

THE HUTT VALLEY ANGLER

Issue No 401 : June 2015
Newsletter of the Hutt Valley Angling Club Inc



Morning Light — John Olds

June Activities

8th	Annual General Meeting — King Lion Hall 7.30pm
14th	Casting Clinic — Belmont Domain 9.00am
16th	Committee Meeting — Community House 7.30pm
24th	Fly Tying — Community House 7.30pm
25th	Copy for July Newsletter

Editorial

Earlier this year, John Millar approached me and asked if I would be interested in taking over the role of editor of our club newsletter. Of course I accepted the offer without hesitation. John has set the bar at a very high level but I will strive to maintain that same standard of journalism. No doubt, I will be calling on his wealth of experience from time to time as I ease my way into my new role.

Chris Kuchel

President's Piece

I'm currently sitting on a plane not only looking forward to getting home but returning to New Zealand where we have some of the nicest fly fishing spots. In the last ten days I have spoken to so many Australian fly fishermen who all express enthusiastically their desire to come and fish across the ditch. It makes you happy to be living in New Zealand and even happier to be fishing here.

I was grateful for Derek Grzelewski giving his time to us at last club night and for his sage advice regarding getting our casting right. It is the key to enjoying our fishing unless of course we do just like walking along beautiful river banks.

With our AGM next month this will be my last contribution to the newsletter in this slot as the new president takes over. It has been an enjoyable two years that felt like a few months and it is a privilege to be part of such a great club. I will elaborate on this in my president's report at the AGM but want to thank everyone for taking your part as a member of the club and look forward to

continuing to contribute to the club as I can.

Steve Doughty

Club News

Recognition for John Millar and Grahame Kitchen.

The newsletter of the Hutt Valley Angling Club is posted online every month and has readership throughout the world. It is recognised for the quality of its articles and high standard of journalism.

At last month's club meeting, John and Grahame were presented with certificates in recognition of their outstanding service to the club. John took over as Newsletter Editor in July 2008 and since then, has not missed a single issue. During that time he has been ably assisted



by Grahame who has organised the layout and printing. After 45 consecutive issues, John is stepping down, but fortunately for the new editor, Grahame will continue in his invaluable supporting role.

Club Night — Annual General Meeting, Monday 8 June at 7.30pm
King Lion Hall, King Street, Upper Hutt
Please see page 5 for the meeting Agenda.

Guest Speaker Derek Grzelewski strikes a chord with HVAC members

At last month's club meeting, members were treated to a fascinating and insightful discussion with Derek Grzelewski via skype, with Fraser Gibbs chairing the session. Derek is a dedicated outdoorsman with a huge range of skills and experience under his belt. He also has a keen environmental awareness and is a strong advocate for clean waterways, particularly these days, where we are seeing a proliferation of small dairy farms being converted into mega dairy production units.

When asked for his advice on how average fly fishers could increase their success, his answer was quite clear. Practise your casting! He believes that natural presentation of the fly is the critical factor for success. In the gin-clear streams of the South Island, anglers often get only one chance to present their fly, so being able to lay out a straight line on the water at the correct length is the basic skill needed, before more advanced slack-line presentations can even be considered.

Fraser closed the Skype session by thanking Derek, whose words of advice were obviously taken to heart, judging by the number of members who signed up for the following Sunday's casting clinic at Belmont Domain. You can read Peter Bailey's account of his experience in this newsletter.

And speaking of the Casting Clinics....

The co-ordinator is Ian Lawson.

Our monthly casting session will be held at 9.00 am on Sunday 14 June. If you intend to attend please sign on the clipboard at our monthly meeting or register on the website. Registration allows us to have instructors available for all attendees and who to contact if there is any change in meeting arrangements.

Fly Tying Meeting — Wednesday 24 June, 7.30 p.m.

Upper Hutt Community Meeting House off Logan Street beside the Upper Hutt Medical Centre.

Raffle Winners in May

Congratulations to new member Mark Brown for taking out the Green Trout Guiding raffle last month.

The Fly Box of Flies was won by Garry Jacobson

The \$20 voucher from Hunting and Fishing was won by Ian Porter.

