

# Tassie 08

*The following is a summary of the just completed Club trip to Tasmania.*

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February** saw the Spirit of Tasmania set sail with seven Club members bound for the Central Highlands of Tasmania. Doug's and Liz's shack at Miena was to be our destination and home for the next two weeks.

Sunday dawned and we sped up the Bass Highway to Longford where the essential things were done – brekkie, grocery shopping and to visit the Doo-gun tackle shop to get our fishing licenses and stock up on flies and other fishing necessities. Then onto Miena to settle in to the shack and plan some fishing.

## **Sunday**

John Hawkins, Rob Chick and Heather Lewis fished Swan bay on the western side with Rob C opening his account for the trip with a 4 inch fish on a beetle pattern. Dave Woolcock, Bryan Clyde, Jeff Baldock and Allan Semmler fished the Swan Bay below Doug's Place. Allan S caught two small rainbows on a brown deer hair shaving brush. Jeff B got a take on a deer hair tag.

## **Monday**

Jeff B and Allan S got up early to fish the Great Lake – should have stayed in bed.

Arthurs Lake was the decided destination for the day's fishing. First stop was the power lines. Allan S got a fish on a red tag. Dave W got one on a deer hair tag and lost another. Bryan C got one on a Brett Wolf emerger and also lost another. John H. dropped two fish using a highland dun and a stick caddis. Jeff B dropped two using a shaving brush.

That night saw a contingent fish Swan Bay. Hardly a fish seen bur Bryan C landed a three pound brown on a cordulid.

## **Tuesday**

Allan S and Jeff B went to the Western Lakes to fish the Flora/O'Dell walk. They fished Baileys, O'Dell, Pine Rive and Agnew. Jeff B landed a two and a half pound brown, dropped a couple using a shaving brush. Allan S got a smaller fish on a tag.

Dave W, Bryan C, John H, Heather L and Rob C went to Penstock. Rob C dropped a good fish, Bryan C missed a hit on his first cast, and Dave W dropped one he had been working on for quite a while. John H put in his kayak and landed a two and a half pound brown using a highland dun.

The evening fishing was washed out – a visit to the Great Lake Hotel for dinner and a couple of ales.

## **Wednesday**

The night before we picked up a tip to fish the Great Lake early in the mornings – some of us got up early to test the theory – should have stayed in bed.

Rob C and Heather



*Bryan Clyde with his five pound brown trout at Penstock Lagoon*

L fished Penstock from early-morning. Rob C had two fish on the bank, caught using a dad's favourite, when Dave W, John H and Bryan C arrived mid-morning. Bryan C caught a fine five pound brown on a Brett Wolf emerger. Jeff B and Allan S fished Arthurs with Jeff landing two small fish on a shaving brush.

Russ Davies and Roland Chalupa arrived at lunch time and settled in.

That evening Russ D, Roland C, John H and Bryan C fished Swan Bay –it was raining and breezy. Saw a few fish moving but the wind blew up strong and the rain became quite heavy so we pulled the pin.

#### **Thursday**

Allan S and Jeff B set off on their trek and two night stay to Lake Antimony in the Western Lakes.

Buoyed by the previous day's success, we returned to Penstock. A strong southerly wind was blowing making fishing very hard.

That evening the wind died down on dusk, but it was still very cold. Russ D got a three pound brown on a Mrs Simpson. The rest all missed out. (PS: that evening two members were seen buying all the Brett Wolf emergers in Miena)

#### **Friday**

John H awoke to car problems. It seems the late model Rodeos have trouble using mainland fuel in the colder central highlands climate.

Dave W, Bryan C, Heather L and Rob C went to Launceston for the morning and helped the local fly tackle industry.

Russ D and Roland C fished Little Pine – lots of fishermen, no duns and saw no fish being caught.

That evening fished Penstock with the weather cold and wet. Russ D lost a very good fish using a Mrs Simpson.

#### **Saturday**

Bryan C, Dave W and John H fished Little Pine. Bryan C missed the take while prospecting in the flat areas on the lee side of the bank. John H got a fish on a humpy. The trio then moved to Arthurs and fished at Wilberville. John H got a two pound brown on an emerger. They then moved to Penstock and John H got a four pound brown on the same emerger.

Allan S and Jeff B returned from their trek to Lake Antimony. Allan S had similar fuel problems to John H. Must have been strange to see someone using a small gas stove to heat up the fuel lines on Allan's Rodeo Ute.

Dave W cooked a gourmet roast lamb dinner for everyone that evening - definitely the highlight of the fishing trip. This was followed by a delicate dessert of peaches ala tin with custard.

#### **Sunday**

Jeff B, Allan S, Russ D, Roland C, John H, Dave W and Bryan C ventured to Gunn's and Little Lake. Saw a couple of small tiger snakes. Jeff B got one fish at Gunn's using a brown beetle, and two at Little Lake using a black spinner. Russ D got two fish at Little Lake using a black spinner. Rob C and Heather L fished Penstock for no fish.

That evening fished Swan Bay with Jeff B landing two small rainbows on his dunny brush.

#### **Monday**

Jeff B and Allan S went on another trek to the Western Lake – this time a one-night stay at Zig Zag. Jeff B got a large fish estimated between six to eight pounds. The fish was in survival mode and if in prime condition could have easily topped the eight pound plus mark.

Bryan C, Dave W and John H went to the Western Lake – namely Double Lagoon, and were literally blown off the water. John H returned home that evening.

That evening fished Penstock again only to be confronted by strong winds.

#### **Tuesday**

The whole group fished Arthurs this day. Rob C and Heather L fished at the power lines. Rob C landed a good fish and broke off another using a Greenwell's Glory.

Roland C, Russ D, Dave W and Bryan C fished at Hydro Bay. Russ D got one fish on a shaving brush, Roland C got two fish and Bryan C got a fish.

Again went to Penstock to fish the evening – very cold and no fish moving.

#### **Wednesday**

Fished Arthurs at the powerlines. Jeff B got three small fish from his float tube. Allan S got a pound and a half brown from Jonah Bay. That evening Jeff B and Allan S fished Swan Bay. Dave W and Bryan C fished Penstock where there were some fish moving and a good hatch. Dave W lost a good fish, broken off against the structure. Late in the evening mud eyes started migrating from the water but the wind shot up and swung around making fly-fishing near impossible.

#### **Thursday**

Bryan C and Dave W went to Bronte to fish. Fished Hut Bay where Bryan C got a small rainbow on a Brett Wolf emerger. Then fished Pine Tier Lagoon where they stumbled onto a very good hatch with quite a few fish rising – mostly small with some nice ones interspersed. Both had many hits but could not connect. Then fished Little Pine on the way home but saw no fish.

Russ D and Roland C also fished Bronte at Stile Corner. They saw no fish then ventured to Pine Tier Lagoon on the south west corner. Saw a lot of fish moving but well out into the lagoon.

That evening fished Swan Bay - a lot of small fish early but no takes. Roland C landed a three and a half brown in Dud Bay and was broken off on another.

#### **Friday**

Jeff B and Allan S had a plan to fish Arthurs then proceed to Gunn's and Little Lake. Arthurs showed no activity. They then fished Gunn's Lake. Jeff B got five browns and Allan S got three browns.

Bryan C and Dave W went to the Western Lakes and ended up fishing Ada Lagoon. Bryan C got two fish of both two and a half pounds using a shaving brush and then a parachute Adams.

Russ D and Roland C fished Arthurs before heading to Ulverstone to spend the evening before catching the boat the next morning for the trip home.

That evening only Dave W and Bryan C ventured to fish Swan Bay below Doug's shack. There was a very good caddis hatch with a lot of small fish in close. After the main hatch Bryan C got another two and a half pound brown on a fiery beetle.

#### **Saturday**

It was pack-up time. Rob C, Heather L, Dave W and Bryan C headed off the mountain for some sightseeing and retail therapy on the way back to Devonport to catch the boat home.

Jeff B and Allan S had one last crack at the fishing – they headed to the Western Lake and fished



*Jeff Balbock with his fish from Zig Zag Lake*

Lake Augusta. Jeff B got a two pounder.

Again, another great fishing trip and thanks to Doug and Liz for their hospitality, even though we did not see a lot of Doug. Doug is supposed to be retired but seems to be busier than when he was working. This really cuts into his fishing time.

I look forward to the same time next year to

**Tassie 09.**

*Bryan Clyde*