



# OzFly

Spring 2009

Official Newsletter of Fly Fish Australia Inc.  
View our website on [www.flyfishaustralia.com.au](http://www.flyfishaustralia.com.au)

## Special points of interest:

- Welcome home to Australian Representative Teams
- National Championships 27-30 November
- FFA to host 2012 Commonwealth Championships in Tassie
- FFA to host 2011 Oceania Championships
- 'FFA Members Forum' proposed 30 November after AGM

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## Welcome Back to OzFly

After a very long absence we welcome back OzFly as the official newsletter of Fly Fish Australia. The Board of FFA recognises that we need to get the message out to members that we are back in business and ready to work together to get Australia back into the charts of the Fly Fishing World.

This re-emergence of OzFly is timely as we welcome home our World Championship and Commonwealth Championship Teams.

Our teams did us proud in the way they conducted themselves both on and off the water. Particularly pleasing was the fact the Commonwealth Team was awarded the prestigious 'Friendship Trophy' voted on by their fellow competitors. More on those events later.

There is also a massive amount of activity already happening in preparation for a new and exciting fishing season.

Plans are well under way for the 2009 Nationals



**The Aussie Teams at the Commonwealth Championships in Islay, Scotland June 2009**

being held this year in Tassie and based at an old favourite, Bronte Park — home of the 1988 World Championships.

State Chapters are busy

getting ready for more State Championship events and the Board has been doing some long term planning looking at future events and examining our organisation and the way we do business.

The Board has appointed Peter Dixon as Team Captain and Royce Baxter as Team Manager for next years World Championships in Poland in June.

Also a reminder to all members that annual subs were due 1 July so if you haven't sorted that out with your State Chapter please do so ASAP.

Busy times and lots of fun ahead—I'm excited and I'm sure you are too

Tight Lines

**Rob Staples**

National Secretary FFA

## National Championships and AGM, Tassie 27–30 November 2009

The Australian National Championships this year are scheduled from 27-30 November inclusive with the proposed program being registration on Friday 27th, competition on the weekend of the 28th and 29th and the AGM and Members Forum on Monday 30 November. The field is limited to 72 and the eligible numbers for

each state will need to be cut back should we be oversubscribed. The Board is working on an equitable method of doing this should it be necessary. The competition base is Bronte Park and the lake venues are Arthurs, Little Pine and Penstock subject to lake heights, weather and safety considerations. River venues will be the Tyenna

and Derwent. Reserve lake is Bronte.

If you don't qualify as a competitor then please think about being a controller. A great way to learn and be part of the action. The Competition Organiser is Brian McCullagh on 0402 246799 or by email:

[rodandvice@bigpond.com](mailto:rodandvice@bigpond.com)  
or check the FFA website.

## Team Captain and Team Manager appointed for 2010 World Team

The Board is pleased to announce that FFA has appointed Peter Dixon as Team Captain and Royce Baxter as Team Manager for the 2010 World Championships to be held in Poland next June.

This is a departure from the previous structure of appointing only a Team Captain and is more in line with what the top international teams are doing.

By separating the functions it is considered our Team Captain will have more time to give to the task of preparing teams for competition.

Skills development and teamwork will be key elements to the Team Captains role.

This will be Peter's third appointment as Australian Team Captain having previously looked after our teams in New Zealand in 2008 and Scotland in 2009.

Royce has represented Australia at 9 International Competitions and is a highly experienced and well respected competitor on the local scene and internationally. As team reserve in Scotland he provided tremendous support for Peter and the team.

Their teamwork in Scotland provided the platform for

team harmony and allowed the team members to focus on the event. We wish them every success in Poland.

The Polish Organising Committee for the 2010 World Flyfishing Championships have advised the championship will take place nominally from 14 to 21 June. Competition venues will be Solinka River, San River and Myczkowce Lake.

The International Organiser of the competition will be Mr. Stanislaw Cios.

The dates and venues are subject to a final inspection by FIPS to be conducted in October.



Peter Dixon (Centre) and Royce Baxter (Right) with 2009 Individual Silver Medalist Donald Thom of Canada.

## International Competition Program

FFA Members are advised the following international competition program will be attended by Australian Teams supported by FFA.

