

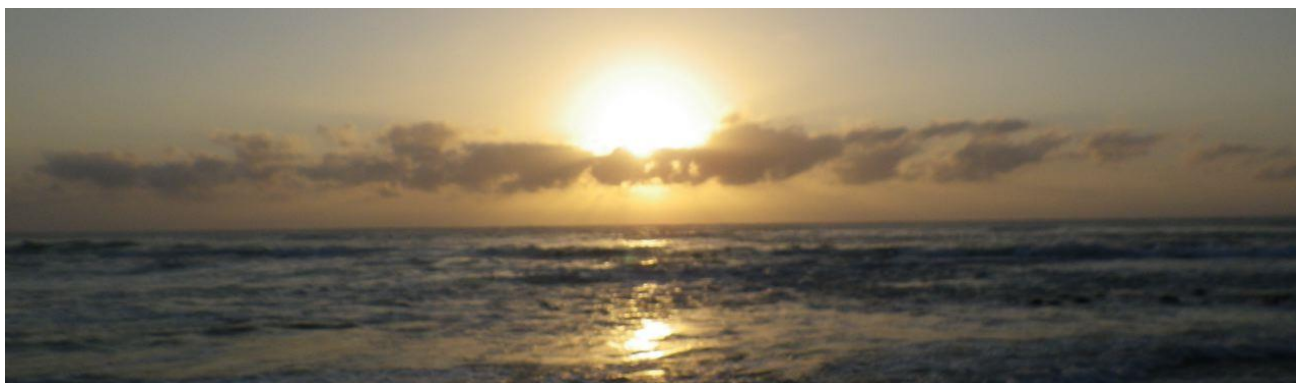
THE BOBBIN

The newsletter of the



www.durbanflytyers.co.za

October 2013



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Next Meeting

Visitors and beginners are welcome.

Date	7 October 2013
Venue	Room G1 Westville Library
Time	7pm for 7.30pm
Tie	Freshwater
Tyer	Ian Cox
Pattern	Miley Cyrus
Special Instructions	Bring olive green thread, a dubbing brush and superglue.

I can resist everything except temptation.

Oscar Wilde

Don't worry about avoiding temptation.

As you grow older, it will avoid you.

Winston Churchill

The Monthly Tie

Craft Fur Popper

Demonstrated by

Jay Smit.



Jay Smit's demo fly



Tom Gifford's winning senior fly and Luke Criticos' winning junior fly

MATERIALS:

Hook:	Grip 21571-BN #4 or #2
Thread	Clear Mono
Tail	White Select Craft Fur
Body	Flash, Chartreuse Grey Dark Green or Blue
Eyes	Holographic 3D

TYING:

Step 1:	Cut a spoon shaped lip approx. 10mm wide and tapered to a point. Tie a small thread bead behind the eye of the hook. Fold the foam round the shank of the hook and over the thread bead and eye. Tie in ensuring it flares up over the hook eye.
Step 2:	Dress the hook shank down to above the barb.
Step;2 3:	Form a small thread bead above the barb.
Step 4:	Tie in a small clump of white craft fur just ahead of the bead.
Step 5:	Tie in some flash just ahead and on top of the white.
Step 6:	Tie the other colours in sequence moving forward along the shank of the hook and form a tapered thread head up to the base of the lip.
Step 7:	Superglue the eye to a loop of thin stainless wire and tie in just behind the tapered head. Epoxy the head, eye and reinforce the foam lip using UV resin or quick drying epoxy.

The Chairman's Chirp

Hi Everyone,

Congratulations to Tom Gifford winning the senior tie last meeting and Luke Criticos our junior winner

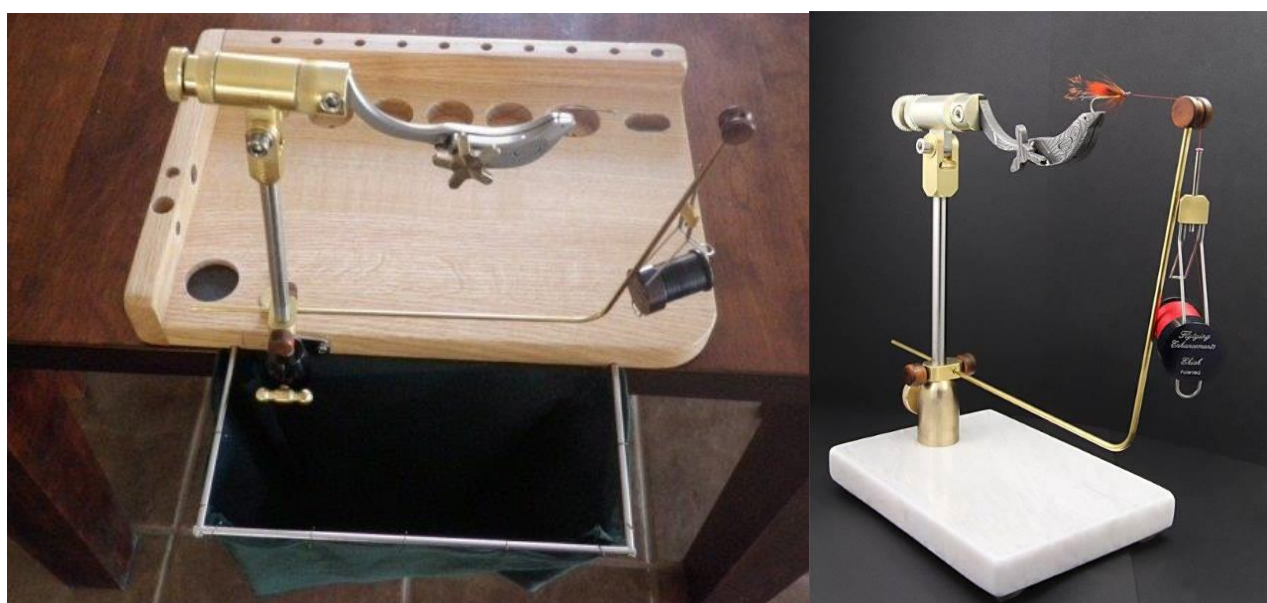
It was great to finally wet a line again at one of my favourite haunts, Westbrook beach. Paul picked me up early on Monday morning of the long weekend. Conditions were perfect as we started the long walk north to fish the outgoing tide at the point near the river. Unfortunately the bigger kingies and shad were nowhere to be found but we ended up having a lot of fun catching small kingies and more Cape Moonies than we bothered to count. What a great way to spend a morning and get some exercise to boot.



