



THE HUTT VALLEY ANGLER

Newsletter of the Hutt valley Angling Club Inc

Issue No 423: May 2017



Contents

Club activities in May

Notice of June AGM meeting

Big Jack's Trout Talk

River Safety Workshop Report

Introduction to Fly Fishing Workshop

Doughty Shield Competition - Kourarau Dam

Editorial

As promised, this month's newsletter showcases some of our members in action at the recent Water Safety Skills Workshop. Fear of the water often leads to panic, so it was great to see members enthusiastically putting themselves outside of their normal comfort zone and testing their limits in a safe environment. Many thanks to Dan Waechter for his persistence to make this workshop happen and to Steve Doughty for his work in liaising with Glenn Beach. And thanks to all for the great photo opportunities. Enjoy!

Chris Kuchel

President's Piece



With the recent bout of unfavourable weather including cyclones Debbie and Cook, it has been a good time to catch up on duties around the property and tie some flies. It was good to hear Glenn speak at Club Night about water safety and it was even better to spend four hours on the Hutt River with him. On Sunday 2nd April, we met with Glenn on the Hutt River and as we were told prior to the on-water course, we all got wet.

Along with 11 others we learnt how to cross rivers safely and know what to do if you or someone else gets into difficulty. The benefits of going on this course were; it gave us the opportunity to watch Glenn demonstrate how we should do it and then have a go ourselves. It was interesting watching us doing crossings as we have done in the past and then reassessing safer alternatives with Glenn's guidance.

I think we all did some thought searching and next time we come to do a river crossing we will put into practice what Glenn showed us and think a bit longer before we get our feet wet. The part of the course that I benefited the most from, was what one should do if one falls off a raft wearing waders. I thought you would be dragged to the bottom but as Glenn explained to us and what we found in reality was that yes you will get wet, but by staying calm you can be rescued and survive to fish

another day. I think we all learned from the tuition Glenn gave us and what was really good about it was that we knew that if things did get tricky Glenn was there to assist, and if not Glenn the next time, someone else will know what to do.

Ajit at our March Committee meeting had suggested that he would contact Paul Swain; a Greater Wellington Regional Councillor and see if he was available to attend our Club Night as a guest speaker. Paul, who was an MP and had been the Minister of Transport, in my opinion gave us a very good presentation. His expertise as a speaker was clear to all to see as he handled questions, dealt with a few noisy members and was still going strong after 1 ¼ hours. It would be good to have Paul come and speak to us again as he clearly knows his stuff and has a passion for what he is trying to achieve.

The Hutt River is important to us and Paul explained the balance that is necessary to be achieved between using the resource for a recreational pastime and the impact flooding has on residential and commercial properties that are located close to the river. Thanks to both Ajit and Paul for the very good night we had.

The impact of human activities on waterways has been unfortunately shown clearly in the Owhiro Stream recently, with contamination having a detrimental impact on wildlife. We need to look after our waterways for all to use and enjoy.

Club elections are drawing nearer in June, have a think about what you can do to assist.

Ross Goodman

May Activities

Monday 8 th	Club Night, King Lion Hall, 7.30pm
Sunday 14 th	Casting Clinic, Belmont Domain, 10am
Sunday 14 th	Introduction to Fly Fishing Workshop Belmont Domain, 9am
Wednesday 17 th	Committee Meeting, Stokes Valley RSA, 7.15pm
Saturday 20 th	Doughty Shield, Kourarau Dam, 8am
Wednesday 31 st	Fly Tying Night, Stokes Valley RSA, 7.15pm

Club News

Next Club Meeting – King Lion Hall – Monday 8 February 7.30pm

The guest speaker at May's club night will be **John Gummer** via skype. John is one of the new breed of competition anglers full of enthusiasm and a desire to achieve at the top level, nationally and internationally. Last year, he gave a very interesting and entertaining presentation. Hopefully this month, he will be able to update us on his recent travels and competition experiences.

