

# THE BOBBIN

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November 2019

## CHAIRMAN'S CHIRP

Well for those of you that missed Hans van Klinken's tie I will rub salt in the wound as it was a great evening. Hans kept us entertained for over three hours with stories and all the inside info around the Klinkhåmer. We learn the name was a bit of a joke, but it stuck! We held it in association with NFDS although in the end they only had two members arrive. The evening would not have been possible without the generous assistance of Kearney College (Peter and John) for the venue and teas and coffees and Xplorer Fly Fishing (John and Keegan) for the drinks.

Well by the time to see this the DFT Snowflake weekend will be in full swing. Rivers are desperately low and clear. We should get a few fish, but it will be tough. We really need the rain. On the up side perhaps, we can tie a few flies!

Traditionally the December meeting is our Xmas party and to those of you whom haven't been seen much at our monthly this year please pop along and enjoy the evening with your fellow club members.

See you soon.



## FROM THE EDITOR

This is the last edition of the Bobbin this year and it has more articles than usual! As you all know, Hans van Klinken demonstrated his famous Klinkhammer special and a few other flies – see his bio and a few pics. Gordon Gove, a regular and faithful Bobbin scribe, writes about his experience in building cane rods – and Richard Bing tells us about his recent trip to Rhodes. I have been reminiscing about my fishing life and have written an article on my first ski-boat experience. Enjoy – and while you fish or tie flies over the festive season, think about how you will report your experience in the next edition of the Bobbin



**Durban Fly Tyers  
ANNUAL YEAR END BASH.**

**2 December 2019 /19.00 for 19.30/ Room G1 Westville Library**

## AN EVENING WITH HANS VAN KLINKEN

Hans began bait angling at the age of six in a nearby lowland brook. Seven years later, during a family holiday in Norway and while using a spoon, came his first salmon (9 kg). In 1971 he began fly-fishing for Arctic char and Atlantic salmon using his father's cane rod and by age sixteen he was travelling alone to fish in Scandinavia. As a schoolboy with plenty of spare time, Hans spent most of it in the northern part of Norway, Sweden and Finland and developed an addiction for the outdoor life. His greatest outdoor experience was during 1975 when he stayed for almost four months in the wilderness of Northern Lapland. Here he learned how to survive in the forest and on the tundra. His teacher was an old Lap and they communicated with their hands and feet.

Hans began fly-tying in 1976. By the early eighties he was creating his own designs, mostly parachutes. This preference eventually led to several unusual patterns and tying techniques! It would be another four years before he fully recognized the value of other flies, like nymphs, streamers and emergers. Unlike most European fly-fishers, Hans' first salmon and sea trout were caught on dry flies. Thus, he was forced to go his own way, and he credits his twenty-eight years of Scandinavian experience for much of his fly-fishing and fly-tying skills.

After nearly ten years of fishing in Scandinavia, Hans began travelling to other European countries such as Ireland, the UK, Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg, France and Switzerland. The success of the large patterns developed for Scandinavian fishing was immediate. In 1981 he moved for his work to the north of Germany. Now even closer to Scandinavia more time on the water was possible and fly-fishing became an obsession. A result of this additional experience was involvement in writing about flies and his travels. Then, in 1986 Hans became a member of the editorial staff of the Dutch Fly fishing magazine and Dutch-area secretary of the Grayling Society. After 15 years working for the Dutch Fly Fishing Magazine he quit and started to intensify his lectures, tying demonstrations and workshops. Hans is well known for his excellent guiding service and teaching qualities, especially at the riverbank. For the last six years he has travelled to Canada to give workshops and to test his patterns on Canadian Atlantic salmon, Pacific salmon, pike, steelhead, lake trout, shad, grayling, white fish and small mouth bass.

Hans' favourite patterns are parachutes, emergers and realistic nymphs. He enjoys sharing his knowledge about fly-fishing and fly-tying and is particularly skilled in the taking of Atlantic salmon and grayling on dry flies. Although having dabbled in the classic salmon fly world for about 10 years, by 1990 he was concentrating on workshops for river fishing and tying classes for realistic and effective fishing patterns. Since 1986, Hans has participated at many fly tying shows and has been given several lectures, classes and workshops in the U.K., Belgium, Germany, Scandinavia, Canada, Asia and U.S.A. He has written for many international and club magazines as well as contributing to books by his friends, such as Tying flies with CDC by Leon Links, The World's Best Trout Flies by John Roberts, Fly Tyers Masterclass by Oliver Edwards, The Complete Book of the Grayling by Ron Broughton, The Complete Book Of Fly Fishing by Malcolm Greenhalgh, Modern Atlantic Salmon Flies by Paul Marriner and many more. Today Hans write his own columns in international magazines and producing awesome photo cd's from his fishing trips. He also works on several new ideas and is fanatically supporting wildlife and environment projects that are close to his heart.

