

THE BOBBIN

The newsletter of the

Durban Fly Tyers



www.durbanflytyers.co.za



October 2016

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Next Meeting

Visitors and beginners are welcome.

Date	3 October 2016
Venue	Room G1 Westville Library
Time	7pm for 7.30pm
Tie	Freshwater
Tyer	Sheldon Sink
Pattern	Beeg Hopper
Special Instructions	Bring strong dark thread and superglue

CHAIRMAN'S CHIRP

I know it sounds corny but I'll say it, another month done and dusted. Thank you to Raymond Meneses for his demo of the SILICLONE MULLET last month. This fly could be used either for bass or in the salt. Being weed less makes for less swearing on the bass pond and more fishing time. This month Sheldon Sink will be tying a larger than normal HOPPER pattern that a few of his friends assure me works very well. You will require a dark thread for the tie.

The fly tying stock at Complete Angler has at last arrived from Wapsi and is hanging on the pegs. A lot of the usual stuff with a few different bits and pieces. The Kingfisher is waiting for stock of the extension to the WILDERNESS range; i.e. a 9 weight, four piece. As soon as I get one in my mitts I will test drive it and report back.

We have not had many catch reports at the shop during the last while but the feeling is that the extended drought conditions are a big factor. The conventional bass anglers are really battling as it becomes more difficult by the day to launch boats at the major dams. Trout fishing seems to be pretty limited as well due to rivers and many dams being very low with some reports of dams that are dry. Salt water appears to be on the up. Durban Bay is reporting a lot of Garrick over the past two months but are tailing off. Whisperings of some early season Springer are coming through so get there and have some fun.



FROM THE EDITOR

Thanks to Chris Buitendag of Ivanhoe for the cover pic and to Rex Fey for letting me burgle content from his excellent Blog "[A stream beyond](#)".

The river season opened on 1 September and I got to celebrate it with a joint gathering of the Durban Cane Rod Builders Guild and the lads from Trout Talk at Kamberg. I could only manage the one day but it was enough to christen my 6'3" Paul Young midge taper with a short line release of a lovely 12" brownie. But this is not what made the hookup special. You mustn't get too sentimental about rods, even rods of your own making. All this artistry stuff is hugely overblown. That is not to say that some rod makers are not artist. Some and I would rank Steven Boshoff amongst them, most definitely are. It is just that making a bamboo rod is an artisanal skill rather than an artistic one. No what made the hookup special was that I found a fish at all.

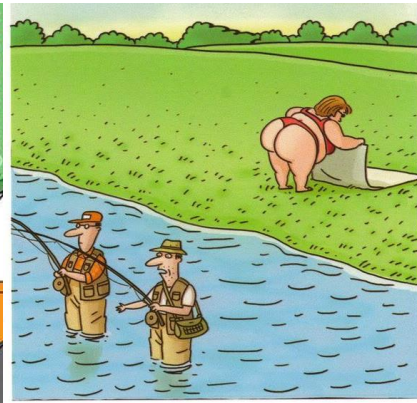
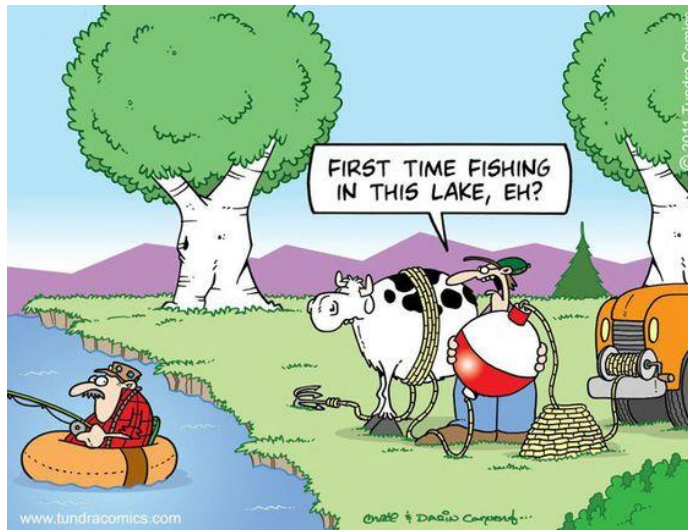