Also, many thanks to our April speaker, **Paul Swain** from the Wellington Regional Council. His presentation was focused on the Hutt River and in particular the Riverlink Project, which would see major changes to the Lower Hutt urban area including

- Widening the Hutt River for flood protection purposes
- Re-orientating the city centre to face the river by creating a lively river-front urban environment
- Forming wetlands for storm water control
- Building a new Melling interchange

Paul also spoke about the water quality of the Hutt River, which continues to be affected by cracked and leaking underground sewerage pipes and the increasing number of hard-paved surfaces which are placing extra demands on the storm water system. The biggest challenge however is climate change.

Obviously as anglers, the future shape of the Hutt River is near and dear to our hearts and Paul was thrown some challenging questions by members, which he answered with good humour and common sense. He encouraged members to find out more by visiting the Riverlink website www.riverlink.co.nz

At the conclusion, Ajit thanked Paul for his interesting and informative presentation which certainly captured the attention of all those present. Once again, many thanks Paul.



Introduction to Fly Fishing Workshop

The committee has decided to run our usual annual workshop. It will be aimed at **new members and those who consider themselves to be inexperienced or members who just need some help with their fishing.** The date is **Sunday 14 May** at the Scout Hall, Belmont Domain (where our casting clinics are held) and we plan to **meet at 8.45am for a 9am start.** We plan to finish around 2pm. Drinks will be provided but bring your own

lunch. We will need a minimum of 6 participants to run the workshop but given that we have had a number of new members of late we should get more than that. The monthly casting clinic will be incorporated into the programme so you can come along just for the casting if you wish.

The programme will include indoor and outdoor sessions (including an open forum) and will be built around what the participants want to learn.

Those members that wish to take part should contact John Olds via email to confirm their attendance and also advise what they would like to learn from the workshop.

Casting Clinic

This month's casting clinic will be held on Sunday 14 May at Belmont Domain in conjunction with the Introduction to Fly Fishing Workshop. Be there early and 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 7pm on Club nights. Please make sure that all books and DVDs are checked out and returned through Ajit in the normal way.

May Fly Tying Night – Stokes Valley RSA – Wednesday 31 May 7.15pm

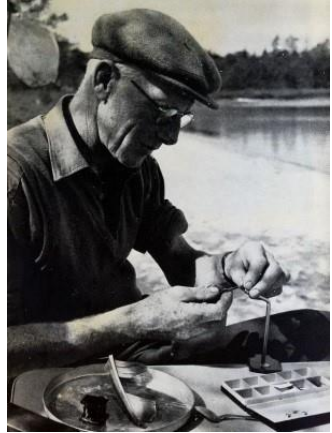
This month, members' favourites.

Last year we were introduced to the Rangitikei Red and several other successful flies. If you have a favourite pattern bring it to the meeting where we can discuss its merits and learn to tie the fly.

Bound Shield Fly Tying Challenge for May

We would like members to tie a variant of Frank Sawyer's Pheasant Tail Nymph. Frank Sawyer (1906-1980) was a River Keeper on the Avon River in England.

He was a keen observer of nature and a very skilled fly fisherman. Sawyer was one of the pioneers of nymph fishing at a time when it was looked down upon by dry fly purists. His Pheasant Tail Nymph represents a swimming Baetis nymph and although a very simple pattern, consisting only of fine copper wire and European cock pheasant tail fibres, this fly has fooled millions of trout around the world.



Check out these YouTube videos:

- Hans Weilenmann FS Pheasant Tail Nymph
<https://youtu.be/i1Jd1YAMntw>
- Davie McPhail tying FS Pheasant Tail Nymph
<https://youtu.be/ORK-eDbWQbk>



Tie your version of the Pheasant Tail Nymph and bring it to our May fly tying evening.

Note: We are not asking you to tie a Pheasant Tail Nymph to Sawyer's original pattern but would like to see his two materials, copper wire and pheasant tail incorporated in your fly. Apart from this you have a blank canvas, so get creative.

Great Response to Bound Shield Challenge for March.

Congratulations to Mike Nansett for winning the Bound Shield for March for his excellent Cicada pattern. The other members who took part are also to be commended on a very good effort, making the judge's job quite difficult.