2010 - 14-21 June - FIPS Mouche World Fly Fishing Championships (WFFC), Poland (To Be Confirmed)

2010 - June - Commonwealth Fly Fishing Championships (CFFC), Wales (TBC)

2011 - August/Sept - WFFC, Italy (TBC)

2011 - Oct/Nov - Oceania

Fly Fishing Championships (OFFC), Australia (Venue and dates TBC)

2012 - Feb - Commonwealth FFC, Tasmania, Australia (dates and venues TBC)

2012 - WFFC, Slovenia (dates TBC)

2013 - WFFC, Norway (dates TBC)

2013 - Oceania FFC, New Zealand.

2014 - WFFC (Bids only from

Belgium and Ireland)

Frequency of events -

FIPS Mouche World Fly Fishing Championships (Senior) - Annual event.

Commonwealth Fly Fishing Championships - every second year on 'even year'

Oceania Fly Fishing Championships - every second year on 'odd year' alternating between Australia and New Zealand

**2010 World Championships in Poland 14-21 June followed by the Commonwealth Championships in Wales late June (TBC)**

## FFA Local Issues

On the local front there are a number of matters we would like to bring to the attention of Members.

**Membership Subscriptions** are now due. These are payable to your State Treasurer (please check web site for details). A reminder that Ordinary Fishing Members will now pay the insurance fee as a component of your annual subs. Subs are now \$80 per annum (including insurance component).

### Competition Rule Changes

FIPS-Mouche have advised of international rule changes. FFA has adopted the FIPS Competition rules and noted modifications necessary to suit local requirements. These are now published on the FFA website [www.flyfishaustralia.com.au](http://www.flyfishaustralia.com.au) and are effective immediately for all FFA sanctioned competitions. State Chapters have been requested to implement these changes for all future competition.

**Competition Year**—The Board has resolved that FFA

accredited competitions occurring after the 30th of September 2009 to 30 June 2010 will become qualifying competitions for the 2010 nationals.

**Members Forum**— a Members Forum will be held following the AGM on 30 November to help streamline the AGM proceedings and enable members to raise matters for debate. It is anticipated the outcomes will be placed on the action plan for the incoming Board to consider. More information will be distributed with the AGM notices.

### Vale - Will Coltman

It is with great sadness that we inform members of the sudden and tragic passing of Will Coltman. Will was the eldest son of Craig and Vicki Coltman. Will died shortly after Craig and Vicki returned from the World and Commonwealth Championships in July. Condolences on behalf of all FFA members have been passed on to the Coltman family.

## World Championships—Drymen, Scotland 5-12 June 2009

The 30th FIPS Mouche World Fly Fishing Championships were held in Drymen, Scotland from 5—12 June 2009. The Aussie Team of Max Verashaka (22), Joe Riley (25), Craig Coltman (73), Mark Youngman (85) and John Donnachy (89) Captained by Peter Dixon fought back magnificently to a creditable 12th position from 27 Countries after a tough opening day of competition.

Competition was held on Loch Awe, Loch Carron, Loch Leven, Lake of Menteith and River Tay.

Gold Medal team winners were England, France silver and host country Scotland in bronze position.

Great camaraderie amongst the team and a special thanks to team captain Peter Dixon for making it all happen. And also thanks to

Royce Baxter who was there as team reserve and gave a lot of support to Peter.

One of the highlights was the closing dinner. The Aussie team gave a rousing rendition of 'I Still Call Australia Home' (a Kylie M song according to Max?) and the perennial 'Waltzing Matilda'. Max V did an unforgettable job as lead vocalist—we're just glad he's a great fisherman!

As one of a small group of Aussie supporters at the event I have to say they were a great bunch of blokes who acquitted themselves well in competition and yet still had time to make the support group feel very welcome. Thanks for some fabulous memories.

Peter Dixon has forwarded his 'Captains Report' to the Board. He was equally glowing in his praise for the ef-

fort put in by team members. Peter reported 'This Australian team in 2009 had something special. There was an amazing team spirit. Whilst it finished in 12<sup>th</sup> position every member of the team contributed to the campaign. Considering the diverse experience of the team I suggest 12th was an appropriate ranking'.

