

THE HUTT VALLEY ANGLER

Newsletter of the Hutt Valley Angling Club Inc
Issue No 419: December 2016



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Editorial

December is upon us and with it comes the long warm evenings as we approach the Christmas season. This is the time of year we can get out and enjoy the simple things in life; a BBQ with family and friends, an evening stroll along the river (with or without a fishing rod in hand) and Christmas events such as the Annual Quiz Night on 12 December.

Many thanks to all those who contributed articles to the newsletter during the year. It's great to see such a wide variety of topics being covered. For those of you heading away to special places over the summer, take care, drive safely and take a camera with you. That way, we can all look forward to reading about your summer exploits in the next newsletter in February.

All the best

Chris Kuchel

President's Piece

November has been a mixed month in regard to the Hutt Valley Angling club. Early on we sadly received notification that Peter Jacobson had passed away after being unwell for quite a while. A weekend away with Peter was always interesting with things happening. My memories of Peter will centre around the amount of gear he would take. Our thoughts go out to his family and he will be sorely missed as a club member



The weather was slightly unsettled and then we read about the very enjoyable trip that was experienced by those who had gone on the Tukituki trip. Krystal made it clear on the club's Facebook page that she was keen to stay in the Hawkes Bay for a much longer time. It was good to hear about the success of the trip as a lot of planning goes into organising them and it is

a credit to the work put in by Colin and Krystal that the trip was a success . Thanks to the Hastings club members for being such good hosts. Maybe we can arrange for them to visit us in the future. More of us need to take the plunge and go on these club trips.

Next we were looking forward to hosting the fly tying competition on Monday the 21st November. Well with a jolt, Mother Nature intervened early that morning. In the end it was going to be 3 persons representing our club, possibly 2 from Wellington and no one from Kapiti due to circumstances beyond their control. So sadly we had to cancel the night. I have spoken with Jeff Wood (sponsor) and we have set down to host the next one for Monday August 14 2017 weather and anything else going to plan. Undoubtedly it was a disappointment for those of you who had spent hours practising and refining their skills.

The following night we had to cancel the Committee meeting as some like myself could not get to the Hutt. Fortunately communications were still working and we did the necessary in respect to approving the clubs finances for the month. Internet banking has been a great benefit as we can approve payments still by 2 persons without having to sign off cheques. Well done Mike for getting this through.

The weather also took its toll of the Burgess Shield for salt water fishing to be held on Sunday the 20th. Hopefully December will be a better month all round for us and we can get out and do some fishing in good weather.

We had a good turn out of members to the night held at Hunting and Fishing on the 22nd. Rene was there with the latest items offered by Manic Fishing and Simms. Fly fishing can get to be an expensive sport if you feel the need to be seen with the newest and best that is on offer. If you are new to fly fishing get in contact with one of us and we may be able to give you some guidance on what you need.

I have recently purchased a telescopic spinning rod that I can carry in my back pack for those days when the wind is blowing or fly fishing is not working for me. I went down to the Belmont Domain for casting practice and had a catch up with Ian and John and then headed to a somewhat high and coloured Hutt River. I put on a green veltex lure and did about 5 flicks and managed to land a 1lb brown trout that was quickly released. Spin fishing is remarkably easy and productive but I guess life is not supposed to be like that and that's why we do fly fishing.

Our last club night for this year is set down for Monday the 12th December with Allan Markham testing our knowledge. This is always a good night and there is no doubting the competition between the teams on the night. Hope to see you there.

Ross Goodman

December Activities

12th December Club meeting - King Lion hall 7.30pm

18th Casting Clinic – Belmont Domain. Register at December meeting

No Committee meeting in December.

No fly tying meeting in December or January.

Club News

Next club Meeting – King Lion Hall – Monday 12 December 7.30pm

Come along to the Annual Christmas Quiz Night hosted by our own Alan Markham.

Food for the brain and food for the stomach in the form of mince pies.
Should be a great evening, see you there.

Casting Clinic - This month's casting clinic will be held on Sunday 18 December at Belmont Domain. Be there early, ready for a 10am start. The coordinator is Ian Lawson. If you want to attend, please sign up on the clipboard at our monthly meeting or register on the website. Registration allows us to have instructors available for all attendees and who we contact if there is any change in meeting arrangements.