Green Trout Guiding

Sponsor of the Club's Guiding Raffle

Phone Jim Rainey (06) 382-5507

Kawhatau Valley Road, RD7, Mangaweka

office@greentroutguiding.co.nz

www.greentroutguiding.co.nz

Agenda for
HUTT VALLEY ANGLING CLUB
Annual General Meeting 2015
8 June 2015 at King Lion Hall, Starting at 7.30pm

1. Welcome to Members
2. Apologies
3. Notification of items of General Business
4. Minutes of the 2014 AGM
5. President's Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Subscriptions for 2015/2016
8. Budget for 2015/2016
9. Presentation of Trophies and Awards
10. Drawing for Guiding Raffle
11. Election of Officers
12. Appointment of Reviewer for Accounts
13. Appointment of Cheque Signatories
14. Notices of Motion and/or Remits
15. General Business

Greentrout Guiding Raffle — The annual guiding prize winner will be drawn from these monthly winners:

Jun 9	Colin Thompson	Dec 8	Dan Waechter
Jul 14	Keith Tourell		
Aug 11	Ian Porter	Feb 9	St John Wakefield
Sept 8	Colin Thompson	Mar 9	Geoff Stewart
Oct 13	Peter Jacobson	Apr 13	Damian Bengree
Nov 10	Colin Lewis	May 11	Mark Brown





Fielday Sales

Massive deals on wide
range of stock

1/2 Price fleece clothing

Great deals on Led
Lens er head lamps

May 27th - June 14th

Or while stocks last

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Fish of the Month

Congratulations to Ian Lawson for his fine 5lb 4oz brown trout caught on the Hutt River in May.



Up-coming club trips

Below is the HVAC Trip Calendar from June 2015 to April 2016. All trips are weather dependant, with early bookings being essential. Some venues do require a deposit, which should be paid by members directly to the hotel/B&B/lodge to secure a bed.

Members will be given the opportunity to sign up for trips at the monthly meetings. To confirm a place on a club trip, email Damian at c.dbengree@paradise.net.nz not less than three weeks before the trip date. Damian will send accommodation details to participants as necessary.

2015 --2016	Destination	Degree of difficulty: high 5 - 1 easy	Dates
June	<i>no club trips</i>		
July	<i>no club trips</i>		
August	Tongariro river	3 to 4	Fri 14 to Sun 16
September	Tukituki river	2 to 3	Fri 11 to Sun 13
October	Rivers around Turangi	3 to 4	Fri 9 to Sun 11
	Kapiti & HVAC (day trip)	1 to 2 (Max of 8)	TBC
November	HVAC & Hastings Club	2 to 3 (Max of 8)	Fri 6 to Sun 8
December	Mohaka or Puketirti river	4 to 5	Fri 4 to Sun 6
January	Wairarapa Camping	1 to 2	Sat 23rd
February	Rivers around Taihape	4	Fri 19 to Sun 21
March	Rivers around Pahiatua	2 to 3	Fri 11 to Sat 13
April	Tongariro river	3 to 4	Fri 15 to Sun 17
May	TBC		

Doughty Shield Handicap Competition

A report by John Millar

This was the final competition to be held before the club's AGM in June. It had previously been postponed due to bad weather. A change of venue from the Ruamahanga River to Kourarau Dam gave a bit more certainty that we would not be fishing in flood conditions. Six club members took part and for two of those it was their first experience of fishing a competition. As they drove over the Rimutaka Hill the air was still and high cloud gave the impression that the weather would be OK near Gladstone. Sure enough, on arrival at the Dam there was no wind at all and the forecasted showers seemed less likely.

A quick run through the rules then the draw was made to allocate beats. The competition was fly-only and was a bank fishing competition of two sessions to be one and a half hours duration for each session. Competitors would change beats by moving 3 places to their left at the end of the first session. After the organiser pegged out the six beats the anglers moved to their spots and awaited the starter's signal. In the minutes leading up to the start of the competition a few fish were seen to be surface feeding. This was most encouraging. A helpful local angler arrived just before the competition began and he offered some advice to the less experienced fishers. Before the hooter sounded however it seemed that the surface activity ceased.

The local angler explained that the fishing had been "dour" over the last few weeks so our expectations were not sky high. As we know, in competition fishing, all beats are not equal and so there is always an element of the luck of the draw. This turned out to be the case in this competition when two of the more fancied beats did not live up to expectation.

At the end of the competition all of the members agreed it had been a worthwhile experience and for some it had opened their eyes to other angling possibilities in our region.

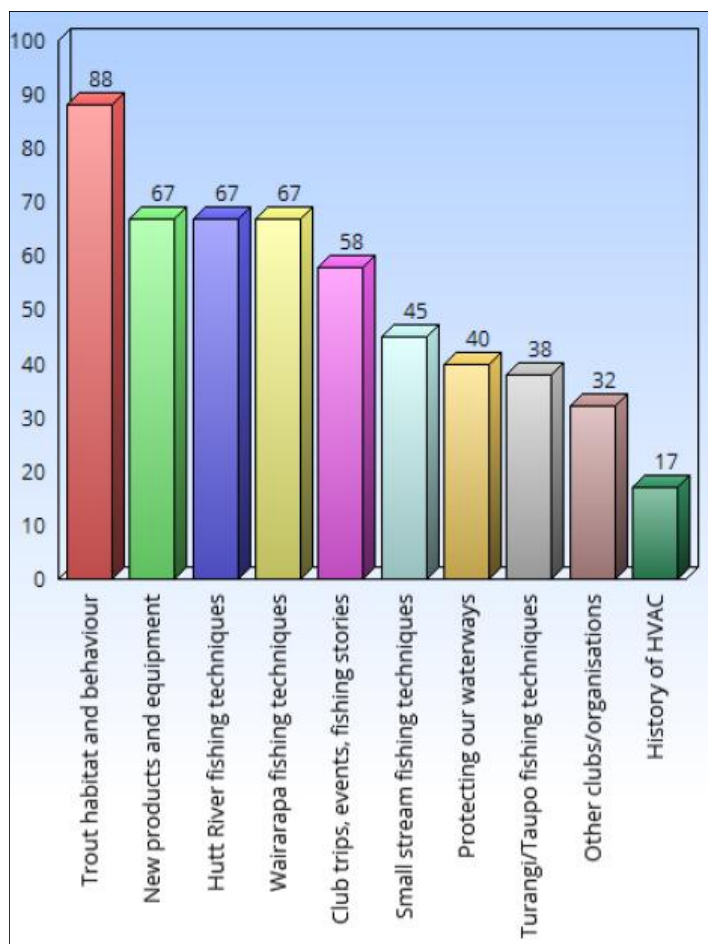
Ian Lawson was the competition winner having caught three fish for a score total of 2820 points. In second place was John Millar who caught four fish of which two were undersized and did not count.

This year's Doughty Shield winner is Ian Lawson.

Please support our Sponsors

Newsletter Survey Results

In May, all current members of the club who have an email address were sent a link to an online survey. Its purpose was to gauge the level of interest in a variety of topics, with the intention of reflecting those interests in our up-coming newsletter articles. Trout habitat and behaviour scored a high level of interest with 88% of those who responded saying they were very interested in reading about this topic. There also seems to be a healthy appetite



for articles about fishing techniques applicable to the Hutt River and the rivers of the Wairarapa. Product and equipment reviews also scored highly.

In future editions of the newsletter, we will endeavour to cover a wide range of topics and keep them in balance as indicated by the survey results.

All club members are encouraged to contribute to our newsletter, with the deadline for copy normally being the 25th of the month.

If you have any contributions, email them to the editor
chriskuchel357@gmail.com

Please write your article as a word document and add your photographs or images as separate attachments, not embedded within the text.

Casting Practice Pays off for a New Member

A report from Peter Bailey

I attended the May casting clinic given by Ross, Ian and John and would highly recommend it to anyone who is struggling to catch a fish. I learned heaps and my casting has improved immensely from rubbish to just plain average. I have to say that during the clinic I spent more time looking and listening rather than waving a rod around (out of embarrassment), but in the afternoon after the clinic, I took my rod out and practised for an hour and managed to roll out a few good casts at the 13m mark.

Just to show that this can improve your fishing, on Wednesday I had 2 hours in the evening to walk up the Ruamahanga above the Gladstone Bridge. Using the advice given and my new improved casting skills, I caught a couple of fish, the best being a silvery brown trout of approximately 3 lb. It was nice to catch a fish but more importantly, I enjoyed the fishing more, knowing that I could at least get the line out to the general area I wanted.

Thank you guys. I really appreciated your time and experience.

Note: There is no photo of angler and fish as the three wise men forgot to impart one important piece of advice. Carry a landing net! Knee deep in water I lifted my prize from the water to admire its beauty, then with the rod between my teeth, went to remove

the hook. It then jumped out of my hands and back into the river. Bollocks! Wife never believes those stories.

Where's That Trout?

How to Locate Trout In A Stream

The article is from www.fix.com

While you might get lucky pulling up to any old spot at a river and throwing a line, learning the areas trout prefer in a stream will increase your chances of catching fish. To understand where to find trout in a river at any given time, it is important to have a basic idea of how trout behave and why they relate to certain areas in the river. Stream-dwelling trout have a few basic needs:

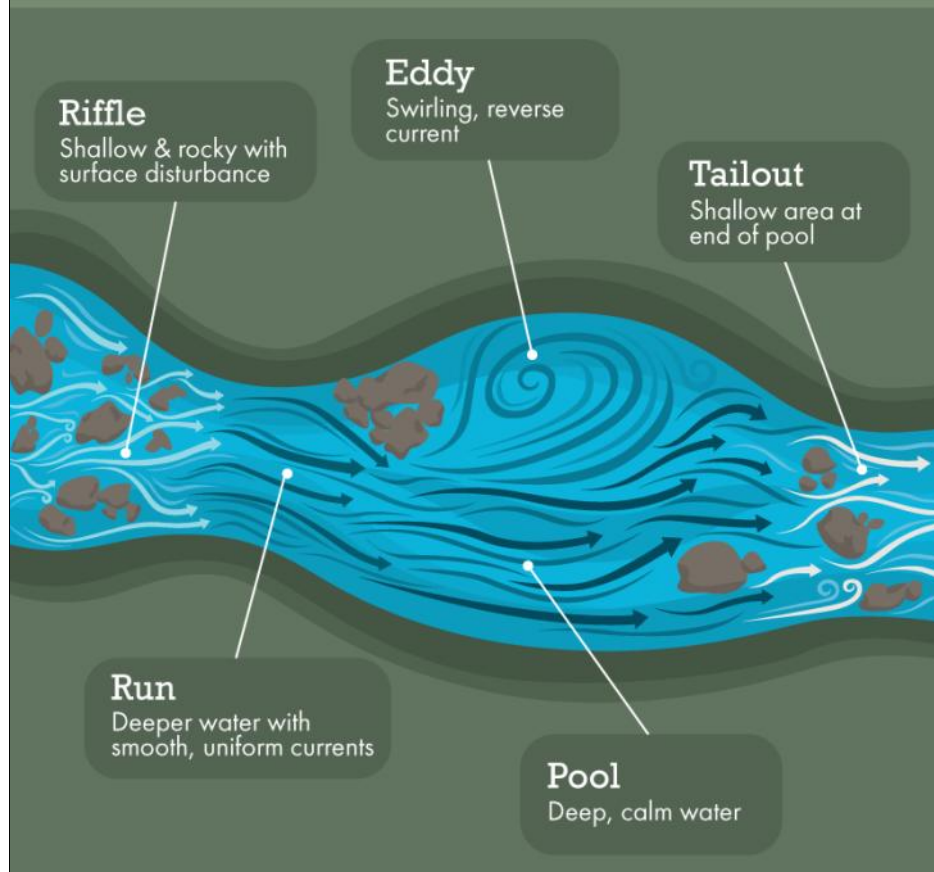
Oxygen: Trout need to breathe in order to live. In a river you will generally find trout close to current where the water is more oxygenated. Avoid large stretches of stagnant water.

Food: Trout need to eat and will seldom stray far from a food source. Find the food and you will find the fish.

Shelter and Rest: Trout like to be near current, but they are also quite lazy. They like to find objects to rest behind, and other areas where they can sit outside the main flow. They also need a place to hide from predators. This can be the same structure that blocks the current, or it might be overhead shelter like a tree or bush. Bonus points if the area has quick access to deeper water. Keeping these elements in mind, you can closely examine the stream environment to find some fish.

When approaching a river for the first time, it is easy to become intimidated by the sheer amount of water. Before making your first cast, you should take a moment to "read" the water. This is the process of examining the stream above and below the surface and breaking it down into manageable sections where fish will likely be. Follow almost any stream as it carves its way through the landscape and you will notice a pattern of characteristics. Learn to identify these patterns and you can use them to help locate trout.

Breaking Down Different Sections of River



Riffle: A riffle is a rocky, shallow area in a stream where water cascading over rocks creates a noticeable surface disturbance. To identify a riffle, look for a choppy surface or white-water spilling over shallow rocks into deeper water. A good riffle will fulfil all of the basic needs of a trout. The shallow, highly oxygenated water is a perfect environment for the aquatic insects trout eat. Boulders and rocks create plentiful hiding and resting spots. Deeper water downstream gives trout rest and security. All of these aspects make a riffle a great starting point when looking for trout.

Run: A run is an in-between zone directly below a riffle, where the water becomes deeper and the current is more uniform. Aside from a riffle, a run is one of the top places to look for trout in a stream. Trout like the shelter provided by deeper water and the proximity to an easy meal. Fish often suspend at the edge of the current or lie along the bottom eating insects that are carried downstream out of a riffle.

