

THE 2009 AUSTRALIAN FLY CASTING CHAMPIONSHIPS

ACT Flyfishers were the host club for this year's Australian Fly Casting Championships that were held on the Saturday and Sunday of the Queen's Birthday weekend in June, at the Reflection Ponds in front of The Old Parliament House, Canberra. The venue was superb and added to the atmosphere of the tournament. Many of the competitors were from Victoria and the A.C.T. as well as three of us from NSW.



The Reflection Pond, Old Parliament House

The first day of competition was the Distance Casting Events. The Distance events comprise 3 disciplines being:

1. Single Handed Casting
2. Double Handed Casting
3. Fly Accuracy and Distance (FAD) Casting.

It is an impressive sight watching some of the country's best, casting Shooting Head Lines anywhere from 150 feet to 180 feet. I was only a spectator to these events, choosing to only compete in the accuracy events.

Saturday evening the ACT Fly fishers hosted a dinner at the Australia Italo Club where we were served a delicious Chinese banquet. Multi-culturalism at it's best I would say. It was a fun night, with people swapping anecdotes, some good humoured jibing and of course plenty of encouragement to newcomers like myself.

On Sunday, the Accuracy casting events were held. There are 3 categories which make up this event. They are:-

1. Dry Fly
2. Skish (combination of Dry Fly, Wet Fly and Roll casting)
3. Wet Fly.

There are 4 grades in the accuracy events these being A, B, C, and D grade. Competitors are ranked according to points scored in the various competitions that are held throughout the year. I competed in D grade and my mediocre performance secured me last place, but I had such a good time, it has inspired me to compete again next year and I hope to improve on my result. It was a pleasure to see Ken Trench from Lakeside, finish 3rd in the “D” grade Accuracy and Kevin Laughton from OTAS (Orange Trout Acclimatisation Society) take out the Wet Fly event in the open section points score. Both Ken and Kevin did NSW proud.



Ken Trench of Lakeside casting in the Dry Fly event

Finally, congratulations to the ACT Flyfishers for a successful tournament.

Jeff Randal