



THE HUTT VALLEY ANGLER

Newsletter of the Hutt Valley Angling Club Inc
Issue No 431: February 2018



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President's Piece



Happy new year to you all. What a fantastic summer we are having here in Wellington, with lots of opportunities for BBQs, swimming, beach cricket and of course, fishing. Looking back to last November when the Hutt River was a mere trickle and water restrictions were put in place, things were starting to look a bit grim. Thankfully, regular doses of rain have freshened things up and kept the river in good condition, with reports of good numbers of fish being seen and sometimes caught. As I'm writing this piece, I can hear the sound of chirping cicadas and with it, the potential for some good dry fly fishing over the next couple of months.

The annual Quiz Night at the December club meeting ran smoothly and was a great success. Special thanks to Trevor Jeffries in his role as quizmaster and to Thomas Fichtner for co-ordinating the supper.

In December, we sent out a survey to members asking for their thoughts on club trips. Over the past few years, participation in club trips has been steadily decreasing. The survey responses have helped give the committee a better understanding of members' needs and as a result, the committee is proposing a new structure to strengthen the link between the casting clinics, the buddy programme and club trips. At the February club meeting, this new proposal will be presented and discussed. I encourage all members to come along and contribute to the discussion.

Finally, I would like to thank the committee who have worked hard during 2017. Our membership is in great shape and we will strive to keep things moving forward in the coming year. If you have suggestions for guest speakers, workshop topics or other activities, please don't hesitate to contact one of the committee. All the best.

Chris Kuchel

February Activities

Monday 12 th	Club Night, King Lion Hall, 7.30pm
Sunday 18 th	Casting Clinic, Belmont Domain, 10am
Wednesday 21 st	Committee Meeting, Stokes Valley RSA, 7.15pm
Wednesday 28 th	Fly Tying Night, Stokes Valley RSA, 7.15pm

Club News

Next Club Meeting – King Lion Hall – Monday 12th February 7.30pm

For February's club night Chris and the committee will do a presentation on a new approach to club trips and Hutt River events. Supper will be earlier to allow members to catch up after the Christmas break.

The buy and sell evening proposed for February has been postponed until later in the year. However, the normal buy and sell table will be operating so feel free to bring along any items you have for sale. Place your named items on the table indicating the price.

Library News

The library is open from 7pm on Club nights. Please make sure that all books and DVDs are checked out and returned through Ajit in the normal way.

Fly Tying Night – Stokes Valley RSA – Wednesday 28th February 7.15pm

Fly of the Month – CDC and Elk. This session we will work with CDC to tie dry flies and flies that drift subsurface or sit in the surface film.

NOTE - Below is an extract taken from an article by Tim Trengrove.

When discussing the choice of a floating mayfly imitation with Hans Weilenmann, he immediately suggested his CDC and Elk. Okay, I could give that a go and everyone can view the tying video in HD before the club tying evening:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7iXWIS9dprM>

or find out more about the pattern here:

<http://globalflyfisher.com/patterns/cdcelk/>

Asking Hans Weilenmann what his suggestions were for an innny-outty and a sub-surface emerger, a prompt answer came back Also CDC and Elk. Well, there's nothing wrong with having confidence in your own pattern, it is famous and is Hans' signature pattern but would it be the 3-in-1? I had serious doubts. My bank of evidence consisted of a large number of refusals by Hutt River and other browns to mayfly imitations presented on the surface or in the surface film. In further discussion Hans said he ties the CDC and Elk with variations and presents the fly differently to suit the conditions. Less deer's hair, more deer's hair, this CDC or that CDC, different hook sizes, wet it thoroughly or keep it dry. Now I was beginning to understand the versatility and Hans' confidence in the pattern but would it work here?

At the end of September, the Hutt River was discoloured and flowing at about 38 cumecs. Compared to a more normal flow of 6 cumecs this was a big flow to fish and I felt confident that I could soon report back to Hans Your fly doesn't work! I tied the CDC and Elk in #14 and #12. To make sure the thing didn't work, I'd use the #12. A #14 is the largest fly I use with confidence on the Hutt River and feel much more comfortable with #16s. Above the Melling Bridge there is a long pool headed by a gently curving rapid. Pumped up to 38 cumecs though it was one-big- fast-flow with some relief from the current by my true left bank. The best-looking water was at the head and wanting to actually catch a fish, I tied on a wingless wet and worked my way down for 20 minutes. One hit but no hook-ups. Try as I might, there were no other takers. With a mischievous smirk I swapped the fly for a #12 CDC and Elk and sent it on its maiden voyage. Not a chance in

You know what happened don't you? Does this story really have to be told?

