



THE HUTT VALLEY ANGLER

Newsletter of the Hutt valley Angling Club Inc

Issue No 422: April 2017



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Editorial

This month's newsletter was going to be a cracker! I had planned on taking a succession of photos of club members in their wading gear getting swept down the Hutt River looking like drowned rats. But alas, it was not to be. The proposed water safety workshop had to be postponed for a week due to unfavourable river conditions. By the time this issue goes to print, the workshop will have taken place and those attending will have learned some invaluable river skills which could potentially save their lives or the life of a fishing mate....and I will have a nice collection of embarrassing photos up my sleeve ready for the May edition. Until then, all the best.

Chris Kuchel

President's Piece



As I sit here the sun is shining and the Cicadas are making their noise seeking a partner before supposedly the colder weather turns up.

It was great to see so many members turn up to the March club night to hear Glenn give his presentation on water safety. I found the way he spoke very interesting to listen to and there was a lot of interaction with those present. Glenn gave us an insight into what it is to be a guide and could enlighten us on a few of his recent experiences in regard to the dangers of crossing rivers. One thing to remember is you will always have a genuine reason to buy a new rod if it was a choice between you or the rod surviving. I have received positive feedback from members who were there on the night and I suspect those that have the opportunity to attend the on water course will also be grateful for the knowledge gained. John Olds and I have purchased the wading sticks Glen was talking about. They are safer to use than the previous ones we had purchased and were of a similar cost. Thanks for the presentation Glen and the work that Steve put in, to make it the success it was.

I have been recently away fishing and managed to get a size 16 barbed hook lodged in a finger on my right hand when I was trying to take the other fly out of the mouth of a fish I had caught. The person who I was fishing with was not a club member but had a good level of experience but like myself had not faced this situation. We thought about it for a while as the finger swelled up and began to go purple. We talked though the technique to be used and put it into practice. The good news was it worked and the fly came out and sailed through the air to be lost somewhere on the riverbed. What I learnt was Yes it does hurt and it is a benefit to fish with another person and perhaps in the future I will consider using barbless hooks. It was at the beginning of our days fishing and not sure what we would have done if the hook did not come out. I wouldn't suggest you practice the technique on you or some other person but it is handy to know. Remember to push the eye of the hook down and do it quickly counting to three isn't advised.

As per my comments at the March club night, we have secured premises at the Stokes Valley RSA for fly tying and Committee meetings. We are still working few some details like making the all-important supper for Committee meetings but it is progressing well. Thanks to Ken and Ajit for finding and securing the premises for us.

It's good to see new people coming along and joining in the club activities particularly the two lads who are always polite and keen to learn. We have a couple of names down for the Buddy Programme which is good to see. A number of members have been away on their own fishing adventures and it would be interesting to read articles about these. If you would like to put pen to paper it would be appreciated. Photos are always good and why not enter some in the club photo competition. If you know someone that members would be keen to listen to at club night can you get in contact with me as we are always on the outlook for such persons.

The June AGM is not far away and have some thought about how you can assist in the running of the club.

Ross Goodman

April Activities

Monday 10 th	Club Night, King Lion Hall, 7.30pm
Saturday 15 th	Goodman Shield Competition - Mangatainoka River
Sunday 16 th	Casting Clinic, Belmont Domain, 10.00am
Wednesday 19 th	Committee Meeting – Stokes Valley RSA, 7.15pm
Saturday 22 nd	Olds Shields Competition – Hutt River

Club News

Next Club Meeting – King Lion Hall – Monday 10 April 7.30pm

The guest speaker at April's club night will be Paul Swain from the Wellington regional Council. He will be speaking about water resource and quality issues and in particular the health of the Hutt River. Looking 30 years into the future, big changes are planned for the urban character and infrastructure of Lower Hutt. Members are encouraged to come along to hear Paul speak about the issue that will affect us all.

Alternative Venue for Committee Meetings and Fly Tying Night

HVAC has now secured the Stokes Valley RSA as a permanent venue for Committee Meetings and Fly Tying evenings. Committee meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of each month and Fly Tying will be held on the last Wednesday of each month. Note the earlier start time of 7.15pm.

Casting Clinic

This month's casting clinic will be held on Sunday 16 April at Belmont Domain. 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.

Great response to Bound Shield Challenge for March.

Members were asked to make their version or versions of a Cicada at home and to submit these for judging at the March Fly Tying meeting. We had a very good response with six or seven flies entered. The judge had a difficult task to pick a winner because the standard of work was uniformly very good. All the flies on show would certainly catch fish.

Mike Nansett was finally declared the winner as his fly narrowly eclipsed Dan Waechter's fine effort which could have come from Weta Workshop. The judge's verdict was that Mike's fly had marginally more fish appeal and so the shield will go to Mike.

We are looking ahead to see the rabbit flies that will be submitted for the April challenge.

April Fly Tying Night - Stokes Valley RSA – Wednesday 26 April 7:15pm

This month, Matuku style lures. Fly of the month, Taupo Tiger.

