The EXPO Roadshow

By Ian Cox

The Fly tying and Fly Fishing Expo took place over the weekend of 24 and 25 June 2017. However for a lucky of us it started a week earlier when Marc Petitjean and Moreno Borriero arrived at Jay's house for a braai. Instant friendships were made that evening. Moreno and I discovering that we were physically at least "brother's from different mothers.

I missed out on Sundays fishing on the Umkomaas but got to enjoy two splendid days fishing in the Impendle district where I quickly discovered that Marc fishes hard and Moreno, like me enjoys the finer things in life – like lunch. Andrew Fowler and Dries joined us for supper where the single malt flowed and flowed. A river had found its way into me by the time Marc said "Ian now you will tie me a Para Rab". It took me 5 minutes to thread my J Bobbin which delighted Marc no end. His bobbin is designed to be threaded while drunk. As for the Rab, well Marc said it was not how Gordon tied it. Gordon, by the way, does not drink.

We all rushed back on Tuesday in time for the presentation that Moreno and Marc had prepared for us. And what a night that was. Moreno has a charmingly chilled perfectionist and Marc is one of those people who has thought deeply about things so he can explain them simply to the rest of us. Moreno's accounts of how rod building in Italy has grown into something spectacular was an inspiration to all of us apprentice builders in Durban. And the quick and entreating tour that Marc gave us through the history of CDC was taught me stuff I did not know despite having read the book.

Marc and Moreno headed off the next day but we were not far behind them. The expo stared on Saturday morning. It was a fantastic affair. Andrew Stelios and I got there early as the word was that Marc Petitjean's stuff sells out fast. The word was right. If we had not got stuck in early we would have missed out. The truth is that I really enjoy these shows because they give you an opportunity to catch up with old friends and make a whole lot of new ones.