Hans van Klinken's best-known known patterns are the L.T series, the Klinkhåmer Special, Lead headed grayling bugs, the Caseless Caddis, the Remerger, the Para-poly sedge, the Baetis nymph, the Once and Away, and the Culard series. Less well known are his productive series of salmon patterns, of which many are dries.



***FLIES DEMONSTRATED  
BY HANS***



***Klinkhåmer Special***



***Para Poly Sedge***



***Once and away***



## CANE ROD BUILDING BY GORDON GOVE

Why would anybody, in his right mind, decide to build split cane rods, there are lots of adequate plastic rods available which, I have been told, perform quite well, that is, apart from the danger of lightning strikes.

Maybe cane rod builders are driven to attempt the impossible, setting unrealistic standards for themselves that they will never achieve, cutting their fingers to shreds on sharp bamboo, and having emotional breakdowns over broken rod strips. As we all know, cane rod builders are known to be addicted to single malts whiskeys.

In my case, after deciding to take up cane rod building I spent 2 years gathering information from the internet, unaware that there were 2 experienced cane rod builders active in Cape Town. Having filled 4 lever arch files with a huge amount of confusing data, I was ready to start.

**Step one** was to manufacture the various bits of machinery and tooling necessary, this took another 2 years but, at the end of that time, I had an adequate planning form, a 60 degree powered mill, a 4 string binder, 2kw oven and lots of other bits and pieces to aid the process.

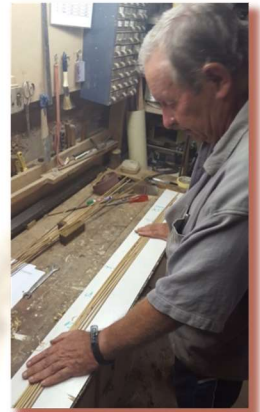


**Step two:** I now had a reasonable well equipped workshop, but no Tonkin cane. One afternoon, I was chatting to one of my hunting friends when he happened to mention that he was contemplating taking up cane rod building, and had already imported 20 culms of Tonkin cane but had none of the specialised tooling and machines. He then offered me a couple of lengths. Big problem solved. Things got even better when a couple of weeks later he phoned to say he was going to Australia, and I could have all his cane at cost. So there is a patron saint of rod builders looking after us.



**Step 3:** Build rods. As my rod building bible is Garrison's book, I started with one of his tapers, a 206, a rather short 5wt and it turned out to have an extremely soft action which I love. It is far from the perfect yellowfish rod, but then I am also far from the perfect yellowfish angler. So we are a perfectly matched pair. Since those early days numerous rods have left my workshop: Still water rods like the Young's Para 15's, Leonard 3 wt rods for Natal yellowfish. Payne 101s, great rods, and recently I have "found" the Cattnach's Sir D taper a 4 wt, 7 foot rod, which to me, is getting close to my ideal rod. When I finally find the taper for the perfect rod that can handle largies, but delicate enough to handle small stream browns.

When my build is outstanding, with no flaws, and I am satisfied that the rod is absolutely perfect, I will have reached the summit of my rod building and I will then be found dead, slumped over my planning form with a happy smile on my face.





## RHODES OCTOBER 2019 BY RICHARD BING

Earlier this year I picked up a magazine on the open gardens of South Africa. Besides being a novice fly fisher I am also a keen gardener. After looking at the magazine I was interested in the gardens in the Eastern Cape and as I had not explored and travelled this part of our beautiful country. I said to my wife that we should do a trip to both Bedford and Hogsback. But, as we were going to go via Maclear and Elliot en route to Hogsback, I decided that it was a good idea to go to Rhodes as I had heard that both Rhodes and Barclay East were good fly fishing areas. As the open gardens for Bedford and Hogsback are only open in October of each year I had heard that the rivers could be dry.

