

Favourite Flies – Scott Marston

Yes I know, I can see that sly smirk, “What the hell would Scotty know about flies that I could possibly learn from? – What is his field day record? Ah yes that would be 10 years and one fish weighed in – Nup I think that I will skip to the next article”. Well let me tell you I know flies, in fact I have hundreds of the buggers. I have a fly for every occasion, wind condition, climatic event, mood, type of government and to match what colour my fly vest is. This puts me in a very good position to make comment on flies and their various uses (I read a lot!). I also hope in this article to make some comments on a fly that will impress your mates and finally attempt to make you think a little more when you are choosing what fly to tie on.

Now on that point, isn't that time of a fishing trip truly close to orgasmic! You all know, that sense of excitement as you stand on the shack balcony and look longingly towards the lagoon and hope that by some force of Zen the lagoon will tell you what fly to tie on. You feed the line through the eyes of your pride and joy and then it has to happen – what do I tie on? I just love that pouring over the many fly boxes in my vest, wondering which one of the many dozens of patterns contained within them will grace my tippet, and then I will say most times “Red Tag!”

Red Tag:

Please do not fall asleep; sometimes the simple things are often the best. Now red tags maybe boring to some. They are the white bread vegemite sandwich of the fly fishing world. But the simple fact is that they work. They work as a searching fly, they work in a gum beetle fall, and they work on dun feeders. Battle ship red tags (size 10) are great on windy days at Arthurs Lake. They are also one of the easiest of all dry flies to tie. So next time you are at a loss as what to do, don't overlook the obvious – this fly is not the worlds most recognised fly for nothing!

Trothodge:

This is a particularly cool dry fly. Now I have had a great deal of success with this fly, particularly on Little Pine Lagoon tailers. This fly is cool because it has two hackles – “Oh, Oh, Oh – more power!” – Tying this little baby on gives me a sense of security that my fly will not sink, and it has a ‘Big Mac’ feel about it. I reckon that the fish see the double hackle and thinks “Oh yes, double thorax with some double wing action this insect is the missing link, I'll have one of those!”

On a more serious note, when in doubt about what the fish are on or if just searching this fly is a good bet. I also use it in a size 12 as an indicator fly for a suspended nymph due to its floating qualities. For those who wish to, the tying instructions for this are as follows:

Hook: Kamasan B400, #12 – 16 (sorry Hayden!)

Thread: Uni-Thread 8/0, dark brown

Body: Peacock herl

Legs: Golden pheasant tale tippets

Thorax: Peacock herl (poor quality)

Hackle: Hoffman coachman brown and black

You guys all know that I am no fishing guru. But what I truly believe in is self-belief. My theory on most trout (there are always exceptions) is that they are predators. They eat anything if presented properly because they need to eat to stay alive. Thus tie onto

your tippet what you are convinced in your own mind will work. Don't worry about hatch is on, don't worry about the last article you have read, tie on what you have faith in. If you tie on something that you are not happy with you will have a refusal (that is often a highlight for me) or have no initial luck, in no time at all you will be changing flies. When you are doing this you are not fishing and when you are not fishing you are not catching fish!

Ken Orr in Australia's best trout Flies says "Select your fly of choice and fish it with aggression, a good degree of accuracy, and total confidence, and watch your catch rate increase." I reckon that he has it pretty right. Fly fishing to me is about your own little world full of fur and feather gadgets that only you know what pocket to find them in. So delve into your memory banks and think of what flies have worked for you on certain waters or in certain weather conditions in the past. Tie them on again on the same water or time of year because remember those fish that you caught a few years ago have siblings and those siblings will have the same instincts and feeding habits of those who have swam before them!