If all goes to plan I will be joining Faruk Ekich (the inventor and manufacturer of the [Ekich Bobbin](#) and Pete Gray at the International Fly Tying Symposium in Somerset New Jersey at the end of November where we will be sharing a stand and spend 2 days tying flies. I am really looking forward to meeting these two characters who I have been corresponding and trading with for about 8 years. Faruk hand makes what I consider to be one of the world's most unique vices the DamaSeal Vice pictured below. He also does a tube vice using parts I supply him.



The Exquisite DamaSeal Vice and Faruk's tube fly vice crafted using components supplied by J Vice





Pete Grey relaxing at home

Ian will be tying his Miley Cyrus for us at this month's meeting. This will probably be a bare hook with no dressing that just wiggles around?

See you all there.

Cheers

Jay

From The Editor

Winter has gone without really coming. As Sean De Wet exclaimed in the Rhodes newsletter, "is that all". The result has been average winter fishing and now that the trout "season" is open, very thin rivers.

So thin in fact that the South African Junior Fly Fishing Championships that was held recently in the Kamberg was confined entirely to dam fishing. I got to witness the opening parade which was a colourful spectacle made especially special because it was used as an opportunity to acknowledge the SA Youth Fly Fishing Team that took bronze at the World Championships. I still get goose bumps thinking about that achievement. What I think makes their performance stand out, apart from the result, is that they achieved this after years of dedicated effort and because they fished as a team each member doing his best to help every other member do his best. Their achievement is a wonderful inspiration to us all.



Shut up and fish!!!
From most people that fish with me



The SA Junior Team that took bronze at the World Championships held in Ireland recently.

And while on the subject of the importance of working as a team, the work I am doing on the recent listing of trout as an invasive species all highlights the importance of all freshwater recreational anglers working together. We have relied for a hundred years or on government to promote and protect our interests. And what's more those interests have largely been those of the white angling community. Fresh water angling has to a large extent been given to us on a plate and as a result we have become complacent and more than a little over confident. Well that has certainly changed! By some cruel twist of fate we no longer have a champion in government. We now find ourselves under the control of the Department of Water and Environmental Affairs and I don't think I am putting it too strongly when I say that they don't like us one little bit. Judging by the NEM:BA they think we are criminals. In fact they have gone so far as to announce that the only reason they tolerate our existence is because they lack the means to get rid of us and they don't like that reality almost as much as they don't like us. So our situation is not good at all. So we are going to have to organise and do so very quickly if what we do is going to survive and prosper. And I don't mean just trout fisherman. I mean everyone who throws a line into a South African dam or river in the hope of catching a freshwater fish

Oh and remember that cool fly box I wrote about in the July Bobbin. Well it fell off my vest a couple of weekends ago and vanished without a trace. Turns out that while the clip that attaches to your vest works, the part that attaches to the box doesn't. So perhaps it wasn't so cool after all!



It's A Giggle

Thought this would put a laugh in your belly said John Warrick now living in Australia.

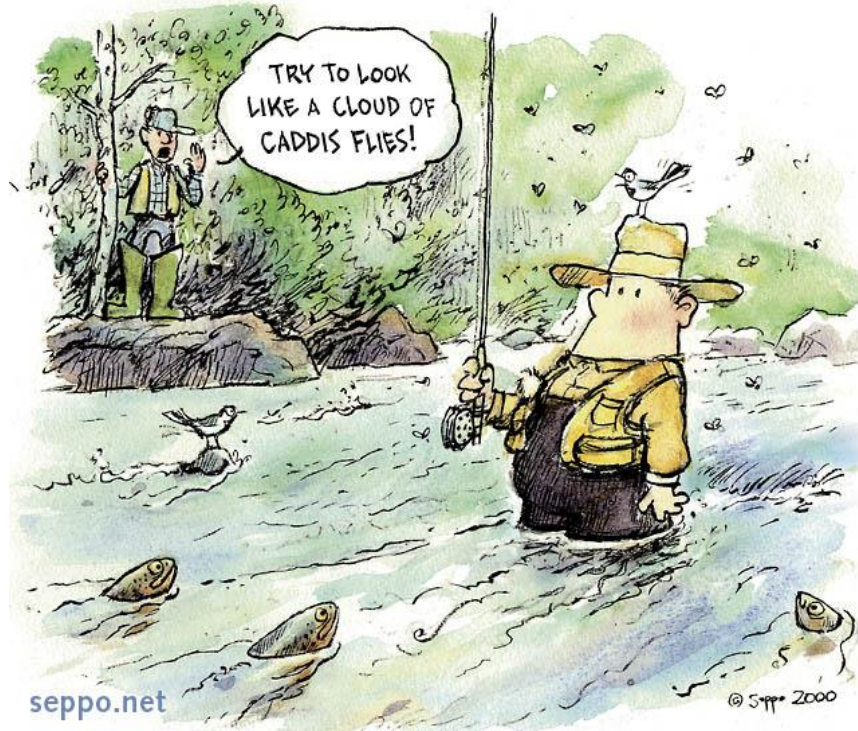
Yesterday I was at my local Woolworths store buying a large bag of 'My Dog', dog food for my loyal pet and was in the checkout queue when a woman behind me asked if I had a dog.

What did she think I had an elephant? So, since I'm retired and have little to do, on impulse I told her that no, I didn't have a dog, I was starting the Dog Diet again. I added that I probably shouldn't, because I ended up in hospital last time, but I'd lost 10 kilograms before I woke up in intensive care with tubes coming out of most of my orifices and IVs in both arms.

I told her that it was essentially a perfect diet and that the way that it works is to load your pockets with My Dog nuggets and simply eat one or two every time you feel hungry. The food is nutritionally complete so it works well and I was going to try it again. (I have to mention here that practically everyone in queue was now enthralled with my story.)

Horrified, she asked me if I ended up in intensive care because the dog food poisoned me. I told her no, I stepped off the kerb to sniff an Irish Setter's arse and a car hit me.

I thought the guy behind her was going to have a heart attack he was laughing so hard. I'm now banned from Woolworths. Better watch what you ask retired people. They have all the time in the world to think of daft things to say.