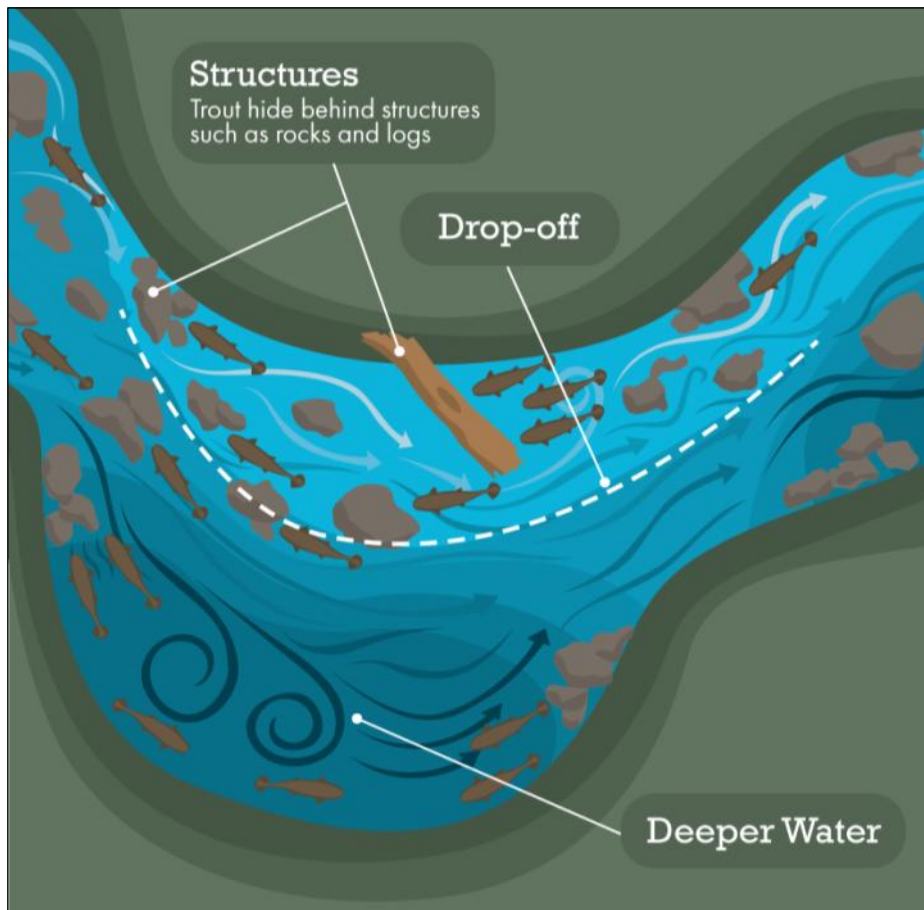
Pool: A pool is the deepest portion of any given section of river with the slowest current. Fish will often retreat to a pool on bright, sunny days or if they feel threatened. In shallow streams, pools might be the only areas that hold fish, but it is different for larger rivers. While most river trout – especially big ones – may spend a portion of their day in a pool, typically this is when they are least active.

Eddy: An eddy is an area of the river where structure such as an indent in the riverbank, a log, or a large boulder blocks the current flow and influences its direction. Directly downstream of the object, a pocket of swirling water will form opposite the main direction of current flow. Trout love eddies because they funnel and trap insects drifting by in the current. Look for foam or bubbles collecting on the surface where the main current meets up with the swirling water and place your casts there.

Tailout: A tailout is a shallow, flat section at the end of a pool before the water spills over into another riffle. Where the water becomes shallow, a natural funnel is formed that brings anything drifting downstream right to the fish. Trout will often wait in a tailout and sip hatching insects off the surface as they float by, so it is a good spot to look for rising fish.

Examining the Structure

Learning to pinpoint structure in different sections of a river is the final step to reading water like a pro and increasing your likelihood of finding trout. Structure can refer to objects in and around the river such as boulders, gravel bars, holes, and changes in bottom contour. Less obvious examples are eddies and current seams created by the river flow, or shade from a high bank. A good section of river might contain several of these features, and as a rule, areas where different types of structures intersect are prime locations to look for trout.

