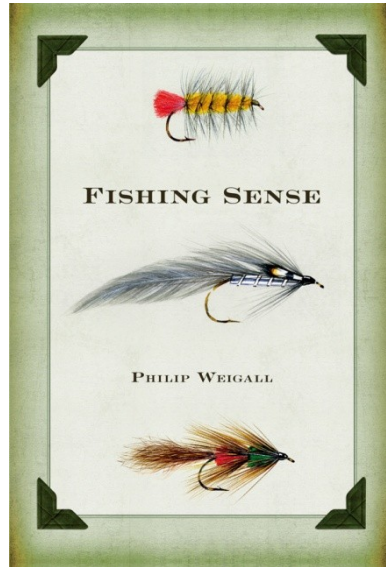


Book review – Phil Weigall's *Fishing Sense*.



Ahhh. It's always nice to sit down and crack open a new fly book by a well known Australian flyfishing writer and Phillip Weigall's *Fishing Sense* is no exception. A lovely mix of anecdote and teachings, this book feels as if Phil has taken an opportunity to write not just on tips and techniques but to let us in on some of his favourite fishing places and trips, events that stand out for more than just fish. Of course there are more than enough tales of fish, large fish and lost fish, all told in a way that makes you feel you might be with Phil sharing a counter meal in a country pub or nestling a mug of your favourite around the campfire above a summer stream. A great relief from the howling westerlies and pouring rain of the last month in the Illawarra!

Experienced flyfishers will get an insight into the learning and thought processes of a gun trout angler. New flyfishers will get a quick leg up and a range of invaluable tips, enhanced by a thoughtful set of approaches to catching trout under all conditions.

Many sections and insights stood out to me – micro presentation, how trout feed, different light conditions, wind, striking, cover, drifts, retrieves and more. There was a little bit to gain all through the book, some ideas to try come next season, some things to ponder and some to go against previously held beliefs; a good recipe in my view.

I appreciated Phil's discussion on tippetts and his preference for those on the thicker end of the scale. His breakdown of the seasons (I had written seasonal breakdowns, but thought it a little unfair to comment on his mental state before meeting the man) was great – some Club members will recognise some of the highs and lows (heartache and despondency even) felt on the Thredbo (eh Barry !) and the Eucumbene.

I loved the layout, and artwork (by Trevor Hawkins. It would have been great to see a list of each fly somewhere as there were a few I didn't know; it could have replaced the measurements section for mine.

It's always great to see ideas presented in a local southeastern Australia and New Zealand context given that's where so much of the Club's fishing is focussed. Club members and those who we fish with will enjoy this one if even any of the above sounds like it's of interest.

Fishing Sense, 2011 by Phillip Weigall, illustrations by Trevor Hawkins, layout and design by saso content and design, published by exisle publishing, rrp \$36.99.