



THE HUTT VALLEY ANGLER

Newsletter of the Hutt Valley Angling Club Inc

Issue No 441: December 2018



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Editorial

We have come to the end of another year, one that brought some major changes to the direction of the club.

Of significance has been the decision to move the club meetings to the Hardwick-Smith lounge at Belmont. This is the first time since the formation of the club that meetings have been moved away from an Upper Hutt venue.

If you are unable to be at the Christmas meeting, I'll take the opportunity to wish you a peaceful Christmas and a fish filled New Year!

May your only problem be trying to fit a large trout into a small net!

From the President

They say that the older you get, time speeds up and this year is no exception. It's hard to believe that our next club meeting will be the last one for the year. Although, looking back over the past few months, we have managed to squeeze in a lot and make some significant changes, the most notable being the relocation of our clubrooms from King Lion Hall to the Hardwick Smith Lounge in Belmont Domain. Many members have commented positively on the new convenient central location and the clubroom's cosy atmosphere.

Another change in the pipeline are plans for a new club logo, which are progressing well. If the new logo is to be used on caps, T shirts, badges etc, it will need to be clear, bold and cost effective to reproduce in a range of different media. The committee is continuing discussions with Mark Whitecliffe's graphic design firm MSO Design. Watch this space for developments.

The December club meeting will be a quiz night, led by our quizmaster Trevor Jeffries. Judging by the success of last year's event, this one should be a cracker too. Looking forward to seeing you all there.

There will be no club meeting in January. The first meeting of the new year will be a BBQ and "Casting Golf" on Monday 11 February.

Finally, I want to acknowledge Brian Jones whose wife is experiencing serious on-going health issues, Kathryn Vinten who's father passed away recently and any other club members who have had challenging times during the year.

I wish you all a happy time with your families and friends over the Christmas break, safe travels and of course, tight lines!

All the very best

Cheers,
Chris Kuchel

Club Notices for December

Monday 10th Member's meeting Hardwick-Smith Lounge in the Belmont Domain, next to the Scout Hall at 7.30pm. This is our annual Quiz Night, led by our Quizmaster Trevor Jeffries and accompanied by spot prizes and Christmas mince pies.

Wednesday 31st Copy deadline for February newsletter

Club News

Club Raffle Winners

The winners for November were:

Green Trout Guiding entry. Ross Goodman

John Schofield took out second place, winning the multi-tool and Brian Jones took away the H&F Voucher.

Traditionally, the second-place winner has been awarded a fly box, but the club has managed to secure a range of prizes (headlamps etc) of similar value which will replace the normal fly boxes.

Library News

We all need resources of some sort in everything we do, this is no different when it comes to doing the sport we love dearly. Whether we've been doing it a short or long time there are always new things to learn.

We in the club are quite lucky that we have so many resources available to us - casting clinics, buddy programmes, fly tying meetings and the library.

The library seems of late to be disregarded as a resource. We have some really good books available and informative DVD's. Yes, some may be slightly outdated but still are able to teach us tricks we might never have learned.

So, give the library a go it's there for us to use.

Photo Competition

No entries were received this month for the Hunting and Fishing voucher provided by our sponsor Grahame Kitchen.

The photo on the front cover is a nice brown hen caught by Ross Goodman on the Rangitikei River in November

Fishing Diary Update

This month's Fishing Diary has seen a good spread of entries, ranging from Steve Doughty in the Rangitikei back-country, Ben Connolly on the Hutt River and another Wellington River, Chris Kuchel on the Mangatainoka River and the Pakuratahi River, Ross Goodman on the Rangitikei River and Bill Harris on Lake Otamangakau, Lake Rotoaira and the Wairarapa.

The winner of the November fish of the month will be announced at the December club meeting. Thanks to Ross Goodman and Fraser Gibbs for sponsoring this competition.

Members are encouraged to register their catches with the club diary, no matter how seemingly insignificant, as this diary is a permanent record that may one day be useful in identifying changing patterns of fish population and habitat.

Fly tying

There will be no Fly-tying meeting in December. The first fly tying meeting of the new year will be held in February and details will be advised in the new year on the website, newsletter and at the February club meeting.

No club meeting in January

The first club meeting for the new year will be held on Monday 11 February at 7.30pm at the Hardwick Smith Lounge. This will be casual BBQ evening and a chance to catch up with some fishy summer fishing stories. We will also set up a "Golf Casting" course, so bring your rod for a bit of fun.

Tukituki trip in February

The Hastings Angling Club have confirmed that they want to hold a combined trip in Late February with HVAC and the central Hawkes Bay club, to be held at their Patangata clubrooms. This will be a popular trip, so members are encouraged to register their interest on our club website. Exact dates to be confirmed in the new year.

Goodman Shield Competition Report

The Goodman Shield Competition was held on 17-18 November on the Mangatainoka River. Thomas had arranged a booking for 4 members at our normal digs, the Post Office Hotel in Pahiatua, which offers good, cheap rates for accommodation and hearty meals for hungry anglers.

Thomas Fichtner, Paul Davis, Colin Lewis and Chris Kuchel met up at the Post Office Hotel on the Friday evening in anticipation of some good fishing over the weekend.

After breakfast the next morning beats were drawn, and the 4 anglers went to their assigned stretches of the river for a 3-hour long morning session. Conditions were good, with clear water and plenty of sunlight overhead for spotting fish. Despite the good conditions, hardly any fish were seen and the only fish landed were caught by Colin with 3 undersize rainbows less than 18cm. So, no countable fish caught during the morning session.