Peter also made some telling observation on what FFA needs to do to improve our standing. He said 'Our competitions must be more professional with the top anglers fighting out for a position on an international team. They must be schooled in the fundamentals, including:

- Casting
- Tackle change
- Competition techniques
- Physical preparedness
- Mental strength
- Top quality gear



Proud to represent your country

**'...they won the trophy which represents the essence of the competition, the Friendship Trophy...'**

**Jill Mandeno**

## Commonwealth Championships, Isle of Islay, Scotland Aussies Win Bronze and prestigious 'Friendship Trophy'

The Commonwealth Championships were held from 15 - 20 June 2009 on the Isle of Islay, Scotland immediately after the World Championships. Australia was represented by two teams—Australia Gold (the World team) and Australia Green (Royce Baxter, Geoff Lay, Chris Myszka, Geoff Naylor and Jim Williams). These teams finished 3rd and 6th respectively and are to be congratulated on a fine effort. The following comments were received by FFA from Jill Mandeno Chair of the Commonwealth Fly Fishers Association:

'You should be proud of your boys as they did a great job at the Common-

wealth on the Island of Islay winning the Bronze medal behind Scotland (gold) and England (silver) who both had the advantage of more or less home water. Incidentally, Scotland is the first team to win the championship trophy three times in a row which is amazing.

However not only did they (Aussie team) acquit themselves well enough to win the Bronze medal in a championship fought enthusiastically by all twelve competing teams, but they won the trophy which represents the essence of the competition, the Friendship Trophy (one of the Canadian teams were runners up for this honour). For those who may not

know its origins, it was presented originally by Jason Garrett Snr. so as to encourage the anglers competing to represent all that is best in sportsmanship and respect for their fellow anglers. Each team represented gets one vote for the team which they agree has best reflected this ideal during the competition. Peter Dixon and his team deserve great credit for winning this vote.' Best placed Australians were Craig Coltman (6th), Geoff Lay (11th) and Joe Riley (12th). Well done to all and a great effort. A full rundown on results is available on the Championships web site:

[www.commonwealthflyfishingscotland.com](http://www.commonwealthflyfishingscotland.com)



Top placed Aussie at the Worlds, Max Verashaka meets up with new World No.1 Iain Barr from England.

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"PROMOTING COMPETITION SPORTS FLY FISHING IN AUSTRALIA"

**We're on the web:**  
**[www.flyfishaustralia.com.au](http://www.flyfishaustralia.com.au)**  
The website is updated regularly so please add it to your browser as a 'favourite' or save it to your desktop.

Fly Fish Australia Incorporated is affiliated with FIPS-Mouche and is sanctioned to participate in international fly fishing competition. It has among its objects:

- To generally promote and develop fly fishing as a sport and conservation method
- The promotion of fly fishing as a method of angling
- For Australia to consistently be among the top 10 competitive fly fishing countries in the world
- To organise international fly fishing competitions in Australia
- To actively seek sponsorship to support participation in international fly fishing events
- The promotion of catch and release
- The fostering and encouragement of a spirit of sportsmanship in fly fishing
- To acquire and disseminate information and to encourage the free exchange of ideas
- The promotion of social activities amongst fly fishers

For more information visit our website.



**The Australian Team on the march at the 2009 Commonwealths Opening Parade, Islay, Scotland**

## **Australia to Host 2012 Commonwealth Championships in Tassie and 2011 Oceania Championships**

The Board of Fly Fish Australia has agreed to host the 2012 Commonwealth Fly Fishing Championships in Tasmania. The event is likely to be held around February or March in 2012.

Australia was invited by Jill Mandeno (Chairperson, Commonwealth Fly Fishers Association) to host this prestigious event as a result of a vote of member countries at the recent Commonwealth Championships in Islay, Scotland.

The Board has resolved to call for formal nominations for the position of 2012 Com-

monwealths "competition organiser" and organising committee members with a preference for Tasmanian based members to fill the positions.

FFA members are requested to consider nominating for roles on the 2012 Commonwealth Fly Fishing Championships Organising Committee (CFFCOC). Details will be published on the FFA web site soon.

Australia will also host the 2011 Oceania Fly Fishing Championships. This event is held alternately in Aussie and New Zealand and it is our

turn in 2011. The event is likely to be held in November prior to the Nationals. It was considered that the Oceania Championships should be held either in NSW at the 2008 Nationals venues or Victoria at the 2007 Nationals Venues, in order to spread the workload.

The Board resolved that the FF Victoria and FF NSW Chapters be invited to submit proposals to the Board to host the 2011 Oceania Fly Fishing Championships for consideration at its meeting to be held on 28 October.