I made accommodation reservations for Rhodes and Hogsback. I noticed that in the Bobbin that there was an advert for accommodation at the Walkerbouts Inn in Rhodes. It was a strange coincidence that Dave Walker was at school with me at St Andrews in Bloemfontein! With his large frame and white beard I certainly did not immediately recall who he was - but over a few cold beers we both remembered each other and took a trip down memory lane. Not to say that at school he had a large white beard!

With accommodation all booked I mentioned at our fly tyers meeting that I was heading down to Rhodes and whether could anyone give me some useful tips. It should be noted that I am a real novice when it comes to fly fishing. Andrew Mather picked up on my discussion and a number of club members made recommendations and, in particular, that it would be a good idea to use a guide. Well, this was certainly the best advice I could have received - and it was suggested that I contact Dave walker who in turn referred me to Tony Kietzman. Andrew asked what rod I had and he recommended a lighter rod which he very kindly lent me plus a matching reel. I was most grateful for that because my rod was certainly the wrong weight for these waters.

After a hectic drive to Rhodes via the gravel roads that certainly need some attention, I arrived and booked in at the famous Walkerbouts Inn. Not much later Tony arrived and, after a few cold beers, we finalised the fishing plans for the next day. Tony did say that the Bell River was not an option as it had very little water but suggested we try the Bokspruit instead. Although the water level was low it certainly had trout and, although on the small side, they were plentiful.

Tony spent the best part of 3 hours helping me with casting as this was my first time doing river fishing. After I had mastered the art of casting it was time to do some fishing. Although the fish were small they certainly gave you a thrill and under the expert guidance of Tony I caught quite a few. Tony is like a walking encyclopedia and great company. Besides his fly fishing knowledge he knows all about the fauna and flora with the Latin names as well.

It was heaven being in the open countryside with the sound of sheep grazing and the little ones calling their mothers. After leaving Rhodes we headed for Hogsback for 2 nights and its beautiful gardens and then onto Bedford. It was a truly wonderful trip made even more pleasurable by having the right rod and reel, courtesy of Andrew Mather - and having a respected guide like Tony Kietzman.



*The home and gardens of the Cringle family in Bedford*



*The Walkerbouts Inn. Loading the car to go fishing*



*The big town of Rhodes*

## MY FIRST SKI-BOAT TRIP BY STELIOS COMNINOS

Way back in the 1960's when I was in my early teens and very keen on fishing (as I still am) - I took part in my first ski-boat fishing competition with the Nelspruit and District Angling Club where I was a junior member. Memories of the trip are mostly vague but interspersed with some lucid incidents.

I travelled there with a national angler Bob, a rotund and jovial old man in his big Ford truck towing his small Catfish ski boat. The long trip to Jangamo on the notoriously narrow and perilous Mozambican roads was an experience in itself with huge trucks taking up more space than needed and us often moving dangerously off the verge. Once we had turned off the main road and on to the vague sand track through the coconut groves leading to Jangamo, something went wrong with the boat trailer. Bob unhitched the trailer and left me with the boat while he went for assistance. I remember that the sun was setting while I waited for his return. I was swarmed with mozzies and the only deterrent that I could think of was breaking up cigarettes (yes, I was too young to smoke!), mixing the tobacco with saliva and smearing it on exposed parts of my body – it actually worked!