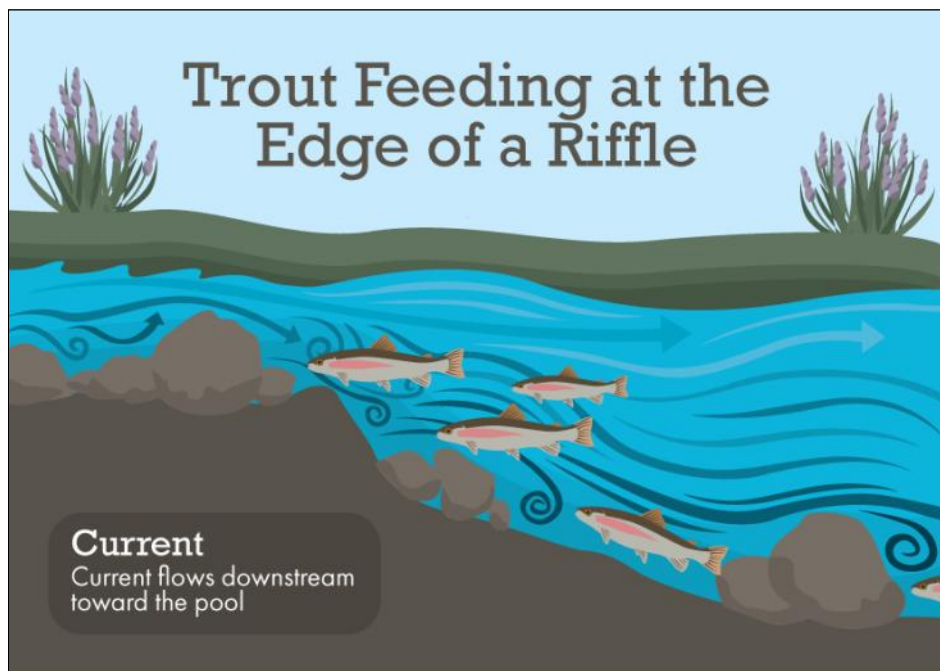


Boulders, logs, and other obstructions: Any object that impedes the current flow is worth investigating. It's worth bonus points if it is located in a favourable section of the river such as a riffle, run, or tailout. Multiple casts placed upstream, to the side, and downstream of the object will give you a shot at any fish that may be sitting there.

Changes in the river: Bends, gravel bars, shelves, holes, and other changes in the river or bottom contour are great places to look for trout. A good example is the area right where a riffle drops into deeper water. Trout will often rest in the slower current below the drop-off, eating insects that are swept over the edge. Other good locations are the insides of river bends, points jutting into the current, and indentations along the bank. A good pair of

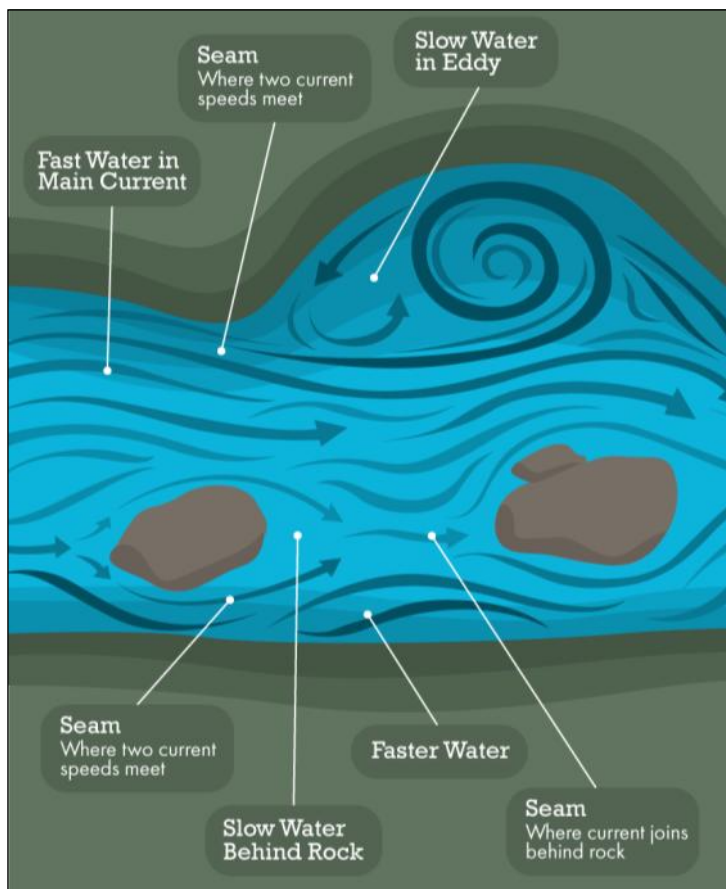
polarized sunglasses can help locate structure hidden below the surface. Dark areas often signify deeper holes. Look for gravel bars mid-river, and drop-offs or shelves at the river's edge where the current begins to slow. Fish will be resting and feeding on the deeper side of these areas.

Seams: A "seam" is any spot where two currents converge. Trout like seams because the joining currents create feeding lanes that



collect drifting food, so when looking at any structure in a river it is important to locate any associated seams. With some experience you will be able to detect seams as subtle lines along the surface where slower current meets with fast. Watch the current carefully as it flows over and around structures. Look for bubble trails floating downstream or any area where there is a noticeable difference in current speed.

Next time you head to the river, spend a few minutes reading the water before making a cast. Pick out a section and decide which structure you are going to target. Of course, experience is the key to success, so get out as much as possible and practice these tips. When you do catch a fish try to remember the key features of the



area you were fishing. Eventually it will seem like less of an exercise, and reading the water will become an intuitive skill that will lead you to more fish.



Coch-y-Bonddu

by Tim Trengrove

Most anglers have a much better idea of what a coch-y-bonddu looks like than the correct spelling. It is a Welsh beetle.

