

Northern Suburbs Fly Fishing Club

Last month we gave you an early reminder to keep the evening of 15 August free — it's the NSFFC Annual Dinner and Presentation Night.

The club committee is some way down the path of planning this evening and it promises to be a great night so make sure you make the effort to get along. At just \$35 a head it is also an inexpensive evening.

The main focus of the evening is presenting the awards for the 2014/15 season including fishing, casting, fly tying and general club awards as well as celebrating the 'fishing year'.

As usual, there will be a huge club raffle with a table full of great prizes donated by our sponsors and club members.

The club is taking bookings now so please see a committee member to reserve your spot at the Annual Dinner.

This edition of the *Northern Flyline* includes an interesting article by John Smith on a fly fishing expedition in Arizona. Who would have thought you could catch trout in the desert!

We also take a look at a government plan to grow recreational fishing in Victoria — and that can only be a positive development.

Philip

NSFFC Committee

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President's page

Is it June already? Where has the first half of 2015 gone? June is probably my least favourite month. Not just because I get my group certificate that reminds me just how much I pay the Federal Government in taxes, but it can be just a tough month all round.

It's getting colder, depending on how the spawn run is going the rivers can be fickle and the lakes may not have begun to fire up.

On the upside we are coming into a busy time on the club calendar. The Annual General Meeting is just around the corner.

I have been advised our extremely competent Editor will be unable to continue in that position, so if you have a flair for compiling documents please consider putting your hand up for the job. Phil will be around the traps and will be only too happy to help the new editor take up the reigns.

There is a copy of the Committee Nomination form attached to this newsletter and the formal copy is on the notice board, if you are interested in helping out with running our great club, please consider taking up one of the positions on offer.

On the fishing front there are some great trips coming up in June. The Long Weekend sees a change of venue as we head over to Bullen Merri/Purrumbete, and the day trip is to Wombat Reservoir.

On the casting front the long weekend is Australian Casting Championships time. The distance events are competed for on Saturday with the Accuracy events on Sunday. Southern Fly Fishers are hosting this year's event.

We have representatives from Scientific Anglers visiting on 26 July and Stu Tripney will be visiting the club in the near future. Please keep an eye on your emails and club notice board for further details dates and times.

Looking a little further ahead we have our Annual Dinner and Presentation Night on Saturday 15 August. I hope you can make it along to this great club event.

Speaking of annual dinners, I recently had the pleasure of attending Sunshine Fly Casting Club's 50th Anniversary Dinner. What a milestone 50 years is, and on behalf of Northern Suburbs Fly Fishing Club, I wish the committee and members of Sunshine all the best for the next 50 years. It won't be long before we are planning our 50th too.

Cheers, John

What's On

June 2015

- 4 General Meeting
- 6 Australian Casting Champ's
- 7 Australian Casting Champ's
- 6-8 Bullen Merri club trip
- 11 Fly Tying
- 13 Bamboo rod makers day
- 13 John Rumpf casting trophy
- 14 Sunshine Open
- 18 Committee Meeting
- 25 Fly Tying
- 27 Wombat Reservoir day trip

July 2015

- 2 Annual General Meeting
- 5 Brunn Shield - Round 3
- 9 Club Fly Tying
- 9 Fly Tying Course starts
- 9 Rod Builders Course Info
- 11-12 Lake Tooliorook trip
- 16 Committee Meeting
- 19 Red Tag Open casting
- 26 Southern Open casting
- 23 Club Fly Tying
- 30 Fishing Skills Night

August 2015

- 15 NSFFC Dinner/Awards Night

Put 15 August in your diary now !

"Something to think about: If you fish the wrong fly long and hard enough, it will sooner or later become the right fly"

John Gierach

Fishing Lee's Ferry, Arizona

by John Smith



Arizona may not always appear on the top of the lists of fly fishing destinations around the world or even the USA for that matter, however there are some notable points about this arid desert state's salmonid fishery.

Arizona is home to the endangered Gila (pronounced *heela*) trout, *Oncorhynchus gilae*, and the critically endangered Apache Trout (*Onocorhynchus apache*). Both species are being closely managed by the Arizona Fish and Game Agency and local indigenous Indian communities so their future should be assured. Along with the Gila and Apache trout the state has a sound fishery for brown, rainbow and some brook trout.

