time: 12.30 pm for 1.00 pm.  
Cost: \$50.00

## Annual Dinner

Date: 26th August 2011  
Location: Roseville Golf Club  
Cost: TBC  
Bookings: **Richard Levingston**  
Email: [rlevingston@bigpond.com](mailto:rlevingston@bigpond.com)

## Field Trips – Oberon

**Billabong Cottage**  
Dates: 11th to 12th (Incl) March 2011  
Bookings: **Gerhard Benz 9387 6641**

## Penarth

Dates: 20th to 22nd (Inc) May 2011  
Bookings: **Greg Prowse 0414 712 501**  
Email: [growse2@bigpond.com](mailto:growse2@bigpond.com)

## Field Trips – Snowy Mountains Area

Date: November 2011 (To Coincide with Cooma/Landowners Dinner)  
Bookings: **Gerhard Benz 9387 6641**

## Field Trips – Lake Narambulla NSW Fly Fishers Cottage

Southern Highlands  
Dates: 2011 Dates to follow shortly  
Bookings: **Gerhard Benz 9387 6641**

## Monaro (Cooma) Landowners Dinner

Date: TBC November 2011  
Location: Cooma Ex-Services Club,  
106 Vale Street Cooma  
Time: 7.00pm for 7.30pm Start  
Bookings: **Greg Prowse 0414 712 501**  
Email: [growse2@bigpond.com](mailto:growse2@bigpond.com)

## New Member Liaison Officer



All new members are encouraged to contact the Societies "New Member Liaison Officer" **Gerhard Benz**. If you need help accessing club facilities, getting in touch with other members who have the same interests, or anything else to do with the society. Gerhard can be contacted on 9387 6641 or email [ausbenz@bigpond.com](mailto:ausbenz@bigpond.com)

## New Members

We welcome Andrew Rutter and Keith Sheppard as new Members of the Society. We hope that you enjoy all the society has to offer and look forward to extending a personal welcome at one of our upcoming functions or meetings.

# The New South Wales Rod Fishers' Society Incorporated

## Postal Address

c/- The Honorary Secretary  
New South Wales Rod Fishers' Society  
15 Parkwood Grove, Pymble 2073  
E-mail: [info@nswrodfisherssociety.com](mailto:info@nswrodfisherssociety.com)

## Patron

Lofty Tottenham OAM (Honorary Life Member)

## President

Andrew McKenzie  
9 Davidson Avenue, Warrawee. N.S.W. 2074  
Telephone/Facsimile 02 9489 3372

## Honorary Treasurer

Peter Pengilly  
37 Cecil Street, Gordon 2072  
Telephone 02 9498 8390 (Private)  
Facsimile 02 9403 1490

## Honorary Secretary

Andrew Harris  
15 Parkwood Grove, Pymble 2073  
Telephone 0402 126 206 (Mobile)  
E-mail: [info@nswrodfisherssociety.com](mailto:info@nswrodfisherssociety.com)

## Councillors

Andrew McKenzie (President) (Casting)  
Gerhard Benz (Snr Vice President, Field Trips, New Member Liaison)  
Greg Prowse (Society Weekends / Functions)  
Warren Stoyles (Luncheon Organiser)  
Jim Eichler (Immediate Past President)  
Brian Quinn (Webmaster / Electronic Communication)  
Chris Blyth (Functions / Fly Tying Night)  
John Vaccaro (Editor—Tight Lines Bulletin)  
Richard Levingston (Functions)  
Ken Musgrove (Council Assistance - Bulletin)

## Membership Secretary

Andrew McKenzie  
E-mail: [info@nswrodfisherssociety.com](mailto:info@nswrodfisherssociety.com)

New Members are always welcome. Applications for membership can be forwarded to the Honorary Secretary with a cheque covering the joining fee of \$116 (incl. GST) and the first year's subscription of \$77 (incl. GST). The joining fee includes a complimentary copy of the Society's Centenary publication, "The Flowing Stream". If you already have this book, the joining fee will be proportionately reduced. If you do not know current Members to propose and second your Membership Application you are invited to contact the Membership Secretary or the Honorary Secretary so that they can make the appropriate arrangements to submit your Membership Application at next meeting of the Society's Council.

## Editor Tight Lines Journal

Geoffrey King  
E-mail: [info@nswrodfisherssociety.com](mailto:info@nswrodfisherssociety.com)

## Editor Tight Lines Bulletin

John Vaccaro  
E-mail: [jvaccaro@bigpond.com](mailto:jvaccaro@bigpond.com) (mobile) 0419 221 002

## NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers

For CFA news and events see [www.freshwateranglers.com.au](http://www.freshwateranglers.com.au)

## Advertising

For advertising in this Bulletin please contact  
Jim Eichler email: [eichler@bigpond.net.au](mailto:eichler@bigpond.net.au)  
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The Compleat Angler Sydney continues to offer all Members a standing 10% discount on its normal prices (all sales and other special offer prices are excluded)

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