Matuku is the name of the NZ Bittern whose feathers were used to dress the original pattern. The name Matuka is a corruption of Matuku but is commonly used to describe this style of fly. Originating in New Zealand, the tying style has been adopted world- wide and nowadays the fly is tied using cock hackles or fur strips for the wing. The lure imitates small fish such as Smelt, Whitebait or Bullies and trout can be seen recklessly chasing these sprats in lake and river shallows at certain times of the year when they are congregating at the water margins to spawn.

See how to tie a Matuku style fly by Jim Misiura, go to YouTube and enter Badger Matuku – Jim Misiura.



Bound Shield Fly Tying Challenge for April

At the March fly tying meeting you made a rabbit fly. Our Challenge this month is for you to make an Easter Bunny fly at home (a rabbit fly) and fetch it to the April fly tying evening for judging.

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.

Raffle Winners in March

Congratulations to Fraser Gibbs 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. Colin Lewis took away the \$20 Hunting and Fishing voucher and also the box of flies.

Photo Competition

This month's winner is Damian Bengree who takes away the \$15 Fishscene voucher. His winning photo "Reel them in" is on the front cover of 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 John Millar for his fine 6lb 8oz brown caught on a local river. Members are reminded to record their catches in the club fishing diary. Contact Rob Winwood to register your catch.

New Committee Members Needed

At the March committee meeting, five of the current committee members indicated their intention to stand down and not seek re-election at the upcoming June AGM. That is going to leave some gaps which will need to be filled. The strength of our club depends on the willingness of members to step up and make an extra contribution for the benefit of the club as a whole. It would be great to be able to welcome five new members to the Committee to replace those leaving. Being on the Committee does require a time commitment, but is a very satisfying task. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Club President Ross Goodman or Secretary John Olds.



Up-coming Club Events

Sat 15 April	Goodman Shield	Mangatainoka
Sat 22 April	Olds Shield – One Fly	Hutt River
Sat 20 May		Kourarau Dam
Sat 17 June	Doughty Shield	Ruamahanga River
Sat 8 July	Gibbs Shield	Hutt River
August	<i>No competitions</i>	
Sat 23 Sept	GJK Shield	Hutt River
November	<i>No competitions</i>	
December	<i>No competitions</i>	

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

Taumarunui Trip

Thomas Fichtner

Me, Colin, Krystal and club members from Hasting club (Pete and Mark) just successfully completed the club fishing trip to Taumarunui. Big Thanks go out to Colin and Krystal who organized this great trip which went very smoothly. We stayed at the Taumarunui Holiday park right next to the river which was very handy to the Whanganui River and provided a good standard of accommodation.





The rivers were in good condition but some of the stones were as slippery as wet soap in the shower but generally the fishing was good. At times it was hard to find where the fish were hiding, with some likely-looking spots drawing blanks. However, after some trial and error we discovered where the fish were holding and then catching them became easy, but landing them was another story. The Whanganui and Whakapapa's trout fight very hard and landing them was quite a challenge (at least for me). Almost every fish I caught was around 4 – 6lb mark and in very good condition.



By the time Sunday came around, it was hard to believe that our trip was coming to the end today. The Taumarunui district is certainly a great place to fish but reluctantly we had to leave and make our way back to Wellington in time for work on Monday morning. Now it's time to start getting ready for the next trip. See you up there.



What do you do when a fish dives into a weed bed and won't move? I wish I had expertise here but as it's only happened 3 times in 47 years, I can only share my experience today.

The corner pool on the Wainuiomata River is about 500m up from the bridge in East Harbour Regional Park. It is large, deep and always holds good fish. Fish that have seen it all. Being so close to the road, these good fish must have seen every nymph available and they're difficult to catch. Being there at 4pm wasn't doing my chances any favours but I can't drive by without a look.

Approaching from the Council paddock, one fish was easily visible and I hadn't even got over the fence. There it sat, right on top of a weed bed, close in. I'd have gone right to it but the strong northerly was making it difficult. To get a cast in, I'd have to be upstream of the fish. That bit was okay but the problem was from that location, the fish disappeared in glare. I scanned the rest of the pool for another candidate. Nothing. This was it then.

Late March, things are changing. Galaxiids are on the move downstream to spawn on a king tide. This fish was fishing. Sitting on the weed bed gave him a close up view and chance of a hapless small fish. A fish I got in this pool four years earlier was packed full of water boatmen. Today I suspected something different. Would it turn down a tiny fly though that had nothing to do with a small fish? I walked back up the paddock and hopped over the fence, well up from the fish. Being so shallow, it wouldn't see me approaching. As I got down the bank to water level the fish suddenly became clearly visible. A lovely 3lb jack. It was now moving, ever so slowly.

My choice of fly was a soft hackle hare's ear tied on a Kamasan B160 #16. 1X short, making it the size of a #18 but with a #16 hook gape. