

Annual Club Trip to Tasmania 2007

Departed Melbourne Sunday 4th February 2007 staying at "The Creel", Miena, courtesy Doug and Liz Lang.

Monday Day 1

Fished Todd's Corner. Caught up with John Knowles, a friend of Russ. John was in the process of releasing his fourth fish when we arrived. He went onto land another three, with none of us landing a fish. John was casting to fish which were coming in from the deeper water over the weed beds and fossicking in the shallow water before going back to the deeper water. The wind was blowing directly off the water, creating waves which let you see the fish in the water. John caught his fish on a modified Montana Nymph.

Later that afternoon, Russ D, Reg P and John K fished Hydro Bay at Arthur's. Russ landed two fish, a two pounder and a three pounder. Reg landed a small fish as did John. Dave W and Bryan C visited Penstock and then went and tried Bronte Lagoon but had no success. That evening the wind was from the South and all fished Swan Bay. John landed a very good four pound rainbow which put on a great performance. Dave missed three takes.



Tuesday Day 2

Early morning start at Todd's Corner with John K. The wind had been howling from the NE at night. It had turned to come from the SE. Hardly a fish was sighted, even landed. After John had to go reluctantly home (read to work), we tried Penstock Lagoon, fishing the south east corner up from the dam wall. Conditions could not be any better, considering the SE wind. Some small fish were rising, with the occasional dun coming off the water. That evening again visited Swan Bay but no success. The wind was very strong from the NE.

Wednesday Day 3

We fished Todd's Corner, prospecting along the shoreline. Reg and Russ ventured along the shore but to no avail. Bryan fished to a nice dark-backed brown which patiently swam on his beat while Bryan dealt with bad presentations and tangles. The fish's patience finally ran out and it did not reappear again.

That afternoon travelled to Launceston, visiting the usual attractions as one should - Brumby's Creek, Doogun tackle shop and the Essential Flyfisher. The main aim of the visit was to attend the monthly meeting of The Fly Fishers Club of Tasmania, of which we met a lot of members and made a re-acquaintance with Don Urquhart.

Thursday Day 4

The weather gods were good to us this day so we ventured to the Western Lakes. We fished Ada Lagoon, with Russ and Reg going along the western shore, and Dave and Bryan the eastern shore. Russ and Reg found the western shore shallow and not a lot of activity. The eastern shore was rockier, with more fish rising. There was ample opportunity to latch onto a fish, but none came to the fly. A guide happened to arrive after we started to fish and caught a four and a half pound brown where Russ and Reg had fished earlier.

That evening the wind was from the NE and again we ventured to Swan Bay. The wind was blowing along the shore initially, but turned to blow onshore. No fish taken.

Friday Day 5

The wind was from the north. We decide to fish Arthur's and ventured to Tumbledown Bay. Bryan caught two small fish on a possum emerger and Dave caught two on a shaving brush. There were a lot of small fish in this part of the lake. We visited Gunns Lake before heading back to our accommodation.

That evening the slight wind was from the west. We spent the evening at Swan Bay enjoying excellent conditions. Schooling rainbows gave us a treat and a work-over. Russ caught a two pound rainbow on a caddis pattern. Dave hooked and landed a three pound brown which took him to the backing. A red tag was successful. He lost/missed three others on a black muddler into the evening. Reg missed two takes. Bryan was broken off by a very big rainbow; the fly was a large shaving brush. Although there were not many fish caught, the action was spectacular. We made an acquaintance with Neville, a local, who was not worried about giving information. We were to run into him on a few other occasions, very interesting bloke.



Saturday Day 6

In the morning Reg and Bryan went to Todd's Corner. Reg cast to but could not entice a nice fish to oblige using a red tag. Bryan hooked a nice fish on a stick caddis, but applied premature release as Reg was getting his camera to capture the action.

The evening wind was again from the SE, and again, reluctantly we fished Swan Bay. Conditions were miserable and the fish were very scarce.

Reinforcements in the form of Jeff B arrived late in the night ready to tackle the conditions.

Sunday Day 7 (Day 1 for Jeff)

Conditions were semi-overcast, with a light NE wind. We fished Little Pine. Dave, Jeff and Bryan float-tubed the lagoon, Russ fished the shore while Doug L took Reg out in his boat to drift fish. There were quite a few boats on Little Pine, with most darting everywhere to find a hatch with feeding fish. Jeff had a couple of hits on a stick caddis, while Russ had a couple of slashes at his fly but no takes. The fish were not rising. One of the boat brigade was successful fishing bead-headed woolly buggers, landing some four pound plus fish.

The evening wind was from the SE. Swan Bay again was the scene. Conditions were not enjoyable, but Doug and Jeff landed a fish each, using a muddler-like fly and a beetle pattern.

Monday Day 8

The wind was from the NE and we decided to fish Hydro Bay at Arthur's. Dave landed a small fish on a shaving brush, Jeff landed two fish on a possum emerger, Russ landed a fish on a beetle and Bryan landed a fish on a stick caddis under a red tag. Jeff and Bryan ventured out in their float tubes.

The evening fishing was again at Swan Bay with the wind from the North. Reg landed a rainbow on a red tag, Dave a brown on a black beetle, Russ landed a rainbow on a dry and a

brown on a muddler, Jeff landed two browns on a muddler-like fly (his dunny brush), and Bryan missed a big fish on a red tag.

Tuesday Day 9

Russ, Reg, Dave and Bryan took a day off and visited the Salmon Ponds at Plenty. Definitely saw some big fish. It was very enjoyable to see the beginnings of trout in Australia.

Fished Brady's Lake on the way back to Miena. The wind was a northerly, and the conditions seemed ideal. There were a few fish, mostly small, and some caddis coming off the water, but not takes. We called into Swan Bay on the way home, 11pm, and Dave landed a three and a half pound brown on a cordulid.

Doug and Jeff braved the rough conditions whipped up by a NE wind and fished Elizabeth Bay on Great Lake. Doug landed three fish, Jeff two fish, using beetle patterns. They fished Swan Bay in the evening with Doug landing two fish and Jeff one fish. Again the fish were around the three pound mark, the fly a beetle pattern.

Wednesday Day 10

The day was partly cloudy with a Northerly wind. We fished Canal Bay, with Dave losing a four and a half pound fish; his red tag's hook had lost its point. Reg had a refusal. Doug and Jeff went to the Western Lakes early, fishing Lake Kay. Doug landed 5 fish and Jeff one.

That evening the venue was the same – Swan Bay. The breeze was from the NW then swung late from the NE. Not before Bryan opened his account with a four pound brown on a red tag. He followed this up with a break-off of another huge fish – snapping the leader at the surgeons loop. Soon after he landed a three and a half pound brown on a cricket pattern. This fish took him into the backing. Jeff landed a nice rainbow. Dave had seven misses, but who is counting.



Thursday Day 11

Dave and Bryan met up with Peter H at Arthur's who took them out in his boat. Peter showed parts of Arthur's not readily accessible by shore based fishermen. Dave landed two fish drift fishing using a shaving brush, one a nice two pounder. Bryan had a nice take using a dun pattern while fishing to some risers taking duns, but no hook-up. Really the first dun feeders seen on the trip.

The other boys hired a boat, and with Doug and his boat fished Canal Bay and Elizabeth Bay. Jeff landed a two and a half pound rainbow on a claret beetle, Russ a three pound rainbow on a red tag, Doug landed two two-pound fish, while Reg had one on for a while and practiced premature release.

That night conditions were good and back to Swan Bay. Jeff landed a three pound rainbow and a like size brown on a beetle pattern. Reg stepped up to the mark and landed a three and a half pound then a three and a quarter pound brown in quick succession, both on a red tag. Dave and Bryan had takes but did not stay connected.

Friday Day 12 (Last day for some)

With the wind from the north, we ventured out in the boats to Elizabeth Bay. Saw a few trout, even had some refusals to the fly. Russ landed a three pound brown on a red tag.

The evening wind was from the NW, and then calmed down. Reg landed a three pound rainbow on a red tag, with Dave landing a three pound brown also on a red tag. The others had some hits but could not connect.



Saturday saw us head off the Central Plateau and head to Devonport for the trip home. Jeff stayed on for another week and hopefully will write up his adventures for the next newsletter. This was an enjoyable trip. The company was good as was the accommodation, which we freely recommend to anyone. Till the next Tassie trip.

Bryan Clyde