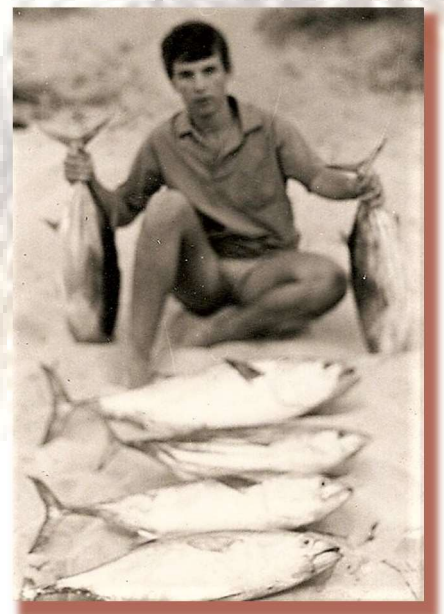
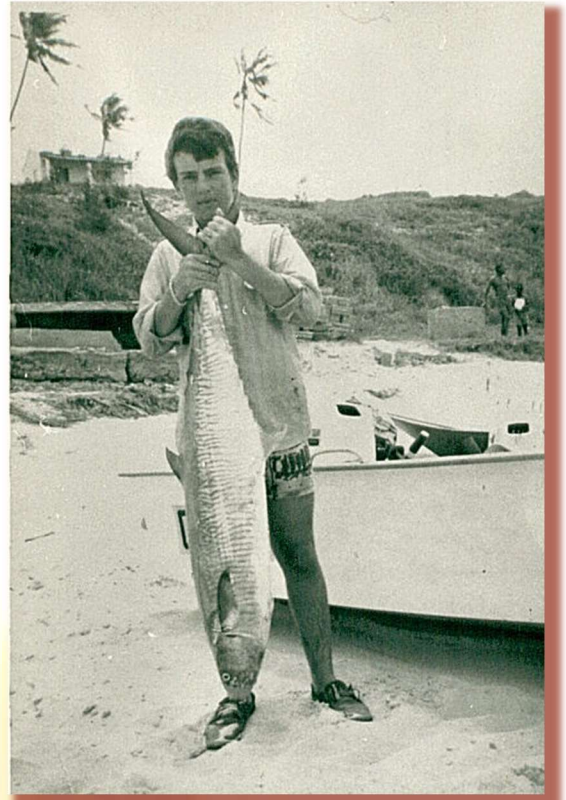
Bob returned with a rescue team of large noisy Origstad farmers reeking of peach mampoer. They made makeshift repairs to the trailer and an hours later we eventually got to the camp site in the dark. In those days there was nothing much at Jangamo, only a building that housed the Chef de Poste, a small ablution block and a few rudimentary huts along the beach. Very different to the upmarket resort that it is today!

I remember Bob (who snored very loudly as old men do) and me sharing a tent and having meals with one of the families from Origstad. They had a daughter my age and she became a big distraction after fishing hours – and I remember long lurid sessions hiding from the wind (and her parents!) on the leeward side of the ski boats parked on the beach. This was apparent to Bob, but not to the parents, because I remember him ragging me about it. I had a girlfriend at that time - but that didn't seem to be an issue for me!

It was a really conservative group of fisherman – but they were far less so when their wives were not around. I remember other outings with them to Santa Maria where I saw things done by the same guys that are best left untold!

I fished with Bob on his little "Catfish" ski boat – the smallest of all the boats - and no doubt the most uncomfortable (I was young enough not to notice). Bob was very considerate regarding my pre-disposition to being sea sick – and we trolled lures rather than bottom fished. At times the sea was pretty big and scary. I remember being very nervous of riding up the crest of waves and puttering down the other side – walls of waves surrounding us as we got down in the troughs.

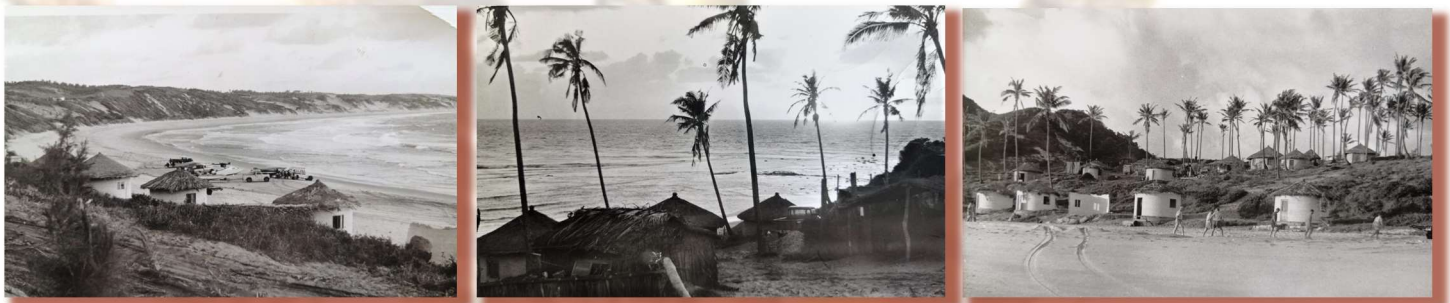
We caught a lot of fish on that trip – mainly bonito, tuna and couta. I won the competition by beating all the "oldies" with the biggest fish which was a couta of 44 pounds (see the picture that Bob took for me). I remember when that fish struck; it sailed out of the water with my lure in its beak. I saw it happen, and shouted to Bob to look, not knowing that it had taken my lure. As he looked, my reel was screaming madly. I remember not really knowing what to do, and Bob shouting a million instructions. I boated the couta under his watchful eye and instructions. He put it into a Hessian sack on the deck and continually wet it until the end of the day – to ensure that dehydration did not decrease the weight of the fish before weigh in.





