

# Stevens Publishing - Books Newsletter

If you are a fishing book collector - especially of rare books - read on.

Some may know of, but never have seen the rarest of all Australian fishing related books - '*Salmon Ponds and Vicinity*' by William Charles Piguenit.

I only know of four copies. They reside in the Ballarat Art Gallery, the State Library of Tasmania, the Australian National Library and the National Gallery of Australia. Earlier in 2013 I visited the State Library in Tasmania and viewed and touched the book - with white gloves of course. It is holding up well for something produced nearly 150 years ago on poor quality paper. The printers of the day (1867) certainly didn't worry about acid free paper, and the paper of these times was particularly poor quality. The 19th and 20th century were the worst times for paper longevity and some information about printing paper of that time is below - or visit the website for more detailed information: [http://webworld.unesco.org/safeguarding/en/txt\\_grap.htm](http://webworld.unesco.org/safeguarding/en/txt_grap.htm)

If the component elements of a paper are relatively pure, it has good durability and quite long life expectancy. This is the case of most of the papers made up until the 19th century. Unfortunately, the appearance of wood pulp in the 19th century lead to a reduction in quality. Paper made with wood pulp purified more or less well according to the process applied - mechanical or chemical wood pulp - then sized with rosin (pine resin) in an acid medium stand up much less well to aging than most of the papers made previously. They yellow and rapidly lose their original flexibility. Many 19th and 20th century printed or manuscript documents kept in libraries and archives are today in very bad condition and can no longer be used by readers.



*An original edition from the Tasmanian State Library*



*The new edition from Stevens Publishing*



*Shown is the Derwent below New Norfolk and is one of the prints in the book.*

Stevens Publishing has reproduced this large 51cm x 33cm work. The original has six plates, plus map, plus a page of text. As far as I can ascertain it has never been reproduced before.

This copy will be limited to 55 copies, plus Publisher proofs for the Tasmanian State Library, National Library, Inland Fisheries Service and Australian Fly Fishing Museum.

It will have an additional page at the rear with a page on Piquenit himself and will also include an extra set of the colour prints from within the book. These can be framed.

All books are individually bound in buckram and leather with a facsimile of the original cover set in. All pages will be printed on archival paper and will last indefinitely.

Countless hours have been spent 'photoshopping' the original scans to remove the foxing (spotting) and to bring them back to their glory of 1867. 1867 was just three years after trout were acclimatised to the southern hemisphere.

Although the original was lithograph printed we were not able to find a printer that can do that these days. This edition will be printed on the highest quality offset press and you will be amazed at how well these prints have come up.

Price is \$690 plus postage. We only have five left. All others were sold pre publication.

In July 2007 an original sold for \$69,900. It is now in the National Gallery. So you might be lucky and find a copy in a secondhand book store, but it is pretty unlikely.

**The following details are from Jim Findlay's book 'Australian Fishing Books'.**

### **Piquenit, W.C. and Henn, M.L. [1867]**

*The Salmon Ponds and Vicinity*, New Norfolk, Tasmania. M.L. Henn: Hobart Town; oblong 37x52cm; [1] leaf; [6] tinted plates (a very faint yellow; each about 22x32cm) drawn on stone by W.C. Piquenit (pronounced as though the name ends in 'et', according to Clifford Craig in *The Engravers of Van Diemen's Land*; p.109) and lithographed by M. L. Henn; limp paper with a blue cloth spine. Clifford Craig notes (*ibid.*, p.130) that in another copy the whole has been bound in stiff boards.

The plates comprise

Plate 1: The Derwent / Below New Norfolk;

Plate 2: Bennett's Island / On the Derwent;

Plate 3: The Derwent / Below the Dry Creek;

Plate 4: The Derwent / Above the Dry Creek;

Plate 5: The Plenty / Near the Bend; and

Plate 6: The Salmon Ponds; and a map: The Plan of Salmon Ponds and Vicinity (lithograph, 26x24cm).

The engraved front wrapper has the view of the falls and the title within a tinted oval lithograph (24x38cm) headed *The Salmon Ponds and Vicinity, New Norfolk, Tasmania*, illustrated by W.C. Piquenit. Just three prints (Bennett's Island on the Derwent, The Derwent, Below New Norfolk and The Derwent, Below the Dry Creek) are signed by Piquenit. M.L. Henn litho. is printed at the lower right below the image on each print except The Derwent, Below Dry Creek, where it is on the lower left, and the map. The one page of letterpress gives a short history of the successful introduction of salmon into Tasmania, including earlier attempts on the *S. Curling* (an utter failure), and the *Beautiful Star*, a small iron vessel intended for a steam collier, but then sent under sail to Tasmania.

