

2009 Melbourne Fly Fishing Conclave Report



Peter Hayes started the day program in the morning group with the summary of today's programs.



The Inaugural Melbourne Fly Fishing Conclave hosted by Peter Hayes was held at the beautiful Cammeray Waters, Woodend over the weekend of 3/4 October. Upwards of 60 keen fly fishers were in attendance to take part in a wide range of workshops covering all aspects of fly fishing. The workshops were delivered by a group of tutors that Peter Hayes proudly calls **'the best of the best'**. Most guests were staying for the weekend. Many additional guests came for day trips.

Conclave sponsors Sage, Reddington, Scott, Scientific Angler, Vision, Cortland, Innovator, Wildfish and Rio had all the latest gear available for guests to try.



Bruce Ratcliffe with his 1.5lbs Cammeray Waters brown.

Whilst fishing in the three well stocked lakes was not the prime focus of the weekend there were plenty of well conditioned fish caught.

Mick Hall (*the bug whisperer*) hosted a great hands on entomology class on one of the lakes. Around the edges there were loads of juicy, ripe nymphs waiting to hatch. No wonder the trout were fat.

First time fly fisher young Jack Mauger, was taught to cast in the beginners class on the first day and he managed his first ever fish on a fly the following day. Jack is well hooked on the sport now. Well done Jack.

Nick Taransky had his amazing collection of handcrafted cane rods that cast loops as tight as the best late model graphite rods.

The event, plus other pearls of wisdom from each of the tutors, was captured on DVD. People wishing to obtain a copy of these invaluable tips and tricks can order one through the website:

www.peterhayesflyfishing.com



Many people despair when confronted with a windy fishing day. Matt Howell's workshop on 'Taming the Wind' had all participants welcoming the opportunity to put into practice what they had learnt on their next windy fishing day.



The innovative Muz Wilson and Sean Ash were on hand teaching fly tying tips and tricks whilst imparting plenty of knowledge on fishing techniques.

Local angler, guide and casting instructor, Mick Kaksa drew on his vast and varied fishing experiences to teach anglers how to think like a fish. Micks casting sessions were also very popular.



Peter Morse's workshops on how not to 'Clouser Your Rod', 'Fishing Photography' and knots from 'Arbour to Fly' were well attended. Participants were enthralled with Peter's professional and enlightening presentations.



Master Casting Instructor Simon Zarifeh had casters curving left, right and centre during his fun 2 hour 'Presentation casts' workshop. Students learnt that there are many times when casts other than a straight line delivery are required to trick fussy trout and Simon's masterful teaching techniques had the guys performing these casts quickly and precisely in minutes.

My workshop 'Practice Drills' and 'Casting into the Next Postcode' workshops gave people a multitude of purposeful practice drills that will help improve their casting performance and add meters to their distance.



Australia's two handed casting guru Bintoro was kept busy with a high level of interest in this growth aspect of the sport.



A wonderfully fun filled evening was had on the Saturday night when a forum style dinner was held. Delicious food, great wine and great company ensured a great night was had by all. At 2 a.m. the tutors indoor rod distance casting competition was won by Muz Wilson.



The new Nor-Vise rotary tying vise and retractable bobbin was the most talked about new product. This totally different concept of tying reinvigorated interest in tying for many people. You can see details of this remarkable device at www.peterhayesflyfishing.com



The following quote from a participant sums up the event well.

"So a Peter Hayes' Conclave is like a smorgasbord – all the good stuff is there, have as much as you want and keep coming back until you're satisfied! And I did – cane casting with Nick Taransky, Spey casting with Bintoro, working with wind and clousers with Peter Morse, and more. There was more to choose from than I could take in. The "rules" were good – some compulsory sessions, but mostly the freedom to choose what you needed, and when you wanted it." Paul Gibson

The event was so successful that many participants



registered interest in returning next year for a reunion event. Keep an eye out for dates as spaces are sure to fill quickly.

Peter Hayes

2010 Fly Fishing Conclave

The 2010 Fly Fishing Conclave will be held in Cressy Tasmania, April 17-19, Sydney, July 3-4 and Melbourne date to be advised.

To keep you informed with these not to be missed events, please register your email address at: www.peterhayesflyfishing.com