One day the sea was particularly big and we went out when no others would. Maybe I was naïve (I wouldn't dare go out in seas like that today) but I felt perfectly safe, albeit apprehensive. We did catch fish that day while the others did what they always did, get incredibly drunk on shore. There was one guy called Doppies (a character that I would rather forget). He was a particularly gross man who mostly did stupid "manly" things – mostly after consuming huge amounts of brandy and coke. On other trips I can remember him drunkenly confronting the Mozambican police at roadblocks. The beer consumption on these trips increased dramatically the further in to the country we travelled – stocking up with beer at various stops.

Every day, after the boats landed. The fish were loaded on to the back of a truck and transported to Inhambane to sell to the fish factory. On Bob's day, I went with him. After dropping the fish off, he took me to Maxixe. To get there we went by dhow. In order to board, I was lifted on to the shoulders of the dhow captain and carried to the dhow. There was an attempt made to carry Bob, but that clearly failed and he waded to the dhow on his own steam. We sailed across the lagoon and had lunch at the Blue Dolphin restaurant run by a guy called Mac – who was well known to Bob. We had a huge plate of small steamed soft peri-peri crabs. I had not eaten crabs before and it was my first real introduction to peri-peri. The crabs were washed down with copious amounts of Laurentina Cerveja which Bob allowed me to drink despite my age. I vaguely remember getting back to the camp! To this day, whenever I have crab (my favourite seafood, I hate eating fish) I think of those soft shelled crabs.



*Jangamo Beach – way back when!*

Fishing with Bob was a very important milestone in my fishing career. His instructions still reverberate in my head and, conscious of him; I often shout the same instructions to "newbie's" that fish with me. Things like, setting the drag right, placing the lure correctly behind the boat, keeping the tip down when retrieving a fish, the pumping action when fighting the fish, and not being overzealous and hasty.

After that trip, I went on others with the Club. Always being the youngest member on the trips, I never got the attention and concern that Bob gave me. The other oldies were always more concerned about themselves and left me to my own inadequacies, but, the initial tutelage of Bob was what has me catching fish over the years.



Gordon Gove forgot to pack his army boots  
but found these under his car seat

## DURBAN FLY TYERS COMMITTEE (*Portfolios subject to change*)

|                                      |                  |              |                            |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Chairman</b>                      | Andrew Mather    | 083 3090233  | andrewmather@telkomsa.net  |
| <b>Vice Chairman</b>                 | Stelios Comninos | 083 255 3334 | stelios.comninos@gmail.com |
| <b>Treasurer</b>                     | Dave Smith       | 083 251 1629 | smiffam@absamail.co.za     |
| <b>Secretarial and entertainment</b> | Bruce Curry      | 082 774 5514 | Bruce.curry.too@gmail.com  |
| <b>Additional member</b>             | Tanya Giles      | 082 336 4489 | tanjagiles@icloud.com      |
| <b>The Bobbin</b>                    | Stelios Comninos | 082 574 3722 | stelios.comninos@gmail.com |

## MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 2018 are now due and payable. At the AGM the subscription was raised marginally. Subscriptions are now as follows

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>Joining Fee</b>   | R250 senior R140 Junior                                 |
| <b>Senior Member</b> | R250  |
| <b>Junior Member</b> | R150  |
| <b>Family Member</b> | R250 plus R50% of fee for each subsequent family member |

Cash will only be accepted by Dave Smith at meetings of the DFT. All other payment to be made by EFT into the club bank account. No direct cash deposits.

### Bank details

Bank: Standard Bank, Westville

Branch Code: 045 426. Account #: 053 189 647

*Note: If you pay by EFT, please e-mail Dave Smith*

*smiffam@absamail.co.za with your proof of payment stating the type of members and the member(s) names.*

## QUICK LINKS

### DURBAN SHOPS THAT STOCK FLY TYING MATERIAL

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| The Complete Angler | Shop 1 6 Village Rd Kloof, 3610, Tel 031 764 1488   |
| Kingfisher          | <a href="http://www.kingfisher.co.za/shopp.php">http://www.kingfisher.co.za/shopp.php</a>   |
| The Fish Eagle      | 105 Victoria Rd, Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal<br><a href="https://www.facebook.com/THEFISHEAGLE">https://www.facebook.com/THEFISHEAGLE</a> |
| Explorer            | Unit 4 Marseilles Park, 25 Marseilles Crescent, Briardene<br><a href="http://www.xplorerflyfishing.co.za">www.xplorerflyfishing.co.za</a>     |