On that first drift, up came a mouth and grabbed it. My disbelief was complete. This can't be happening. It was though and the line shot out into the main current. Lift? Tighten? I was too stunned to react. The fish did it all. Anyone watching could be forgiven for thinking an idiot got lucky fishing in the Hutt while away from his minder. As the fish leapt and darted about I was laughing loudly. A quick photo to send Hans and the fish was on its way. Phew, what the heck just happened? I flicked the line back out as a straightener ready to start fishing again and...

You're not going to believe this one either. Another fish came up, grabbed the fly and shot up into the air. Total paralysis took over. This was deep angling shock and I could hear a voice far away sounding in my ear "I told you so!"

It wasn't a mayfly rise but to me it was a minor miracle on the Hutt River. I've since caught more fish on the fly and can thoroughly recommend we tie it at a club tying night.

Bound Shield Fly Tying Challenge for February

At our last meeting in November 2017 we tied upright winged dry flies. We would like members to bring an example of an upright-winged dry fly that they have tied at home.

Photo Competition

Congratulations to this month's winner, Bill Shkopiak. Bill takes away the \$10 Hunting & Fishing voucher and his winning photo "Another Reel?" is on the front cover of this month's newsletter.

November Fish of the Month

Congratulations to Bill Harris, who caught a 6lb 4oz Rainbow Jack in Lake Otamangakau.



December Raffle Winners

Congratulations to John Olds for winning the Green Trout Guiding raffle. Vivienne C took away the Hunting and Fishing voucher and St John Wakefield won a wading pole.

Club Competitions

February 17th

Gibbs Shield - Wainuiomata River

March 10th

Doughty Shield - Kourarau Dam

April 14th

Burgess Shield - Salt Water, Lake Ferry

May 12th

GJK Shield - Hutt River

For those members who do not fish the Wainuiomata River due to access problems, the Gibbs Shield competition is a great way to experience this exceptional river without those problems. Those interested can register on the club website or contact Thomas Fichtner our competitions co-ordinator.

Trout with Fiddleheads, Morels, and Wild Onions



1/2 pound fiddleheads

Salt

1 1/2 to 2 pounds trout fillets (or 1 small trout per person)

1/4 cup unsalted butter, divided

1 pound fresh morels, sliced into rings

1/2 pound ramps or other wild onions, or scallions

3 garlic cloves, minced

1 cup chicken stock

2 to 3 tablespoons sour cream

1 cup sorrel, cut into a chiffonade (optional)

Black pepper

Violets, for garnish (optional)

You'll need to blanch the fiddleheads first. Bring a large pot of water to a boil and salt it well. Get a bowl of ice water ready. Boil the fiddleheads for 2 minutes, then shock them in the ice water. If you are using bracken

fiddleheads you will need to leave them in the ice water for 1 hour. Regular fiddleheads you can remove as soon as they are cold.

Take the trout out of the fridge and salt it lightly. Let it rest on the counter while you make the morel sauce.

Put the morels and the white parts of the onions into a large sauté pan. Turn the heat to high until everything begins to sizzle, then turn the heat down to medium-high. Soon the morels will release a lot of water. Sprinkle salt over everything now.

When the liquid has almost boiled away, add 2 tablespoons of butter and shake the pan to coat everything. Let the morels and onions brown a little, then add the garlic. Let this cook for 1 minute, then add the chicken stock. Use a wooden spoon to scrape up any browned bits from the bottom of the pan. Boil this down by half and turn off the heat.

To cook the fish, get another sauté pan hot and add the remaining butter. Wipe the skin side of the fish with a paper towel to dry it. Once the butter is hot, lay the trout into the pan, skin side down. Turn the heat down to medium-high for a skinny fillet, and down to medium-low for a very thick piece of lake trout or chinook salmon.

Let the trout cook for 2 minutes -- you may need to press down on it with a spatula to ensure even contact between the skin and pan. After two minutes, use a large spoon to start basting the meat side of the trout with the butter. Baste a dozen times or so and leave it alone. Then baste again a dozen more times. If you do this a third time, your fish will be totally cooked through, but I stick to twice so the fish is just barely cooked in the center. Move the trout to individual plates.

To finish the dish, turn the heat to high on the morels. When the stock boils, add the fiddleheads and the green parts of the onions and the sorrel, if using. Cover the pan and turn the heat to medium. Let the greens wilt. Uncover the pan and stir well. Turn off the heat. When the sauce stops bubbling, stir in the sour cream and pour next to the trout.

Source: <https://honest-food.net/trout-morels-ramps-recipe/>

Green Trout Guiding

Sponsor of the Club's Guiding Raffle

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