Library News

The library is open from 7.00 on Club nights. Please make sure that all books and DVDs are checked out and returned through Ajit in the normal way.

Photo competition

This month's winner is Thomas Fichtner who takes away the \$15 Fishscene voucher. His winning photo "Hutt River Sunset" is on the front cover of this month's newsletter.

Jeff Wood from Fishscene is the sponsor of the monthly photo competition. Members are encouraged to support our sponsors.

Fish of the month

Congratulations to Thomas Fichtner for his fine 6lb 9oz brown jack caught in the Hutt River. Well done Thomas!

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office@greentroutguiding.co.nz

www.greentroutguiding.co.nz

Fly Tying Meeting

There will be no fly tying meetings in December or January. They will resume in February. Details will be posted in the February newsletter and the club website.

Wainuiomata Olds Shield Competition

Report by Thomas Fichtner

In total, 4 people attended the competition, which was held on the Wainuiomata River on the first weekend in November. Special thanks to John Millar for helping me organize it and for contacting the land owners. The weather wasn't that good and I believe some of us were a bit concerned about the results we might expect in such conditions. But as things turned out, it was a great day with good comeraderie and some very positive results. All of us hooked up with fish and some of us even landed some.

1st place - Thomas Fichtner

3 fish – 52.7cm, 34.3cm, 57cm

A total score of 3180 points



2nd place – Ian Lawson

1 fish – 52cm

A total score 1140 points

3rd place - John Millar and Bill Shkopiak



TROUT TALK

By Big Jack

I received a response from the NZ Professional Guides Association that I referred to in my last column:

“NZPFGA advocates catch and release by its members and also to minimise the amount of handling of fish. Most guides would be close to 100% for catch and release. The fish stays out of the water for the least amount of time as possible. A lot of guides (and fishermen) catch the same fish several times over a season and they obviously have survived the ordeal by careful management of the person who has caught it. NZPFGA works closely with Fish and Game and their drift dives indicate that spawning action and high water volumes have a much larger effect on trout mortality than the actual catch process. Some of the other issues that face the fisheries are pollution, lack of oxygen in the water, and the destruction of the habitat.

The photos issue is an interesting one. Most of our clients are from overseas and a photo is often the only memory they have of their time fishing in N.Z. Why they have to be in the photo is their choice and I guess it might be proof for them to show their friends back home that they actually caught the fish. As mentioned before guides encourage the client to keep the fish out of the water for a limited time ie: time for a quick photo. Let me ask you a question. If you caught a trophy fish in a beautiful part of a river would you like to have a photo of the fish with you in the photo? I often see photos of fish lying on a river bank before they are handled in some way back to the river. Is that the best way of getting a photo? Some clients do actually have the photo of the fish in the net then the fly removed and released without any handling at all. Some guides don't use forceps. I do as I think it is the quickest way of getting the fly out and also I often remove the fly while the fish is lying in the water again with no handling.

In conclusion, the Association doesn't really have a policy on the questions you have raised (perhaps we should have) but I would hazard a guess that nearly all guides and fly fishermen understand the impact of improper handling of trout and do their very best to release the fish back to the water with as little handling as possible”.

I made a couple of points in response:

- 1) I would not want a photo with a trophy fish if it meant lifting it out of the water. Firstly, I thought my chances were pretty slim and my ugly mug would do nothing for the photo, but may affect the health of the fish.
- 2) I had seen too many photos of trophy fish having an inordinate amount of pressure on their heart and liver areas with the weight of the fish having a significant influence on this.
- 3) I hoped that over the ensuing years we will see less “grip and grin” photos and that this guide’s colleagues would look after the resource.

If an angler has to have a photo with the fish out of the water to prove to their friends they caught it I’d suggest that they get new friends. They know they caught it, the guide knows they caught it, so what’s left? And while some guides may well encourage their clients to keep the fish out of the water for a limited time, many don’t. Still, to coin a phrase “he who pays the piper calls the tune” so when an angler is paying a guide a large amount of money for a day’s fishing is the guide going to stop him or her picking up the fish? That’s a rhetorical question by the way.

I would suggest Youtube and other sites will continue to illustrate poor catch and release methods. Unfortunately, in many cases the words say “We are passionate about this resource”, the behaviour says the opposite.