Raffle Winners in April

Congratulations to Ross Goodman for winning the Green Trout Guiding raffle. Monthly winners of the Green Trout Guiding raffle go into the annual draw for a fantastic guided trip with Jim Rainey. You've got to be in to win, so make sure you buy your ticket each month at club meetings. Peter Zillwood took away the \$20 Hunting and Fishing voucher and Colin Thompson won the box of flies.

Photo Competition

This month's winner is Chris Kuchel who takes away the \$15 Fishscene voucher. His winning photo "The Whakatiki Waltz" 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.

April Fish of the Month

Congratulations to Ian Lawson for his fine 8lb 12oz rainbow hen caught on Lake Otamangakau. Ian tells us that this fish was hooked in knee-deep water. Well done Ian! Members are reminded to record their catches in the club fishing diary. Contact Rob Winwood to register your catch.



Please note that fish of the month and photo competition entries will cut off on Sunday 21 May (entries received after this will be included in the June entries).

Up-coming Competitions

Sat 20 th May	Doughty Shield, Kourarau Dam
Sat 17 th June	Ruamahanga River
Sat 8 th July	Gibbs Shield, Hutt River
August	No competitions
Sat 23 rd Sept	GJK Shield, Hutt River
November	No competitions
December	No competitions

All competition dates are weather dependent. Members can sign up for competitions at club nights or via the club website. Contact Thomas Fichtner 0210736210 for details.

The next competition is the **Doughty Shield Kourarau Dam competition**. This is our most popular competition and is planned for **Sat 20th May**.

Note that this the last competition before AGM (Annual General Meeting) when the winner of The Club Championship will be announced. This is the last chance to gain points for that Championship. Details for this competition are in the attachment of this email. All members are welcome and if anyone have any questions please feel free to ask.



Kourarau dam is placed few kilometres from Carterton, Wairarapa and is a popular fishing location, stocked with impressive sized rainbow trout and perch, and great for family outings too. In 2014, the Wellington regional Champs were held at this beautiful spot with several competitors from Wellington, Auckland, Gisborne and Hawkes Bay entering including well-known names such as Cory Scott, Belinda Thomas, Tony Houpt and Lloyd Struthers. Some fish caught were well over 50cm. This competition will be held on Saturday the 20th of May. The competition will have 2 sessions (2 x 1.5 hour sessions). In-between those 2 sessions, we will have 1 hour for a lunch break and for getting gear ready for the next session. Within this competition, eligible fish are Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout or Perch and must have minimum of 18cm.

This is bank fly fishing only. Spinning or soft bait lures are not allowed in this competition. Boats, floaties or wading is also not allowed. Competitors are allowed to wade when landing fish only.

We will meet at the Kourarau Dam carpark at 8:00am where competition details and instructions will be given. Competitors will draw for their beats and then we will move to the lake's shore.

Fishing will start at 9:30am. At 11:00am we will have 1 hour break. The second session will start at 12:30pm and finish at 2:00pm. After the competition is individual program but we can stop at Gladstone Inn for short refreshment and a good chat. Here are the driving directions: <https://goo.gl/0cqHmx>

River Safety Workshop Report

Chris Kuchel



On Sunday 2 April, a dozen HVAC members attended a practical on-river safety workshop under the instruction of Glenn Beach. We assembled at

the confluence of the Hutt and Whakatiki Rivers, with water conditions being clear and relatively low. The first point of discussion was how to make sensible decisions about whether to wade or not and if so, where.



Here, Dan Waechter is seen wearing a second wading belt to help prevent water entering his waders. Dan tells us that the cost of having extra tabs professionally added was well-worth the small cost.



The initial exercises focused on using a wading stick, turning around mid-stream and buddying up in faster water when needed.



Then came the fun part...deep water crossing using the running-bounce technique.



What goes down must come back up! And luckily, the water temperature of the Hutt River in early April was surprisingly warm.



Then it was down to the Whakatiki pool to practice swimming in full waders and reading the water to take advantage of the natural eddies.

Those members who attended this practical session learnt many new skills and useful tips. For those who didn't attend, here is a run-down of Glenn's key points.