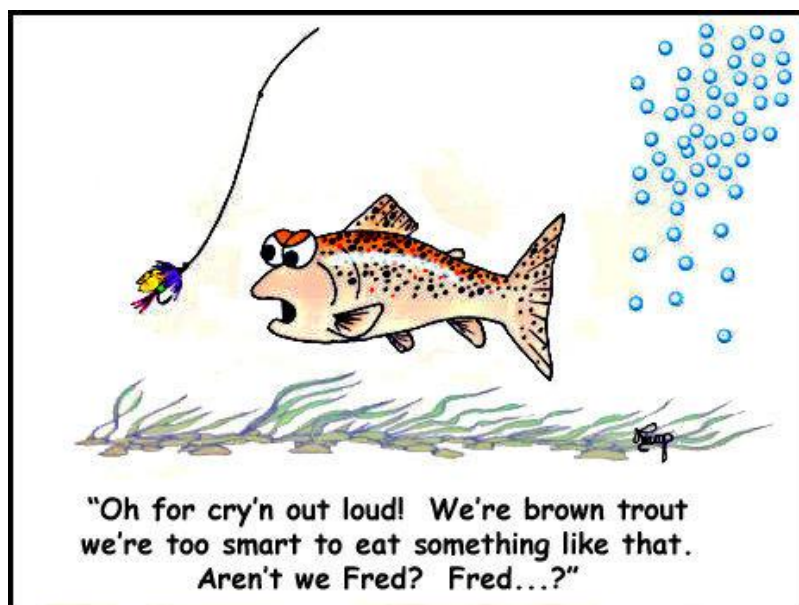


Laurence Davies chirps back.

I came across two definitions from "A Dictionary for Constant Anglers" which immediately made me think of our honourable Editor. They are:-

Bamboo - Eye-pleasing, but extremely expensive and difficult-to-maintain type of rod, used primarily by anglers who fish for compliments!

Bamboozle – To convince an angler to purchase a bamboo fishing rod.



Fly Tying And Other Tips

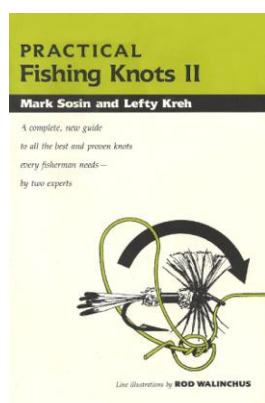
Tying Better Wing Cases

If you fish rivers at you will need to tie nymphs, lot of them. And that must at some stage involve tying on a wing case. What's more if you care about how your fly looks, I can tell you a feeding fish often doesn't, that will mean getting that wing case right. And therein lies a big problem because more often than not one does not. I instead of that taught wedge shaped carapace you are looking for you, or at least I, get a stringy poorly centered overwrap of God knows what. Skip Morris has a way of doing it better which he has shared on his website. Go to [Better Wing Cases](#) to find out how to do it right.

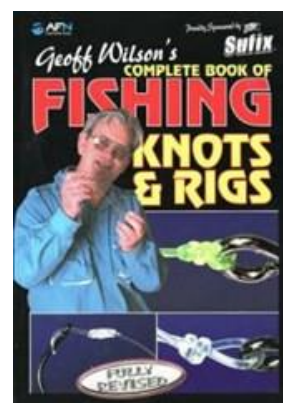
The Turle Knot

By

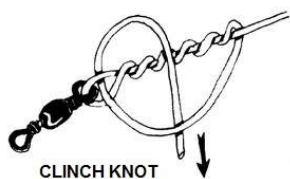
Laurence Davies



I have two books on fishing knots which I recommend, "Practical Fishing Knots II", by Mark Sosin and Lefty Kreh, which I have had for some time, and "Geoff Wilson's Complete Book on Fishing Knots and Rigs" which I bought recently. These books illustrate the tying of a variety of knots for freshwater and saltwater, with clear diagrams of their tying. Geoff Wilson's book has colour pictures of each knot, so you get to see what the finished knot should look like. I encourage members to expand their repertoire of knots, because, there will come a time when knowing an alternate knot will save the day. I must also emphasise how important it is to tie and seat your knots properly, because there is nothing worse than a tell-tale pig-tail at the end of the tippet when a fish of a lifetime, or the only fish of the day, or for that matter, any fish, is lost. But this is not a how-to on tying knots, but rather how one of the books revived my interest in what used to be one of my favourite knots for trout fishing, the Turle knot (cover picture on Practical Fishing Knots illustrates the Improved Turle Knot).



In fact, when I told Ed Herbst that I wanted to write an article on the Turle knot and asked his opinion, he said the knot is too finicky to tie and is not particularly strong. He also recommended the Penny Knot, (which was introduced by Peter Hayes on his recent tour of the country and who also illustrates the technique of tying the knot in Geoff Wilson's book). A while ago I would have agreed with Ed about the tying of the Turle Knot, but now I think differently, as I will explain.