Welshmen will tell you that but they're not much help in settling on one spelling. Part of the problem is that *bonddu* is not a Welsh word. *Coch y bon ddu* is Welsh but it appears few others use it. Confused? Well I have settled on coch-y-bonddu in this article, not through any expertise but because it appears to be used most widely.

Then there's that hackle. Trying to nail down a coch-y-bonddu hen cape is like searching for a unicorn at the horse races. The name describes the colour of the hackle. Coch = red, y = the, bon = base or stem and Ddu = black. That sounds simple enough until you try to find one. Nearly all coch-y-bonddu flies I've seen are tied with a furnace hackle, as mine are in the photo below. When I emailed a photo to my Welsh friend Paul Slaney, of a cape being advertised as a coch-y-bonddu, the reply came back "ITS NOT A COCH-Y-BONDDU!" I was beginning to think that I may never see a true coch-y-bonddu hackle until Paul located some capes and offered some feathers to me. They should arrive soon and will be very special.

What about that beetle? Google found this one in a search for coch-y-bonddu beetle. With an iridescent green front and treacle coloured body it looks like the love child of a manuka beetle and a brown beetle. A sort of mallard drake head on a grey duck body. Compared with the coch-y-bonddu artificial, fly tiers look to have got the colour mix reversed.



As far as beetles go, it's a rather beautiful one but is it the right beetle? Another suggestion is a different beetle called *cantharis rustica*. A beetle of the open hills and heather that often gets blown onto lakes. Here is a photo of one and now compare the colouration with the coch-y-bonddu fly.



The real coch-y-bonddu beetle may have just stood up. Whatever the truth, we do know that the coch-y-bonddu fly is a good imitation of many small beetles in the UK and New Zealand. It is indeed a fly surrounded in mystique and best of all, it is a great international trout taker!

The coch-y-bonddu has always fascinated me. A superbly tied one in my father's dry fly box caught my attention as an eight year old. That particular fly would have been tied commercially around 1950 and had a bronze peacock herl body and dark hackle. I adored the fly and was drawn to the tiny gold tag. From memory, the only fly in my father's collection to have a gold tag. I didn't realise until much later that it is actually a wet pattern. Many are tied now with a dry fly hackle but I feel it is best to stay with the traditional design, using a hen hackle and fishing it wet.

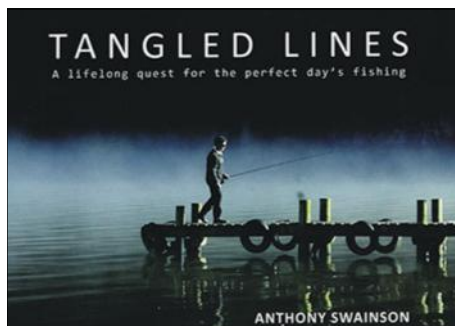
The coch-y-bonddu is widely admired around the world. It is the first fly that jumps to mind when I think of Welsh patterns but I'm told on good authority that the Diawl Bach is a more famous Welsh pattern. It may be but out of ear shot of any Welshman, I think it's not half as beautiful! Take a good look at a well tied cochy and I think you'll agree – it is drop dead gorgeous. That all important gold tag finishes the handsome appearance. No one said it better than Norman Marsh when he wrote that tying a coch-y-bonddu without a gold tag is like going out to dinner without trousers on. What a great turn of phrase from a remarkable fly fisherman and

fly tier.

While the pattern is an imitation of the coch-y-bonddu beetle, it fishes well as a general fly. Don't wait until you see brown beetles or manuka beetles on the water. I like to fish it blind, tumbling down small rapids or offering it to trout feeding on terrestrials. #14s are my favourite but it has worked well tied on a #16. Peacock herl can be easily damaged so I apply super glue before winding on the herl. The hackle should be tied in sparingly and over length. That is, folding back to beyond the hook bend. The coch-y-bonddu is relatively easy to tie and well worth you having in your dry fly box. When it comes to presenting it though, make sure it is fished wet

New Book

in HVAC Library –



Tangled Lines by Anthony Swainson

Anthony Swainson has devoted more than half a century in search of the perfect day's fishing. His quest includes the rivers and streams of New Zealand, the raging East Coast seas and fishing trips halfway round the world. ***Tangled Lines*** is his collection of whimsical stories, relating his fishing odyssey.

About the Author: Anthony Swainson learned to fish in the canals of Northern England before emigrating to New Zealand where he's spent more than 40 years fishing the rivers lakes and streams around the country, with numerous trips further afield. His writing has appeared for many years in many magazines including Rod & Rifle, NZ Outdoors, New Zealand Trout Fishing and NZ Fishing World.