In their *W.C. Piquenit 1836–1914 Retrospective*, Johannes and Brown note that the views presented in *The Salmon Ponds* were designed as illustrations of a large plan of the ponds,



prepared by order of the Salmon Commissioners. However, the project did not eventuate, and instead the publication was a joint after-hours effort by Piguénit and Louis Henn, assistant lithographer in the Survey Department.

The *Launceston Examiner* (21 December 1867) welcomed the work: *The Salmon Ponds—A series of views representing the salmon ponds and other spots in the vicinity, more or less connected with that establishment, has been prepared by Mr. W.C. Piguénit, a gentleman connected, we believe, with the Survey Department. The series will consist of six views, two of which we have seen, viz., “The Salmon Ponds,” and “Bennett’s Island, on the Derwent.” We cannot speak too highly of these pictures: there is a freedom about the drawing which indicates considerable skill on the part of the artist, whilst the lithographer has preserved the soft effect so peculiarly characteristic of chalk. These views would form pleasing souvenirs for distant friends at this season, and we should like to see other parts of the colony illustrated in a similar manner. Messrs. Walch Brothers and Birchall are the Publishers.*

The *Argus* (Melbourne) was not impressed. This from February 28, 1868: *A series of sketches by Mr. W. C. Piguénit, of the Salmon Ponds, vicinity New Norfolk, Tasmania, have been forwarded to us. The sketches are six in number, and comprise a view of the Derwent below New Norfolk, Bennett’s Island on the Derwent, the Derwent below the Dry Creek, the Derwent above the Dry Creek, the Plenty near the Bend, and the Salmon Ponds. They are rather mild specimens of art.*

The *Mercury* of 17 December 1867 advertised the soon-to-be-released publication at one guinea (twenty-one shillings). It can’t have sold too well—W. Westcott, of Collins Street, Hobart, was advertising copies in his extensive catalogue in the *Hobart Mercury* of May 24, 1873, (*The Salmon Ponds of Tasmania, illustrated by W. L. Piguénit, 6 large lithographic tints, oblong imperial folio*) for the significantly reduced price of 7s. 6d.

*The Salmon Ponds* is very rare; perhaps the most elusive Australian item related to fish and fishing. Few copies are known to have survived. Just four copies have appeared at auction since the Craig copy sold in 1975 (now in the Ballarat Art Gallery): the Turnbull copy in 1981 and the Evans copy in 1989, which sold again in 2007 (25 July 2007, lot 579) as the Davidson copy. Finally, and illustrating the importance of condition, a less desirable copy (six lithographed plates, titled below the image, and lithographed plan of the Salmon Ponds and vicinity, the plates with later hand colouring, loose) was opened at \$4,000 at the Australian Book Auctions sale in November 2012 but failed to attract a bid.

The Ballarat Art Gallery, the State Library of Tasmania, the Australian National Library and the National Gallery of Australia all have copies.

Jonathon Wantrup writes: Piguénit’s “Salmon Ponds” is an outstandingly rare Tasmanian illustrated book and an especially desirable work, if only because it appears to be the first plate book published by a native-born Australian artist. Unfortunately the very great rarity of the work will debar most collectors from acquiring this first and only topographical plate book published by an Australian during the first century of settlement.

In his 1995 book *Tassie Trout Tips and Tactics* Brian Cadle suggested a then current value of more than \$15,000. The most recent copy to sell was offered at the third Rodney Davidson sale in July 2007 and achieved \$69,900. It’s now in the National Gallery.

Auctions: Sotheby’s (London) £5/10/0 (1956; half morocco); Clifford Craig \$1050 (1975); Leonard Joel Auctioneers in association with Gaston Renard \$13,000 (1989) and Australian Book Auctions \$69,900 (July 2007).

Ferguson 14166, Wantrup, 258.

1892: Reprinted in the *Transactions of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science*, Hobart, 1892 (according to the entry for Piguénit in the online edition of the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* at <http://adbonline.anu.edu.au/biogs/A050490b.htm>).

## Other out of print books

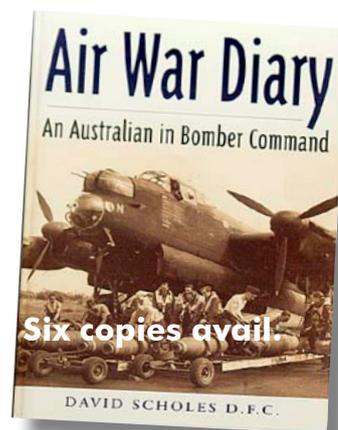
### **David Scholes - Air War Diary**

*An Australian in Bomber Command.*

Some time ago we found a box of David's Air War Diary. It has been quite hard to find good copies recently, but these are unopened and unread.