After lunch we said goodbye to Colin who had to head back to Wellington. The afternoon was "free time" to fish, not another competition session, so Chris decided to try upstream from the Tui brewery and Thomas and Paul went to the Manawatu to try their luck. Chris managed to land 2 small rainbows, both around a pound and Thomas had luck also with a fish landed and some other good-sized fish hooked but lost.

The next morning dawned overcast and we headed off to our beats for the second session of the competition. Chris had caught both of his fish the day before in shallow riffly water so he decided to continue with this strategy.

And it paid off. The fish were sitting in the riffly water with a dark stony bottom, probably because it was well oxygenated and providing good camouflage.

Chris managed to hook 4 but only got one to the net. Another small rainbow of 1 lb 4oz, but as he was to find out later, a small legal fish is better than no fish at all.

Meanwhile, Thomas who was further upstream had spotted a good number of decent sized fish around the 4lb mark, but they stubbornly refused both his dry flies and nymphs. At about mid-morning the dark clouds started to come in, followed by the rain and wind which signalled the end of the morning's fishing. So, another blank for Thomas, which made Chris the unlikely winner of the Goodman Shield Competition with a magnificent 1lb 4oz rainbow.



And from the Club Competition organiser, Thomas Fichtner:

So, on the weekend 17-18th of November we had a Fly-fishing competition on the Mangatainoka river, also known as Goodman's shield.

There were 4 competitors in total (Thomas Fichtner, Paul Davis, Collin Lewis and Chris Kuchel).

It was hard fishing due low water level and algae almost everywhere but it was nice to catch up with our club members on the river.

Hard to spot the fish, so blind fishing was the only option. Dry flies (Stimulator size 14-12) with nymph dropper did the trick.

On Saturday morning we all finished empty handed but a good number of hook ups were reported. Unfortunately, no fish landed that time.

In our free time we decided to fish the evening rises near Tui brewery which turned up absolutely fantastic. Good Mayfly and Caddis hatches everywhere and suddenly we saw pools full of fish rising for them. That time soft hackle March brown fly size 14 -12 was the best option for me and it resulted in multiple hook ups within short period of time. Despite small size of the fish they were hitting the flies so hard they snapped them off from my 5lb line at least 3 times. It was real fun with big "F".

Sunday morning we weren't so lucky as the weather turned ugly. So after hour and half we called it off. Luckily for Chris Kuchel, he landed his first and the only fish within this competition and that makes him the ultimate winner of the Goodman's shield.

The winning fish was a 33cm rainbow trout. That shows us that even smaller fish can make you a winner.

Big thanks to everyone who took part in this competition and congratulations to Chris Kuchel.

From club competition organiser Thomas Fichtner

Tight lines everyone!!!



Interclub Fly-Tying Competition Result

The annual interclub fly-tying competition was hosted by Wellington Fly Fishers club in Wellington City on Monday 19th November.

Unfortunately, the Kapiti club did not take part this year so the contest was between Wellington Fly Fishers and Hutt Valley Angling Club teams.

Representing HVAC were Ajit Jogi, Graham Odlum and Thomas Fichtner. The Wellington team were Gordon Baker, Paul Baker and Jim McLean.

Tony Houpt acted as head judge and the club judges were Ross Giggs (WFF) and John Millar (HVAC). Adjudicator/scorekeeper for the evening was Strato Cotsilinis.

The competition was run for one hour and each team had to submit eight flies for judging during this time.

The classes of fly to be matched were; (a) Dry Fly (b) Nymph (c) Lure

The competitor's flies were then placed randomly on a display board beneath the standard pattern for each fly and were assessed by the judging panel. The teams also had to submit two 'special flies' which were tied by two team members as flies of their choice. These were not matched to a pattern on the display board but were scored by the judges on 'fish appeal', neatness, complexity, originality, overall balance.

The HVAC team had decided prior to the competition that each member would attempt all flies and the team captain would pick the best flies to submit for judging. This meant that each team member would tie four flies during the competition and that each fly should not take more than fifteen minutes to complete. This sounds straightforward enough but under the pressure of a competition it reduces the options for a second attempt if a fly is thought to be substandard.

This was almost the HVAC's undoing as they all struggled to complete their quota of flies within the one-hour time limit.

After time was called, the judges' scores were passed in and fed into the scoring programme. Strato announced the final result.

Wellington team were winners with a total score of 232 points.
Hutt Valley team came very close with 227 points.



The winner of the top individual tier award was judged to be Paul Baker of Wellington for his Copper John Nymph.

The host club put on a tasty supper for teams and spectators.

We thank our team, Ajit, Jogi, Graham Odlum and Thomas Fichtner for representing our club.

What is wrong with this photo?



Photo of Hutt River feeder stream complete with fenced riparian strip.

Only problem is that the livestock are fenced into the stream bed instead of being on the outer side of the fences!!

Buy Sell Swap

Macpac hiking/wading stick, extensions have quick release locks making it really easy to extend, never been used for sale at \$50.

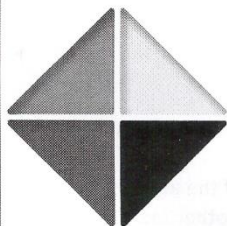
Contact Ajit on 0212359168

This is a new section for member's use. Please send details of items you want inserted to Kathryn at kvinten@gmail.com

Green Trout Guiding

Sponsor of the Club's Guiding Raffle
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Our newsletter is printed by:



**Rapid
Copy**

191 Thorndon Quay
Wellington, 6011

Open: 7:30-4:00 Monday-Friday

orders@rapidcopy.co.nz
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Any articles published in this newsletter are to opinions of the author alone and do not necessarily represent the views of the Club as a whole or other member of the Club.