You see the drought and in particular those very hot days we had in February decimated our trout populations, especially in rivers. It has been quite difficult to find a fish in a river as legions of trout anglers have pointed out. Jay who stopped off at Rhodes on his way back from Cookhouse could not find a fish despite a whole day spent on the river. Rex Fey has had a similar experience on the Lotheni. Click [here](#) to read about it.

So you can imagine my delight to find a healthy and feisty little brown behaving just as brown trout ought on the Mooi. And there are fish in the rivers around Rhodes just as they are elsewhere but they are much less of them. This means that fishing will be difficult for a couple of years but the fish coming out will be a lot bigger. It also means that we have a duty to take special care not to unduly harm or stress any river fish we do catch. For the moment and for a couple of years to come, every trout is special.

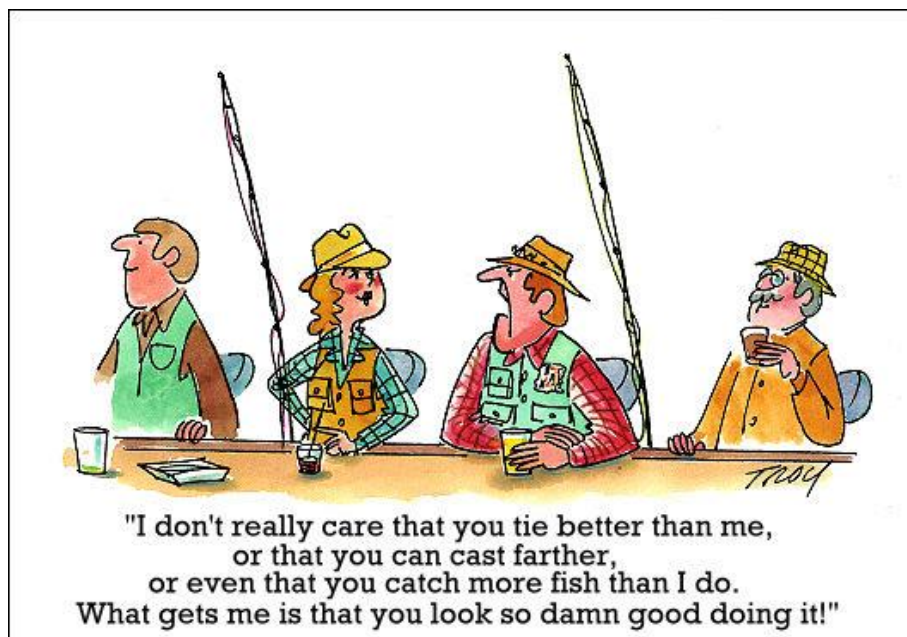
It may also be a good idea to close off some river beats to let the fish recover.

IT'S A GIGGLE



"That's odd... the fish were biting like mad a minute ago, and now it's like they've completely lost their appetite."

off the mark.com by Mark Parisi



"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

FLY TYING AND OTHER TIPS

[Fishing with midges](#)

The quickest way to catch still water trout is to tie on a bloodworm and let it drift on the bottom. If fish are about and feeding they will take your fly. Bloodworms are also about the easiest thing to tie.

The one I like best is the one Wayne Stegen uses which is what Davie McPhail calls his flexi floss blood worm. My variation – I never stick to the recipe - is very similar save that I stick a small red bead up front and tie the tail a great deal sparser. I also tie it on a Grip 14 hopper hook. Come to think of it, it is not very similar but the tying steps in [Davie's demo video](#) are the same. Oh I use that red nylon bead thread rather than flexifloss. It's a lot cheaper. I also use superglue rather than Sally Hansen's or UV.

Click [here](#) for my 2012 article on midges.

Cool flies

A selection of cool flies off the web.



Wayne Stegen



Mac Muller



Marcus Jansson



Bojan Novakovic

From the web

- [Tom McGuane on whether fly fishing means anything](#)
- [Tying the Dyret Caddis by Davie McPhail](#)
- [Fishing French Leader techniques](#)
- [Fly casting into the wind](#)
- [On fishing better](#)

ARTICLES

[Casting in the Mountains](#)

By Rex Fey

I really like Rex Fey's stuff. He gets to fish the water I explored as a kid with Sherman Ripley and which I promise myself I must fish again but never do. He has kindly allowed me to burgle articles off his blog. [Here](#) is one of his latest.

REPORTS

[RDPS Charity Event](#)

By Ian Cox



"Hey Ian", asked Terry Andrews, "You want to fish Ivanhoe? "Is the Pope a soccer player", I replied. "It will cost you 300 hundred bucks but you had better move as the entry is limited" he replied. And so move I did. It was just as well as I got the last slot available.

It was only then that I learnt that this was a charity event organised by May Campbell and put on by Ivanhoe to raise funds for their Royal Drakensberg Primary School. That really warmed the cockles of my heart. Good fishing for a great cause. Could it get any better?

So it was that early on Saturday 12 September that Terry and I swing into the gates of the Ivanhoe estate. I had not been there since a schoolboy and had forgotten how huge it was. This is not a farm where the word estate is misused.



It's like driving into another country the place is so big. And the water. Man oh man!

But I am getting ahead of myself. We had to check in first. That is when I discovered I was a tad underdressed. Boy was it chilly and I had left Durban thinking it was going to be warm. Notties school teacher Peter Quin who incidentally makes Terry look like a midget, pitching barefoot and in shorts did not make me feel any warmer. Click [here](#) for more.

Fly Tying Basics



The DFT and Trout Talk held a fly tying basic skills course at the Trout SA HQ on Saturday 17 September. The idea was to help those fly tyers whose basic skills were a bit rusty to get them back on track and thus tie better flies. DFT members are clearly expert because not a single member pitched up either to learn or offer support.

We had a small gathering of Trout Talk members including a couple of fly tyers who had not tied for years but were keen to get back into it, if only to restock their fly boxes. I hit off with a talk about thread, thread control and basic tying techniques which was followed by a tie of Wayne Stegen's blood worm pattern.

Terry Andrews followed up with a hugely entertaining interactive demo of how to tie still water patterns that catch big fish.

The morning was thoroughly enjoyable and will be repeated but with a focus on proportion.

NEMBA update from FOSAF

The saga continues. Click [here](#) for the latest update from Ilan Lax.

IN THE MARKET

[FlyWorx Dubbing](#)

By Ian Cox

FLYWORX
Fly Tying Materials



“Hey Ian, check on this dubbing”, said Terry Andrews on a visit to his office recently. “Isn’t it cool?” he asked. I had to agree with him that it is, especially if you are into tying cad if you are into tying caddis or small nymphs. But what makes it truly cool is that it is manufactured locally. This has two advantages. Firstly the dubbing is very well priced and secondly it can be custom manufactured to suit your needs. Click [here](#) for more.