This is the story of David Scholes' war service from a diary he kept throughout his tour of duty in Britain during World War II. It is an honest and sometimes raw account, and essential reading for Scholes enthusiasts. From time to time there is some fishing.

144 pages; 16pp of black and white photographs; glossary; index; soft cover. \$50 plus post.



### **I Mind One Time**

That seems an odd name for a book, but delve just a little and you will find the 'Mind' means remember. So read it as 'I remember one time' and you will see this is a book about a worldly wise angler sharing his angling life.

Hughie McDowell writes beautifully and you can't help but be engrossed in his world of fishing. Hughie's good friend Rick Keam edited this book and I will let him explain a little more.

'There is a classic genre of fly-fishing books that were crafted from paper and ink with the same unhurried, painstaking devotion as fine rods are crafted from bamboo and thread. They weren't often 'how-to-do-its', and they weren't graced by superb colour photography or (mostly) any photography at all. They told with style and grace and humour of experiences by stream and lake, and travels and encounters, accompanied by line drawings or wood cuts by artists such as Tunncliffe, Nickless, Hodges, Marston and 'B.B.'

'Some years ago, as a result of our contributions to an issue of the UK magazine Waterlog, Hugh McDowell mentioned to me that he had a book manuscript in preparation and asked if I'd cast an editorial eye over it. There is an almost universal law that those authors who most need the help of an editor are the most adamant they don't, and that those least needing an editor's input are the most open to it. Hugh belonged to the second category. I quickly realised that here was something special. What bushel had the man been hiding his light under?

'I was aware that he'd written a best-selling New Zealand fly-tying manual, had a long string of magazine articles under his belt, and was held in high regard not only as a guide but also as a raconteur by visitors ranging from Ernest Schwiebert to Billy Connolly. But this was on another level. They say childhood is the purest well that a writer can draw from, and Hughie's chapters on his early years in Ireland are further evidence. They are crafted by a man who cares about words, and understands their music, as much as he cares about and understands the music of streams and water.

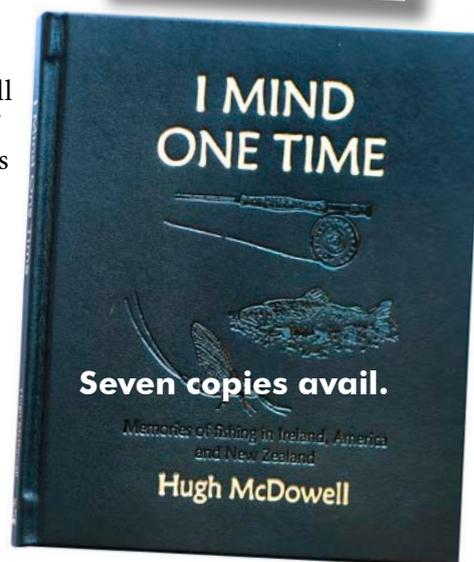
'It had the makings of a classic old-style fishing book, but to complete the vision it needed a sympathetic artistic collaborator. We found her in the person of multi-talented illustrator Fifi Colston, whose delightful sketches complement Hugh's word-pictures to perfection. And now, thanks to Michael Stevens, it comes to you in the elegant physical package that a classic deserves. Savour it, and treasure it.

– Rick Keam.

Beautifully bound in full black sumptuous leather *I MIND ONE TIME* is 215 mm x 225 mm and 146 pages. The cover and spine features gold and clear blind embossing.

Limited to 125 copies individually numbered books, with no trade editions, this is truly a collectors book. The illustrations are superb and the front endpaper *The Most Interesting Shop*, was written by Hughie when he was 11 years old and a pupil at Regent House Grammar School in Newtownards, Co. Down, Northern Ireland.

Price is \$185 or \$130 if ordered with *Salmon Ponds and Vicinity*.



# Noel Jetson - Life and Flies

Jet-Fly, as Noel was commonly known by his clients, was Tasmania's first professional fly fishing guide. He had great fly fishing teachers in David Scholes and also Dick Wigram. Dick taught him to tie flies and one thing Scholes taught him was that presentation is usually more important than imitation.

Without doubt, if you asked anyone who ever fished with him what his favourite fly was, they would know. If fish wouldn't eat a size 14 Red Tag he would change to a 16, or an 18. Even tailing fish at Little Pine would eat his 'Tags'.

Despite his love of Red Tags though, Noel developed quite a few flies over his guiding and fly tying years. Trouble is he kept these secret and sometimes not even his clients would know what had been tied onto their leader. But when he retired his good friend and client, Glen Eggleton, started writing his biography. Glen had fished with Noel for many years and thought Noel would want to keep his special flies secret.