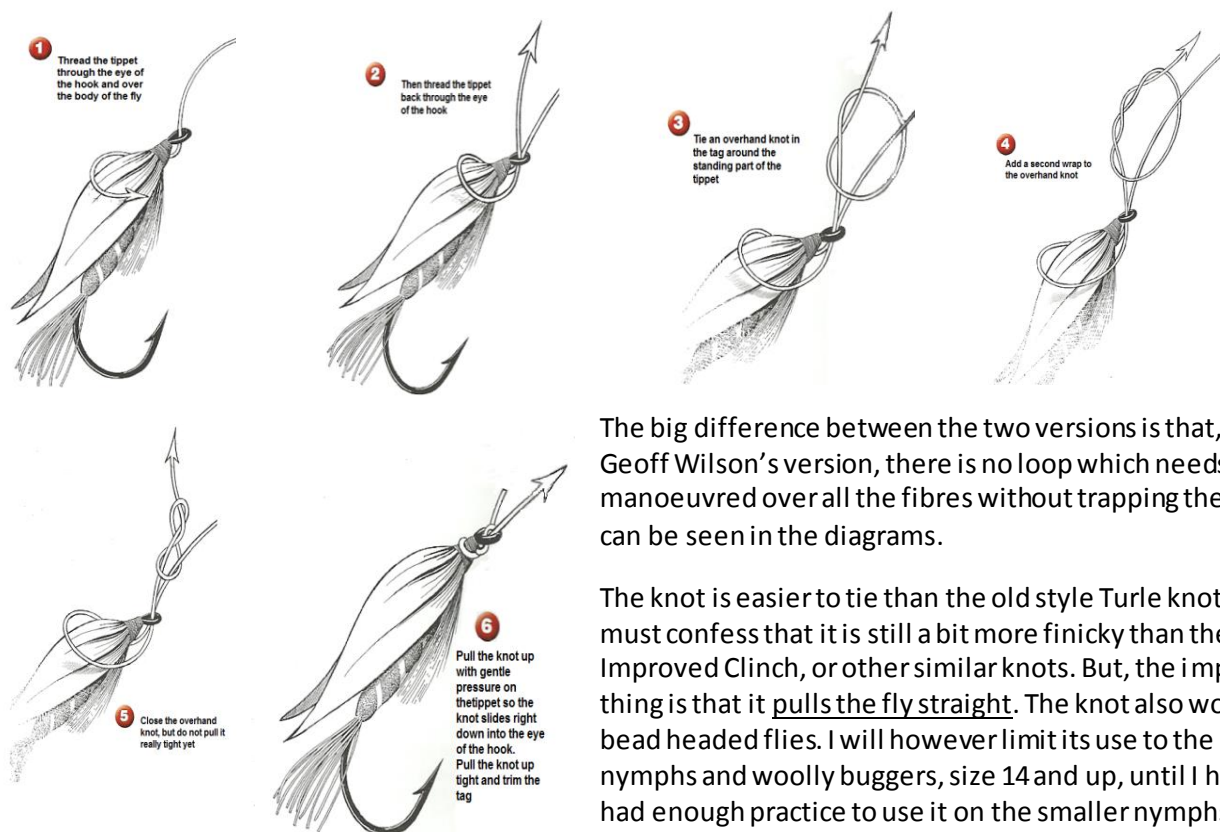


I am sure that many of you, before starting flyfishing, started out much as I did, knowing two basic fishing knots, the Blood Knot for joining lines and the Clinch Knot (or Half Blood - many of the knots have a multitude of names) for tying on hooks. Now these knots stood me in good stead for many years, particularly with the heavier nylons used in saltwater fishing. Then I started fly fishing, and the Clinch Knot, for tying on the fly, became an Improved Clinch Knot (or Tucked Blood Knot, or Locked Blood Knot – as I said a multitude of names), which was an essential change from the straight Clinch knot when used with thin tippets (I am not saying that you can't use the Clinch knot in small diameters, because, if I am not mistaken, Peter Brigg still uses the knot on his small dry flies and nymphs, but the Improved Clinch is a safer option). The Turle knot was a totally new knot for me, very popular at the time (1975) for tying wet or dry flies with up or down-turned eyes.

I joined the Fly Fishers Association (FFA) early in 1980 and my learning, in all matters of fly fishing, accelerated because the club was full of members who gladly shared their flyfishing knowledge. The club also took pride in being a "fly fishing" club and targeted any fish which could be coaxed with a fly, and, coupled with saltwater fly fishing in particular, the different disciplines demanded many new knots. So I learnt them all, loop knots for joining leader to tippets, loop knots for flies, knots for joining thick to thin, wire to monofilament, and many new knots for tying on flies.

For trout fishing, for tying tippet to fly, dependant on my mood, or fly, I would alternate between the Turtle Knot, Improved Clinch, Duncan Loop and what I always knew as the Square Knot (but in Geoff Wilson's book it is called a Centauri Knot). I persevered with the Turtle knot despite it requiring a fair bit of dexterity, because it was the only knot, other than a loop knot, which always pulled the fly straight. All the other knots would, at some stage or other, work their way around the side of the eye, resulting in the fly being dragged sideways through the water, particularly the heavier weighted flies. So the fly had to be checked constantly to ensure that it was still pulling straight. Inevitably the Turtle Knot fell out of favour because of the required dexterity of its tying, particularly the way the loop would trap feathers (see diagram of the Improved Turtle Knot on the cover of Practical Fishing Knots II).

And then I bought "Geoff Wilson's Complete Book of Fishing Knots and Rigs" (available from Kingfisher and Complete Angler) and this shows another tying for what it also calls the Improved Turtle Knot, which, although not tied in the same way as that shown in "Practical Fishing Knots II", ends up as a similar knot. This version looks like it avoids the trapping of fibres, and the book claims that that it is a strong knot. The illustrations from Geoff Wilson's book are included below.



The big difference between the two versions is that, in Geoff Wilson's version, there is no loop which needs to be manoeuvred over all the fibres without trapping them, as can be seen in the diagrams.

The knot is easier to tie than the old style Turtle knot, but I must confess that it is still a bit more finicky than the Improved Clinch, or other similar knots. But, the important thing is that it pulls the fly straight. The knot also works on bead headed flies. I will however limit its use to the larger nymphs and woolly buggers, size 14 and up, until I have had enough practice to use it on the smaller nymphs and

dry flies.



Articles

Peter Hayes is still on the road so sent me this delightful bit of tomfoolery that appeared a while back in the newsletter of the [Victorian Fly Fisher's Association](#). Peter tells me it was written by the editor of the Association's newsletter who is also a lawyer. For those little possums who don't know better, K G Fish is not his name. It is a nom de plume.

The Otto von Schnaubner's Patent Portable Fish Tank

By

K. G. Fysh

Some years ago I parked my car on the side of the road near a bridge over a small river in the Southland of New Zealand. I looked over the bridge and saw that droves of Delatidium duns were hatching and up and down the length of the placid pool. A large number of trout ranging between 2 to 4 pounds were quietly sipping them down up and down the length of the pool. This was as close to a scene of angling paradise as I have seen.

I slipped into the water under the bridge and, in the space of ten minutes had landed and released three trout each around the two and a half pounds mark. The section of pool above the bridge was only about fifty yards in length. But, such were the numbers of rising fish, that I had thoughts of taking a bag of ten trout from the pool. It was too easy - just a matter of picking each fish off one by one.

Poor fool me. No sooner had that conceited thought crossed my mind than the pool went quiet. What had happened to stop the fish rising? It could not have been my wading that put the fish down. I had waded stealthily as if I was walking on egg shells. Then it hit me. The explanation had to be that the fish that I released had swum up towards the rising fish in the remainder of the pool and in some way put them down. This, I reflected, is one of the down sides of the practice of catch and release. What is the point of releasing fish if they are going to put the remaining rising fish in the pool down, thereby marring your once in a lifetime red letter day?

It was not until some years later that I found a solution to this problem when I was reading an old and obscure English fishing gazette and I saw an advertisement for the Otto von Schnaubner Patent Portable Fish Tank. Otto von Schnaubner was born in Austria in 1890 and learned to fly fish at an early age on the legendary Traun River. At a very early age he showed a great talent as an inventor. Von Schnaubner was precocious and by aged 18 he had invented the von Schnaubner Podiatrists' Mulcher, which converted toe nail cuttings into garden mulch and a device especially designed for trapping the rare Filomedea caddis which was then found on the Traun and many other useful inventions. Unfortunately his career as an inventor was abruptly and tragically ended when he was blown to smithereens in 1916 on the Somme during a British artillery barrage when field testing the von Schnaubner prototype shell proof body armour.