Merry Christmas all and may your fish enjoy the festive season, and many after.

Tukituki Trip Report

By Chris Kuchel

This year's Tukituki trip was held on the weekend of 12 November and was once again hosted by our good friends from the Hastings Angling Club. Eight HVAC members drove through the pouring rain and past the swollen rivers of the Wairarapa wondering what lay in store further north. But as promised by Peter Kennedy, the sunny Hawkes Bay was true to form. As we passed through Dannevirke and started to head east, we drove straight into the fine weather.

With no fishing opportunities on the way up, Damian and I headed straight for the "Patangata Hilton" to find that no others had arrived yet, so it was down to a nearby spot on the Tukituki river for an afternoon session of good fishing. Damian picked up 5 with 4 for me. In the evening we headed back to the lodge to meet our hosts. For half of the HVAC members who had made the trip last summer, it was about renewing old friendships with the Hawkes Bay boys and for the others, it was all about starting new ones. After the introductions were made, we headed over to the tavern next door for a great meal after a long tiring day.

Next morning, after a good strong coffee and a hearty breakfast, we were buddied and given our beats for the morning session. I spent the morning with Peter Frizell who drove us to a nice stretch of river a number of kilometres downstream from the lodge. Peter was the first to hook up in a nice drop off and managed to land a feisty rainbow in great condition.



We covered a lot of ground that morning and spotted a few more fish but had no success until Peter drifted a woolly bugger through a likely looking run and landed another good fish. I didn't have quite as much luck. Peter lent me one of his woolly buggers that I drifted through the same run further on and hooked into a solid fish that shook free just as I was stretching out with the net to scoop it up. So it was a blank for me in the morning.

Back to the lodge for lunch and this time I was buddied up with local angler Doug who took us upstream for the afternoon session. Again we spotted many good sized fish but could not get them to cooperate until Doug tied on a small red worm pattern which did the trick. He soon hooked up to a nice 3½ pound rainbow.



Meanwhile, I moved up to a nice looking drop off and spotted 4 large rainbows virtually at my feet, no more than a rod length away. I think I must have tried every fly in my box to induce a take but with no luck. Eventually I

decided to tie on one of my 4.6 mm fluorescent green Czech nymphs with extra lead wraps to see if I could land it on top of them and stun them into submission! Again no luck for me and another blank for the afternoon session.

By early evening it was time to head back to the lodge for a BBQ dinner put on by the Hawkes Bay boys and then await the results of the day's catch tally. HVAC had caught a total of 17 fish for the day, while Hastings Anglers had caught...wait for it....18 fish, making them winners on the day. Peter Kennedy once again presented Hastings club president Peter Frizell with the coveted Patangata Challenge Trophy which they retain for another year.

Well done boys. Enjoy your victory but make sure you keep that trophy well polished. We want it looking good for when it gets relocated to the HVAC clubroom in 2017!





The next morning it was time for goodbyes and the start of the long trip back to Wellington. Damian and I headed south to the River Road bridge for a fish and met up with Tim Lee who had the same idea. Tim had been in blistering form the previous day, so I was keen to see his set-up. “Long and light” was Tim’s advice, so I lengthened my tippet, hoping for better results that morning. Tim headed upstream while Damian and I walked downstream. Damian stuck to the main river and had a couple of good hook ups and landed fish , while I prospected a quieter backwater and picked up a nice 4½ pound brown actively feeding in a shallow drop off. Thanks for the tip Tim!

Feeling well satisfied after a great weekend away, we headed back home to Wellington. Thanks again to the Hastings Angling Club for looking after us so well all weekend. Thanks also to Colin and Krystal for their co-ordination work behind the scenes to help make the event a success.

What Next?

Tim Trengrove

Fishing with a dry fly has a huge following. When a trout lines up a dry fly, drifts backwards with the current and inhales the fly, time seems to stand still. For many, this is the ultimate experience in fly fishing. It doesn't always go this smoothly though and I wonder what the next step is if a dry fly fails.

Some authors use this opportunity to chastise anglers. You didn't present the fly well enough or your imitation wasn't up to it. Rather than heading in that direction, I'd like to look at a positive alternative.