Having such an arid climate with only 350 square miles of water surface and summer temperatures regularly exceed 110 degrees Fahrenheit, life for a poor old trout can be a bit tough! The trout fishery is confined to the Colorado River system in the north, the lakes and streams of the White Mountains in the northwest, and a few small streams and lakes around Mt Graham and Mount Lemon in the states south east.

FISH WITH THE BEST

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There is a dedicated band of fly fishos in Arizona and I had the opportunity to attend a monthly general meeting of the Old Pueblo Chapter of Trout Unlimited in Tucson. The members of this fly fishing club made me feel very welcome and the club runs along very similar lines to our own.

During my recent trip to Arizona I took the opportunity to fish the Colorado River at Lees Ferry and Rose Canyon Dam on Mount Lemon.

Trout were introduced into the Colorado river in the 1920s. Prior to the construction of Glen Canyon Dam the upper Colorado River of the Grand Canyon flowed warm and dirty with summer day time water temperatures as high as 29 degrees Celsius. With the dams opening in 1963 the trout moved out of the tributaries and into the main river as the cold, clear water releases were 8-10 degrees Celsius all year round. A dam operations report (*Epstein, 15 Mar 2005*) states, "Since 2003 the winter flow hydrograph out of Glen Canyon Dam has been altered completely with the hope of creating a healthier tail-water trout population composed of bigger fish, these fluctuating winter flows have proven somewhat effective in reducing recruitment but the desired changes in the fishery have not been conclusive". With current management practices geared towards the needs of anglers the 16 miles of river between the dam wall and Lee's Ferry has become one of the premier tail race rainbow trout fisheries in the lower 48 states of the USA.

We booked through Lee's Ferry Anglers and our guide was TJ Carrington. TJ has been guiding at Lee's Ferry for a few years and knew the stretch of



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river like the back of his hand and was able to put us onto fish immediately.

If you are looking to target double digit, trophy fish Lee's Ferry is probably not the spot for you. However with a population of 1500-2000 fish per river mile there are ample fish in the 30-40cm range and the chance of a much bigger specimen is always there.

Now, having said that, these are all wild fish, stocking of trout in the upper Colorado River ceased in 1997. Couple that with the fact this is a true tail race fishery and even though the flow rates are somewhat tailored to suit trout angling, the flows and hence temperatures can vary dramatically. So connecting with one of Lee's Ferry's finest can present a bit of a challenge at times.

I arrived with an 8ft 5wt and in TJ's opinion this is on the short side for fishing Lee's Ferry. My son borrowed my 9ft 6 weight which TJ assessed as adequate but in both cases an extra foot or two of rod length would be an advantage. Surprisingly spey casting isn't widely practiced on the upper Colorado. Our floating lines were fine and TJ soon had both Nathan and I set up with 12 foot leaders, a "thingamabob" floating indicator, a pair of tungsten bead Zebra Midges connected to a couple of feet of 3lb tippet with a small split shot added to get the flies down quickly to where the fish were holding.

After a fast trip up the river in the 351 V8 Ford powered jet boat, the first spot we stopped at and anchored was just above where the river began to flow into a shallower run. The weed covered bottom was plainly visible in the gin clear water and it didn't take long for the fish to come back on station and start hitting our flies ... hooking up was a different matter. Due to the fast current flow, to keep the flies in the strike zone without drag swinging them to the surface required huge upstream mends. That's why TJ preferred 10 foot rods!

With such a lot of slack line on the water, setting the hook after seeing the 'thingamabob' stall or dip proved a little difficult ... again a 10ft rod would have been better than an 8 or 9 footer, however we soon got our line management house in order and fish began to come to hand.

After catching a few off this run it was time to haul anchor and scoot a little further upstream to fish a deeper section of river, drifting and casting towards deeper drop offs. Again it didn't take long for the fish to come back on, and TJ did a great job on the ores keeping the boat in position



No wonder the fish were on #18 Zebra Midges (TJ Carrington Photo)

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and over the fish.

Before we knew it the morning had gone and lunch time was upon us. We headed down stream and pulled the boat into a small back eddy, stretched our legs and scoffed down a feed before hitting the water again.

This time TJ put us onto a pool that had a good little side feeder coming in from the main river and a couple of great chutes at the backend of the pool. A honey hole is the best way I can describe it as Nathan and I cast to sighted fish that eagerly left their holding positions to whack our midge patterns.