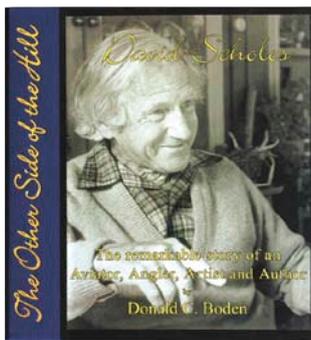
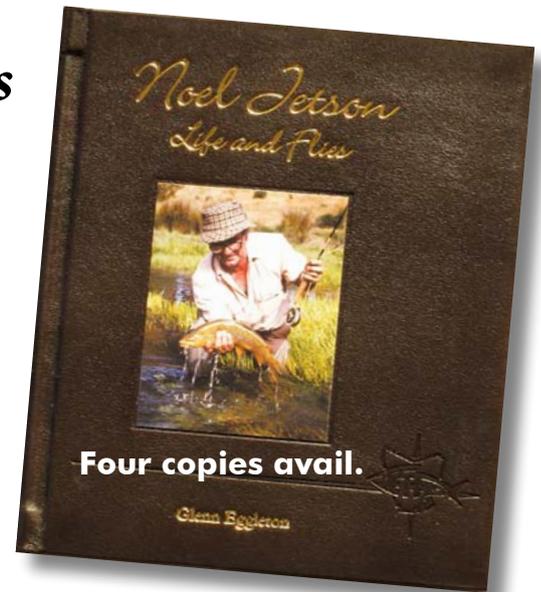
Noel was more than happy to share them though, and they are revealed in all their glory in 'Jet-Fly'.

Jet-Fly is more than flies though it is an inspiring book about a man and family that did stuff for fun and because they wanted to.

Rick Keam told me this book has the only description he has ever seen on the correct way to apply peacock herl. Sounds extraordinary, but he claims it is true, and if you have seen a genuine Jet-Fly Red Tag you will know what a difference applying herl correctly does.

There are two editions of the book: An A5 soft cover trade edition. This is mostly in black and white, with the cover and flies in the fly tying section in colour. \$50 plus post.

The premium edition is a limited Collectors edition of 125 copies. It is in full colour throughout, superbly bound in full leather with endpapers that are Noel's sketches from his personal fishing diary. \$500 or \$350 and free post if ordered with *Salmon Ponds and Vicinity*.



## The Other Side of the Hill

**David Scholes Biography** by Donald C Boden.

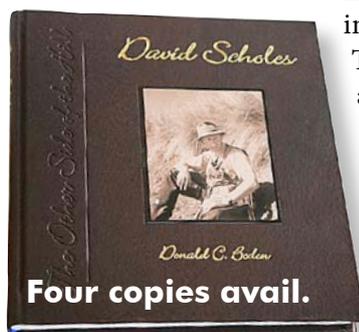
A remarkable story of an Aviator, Angler, Artist and Author.

Flying took over David's early life and he says he was lucky to survive a tour of 34 flights as a bomber pilot during WWII. He returned to Australia in 1945 with a Distinguished Flying Cross and married his first love Patricia. David was a commercial artist and worked on some Australian wide campaigns. He then progressed his love of fine art. His watercolours became so highly sought, art lovers would camp on the street in order to get first choice when the exhibition opened. David claimed he sold 600 paintings in 600 minutes and this undisputed claim seems quite possible as exhibitions usually sold out in the first hour.

Throughout his life he fished and wrote about fishing. His prose was loved by a huge number of fly fishers and early books bring several hundred dollars. *Fly Fisher in Tasmania* was a milestone technical book and even though it was written in the early 1960s nothing has surpassed it.

Don Boden has captured both the essence and character of David Scholes beautifully in *The Other Side of the Hill*. Unfortunately David passed away 25 May 2005, before he could see the finished book. Hardcase \$59.

Collectors edition: 125 in full leather on 157gsm paper. \$500 or \$350 and free post if ordered with *Salmon Ponds and Vicinity*. Signed by the author. Only four available.



# Other Books

## *Origins of the Tasmanian Trout - Jean Walker*

We are also republishing this little 48 page volume for the Inland Fisheries Service of Tasmania. This will be readily available and it looks like there will be 2000 or so printed. Probably available early February.

**Post** this form to Stevens Publishing, PO Box 7504, Launceston, 7250,  
or **Email** your address and c/c details to [mike@tasfish.com](mailto:mike@tasfish.com)  
or call Mike Stevens on 0418 129949 - be prepared to leave a message though.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode; \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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**Salmon Ponds and the Vicinity:** \$690 + \$36 post - total \$726  
all other books are \$10 post regardless of number of books.

Other books I would like to order:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$10 Post

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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You can also pay by Paypal to [mike@tasfish.com](mailto:mike@tasfish.com)