The illustration accompanying this advertisement depicted a creel-shaped metal fish tank with a hinged perforated lid complete with shoulder strap. The instructions were as follows. The angler carries the empty tank slung over his shoulder until the day comes when he encounters the pool full of rising trout. It may take many years of lugging the tank around trout streams, but when the magic day arrives, he takes the tank off his back and fills it with cool, river water and then heaves it onto his shoulder and commences fishing at the tail of the pool. As each fish is landed, it is gently released into the fish tank. If the tank becomes heavy, and the pool has not been fished out, the angler walks down to the pool below and releases the fish and then returns and recommences fishing. If the tank is not too heavy by the time the angler reaches the end of the pool he then releases fish in the pool he has just fished out.

A deluxe model is available with two compartments - one for large fish and the other for smaller fish. This reduces the chances of a large trout mauling or even eating one its smaller brethren.

You might only need this tank only once or twice in an angling lifetime but when that redletter day arrives it will be invaluable.

The tragedy is that at the time of his death von Schnaubner was working on a revolutionary invention that would have enabled fly fishers to reach those fish that are always out of casting distance. The prototypes, discovered after his passing were of a slingshot that was housed in the butt of a conventional fly rod. This could be removed as required by unscrewing a brass plug at the base of the butt. The idea was that the angler would pull out the requisite amount of line and then attach a special compound to the line just above the fly. This compound provided the weight to enable the slingshot to fire the fly with unerring accuracy above the distant rising trout. The compound was extremely soluble in water and would dissolve immediately allowing the fly to float naturally over the trout. Further, the compound contained secret ingredients which, when dissolved, were a highly effective ground bait which would cause every trout in the vicinity to go into a feeding frenzy. Sadly, although the prototype slingshot is on display in the von Schnaubner Museum in Vienna, the formula for the compound was in von Schnaubner's pocket when he met his unfortunate demise.

Mayflies

By

Ian Cox



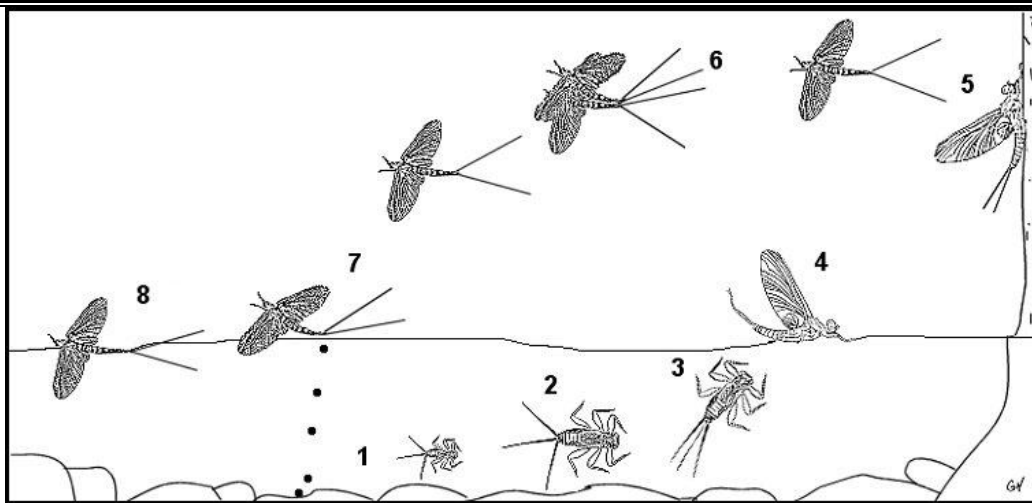
If you are a river fisherman it is likely that a large part of your fly boxes, both wet and dry are given over to mayfly imitations. Think I am kidding? Think nymph, emerger, dun or sub imago, spinner or imago or even, tricos and suspenders and you are more often than not thinking mayflies. In fly language the GHRE, Zak, PTN and the Adams both the parachute and winged version are all Mayfly imitations as are the Royal Coachman and the Klinkhamer.

There is a good reason for this. Fred Steynberg and Mario Du Preez concluded in the intimidatingly titled “[South African Leptophlebiidae \(‘prongills’\) nymph and dun imitations](#)” that Mayflies (order [Ephemeroptera](#) – if it helps; from the Greek for short lived) account for 75% of the diet of wild Eastern Cape trout.

Now unlike Odonata (Dragonflies and Damselflies where fisherman only care about the nymph stage), Mayflies can get complicated. You see most of the lifecycle of mayflies is of interest to fly fisherman. And as newspaperman [Arthur Brisbane](#) said; “Use a picture. It's worth a thousand words”. So rather than me try and explain it look at [this short You Tube clip](#).

Sadly South Africa does not experience the sort of hatches that one sees in North America but fishing with mayfly imitations is not about the hatch or at least not in this country. The vast majority of the life of a mayfly (which is about a year) is spent as a nymph underwater. The life span of the sub imago and imago is measured in hours.

Making a close study of mayflies in their nymph form is likely to pay handsome dividends.



The abovementioned You Yube video clip is particularly useful in that it identifies mayfly nymphs by their behavior. Thus it talks of swimmers crawlers clingers and burrowers. This approach was first adopted in fly fishing circles by Halford who borrowed it from Professor F.J. Pictet and his 1843 “Monograph on the Ephemeridae” so it is not new.

By behavior Mayfly nymphs divide as follows:

Swimmers

- Caenidae (Cainflies) Found on stones or muddy areas in slow or very slow streams).
- Leptophlebiidae (Prongills) Found on stones or wood in gentle flowing streams).
- Prosopistomatidae (Water Specs) although active swimmers are too small (about 1mm in diameter) for fly fisherman to imitate.

Crawlers

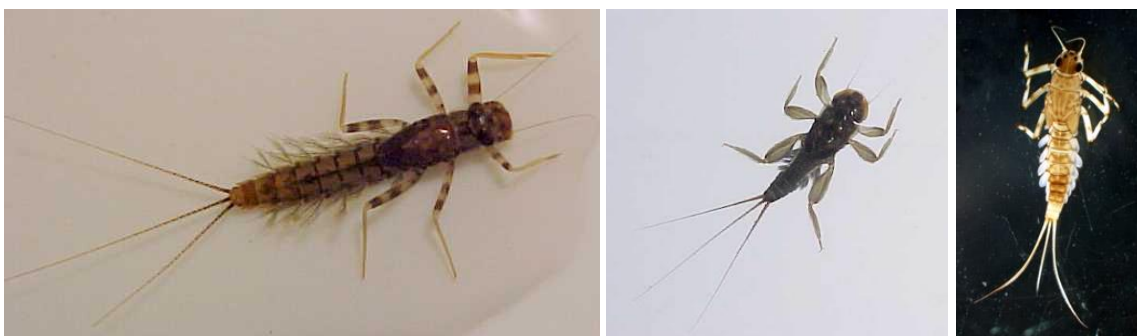
- Heptageniidae (Flat Headed Mayflies) Found on stones or wood in moderate to fast flowing streams. The March Brown is accounted to be an imitation of this nymph.
- Oligoneuridae (Brush Legged Mayfly) Found in sandy patches in very fast flowing streams.
- Teloganodidae (Spiny Crawlers) Found under stones or in dense vegetation in fast flowing streams of the Eastern Cape.
- Tricorythidae (Stout Crawlers) Found on rocks in fast flowing streams.