We changed flies to a San Juan worm/glo bug combo to mix things up a bit but the fish just weren't interested. It was a zebra midge or nothing, exactly as it had been in the main river! Changing back immediately produced results.

We may not have caught the biggest fish in the Colorado River but we certainly got our fair share and to say the scenery was spectacular or breath taking is simply an understatement — superlatives and digital photos just don't do it justice.

If you'd like to check out the video of our day on the Colorado follow this link to you tube, hope you enjoy it - <http://youtu.be/dt0e2r-NjZE>



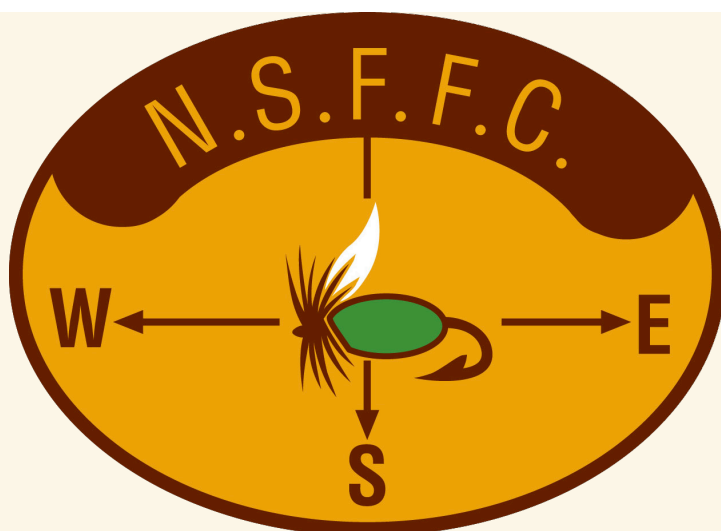
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Guide 'TJ' Carrington with a "Honey Hole" rainbow.



The Committee of the Northern Suburbs Fly Fishing Club cordially invite members and their guests to attend the

42nd Annual Dinner & Presentation Night

**To be held at the NSFFC clubrooms
Yarrambat Park Lake, Yarrambat
on the evening of 15 August 2015
commencing at 7.00pm sharp.**

Cost is \$35 per head for members and guests.

A two-course meal, soft drink, tea and coffee provided. BYO alcohol.

The evening includes the presentation of club awards for the 2014/15 season and a monster raffle with prizes donated by club sponsors.

RSVP to a committee member NOW.

Members are encouraged to donate a prize for the raffle table

TARGET ONE MILLION

The Victorian Labor government has unveiled \$20 million in new initiatives and services to grow recreational fishing in Victoria by encouraging families to get outdoors and enjoy fishing.

The government's 'Target One Million' plan – part of the 2015-16 Victorian Budget – aims to increase recreational fishing in Victoria over four years, creating jobs, supporting local businesses and strengthening rural and regional communities.

Recreational fishing currently contributes \$2.3 billion to Victoria's social and economic well-being.

The plan aims to increase the number of recreational fishers from about 730,000 to one million by encouraging participation with enhanced fishing opportunities and facilities.

Under the plan, fish stocking will increase to 5 million fish per year.

The plan will also provide a Better Fishing Facilities Fund to develop new recreational fishing reefs, improve boat launching facilities and support better access to waterways.

New children's fishing programs will teach the next generation of fishers responsible fishing behaviours while a grant program will support angling clubs in promoting the popular pastime.

Also included in the plan is a program to halt commercial netting in Port Phillip and Corio bays over eight years through a buyout of licences, increasing fish stocks for recreational anglers.

"Target One Million will grow recreational fishing in Victoria, giving families better opportunities to spend some quality time together outdoors," said Minister for Agriculture, Jaala Pulford.

"Increasing the number of recreational fishers to one million will create jobs, support local businesses and strengthen our rural and regional communities."

"Our eight-year program to halt commercial netting in Port Phillip and Corio bays will increase fish availability for recreational anglers and support clubs, while giving licence holders certainty."



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MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING**7th May 2015**

8:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Apologies: Ian Lowe, Phil Goslin, John Kruska**Visitors:****Minutes**

Minutes from the previous General Meeting were presented by the Secretary and seconded by Phil Matthews – Carried.

Business Arising

- ❖ Still chasing the JMC bill.

