

Tassie 2009 Pt 1

Jeff, Bryan, Russ, Steve, Wooly, Allan, Kaye, Doug & Kath
Saturday/Sunday

Uneventful crossing except for Steve who blamed the less than tasty food at Rex's D'Lish Fish for his grinning at the white bowl. Stocked up at Devonport and headed for Longford for meat and fishing supplies from Doo Gun. For future reference please note that the Longford Abattoir Butchery is open from 7am 7 days a week and I have been informed that the prices are very reasonable and the meat quality is good.

After setting up house at Doug's on Berry Street in Miena we headed off fishing for the afternoon.

Jeff caught a small rainbow on a hopper pattern in Canal Bay near Liawanee. All of us fished Swan Bay below the hotel that night. Doug caught 1 ¾, 3 & 3 ½ lb browns on a large orange beetle pattern, Kath caught a 2 ½ lb brown on the same pattern and I caught a 1 lb brown on a Stu Tripney Bionic Bug

Monday

Russ & Steve headed down to Bronte and Pine Tier Lagoon. Russ caught a 1 ½ lb brown on a Royal Wulff.

Allan caught a small rainbow in Duds Bay.

Bryan and I went to Little Pine where he caught a 1 & a 2 lb brown on a Brett Wolf Emerger whilst I caught a 2 lb brown on a klinkhammer.

Tuesday

Bryan & I met Allan & Kaye down in Tailers Bay on Bronte Lagoon. Conditions were good but the fishing was poor. I had four refusals from a small brown in crystal clear water before I gave up. We then travelled up to Pine Tier Lagoon where Bryan caught a 1 lb brown on a parachute adams whilst I caught a 1 lb rainbow on the same pattern. Weather was very hot and bright and whilst the conditions looked good for a hatch that night nothing



Allan Semmler with a fine Lake Fergus Brown.

happened except us wasting four hours!! Allan also caught a 1 lb brown.

That night Steve caught his fish for the trip - a 1 ½ lb brown on a Mrs Simpson Muddler.

Wednesday

We all went out to the Western Lakes. Jeff, Russ & Steve trekked into Lake Flora whilst Bryan and I fished Lake Botsford. Russ decided to convert his three piece five weight into a four piece by standing on it before the trek into Lake Flora. Although sunny the winds were gusty and a thin layer of cloud made polaroiding difficult. Jeff caught a 3 lb brown in Lake Flora on an orange beetle.

Bryan & I left the western lakes in favour of Penstock where Bryan caught a 3 ½ brown off the wall on a shaving brush.

Thursday

Jeff, Allan & Kaye walked into Fergus on an extremely hot day. Allan caught a 1 1/2 lb brown on a hopper pattern which supplemented dinner that night. The fly pattern must have looked like a crippled dragonfly on which the fish were feeding. Jeff caught a 2 lb & 3 lb brown on a dun emerger and beetle pattern double rig – one on each pattern. All fish were feeding along the edge and were polaroiding

Friday

Jeff caught 3 – a 2, 2 ¼ & 2 ½ . First on a black spinner, next on a dun emerger and the last on a beetle. The walk back in the heat was a real struggle. It is most uncharacteristic weather for central Tasmania with temperatures up in the mid 30's when it is general less than 20.

The rest of us had a day off and went to the big smoke – Launceston. We all made donations to the Ross Pullen retirement fund at The Essential Fly-fisher. It was nearly 40 deg C and very bloody hot. Russ talked us into going to the National Auto Museum which whilst very interesting their was not a fish or a fly in site and they had no air conditioning!!!! The others enjoyed a fresh fish lunch which was much better than Rex's rubbish on the outward leg from Melbourne.



On our evening return to the highlands we went back down to Swan Bay – I caught a 2 lb brown on a large beetle pattern whilst Bryan outdid me with a 3 ¼ lb on a large shaving brush. Doug caught a 3 ½ lb brown in Boundary Bay on an orange beetle pattern.

Saturday

Up at 5am to go down to Tods Corner, warm morning and a lovely sunrise. We spotted fish straight away which seemed to be midging and there was also a caddis hatch going on. Wooly caught a 1 lb rainbow (which is undersize for the Great Lake as they need to be 400 mm) on a caddis pattern and Bryan caught a 1 ¼ lb brown on a royal wulff.

Steve, Bryan and self went to Little Pine where Bryan caught a 1 lb brown on a BW emerger and I caught a 1 ½ lb brown on the same pattern. As the wind picked up we moved location and walked around to the Untouchable shore where I caught another 2 ½ lb brown on a BW emerger.

We were joined by John Knowles (a member of the Tasmanian Fly Fishing Team & also a double member of the Australian team in Canada & New Zealand for the World Championships) and Jimmy Schofield who bought a boat with them and kindly offered to take out one of us – Russ almost killed us in the rush to volunteer. The day was hot and bright and they had a very early start at 04:30 am on the water by 5 am. Spent the day looking for windlanes. Water was very glassy flat without any windlanes but masses of insects on the

water and trout rising everywhere. So they were forced to target individual fish or pods of fish in some cases. Twice they had double hookups and this action continued up until midday when a stiff SW breeze picked up and killed the action. Jimmy is a great believer in the Chernobyl Ant and John being the purist refused to use one. Russ broke his second 5wt rod for the trip – this would have to be a club record – thank the lord that we all carry backup rods so Russ will be able to fish on. The score for the day was in excess of twenty fish in the 2 to 4 lb mark all browns (Russ caught 4 of these). Fish were mainly caught on the small Chernobyl Ant and John caught his on Royal Wulff, Red Tag or beetle patterns. Some of John's photos will accompany this article.

That evening Steve, Russ & Jimmy went back out into Swan Bay but the fish whilst rising were not interested in eating their selection of flies.

Jeff & Doug went out in the boat into Swan Bay and Doug caught a 3 lb brown on a large orange beetle.

Allan & Kay left to go down to Hobart for the day. They camped at Pine Tier that night as they planned on also visiting Clarence lagoon & Laughing Jack lagoon in pursuit of Brook trout. Alas none were seen although they did catch another small brown.

(The second week of the trip will be featured in the next edition of the Tippet Topics).