### SOUTH AFRICAN ONLINE SHOPS

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Frontier Fly Fishing   | <a href="http://www.frontierflyfishing.co.za">http://www.frontierflyfishing.co.za</a>    |
| Netbooks               | <a href="http://www.netbooks.co.za">http://www.netbooks.co.za</a> The Home of Craig Thom |
| Stream X               | <a href="http://www.streamxflyfishing.co.za">http://www.streamxflyfishing.co.za</a>      |
| Xplorer                | <a href="http://www.xplorerflyfishing.co.za">www.xplorerflyfishing.co.za</a>             |
| The African Fly Fisher | <a href="http://www.theafricanflyangler.co.za">http://www.theafricanflyangler.co.za</a>  |

### KZN FLY FISHING GUIDES/CASTING INSTRUCTORS

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Jan Korrubel        | 083 99 33 870 <a href="mailto:jkorrubel@gmail.com">jkorrubel@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:jan@wildfly.co.za">jan@wildfly.co.za</a><br>Small streams and custom fly tying, casting |
| Grevin Price        | 082 896 3688 <a href="mailto:grevin@wildfly.co.za">grevin@wildfly.co.za</a><br>River and still water (including yellowfish)  |
| Juan-Pierre Rossouw | 076 208 5602 <a href="mailto:juan@wildfly.co.za">juan@wildfly.co.za</a><br>River and still water (including yellowfish)  |
| Leon Vermeulen      | 082 442 4846 / <a href="mailto:leon@wildbrowns.co.za">leon@wildbrowns.co.za</a> River fishing  |
| Graham McCall       | 793 033 735 Casting Instructor   |
| David Weaver        | 083 303 4230 / <a href="mailto:eff@ohs.dorea.co.za">eff@ohs.dorea.co.za</a> All things about Sterkfontein  |
| Jeremy Rochester    | 083 607 6109 Guide and casting Instructor  |

### KZN FLY FISHING AND FLY TYING CLUBS & ASSOCIATIONS

|  |   |
|--|---|
| The Fly Fishers Association (FFA)        | <a href="mailto:flyfishersassociation@gmail.com">flyfishersassociation@gmail.com</a>  |
| The KZN Fly Fishing Association (KZNFFA) | <a href="http://www.kznffa.org/public/index.asp?pageid=847">http://www.kznffa.org/public/index.asp?pageid=847</a>   |
| The Natal Fly Fishing Club               | <a href="http://www.nffc.co.za">http://www.nffc.co.za</a>   |
| FOSAF                                    | <a href="http://www.fosaf.org.za">http://www.fosaf.org.za</a>   |
| The Underberg and Himeville Trout Club   | <a href="http://www.uhtfc.co.za">http://www.uhtfc.co.za</a>   |
| Wildfly                                  | <a href="http://www.wildflytravel.com/index.php?option=com_content&amp;task=view&amp;id=282&amp;Itemid=451">http://www.wildflytravel.com/index.php?option=com_content&amp;task=view&amp;id=282&amp;Itemid=451</a> |



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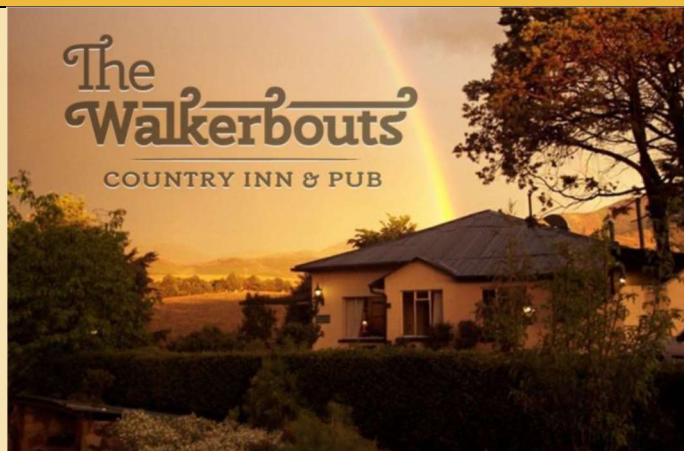
See our online shop that includes all our fly tying materials

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