Treasurer's Report

- ❖ \$6 999.09 in bank account.
- ❖ Successful Bunnings Fund Raising - \$754 taken for a profit of \$511.30
- ❖ Meeting with the JMC to sort out the bills
- ❖ Term deposit to be rolled over
- ❖ Treasurer's Report read on a motion from the Treasurer seconded Dave Jenkins - Carried

Business Arising

- ❖ Nil.

Correspondence

As per correspondence register

Syllabus

- ❖ Royal Coachman Trip – 16 – 17 May – Planning complete, stayin at the Eildon Pondage Caravan park.
- ❖ Vic Casting Championships – 23 – 24 May – Map provided to Yarrambat Cricket Club for distance casting events. President will be returning for the accuracy events.
- ❖ Fund Raising BBQ – Bunnings Mill Park – 31 May
- ❖ Brunn Shield – 31 May
- ❖ Lake Bullen Merri – 6 – 8 Jun – staying at Purrumbeet Caravan park
- ❖ Australian Casting Championships – Southern FF – 6 – 7 Jun
- ❖ Bamboo Rod Makers Day – 13 Jun
- ❖ Wombat Res Day Trip – 27 Jun – Daniel Bowman organising
- ❖ AGM – 2 Jul – Require members of the committee
- ❖ Beginners Fly Tying Course – 9 – 30 Jul
- ❖ Rod Building Course Briefing – 9 Jul
- ❖ Tooliorook – 11 – 12 Jul – Planning in progress
- ❖ Skills Night – 30 Jul
- ❖ Annual Dinner – 15 Aug

Fishing Reports

- ❖ Steavenson River - 34 fish caught for the day. Darren Percy caught 6 with the best @ 29 cm. Lunch was had at the pub and was very enjoyable.
- ❖ Rubicon River – Daryl Wallis caught 8 fish Czech nymphing on the way home from the Steavo.
- ❖ Goulburn River – Mike Messer said that he was catching some nice fish around the edges.
- ❖ Saltwater – Joop Drenth had some success with a Bag fly bagging a long tom and som sand whiting.
- ❖ Ballarat 2 Fly Event – AJ won this event with a 60cm brown
- ❖ Toorongo and Locke Rivers – Peter Cogdon and Glen Cox had a day on these rivers for around 24 fish.

Other Business

- ❖ Secretary proposed that the Club By Laws be amended to include the Rules for the Royal Coachman Fishing Trip:

.1 Royal Coachman Trophy

.1.1 The competition is for the perpetual Royal Coachman Trophy contested between the Northern Suburbs Fly Fishing Club (NSFFC) and the Red Tag Fly Fishers' Club (Red Tag).

.1.2 The Royal Coachman Trophy is awarded to the Club whose member submits a measurement of the longest fish caught during the competition.

.1.3 It is the responsibility of the winning Club to organise the following year's event.

.1.4 The competition is to be held the first weekend after the 15th of May or by agreement between the two Clubs.

.1.5 Rules:

Only financial members of the NSFFC and Red Tag may compete in the competition.

All competitors must have a current Victorian fishing licence.

The use of watercraft (boats etc.) is not permitted.

The hours of competition are from 6 am to 7 pm on Saturday and 6 am to 12 pm Sunday of the competition.

Fishing is permitted in the Pondage, the Goulburn River, and surrounding streams.

The target fish for the competition are Salmonoids only.

The competitor can adopt a "catch, measure, and release" or a "catch and keep" method of reporting.

The measuring of fish released is based on an honesty system. (no witness required)

Fish are to be measured from the tip of the snout to the fork in the tail.

The minimum length of a measured fish is 25 cm.

Catches must be reported, or presented, at the competition campsite up until 1 pm Sunday of the competition. Reports after this time will not be considered.

In the event of a draw, a Draw will be recorded.

The Trophy is held by the winning Club for 12 months.

- .1.6** *Although the event is a fishing competition, it is to be conducted in the spirit of engendering friendships between the two clubs, and improving fly fishing skills of attendees*

- ❖ JMC Meeting Scheduled for 11 May. Need to discuss Light near the casting cage and motion lights need repairing.
- ❖ ACF – Nil
- ❖ CVFFC – Ultimate Sports Expo – Committee to discuss
- ❖ General Business
 - 2015/16 Syllabus doesn't include the Auction. Secretary to include.
 - Les Hawkins has a new book. President will pick up from Wodonga if order placed.
 - Presentation of Casting shirt and cap to Bill Jones.

John Smith
President
22 June 2015

Pat Sheridan
Secretary
22 June 2015