

February 2012 Club Outing Liawenee Number 2 House



Due to the unavailability of the Number 2 House for a weekend in February this year's now traditional February outing had to be held on a Monday and Tuesday . Apologies to all our working class members ! However, we had no trouble getting a full complement to fill the place. Eleven members turned up, which was a bit of a problem because there were only nine beds. It all worked out okay though when Allan E. slept in his van and Bob W. nobly decided he would have a mattress on the floor behind the couch in the lounge. Thanks Bob. As it turned out Bob probably had the quietest spot in the house.

The outing started badly for Ron W. who decided to call in at Swan Bay on his way up to get a head start on the rest of us and do a bit of solo fishing. After checking in at the house Peter R., Pat D. Paul R. and I decide we would give Swan Bay a go and got there just in time to find a soaking wet Ron changing his clothes and with a badly bleeding split finger. A strong gust of the NW wind had hit him while he was wading a rocky patch and he'd taken a tumble, bending a finger back so badly that it split. Fortunately, we were able to patch him up with bits from the club first aid kit (the first time it's been used in the years we have had it) and some steri-strips from Pat's kit. Ron was sent off to Deloraine to get some stitches and we all went fishing. Ron claims that the 1.6 kg brown I got was berleyed up with his blood. Somebody is going to have to do something spectacular to get the underwater trophy off Ron this season.

Members trickled in during the afternoon and in the evening fanned out to various fishing spots, some to Boundary Bay and some to Canal Bay, both of which were pleasantly sheltered from the strong NW wind. I don't think any fish were caught or even sighted but we did discover some pleasant looking water for when the fish are in a more cooperative mood and it was a nice convivial evening back at base later on. Once again the cake provided by a couple of the wives went down well. Paul R. is still experimenting with the curing and tanning of trout skins and gave us a progress report, complete with photos and drawings. In light of that I decided to fillet and skin the fish I'd caught earlier at Swan Bay. Do you ever wish you hadn't started something !? The bench was slippery and the knife wasn't sharp and it didn't turn out very well. Isn't that always the way when you have people watching!



Tuesday morning saw weather more like the weather we normally get on club outings, i.e. strong and gusty W-NW winds and showers. But we're a hardy lot and the Nineteen Lagoons area was the favoured destination. Maybe not as hardy as we told ourselves though because when Ron, Bob and I got to Carter Lakes we could barely stand in the wind and there were white caps coming straight down the lake. So we turned round and went straight back to Christmas Bay on Great Lake. Which was nice and sheltered but not very fishy, although Bob did get broken off by a fish when he was using nymph under dry.

In the meantime John H. was leading an expedition into the James River area via the



Pillans track across the dry (?) bed of Lake Augusta, but that adventure didn't go very well either.

John found some water on the track that was hiding deep wheel ruts. Fortunately he was being followed by new member Ian W. in his 4wd and a retrieval was carried out.



Consequently the James River trip was called off and the expeditioners went to Double Lagoon instead where they caught the same number of fish as we did at Christmas Bay.

Bruce G. and Peter took Bruce's boat to Little Pine Lagoon where Peter used a red tag and christened his new Sage One with a splendid little brown trout. They say they would have caught more but had to run for shore from a nasty looking squall that loomed up.

So, back at base on Tuesday evening things were getting desperate. The general consensus was that good old Swan Bay was the place to be and we all trooped off down there. By this time the wind had turned to the south so the boat ramp corner was the obvious area and we all lined up along that shore. Once again there were plenty of small rainbows in evidence but difficult to actually hook. A few decent fish were seen moving, mostly a couple of casts out, but they wouldn't take a dry. Bruce G. caught a sizeable brown in very poor condition that he returned. John tied on a very interesting fly called the Nomad which is a deep fished, fast stripped, sort of fly very popular in the UK and will probably be Fly of the Month in the March newsletter. He had a couple of hits on it and then got busted off on a good fish. Despite the lack of fish it was a very pleasant corner to fish and all seemed to enjoy themselves.

Wednesday morning was time to pack up, do some housework and vacate the house. I don't think anyone went fishing early and we were on the road by 9.00 am. Most headed for home but a handful of the Perpetual Optimists Chapter of the CFFCA decided to give Swan Bay one more chance to yield a decent fish and fished there until the rain drove us off the water at midday. The small rainbows were still around and despite many takes only a couple were hooked. We finally headed home consoling ourselves with the fact that those little rainbows should be a nice catchable size next year.

Alan Taylor

Afterthought. Re the problem hooking all those small rainbows in Great Lake. I have since read on the 'net somewhere that small fish have trouble pulling a bushy dry fly down through the meniscus. We see the take and strike but the fly is not actually in the fish's mouth. With that in mind a small emerger style fly such as the possum emerger where the tail of the fly is already below the surface might result in more hook-ups. Worth thinking about, that is if you really want to hook small fish.

A.T.