Clingers

- the Baetidae (Small Minnow Flies) Found in moderately fast streams.

Burrowers

- the Polymitarcyidae (pale burrowers) These do not interest fly fisherman at this stage of their development but are found in muddy riverbanks in relatively fast flowing streams.



A swimming, crawling and clinging Mayfly nymph

The lessons one learns from this are twofold. First unless you are fishing a still water or gently flowing streams where you may find swimming nymphs throughout the water column or just prior to or during a hatch, the chances are good that nymphs will be on the bottom. The second lesson is unless you are fishing still waters or

gently flowing streams you should fish a nymph on the drift. This is because if you cast a nymph into a fast flowing stream you are imitating a crawler or clinger that has become dislodged. A strip retrieve may catch fish but it will present the fly as something else entirely

The most productive time to fish a nymph is during a hatch. This is when the nymph rises to the surface and pushes through the surface film. It is then that the nymph's skin splits and a sub imago emerges and flies away. Getting through the meniscus is not easy. It takes time and a lot of effort. Many nymphs die trying. This process results in a huge and highly vulnerable concentration of insects in the surface film and just above and below it.

This is also the area of fly fishing that has received the most scholarly attention. Matching the hatch has been an obsession with fly fisherman since Halfords days well over one hundred years ago. It is still the subject of a disproportionate amount of attention. I say disproportionate because if you are anything like me, getting a trout to feed on your fly rather than the thousands of others emerging around it is extraordinarily difficult.

It is no good to just throw a dry fly at the problem that is assuming you can get the right one, because more often than not, your quarry is not feeding on the dry fly at all. It is either targeting the nymph just subsurface or on dead and dying nymphs that failed to penetrate the surface film or irritatingly they may even be targeting spent spinners that have drowned.

This is where the whole selective trout theory comes from. You see trout, faced with such abundance, zone in on a particular food source thus feeding selectively and if what you have out there isn't on the menu for that moment, well you might as well go home for all the luck you will have. At least that is the theory.

This was demonstrated to me the other day when fishing the lower dam at Highmoor. I had a lot of success lifting a green nymph off the weed beds around lunchtime. The reason for this became obvious a couple of hours later when a Mayfly duns began to come off the water in numbers. My earlier success was due my use to [Leisenring lift](#) technique and a Mylie Cyrus which albeit a damselfly imitation had the necessary heft to present properly. This made my fly attractive to the trout that had targeted on nymphs beginning their rise to the surface despite the fact that my fly was at least three times larger than the actual insect.

I was not so lucky in targeting the emerging stage of the hatch even though the water was boiling around me. This was despite presenting some pretty good emerging nymph imitations. The trout were just not interested. They were feeding selectively just sub surface and whatever I threw at them was not working. This is not the first time this has happened to me. Sadly it is the norm as it is for many anglers.

This frustrating truth has made matching the hatch the Holy Grail for some fly fisherman. I am not that obsessed. Indeed few South Africans are given the sparse nature of our Mayfly hatches. Gary Borger in his recently published book *Fishing The Film* counts five stages of emergence starting with when the nymph first attaches to the surface film to the next stage when it begins to push through the film and on to stage three when the sub imago begins to emerge and then stage four when the sub emerger is fully emerged and resting on its nymphal shuck with its wings still crumpled up. The last stage, five takes place when the wings begin to harden just before the sub imago flies off. And each stage has its own fly.



The five stages of the Mayfly emerger. The Low Rider Emerging Nymph, the Parachute Floating Nymph, the Klinkhamer, the Sparkle Dun and the Comparadun.

It doesn't end there of course. Gary Lafontaine maintains that emergence starts on the bottom at what he calls his first area of concentration. There is also that sub film nymphing stuff that got G.E.M. Skues into so much trouble not to mention the wide range of parasol nymphs out there. I confess it all gets a bit much for me. I go rough and tough in these situations. It is amazing what a fast stripped Red Eyed Damsel can do in the middle of a May fly hatch. Not always to be sure but often enough to make it worthwhile.



The dry fly side of fishing with Mayfly imitations is a bit of a let-down after that. In fact it is a let-down because the vast majority of the times you think you are fishing dry; the fish are feeding on emergers. That's why parachute hackles work so well and also why it is often a good idea to get your dry fly a little wet. However as dry flies go you are fishing them in two stages, when they emerge as sub imagoes or duns and wait for their wings to dry and once they have moulted into their adult imago stage, have laid their eggs and fallen back on the water to die as spent spinners.

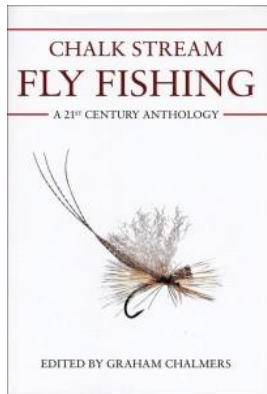
- Emerging sub imagoes flies are known as duns and are identified by their upright wings. The Adams, Coachman, the Royal Wulf and yes even the RAB are all examples of a sub imago as is a Humpy. Huge numbers of mayflies get eaten in this process. Think of water boiling with trout and you are likely dealing with a Mayfly hatch.
- Spent Spinners wings lie flat on the surface. Now not too many South African fly fishermen sing the praises of spinner imitations, perhaps because our hatches are sparse to non-existent by North American standards. Still [Peter Brigg](#) rates a [mayfly spinner](#) as his all-time favourite small stream dry fly pattern. Ed Herbst also lists a spinner in his [top six](#) small stream patterns. There is also Tony Biggs [Holsloot Spinner](#). [Robin Fick](#) also tied one. As I said the selection is on the thin side. It may be because most parachute patterns do a pretty good job of imitating a spinner as well as an emerger.

Again You Tube provides a wonderful tutorial of what to look for when selecting flies that imitate the various stages of Mayflies life cycle. [Look at this short clip](#) produced [by Tim Landwehr and Tight Lines Fly Fishing Company](#). That clip was produced for beginners and thus did not deal with the emerger stage of a mayfly's life cycle.