[Wild Coolers](#)

By Ian Cox



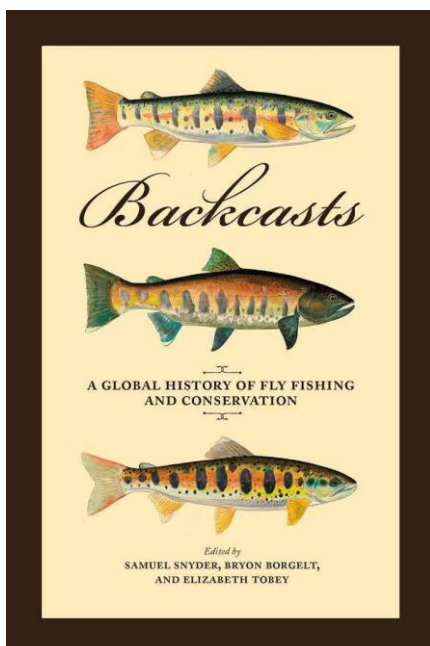
Back in the last century when I was young we had two kinds of coolers. Styrofoam boxes (the Zimbos called them Kaylite) that always broke and metal box Coleman coolers that were strong as hell but very expensive. The hardcore bought Coleman to go with their Landies (they were series 2 back then) and the rest of us bought the cheap shit on the basis you could always buy another one. Click [here](#) for more

[Backcasts](#)

A global history of fly fishing and conservation

By Ian Cox

Backcasts belongs to that genre of books which collect together presentations given at an academic conference. However in this case the conference did not happen but the book deal seems to have survived.



I got it from my wife for my birthday but at my request so I will not be hurting her feelings when I say I was a little disappointed. It’s a pricey book, 45USD or 38 quid all told if you bought it, as she did, in the UK.

My disappointment is not only a question of price. I have suffered the high paywalls that academics build around work often funded by the taxpayer long enough to manage that irritation. No, my grumpiness in this case stems from the grandiose claim that this was “A global history of fly fishing and conservation”.

Let me tell you it isn’t. In fact it is not even close to being a global history, even if such a thing is possible. It is a highly personalised account of a number of contributor’s perspectives on trout and perceptions around conservation in a small sample

of the world's trout waters. In the USA in particular, whose stories dominate, it is a perception strongly biased in favour of perspective of the invasion ecology movement within the US based Trout Unlimited organisation. Click [here](#) for more.



Andrew Mather opening the season on the Mooi with homebuilt bamboo

Trout are not an insurgency. They are not something to be defeated. They are creatures into which we want to develop a relationship. Tom McGuane

CLUB STUFF

Subs for 2016/17 are due.

The new subs remained unchanged at:

Joining Fee	R200 senior R100 Junior
Senior Member	R200
Junior Member	R100
Family Member	R200 plus R50% of fee for each subsequent family member.

No Cash deposits. 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.

Bank details

Bank: Standard Bank

Branch: Westville
Branch Code: 045 426
Account Number: 053 189 647

Please advise e mail Dave Smith smiffam@absamail.co.za 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	Graeme Neary	083 232 2837	gneary@telkomsa.net
The Grand Poobah	Stelios Comninos	083 255 3334	stelios.comninos@gmail.com
Treasurer	Dave Smith	083 251 1629	smiffam@absamail.co.za
IT	Warren Prior	083 348 9790	warren@bahaflyfishing.co.za
Outings	The Committee		
Entertainment	Bruce Curry	082 774 5514	Bruce.curry.too@gmail.com
Editor	Ian Cox	082 574 3722	iancox@coxattorneys.co.za



"Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication" Leonardo da Vinci

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



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J-Vice Fly Tying Vice

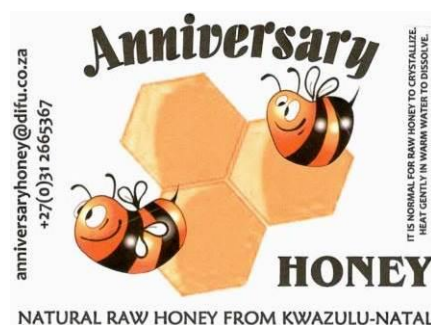


Jay Smit

Cell: 0832508211

Email: jay@ismit.co.za

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Honey sales: Anja Smith 0832951669

Bee removal: Dave Smith:
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<http://www.xplorerflyfishing.co.za/>

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 ilkorrubel@gmail.com jan@wildfly.co.za	small streams 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.		
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	