- First establish whether you really need to cross. Use common sense and don't take unnecessary risks.
- Avoid crossing directly upstream of a rapid. Think what if....
- Plan your crossing before entering the water. Think about your entry and exit points and where necessary, break your crossing down into stages.
- Where possible, always carry a wading stick and make sure it is attached to you by a cord so you don't lose it. However, the last

thing you want is for the cord to tangle around a submerged branch and pin you down, so consider having a quick-release mechanism such as a velcro tab. Carabiner clips are very hard to unclip in an emergency situation.

- It is a good idea to clip your rod into a vest rod holder when wading. This leaves both hands free for the wading stick.
- If you get halfway across a river and realise that you need to turn back, don't walk backwards. Use your wading stick to form a tripod and carefully turn around in stages.
- If you find yourself being swept downstream, let go of your rod, get onto your stomach (not your back) and swim aggressively towards quiet water out of the main flow. The sooner you can do this the better. Swimming in waders and boots is actually quite easy. You will not sink, so don't panic. Act quickly and decisively.
- If you get into difficulty in the water, ask a mate for help straight away. Don't be embarrassed. It is much better to nip a situation in the bud rather than wait until it has escalated into something far more serious.

Easy Peasy Riverside Photography

Krystal Smith

When I'm out fishing I always have my phone on me, and not just in case of emergencies. Most people have a smartphone these days, and they have surprisingly good cameras. I use my iPhone to take all of my photos, but regardless of what camera you use, a few basic principles make photography easy. I don't have any professional photography knowledge, but here are a few things I've learned along the way.

The Basics: Lighting, Composition, Subject

Lighting:

Smartphones often don't handle low-light well; the photos will get grainier as you lose the sun. In saying that, a sunset against water or an angler's silhouette look amazing if there's still enough light. Balance the light from the sky with its metallic looking reflection on the water. Get as much light as possible behind the subject of your photo.



In the day time, make sure the sun is behind you – not your subject. This makes sure they're lit up, and not silhouetted and in shadow unintentionally. If the sun is in their eyes, move to the left or right a bit, or have them look somewhere other than the camera or put on sunglasses. Watch out for shadows - when a shadow is right across the subject of your photo (someone's face for example), it can ruin a picture. But shadows look great when used intentionally - dappling the water or long tree shadows in the evening.

Composition:

Quite often if the focus of your photo is centered and forefront, the background is barely noticed. If you put your focal point a third of the way into the frame (horizontally, vertically, or both), after the eye has seen the focal point it naturally gravitates to the rest of the setting, giving a more immersive feel.



Next step is making sure the background is the best possible angle of your location. Don't aim the camera at a muddy riverbank if you can turn left or right and get a stunning river valley background instead. Also, don't forget the sky - moody grey, wistful cloud streams, cheerful bluebird - it can change the feel of a photo.

Subject:

People:

Candid pictures can capture the emotion of the moment. Sometimes the look of excitement on someone's face as they reel in their catch, or the concentration and care they display as they unhook and release can be so much more moving and unique than the 'grip and grin' shots we're all



used to. Take a few minutes while your buddy is reeling in their catch to get shots from different angles and distances. Take as many as you like and delete the bad ones later. See what comes out well so you can try it again in the future.

Landscape:



Landscapes are all about the feel of a place, and helping the viewer escape - showing them that this is a place you were lucky enough to be, and make them wish they had been there too.

The most common mistake in a landscape photo is forgetting to make the horizon horizontal. If you have a waterline like a lake or the ocean, try to get it straight. If you don't quite get it, this can be edited from your camera roll afterwards with helpful gridlines.

Think about composition - break it into thirds, and try out perfect symmetry sometimes.

Do you want to share the rugged terrain? If so, focus on rapids, jagged rocks and unruly bush - the sharp edges of a place. Is the setting serene and tranquil? Then look to the smooth lines and wistfulness - sky and clouds, calm waters and soft light. If you



want to show the sheer grandeur of a place, get low to the ground and show a little of what's close to you, and some of the sky. Then they can take it all in at once and be as awestruck as you were by the place.