Yesterday (28.11.16) I ventured out to the Hutt River. The flow was dropping off a 1000cu flood event and at 20cu, was wadeable, with care. Access to this stretch is from the top or the bottom. No cutting in half way. I would need to make numerous crossings and the water was still discoloured. Good enough though to be able to spot fish in the shallow edges. What I wasn't expecting to see were angler footprints. I was right about that. More sensible people were waiting for the river to drop further before venturing out.

It always seems to be the case after flood events that fish will feed actively. Sometimes there are hatches but more often the trout display nymphing behaviour. So it was. The few fish I saw were feeding actively in the shallows and presented an easy target. Easy to see, that is. Getting a fly up sufficiently ahead of fish was the challenge. A brisk northerly was powering down the river. The trout behaviour shouted 'dry fly' but the wind said 'small, slim nymph'. What did I have to lose? Dry fly it was.

After more missed-by-a-mile casts than I want to admit, my dry fly eventually landed in the right place and drifted back naturally to the first fish. Just like the story is meant to go, the fish tilted back, tracking the fly, and sipped it in. I paused as it righted and tightened with a low, sideways swing. Perfect technique, I thought, as the fly grated its way out and flew back to me. The fish wasn't put off and continued to feed. I was put off though. How the heck did that happen? Try as I might with more, good presentations, the fish wouldn't take the dry again. What next?

My old faithful this season in the Wainuiomata has been a #16 beadhead. So faithful that I don't want to continue using it. Fish take it well and I know that. Catching one fish is like catching another. What else will work and be more challenging? Having now found a fish that was feeding near the

surface it seemed a shame to drag it down with a weighted nymph. The fish was put off taking another dry but still looked to be feeding in the top 20cm from the surface. Out came my boxes of unweighted flies.

Early season is a good time to use larger flies than I'd use later in the season when fish are much more picky. A likely fly popped up, a #14 unweighted nymph tied with one scruffy looking CDC feather. Would it work? Of course it would, and it did.

The next day I tied more of these flies, knowing full well that they would be needed throughout the season. They are my present answer to 'what next?'



Hook. Kamasan B170
Thread. Veevus GSP50 black
Tail. Elk dyed black
Body. Pheasant tail barbs X2
Wing. CDC
Head. Hare's ear.

Notes on tying the fly.

There is a current fashion for tying ultra neat emerger patterns. They're tied on curved hooks with peacock quill and coated with UV resin. The flies look fantastic but I have always found their appearance exceeds their performance. Mayfly nymphs do swim or drift to the surface in a vertical fashion, well represented by the current emerger fashion. At the surface though, mayflies that I observe are parallel with the surface film. For that reason, I like to tie these flies on a straight shanked hook. Curved hooks have much to commend them. I like them and use them too, just not for these flies.

The Kamasan B170 is an underrated hook in my opinion. The shank length and shape of the bend make it ideal for light nymphs and the wire is fine enough for dry flies. For strength it measures very well. So much better than many of the extra fine wire dry fly hooks. After fish have opened up a number of the fine wire hooks you will also be doubting their suitability to NZ fishing conditions.

Pheasant tail barbs are fragile. Coating with UV resin makes them incredibly durable just like a resin treatment over peacock herl. My reason for using the pheasant tail is the roughness of it. Rather than set out to tie a perfect imitation of a mayfly this fly is an impression of a mayfly. A suggestion of something the trout might eat. By using a thick dollop of tying cement on the thread body, the pheasant tail is wound through that and is securely attached. There are no neat, shining qualities to it. This is an 'eat me' body rather than a neatness winner.

The CDC is another suggestion. It isn't there to represent wings or legs but is part of an appearance that might be something trout choose to eat. The final piece of roughness is the messy, partly formed head of hare's ear. By dubbing it on then later brushing it out, the fly is finished to the desirable level for trout. If the fly design looks like nothing in particular but something the trout might eat, then it has succeeded.

Fishing the Hutt River – 1987 Style

A lady who was at Keith's funeral has gifted some books and magazines to the club. As John Olds was sifting through the magazines he came across the attached letter to the editor about the Hutt River that was written by Rex Chapman-Taylor (he donated one of our trophies) and appeared in Flyfisher's December 1987/January 1988 edition.

Rex was a prolific letter to the editor writer. His article here gives a fascinating insight into fishing the Hutt River.