In The Market

Chalk Stream Fly Fishing



Former South African lawyer turned UK based publisher and chalk stream fly fisherman, Graham Chalmers, has crafted a what in British fly fishing circles, is already a highly regarded and much talked about book. Gathering together some of the abundant wisdom that can be found in the membership of the [Salisbury and District Angling Club](#) he has produced a superb anthology about chalk stream fly fishing. This is no effete panegyric to dry fly fishing by the upstream method (there are even chapters on nymphing and coarse fish) but instead thoroughly modern and robust look at what chalk stream fly fishing is today, how it got there and its future. Twelve club members write engagingly on the full gamut of this subject from climate change all the way through to leader construction. Many of them are famous in fly fishing circles. Gordon Mackie is featured as is Dennis Shaw who offers one of the better précis of the smorgasbord of what river fisherman can throw at a trout. Want to get from the beginning of time into the future in terms that identify the great fly designers and what they contributed to the oeuvre? Dennis Shaw does it in 26 illustrated pages that include his top six go to flies. For fly tyers that chapter alone makes this book worthwhile. I can go on and in fact many members complain that I do, far too much and at great length. So let me end by saying that this book is not yet available locally though can be ordered on line through [Amazon](#) or [Coch-Y-Bonddu Books](#).

If you are still in doubt and need a little taste of what lies between the covers of this book here is an extract from the introduction written by Graham Chalmers can be found on the [DFT blog](#).

The J Pliers

I have had a set of Jay's hackle pliers for just under a year now and much to my surprise it has replaced my [C&F Hackle](#) pliers as my tool of choice. I say surprise because I thought that the C&F Hackle Plier would be easier to use, would grip better and that the weightier J Plier would not lend itself to the small flies I usually tie. The opposite is in fact true. The J Pliers are very comfortable in the hand, comforting even. They are precision cut and the jaws are precision ground to give perfect grip. The plastic shoe is a nice to have but not a necessity. The added weight has proved a boon as it means you no longer have to apply any pressure to the pliers when winding a hackle. The weight of the hanging pliers is more than sufficient. The slightly smaller Jaw than the C & F also makes it a better tool for delicate work such as tying tiny parachutes or winding hackles past wings.



Two versions of the J Hackle Plier. The one on the left is featured on Jay's website.



The "Third Hand" version. The second one has been modified by the addition of a hackle gauge. This is the version I have got.

As you can see Jay has brought out the pliers in three versions. All can be adapted, as is shown in the fourth plier pictured, by the addition of a hackle gauge. The only functional difference between them is that the Third Hand version can be attached to the vice stem and used as such. I like it just as a hackle plier because it has more heft and the extended arms give you better leverage. If you have not got one of a J Plier, I suggest you get one now.

The End Of An Era



[Hardy's](#) has been sold to the American fishing brand house [Pure Fishing](#), where it will join a pantheon of other formerly great names such as Fenwick, Shakespeare and Pflueger. This sale was unavoidable given that Hardy's is trading at a loss and has done so for some time. This is despite its recently discovered ground-breaking [SINTRIX](#) technology, and the fact that the Hardy's Zenith (built using SINTRIX technology) [is one of the best 5wts on the market](#) or, for that matter, the huge prices commanded for its classic range of reels. Though the writing must have been on the wall for some time one can only applaud the Harris & Sheldon

Group for delaying the news of its disposal until after the death of Jim Hardy earlier this year. Though Hardy's connection with its home town Alnwick will also undoubtedly come to an end as will its association with the Royal Family, it is unclear what this will mean for the Hardy brand. Pure Fishing's focus is most definitely not fly fishing as can be seen by the distinctly bargain basement flavour of its fly fishing brands. It is best known for its famous bass brands like Berkley and Gulp and Abu or the saltwater icon's Mitchell and Penn. It may be that Hardy's market share in the British coarse fishing market (it owns Chubb, a trusted brand in the Carp fishing world) and the excellence of its subsidiary Hardy Advanced Composites drove this sale more than fly fishing. Time will tell whether Hardy's retains its status as a premium fly fishing brand or whether it becomes just another label. I, for one, fervently hope it is the former.

One thing we can be certain of is that Hardy products will be more aggressively marketed in South Africa in the future. You see Pure Fishing has recently invested in South Africa by acquiring the South African tackle supplier Beyond Fishing (Pty) Ltd. Now I wonder if they would have done that if they had been told that trout, bass and carp would be criminalised.

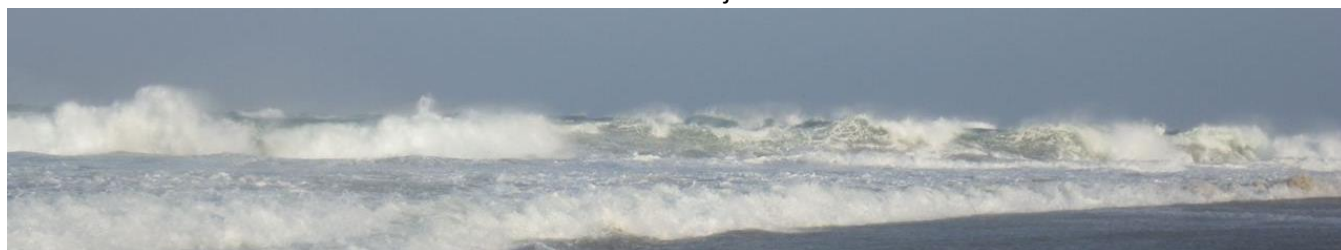


"There's a saying among fly fishers that equipment isn't the only thing, it's everything."

Reports

Cape Vidal – September 2013

By
Nick Nortje



The much awaited Vidal trip took place over the weekend of the 6th – 8th of September. With 12 DFT members booking the accommodation in two separate cottages we had quite a crowd once again!



Departing from Durban at 4.30 am we made our way to the St Lucia Wimpy for a quick brekkie and a soup bowl of coffee. Spirits were high and there was much excitement from the “Vidal Virgins” as to where to fish, what to expect and what flies work. We left Wimpy in our hordes and made our way to the beach, knowing that the buster was on its way up the coast. Leaving the car park I noticed we had a flat tyre, although I think Neill Van Rooyen had something to do with that. So Warren and I had to make a quick pit stop to have that repaired while the rest of the boys raced to the beach.

15 minutes later we were on route. We had always heard of Mission rocks, but never stopped in to test the water. A last minute decision saw us pull up into the car park at Mission Rocks. We were fishing the outgoing tide and decided to walk south. Knowing that the buster was on the way I opted for the trusty T-50 (insert URL) to tame the hurricane. We had Kilometres of ledges and gullies all to ourselves, but alas only two fish came out. That said there is something special about fishing with an African Fish Eagle calling out.