Close-Up:

The key thing to a good close up is just one thing - get that focal point in focus. Smart phones are great for this because you can just tap the screen where you want to focus and voila! I've found my phone will focus to about 10-15cm away. Some cameras with macro lenses will let you go a lot closer.



Remember that composition and lighting are still important with closeups, and still pay attention to the background. If your focal point is sitting on a rock on the water, this won't matter as much, as everything is the same distance away from your camera, so everything will be in focus. But if your background is in the distance, it will naturally blur as you make the camera focus on what's right in front of it. This gives you an immersive, dreamy effect, as the scene in the background is something hinted at but not yet explored.

You can experiment with your landscapes by focusing on something in the foreground. A rock, flower, wooden fence or your rod or open fly box can look great in the foreground and draw the viewer into the adventure that's about to be experienced.

Hopefully this has given you a few things to explore and try next time you're out in the thick of it. Remember that photos can be deleted, and that it often takes ten bad photos to get one perfect one. Take a lot of photos, and take them



from different angles, in different lighting. Have fun with it and never stop experimenting and learning. Happy snapping!



Trout Talk

Big Jack

My topic this month is not directly trout related. Nevertheless, it is important as far as our club is concerned.

I want to talk about your committee. I joined the club in 2003 and was soon asked if I would look after the library which at that time was a position outside committee. I was then asked if I would like to join the committee. These requests came from Keith Tourell our founder so how

could I refuse a request from someone who was not only our founder but who had given (and continued to give) so much to the club.

I have been on the committee in various roles for around 10 years but I am only one cog in the wheel and there are many others who have contributed far more to the club. The reasons a lot of people give for not joining committees are many and varied – no time (encompassing work and family pressures), no experience (lack of confidence) etc. I, am a believer (as are others) in having new people on our committee because this brings enthusiasm and new ideas. Our club is fortunate to have had many capable and dedicated members on the committee over the years. Last year we had several new members on the committee and they have already proved their worth. This year we have several members stepping down and will need at least 4 new committee members.

Our committee generally consists of 10 members including the Past President and with that number the work that needs to be done is neither onerous nor time consuming. Also, the committee has always operated on a collaborative basis in that help is available for any other committee member that may need it. And ex-committee members have always been willing to help the new committee settle into the various roles and also help out with club activities when called upon.

So, this year we look forward to seeing you at the AGM and to seeing some new faces accepting nominations for the committee. We have a number of members who I think are ideally suited for the committee so get someone to nominate you. You can email me at the club's address huttangler@hotmail.com if you want me to nominate you.

Remember, this is your club so have a part in its future direction.

Hutt Valley Angling Club Inc.
Notice of Annual General Meeting

The 42nd AGM will be held on Monday 12 June 2017 at 7.30p.m. Notices of motion and remits for consideration at the AGM must be signed by two financial members and submitted to the Secretary, John Olds (huttangler@hotmail.com) by Monday 22 May 2017. Recommendations to the incoming Management Committee must also be submitted in writing to the Secretary by Monday 22 May 2017.

Agenda for Annual General Meeting, King Lion Hall, 12 June 2017

1. Welcome to members
2. Apologies
3. Notification of items of general business
4. Minutes of the 2016 AGM
5. President's report
6. Treasurer's report
7. Subscriptions for 2017/2018
8. Budget for 2017/2018
9. Presentation of trophies and awards
10. Guiding raffle draw
11. Election of officers
12. Appointment of reviewer of financial statements
13. Appointment of cheque signatories
14. Notices of motion/remits
15. General business

Members have been emailed the 2016 AGM minutes to read prior to the meeting.

Could those members who have trophies please return them to Ross Goodman at the May club meeting:

Fishing trophies - Ian Lawson & Bill Harris

Literary Award - Trevor Jeffries

Photo Competition - Krystal Smith

Jacques Cousteau Award - Mike Nansett

Hot Smoked Trout

The most traditional and popular method of cooking trout is smoking. This is very simple using the type of hot smokers available at most fishing retailers and hardware stores.