Dear Sir,

The large fish that Tony Orman and Steve Smith write about in the Hutt River and its tributaries are not new – they have been coming into the Hutt River and its feeder streams for many years.

There are more of them around spawning time and I have seen them lined up in rows on the bottom of large pools. I have cast different flies over them, both in daylight and at night, without any takes.

In days gone by and perhaps still, many of these fish were taken out with pitchforks and spears and the odd plug of "jelly".

I knew one angler who straightened out a hook and soldered a washer up behind the eye to stop it coming through the end ring of his rod. He pulled the line up until the hook was at the tip of the rod and then speared the fish. One day he broke the rod tip.

Many of these large fish go back to the harbour and the ones that stay make their homes in deep pools. Not many of these big fish are taken on dry fly or wet. I myself have never taken them in daylight, however now and then someone is lucky enough to get one.

There were always a few anglers who went out after these fish at night, using the bully or a large dark lure. I used a big fly on a No. 1 or 2 hook with a turkey wing and the darker the night the better.

Frank Whiteman took a 16 pounder out of the Maoribank pool and had it mounted. He also took many large fish from this pool over the years. Frank has gone now and so have all the other men that I knew who fished this great pool and I have not fished it for many years. The late Harrold Bengé took fish up to 11 pounds in the Hutt River at night and others in the 5 pounds and smaller category.

Another angler who fished with Rex was my grandfather Joseph Hines. He introduced me to fly fishing one Christmas. We would travel up on the daylight ferry Lyttleton to Wellington and stay with him in Trentham. Christmas 1948 he had made me a split cane rod carefully bound and varnished. Christmas morning was spent on the lawn trying to master the casting with this monster while a cat gut leader soaked in felt for an evening fish on the river. The afternoon walk down Moonshine road was rewarded with ice creams purchased from the dairy situated upstream from the bridge. This building and several batches were later removed after being severely damaged in successive floods.

Grahame Kitchen

Extract from “Trout Magic”

by Robert Travers

(Published Hutt Valley Angler May 1997)

I fish because I love to;

because I love the environs where trout are found, which are invariably beautiful, and hate the environs where crowds of people are found, which are invariably ugly;

because of all the television commercials, cocktail parties, and associated social posturing I thus escape;

because, in a world where most men seem to spend their lives doing things they hate, my fishing is at once an endless source of delight and an act of small rebellion;

because trout do not lie or cheat and cannot be bought or bribed or impressed by power, but respond only to quietitude and humility and endless patience;

because I suspect that men are going along this way for the last time, and I for one don't want to waste the trip;

because mercifully there are no telephones on the trout waters;

because only in the woods can I find solitude without loneliness; and finally, not because I regard fishing as being so terribly important but because I suspect that so many of the other concerns of men are equally unimportant — but not nearly so much fun.



Extract from “Catch & Release”

From a Nelson/Marlborough Fish & Game Council Publication

(Published Hutt Valley Angler October 1997)

Here are tips to help you release fish successfully. Note that sometimes it's obvious a fish won't make it. Be willing to take these fish as part of your bag limit. You might have to limit your kill by limiting your fishing.

- Play & release fish quickly & efficiently. Correct side strain helps. Struggling fish build up a chemical imbalance in their blood which can cause death.
- Keep the fish in the water as much as possible. A fish out of the water is suffocating.
- Be gentle. Wet your hands to prevent damage to the protective mucus that coats the fish's skin. Don't squeeze the fish or touch its gills. This avoids internal damage.
- Use the heaviest tippet that will allow you to effectively catch fish e.g. 4 to 6lb.
- Use a landing net — it's quick & minimises stress on the fish. Where possible keep the net in the water.
- Use barbless hooks & single hooks if spinning. Less damage will result. Remove hooks quickly & gently with long nose pliers or artery forceps.
- Don't remove a deeply caught hook. Cut the leader as close to the hook as you can. It will eventually disintegrate.
- Release the fish in quietly flowing water. Allow it to revive itself. If the fish is sluggish gently hold it in the water upright facing the current.

Hours Monday to Friday 7.30am to 4.00pm

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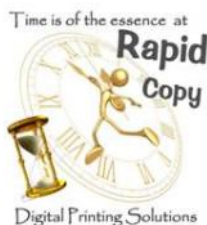
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