We headed back to Vidal to meet with the rest of the pack and discuss the fishing. By now the Buster was in full swing, blowing around 35-40 km/h. We were greeted by the “die hards” Bruce, Steve and Graeme walking off the beach empty handed and sand blasted. Nevertheless we went down for a session before checking in. Walking north the beach was flat, with very few holes. Every now and again one would find one, only to pull out a small Shad, or a Wavie. Warren was lucky enough to land a beautiful specimen of a Wave Garrick, probably close to the 2 kg mark.





Heading back to the Chalet for lunch we opted for a late afternoon session. Some guys ties budgies to throw at the Kingies while most of us suckled on an ice cold beer. At about 3.30pm we headed down to the beach. By now the wind had picked up even more and backhand casting was the only option to try and get a fly into the water. Again only a few small Shad came out and a handful of Moonies. Steve Brooks was fortunate enough to hook into a Kingie but he was smashed off on the bricks before being able to land it. At sunset we all called it and headed back to the Chalet.

The evening was uneventful with most of the guys tucked in early licking their wounds after a dismal first day on the beach. The “Boozers” that stayed up late were greeted by the resident bush pigs and after them scavenging in the camp moved off.

Saturday morning saw the guys walk about 5km’s North in search of some fishing grounds, low and behold 500metres down the beach Dave Smith popped out the bushes with his fly tackle, turns out he had been camping at Vidal since Wednesday. We finally got to the ledges where Neill and Co. had been fishing for most of the morning, and again only a few stone bream had come out. By now the North Easter was in full swing. We hung around for an hour or so waiting for the seas to die down but unfortunately that never happened. Fishing back along the beaches a few “rats and mice” where plucked from the surf, again nothing worth righting home about.

Saturday afternoon’s session was called off as the North Easter was blowing so hard it was near impossible to cast a fly line. A very miserable crew was seen leaving the beach. That evening Graeme, Neill, Bruce and Dave did a send-off for their very close friend and Vidal Stalwart, Hayden who sadly passed away while fishing – what a way to go! He will truly be missed, but never forgotten.



That evening we partied hard, many stories (some dodge) where told and although the fishing was not the best new friends have been made. I suppose that’s what makes Vidal a special place.

Sunday morning we were greeted by a howling easterly. A few of us fished the bay and rocky outcrops for a few hours before throwing the towel in. A dismal weekend to say the least, with less than a 100 fish coming out between all of us. But hey that's fishing. You can't always dominate!

Till next time tight lines.

Club Stuff

Subs

The subs are:

Joining Fee	R20 senior R10 Junior
Senior Member	R150
Junior Member	R80
Family Member	R150 plus R50% of fee for each subsequent family member.

Bank details

Bank : Standard Bank

Branch : Westville

Branch Code : 045 426

Account Number : 053 189 647

Please advise e mail Dave Smith proof of payment stating the type of members and the member(s) names.

DFT Committee

A number of members have asked that these details be published in the Bobbin. All we ask is that any communication via email be kept to that of fly fishing and club matters.

Chairman	Jay Smit	083 764 6369	jaysmit@durbanflytyers.co.za
Secretary	Geoff Dettmer	083 785 4997	geoffdettmer@durbanflytyers.co.za
Treasurer	Dave Smith	083 251 1629	davesmith@durbanflytyers.co.za
IT	Warren Prior	083 348 9790	warrenprior@durbanflytyers.co.za
Saltwater	Nick Nortje	083 782 9697	nicknortje@durbanflytyers.co.za
Freshwater	The Committee		
Entertainment	Bruce Curry	082 774 5514	brucecurry@durbanflytyers.co.za
Editor	Ian Cox	082 574 3722	iancox@durbanflytyers.co.za

Forthcoming Attractions

Date		Venue	Organiser	Status
November	River and Dam on UHFFC Water	Underberg	Warren Prior	Under Construction
November	Tiger Fishing	Pongola	Dave Smith	Under Construction

For Sale

If any club member would like advertise some fly tying kit for sale or is looking for said kit , please contact

iancox@durbanflytyers.co.za

Durban Fly Tyers Shirts

BLUE shirts & BLUE hat @ R200.00 for both

Advertisements

These are free for club members. A modest advertising charged is levied in respect of advertisements placed by non-members. Contact Dave Smith For details.

dave@durbanflytyers.co.za



<http://www.xplorerflyfishing.co.za/>

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Email: jay@ismit.co.za

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Cell: 076 0365 123

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harvey.mulder@yahoo.co.za



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Quick Links

Name	Address	Comments
Durban Shops That stock Fly Tying Material		
The Complete Angler	Shop 1 6 Village Rd Kloof, 3610 Tel 031 764 1488	Superb freshwater selection of fly tying materials. Salty stuff too
Kingfisher	http://www.kingfisher.co.za/shop.php	A wide selection of fly tying materials balanced more towards the salt.
South African Online Shops		
Frontier Fly Fishing	http://www.frontierflyfishing.co.za/	Situated at Coachman's Crossing, Centre, Peter Place, Bryanston, and Johannesburg.
Netbooks	http://www.netbooks.co.za/	The Home of Craig Thom Check him out at the Ufudu Fair.
Stream X	http://www.streamxflyfishing.co.za/	
The African Fly Fisher	http://www.theafricanflyangler.co.za/	Morne Bayman's new shop
KZN Fly Fishing Guides		
Jan Korrubel	083 99 33 870 jkorrubel@gmail.com jan@wildfly.co.za	small streams and custom fly tying
Simon Graham	081 87 44 855 simon@wildfly.co.za	still water and custom fly tying
Grevin Price	082 896 3688 grevin@wildfly.co.za	river and still water (including yellowfish)
Juan-Pierre Rossouw	076 208 5602 juan@wildfly.co.za	river and still water (including yellowfish)
Leon Vermeulen	082 442 4846 / leon@wildbrowns.co.za	River
KZN Fly Casting Instructors		
All the fishing guides listed above also give casting instruction.		
Ben Pretorius	http://www.ufudu.co.za/	
Graham McCall	079 303 3735	
Jeremy Rotchester	083 607 6100	
KZN Fly Fishing and Fly Tying Clubs & Associations		
The Fly Fishers Association (FFA)	flyfishersassociation@gmail.com	
The KZN Fly Fishing Association KZNFFA)	http://www.kznffa.org/public/index.asp?pageid=847	
The Natal Fly Fishing Club	http://www.nffc.co.za/	
South Coast Fly Fishers		
The Underberg and Himeville Trout Club	http://www.uhtfc.co.za/	
Wildfly	http://www.wildflytravel.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=282&Itemid=451	
Tides Charts		
Durban	http://www.swell.co.za/durban/tides	Gives you a surf report too.
Weather		
Durban	http://www.windguru.cz/int/index.php?sc=4865	