For a quick and simple smoked trout:

- Gut and clean the trout. Cut off the head and tail.
- Butterfly the fish - cut length way from the front down one side of the backbone, but don't cut right through, and fold both halves out with the skin side down.
- Either soak in a salt and brown sugar brine for a few hours, or overnight in the fridge, or if you're in a real hurry, sprinkle salt/sugar over the flesh while you organise the smoker.
- When you are ready to smoke, rinse off most of the salt and sugar, pat dry with a paper towel, sprinkle with a little more salt and sugar, and place the fish skin down on a rack in the smoker.
- Cook for 20 minutes.

Smoking Tips:

Make a tinfoil cover for the fish - in many hot smokers, the fumes condense under the lid and drip down onto the fish, causing a very bitter taste where it lands. Your tinfoil 'Umbrella' will prevent this.

When it's ready, carefully lift out of the smoker and take out the bones (backbone and others). If the trout is cooked properly, these bones should come away easily. The only other bones will be a row of small bones on either side, near the front fins.

Source: <https://fishandgame.org.nz/freshwater-fishing-in-new-zealand/prep-and-cook-your-catch/cooking-your-catch/smoked-trout/>

NEW ZEALAND STRIKE INDICATOR SYSTEM



Innovative Design - Brilliant solution **Simple but Functional Tool** - Makes creating an indicator EASY **Quality Materials** - We utilize the highest quality materials **Convenient** - Holds extra tubing sleeves - enough for several full days of fishing **Optimal Size** - Designed specifically for Fly Fisherman **Loop** - Attach to a zinger on your vest for most convenient use **Slot near Tip** - Designed to reduce surface tension allowing tubing sleeve to slide easily onto leader **Hook at End** - Even “old guys” can create an indicator without reading glasses - snares leader easily to create indicator

Jeff Wood

Ph: 021 204 8978

E: fishscene@live.com

Shop Online: **www.FishScene.co.nz**

Shop: 1C Taurima Street, Hataitai Village, Wellington
Just through the tunnel

Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9am – 5.00pm Saturday: 9am – 1pm

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

HUTT VALLEY



Hunting & Fishing®

NEW ZEALAND

The Flyfishing Experts

444 Cuba Street, Alicetown Ph 589 9500

http://www.huntingandfishing.co.nz

Our newsletter is printed by:

Hours Monday to Friday 7.30am to 4.00pm
Check out our Web Site: www.rapidcopy.co.nz

**Jill and Tony
Sammons**
471 2537

Thorndon Centre
191B Thorndon Quay
Wellington 6011
PO Box 937
Wellington 6140
copyit@rapidcopy.co.nz
www.rapidcopy.co.nz

Time is of the essence at

**Rapid
Copy
Ltd**



Digital Printing Solutions

Hutt Valley Angling Club Incorporated

President	Ross Goodman	(04) 233 0087	rgoodman@globe.net.nz
Vice President	Mike Nansett	(04) 586 5659	mnansett@xtra.co.nz
Past President	Steve Doughty	(04) 527 7799	steve@doughty.co.nz
Secretary	John Olds	(04) 934 4150	olds@paradise.net.nz
Treasurer	Mike Nansett	(04) 586 5659	mnansett@xtra.co.nz
Committee	Thomas Fichtner	021 073 6210	unibuild@gmail.com
	Ajit Jogi	021 235 9168	ajgweru@yahoo.co.uk
	Chris Kuchel	021 036 7639	chriskuchel357@gmail.com
	Colin Lewis	(04) 568 2117	lewiscrow@paradise.net.nz
	Krystal Smith	027 822 2882	krystalarrow@gmail.com
	Rob Winwood	(04) 566 1817	shepauto@xtra.co.nz

Who to contact

Casting Clinics	Ian Lawson - (04) 563 5486 - lawsieig@gmail.com
Buddy programme	Krystal Smith
Club trips	Colin Lewis
Newsletter Editor	Chris Kuchel
Newsletter Publisher	Krystal Smith
Fishing Diary Holder	Rob Winwood
Fly Tying	Ajit Jogi
Librarian	Ajit Jogi
Photo competition	Steve Doughty
Club website	www.huttvalleyangling.org.nz
Club postal 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.