There is a review in FlyLife (flylife.com.au) by Rob Sloane in which he concludes by writing—

"*Tangled Lines* is another of the recent crop of books to restore my faith in the printed page. For a man who describes Lake Otamangakau as 'the university I never went to,' Swainson writes far better than most. He goes on to say of that lake: 'It would suit a poet or budding philosopher, for there are long periods of reflection. It is a concept of time, compressed.' And further, he says: 'Otamangakau gives a lie to the belief that angling is somehow perfectible; the lake's only constancy is its appealing chaos.'"

To borrow this book or any of the others in the HVAC library, see Maureen Burgess at the monthly club nights in King Lion Hall.

From the HVAC Archives

Following is an extract from the HVAC July 2005 newsletter:

"Life Membership bestowed on Keith Tourell"

During the early part of 1975 Keith Tourell puzzled with the idea of forming a club for anglers based in the Hutt Valley. He approached a few members of the Southern Branch of the Wellington Acclimatisation Society who agreed to give some support. The keen anglers Barry Dunkley (President of WAS), Mort Midgley, Ron Bickerstaff and Fred Norman along with Bill Auld who was the local policeman met with Keith and discussed possibilities.

As a result of that meeting an advertisement was placed in the Upper Hutt Leader for a public meeting on 30 September 1975. All were delighted when 36 men and boys turned up for the meeting at the rooms of the Women's Division of Federated Farmers. (*These rooms are now known as the King Lion Hall*) The Hutt Valley Angling Club was formed and the inaugural executive, which was appointed, is listed below:

President – Keith Tourell, Secretary – Ian McDougall, Treasurer – Gordon Sage. Committee – Peter Clarkson, Terry Bramwell, Ron Jenkins and Mike Newman.

Plans for the future were discussed. A regular monthly meeting was set up and fly tying demonstrations arranged. Ron Jenkins

offered to write a club newsletter. In those early days the newsletter was an A4 sheet printed on one side. The senior sub was set at a modest \$5. Overnight fishing trips were soon organised to the Wairarapa, and Pahiatua areas. Later, weekend trips to Taupo were arranged and in those days all club trips were eagerly supported by the enthusiastic club membership.

Since those days in the mid 1970's many of the original club members have left the area or moved on but Keith still plays an active part in club life. He has served as President, Vice President, Librarian and committee member. He is currently working as an assistant committee member and has responsibility for coordinating the club's Flycasting clinic. This is aimed at helping less experienced anglers to improve their casting techniques. Over the years Keith has made a notable contribution to the activities of this club and the award of Life Membership is due recognition for his continuing effort".

40 years on, Keith is still an active member of the club, although he has recently had some health setbacks. Club president, Steve Doughty and his wife Chrissy visited him recently on behalf of the club and dropped off a get-well card and book. Keith was very appreciative of the gift and that the committee was thinking of him. He is doing well and still receiving some medical assistance at home but was in good spirits and said he has had a couple of little outings on the Hutt recently so can still manage getting out for a brief fish. He is hoping to make the next club meeting and was keen to catch up on all that we have been doing.



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———And the list goes on———

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Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 9am – 5.30pm

Thursday: 10am – 7pm, Saturday: 9am – 1pm

CLUB CONTACTS

President	Steve Doughty	04) 527 7799
Vice President	Ross Goodman	(04) 233 0087
Past President	Fraser Gibbs	((04) 499 8606
Secretary	John Olds	(04) 934 4150
Treasurer	Grahame Kitchen	(04) 971 6696
Committee	Damian Bengree	(04) 938 3372
	Maureen Burgess	(04) 238 2304
	Chris Kuchel	021 036 7639
	Ian Lawson	(04) 563 5486
	John Millar	(04) 563 6491
Buddy Programme Coordinator	Ross Goodman rgoodman@globe.net.nz	(04) 233 0087
Librarian	Maureen Burgess	(04) 238 2304
Newsletter Editor	John Millar	(04) 563 6491
	john.millar@xtra.co.nz	
Newsletter Publisher	Grahame Kitchen	(04) 971 6696
	grahame2@paradise.net.nz	
Fishing Diary Holder	John Millar	(04) 563 6491
	john.millar@xtra.co.nz	
Club Web Site	www.huttvalleyangling.org.nz	
Club email address	huttangler@hotmail.com	
Club Mail address	PO Box 40135, Upper Hutt, 5140	

Any articles published in this newsletter are the opinions of the author alone and do not necessarily represent the views of the Club as a whole or other members of the Club.

Our newsletter is printed by:
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Hours Monday to Friday 7.30am to 4.00pm

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Jill and Tony Sammons
471 2537
027 242 0660
Thorndon Centre
191 Thorndon Quay
Wellington 6011
PO Box 937
Wellington 6140
copy@rapidcopy.co.nz
www.rapidcopy.co.nz

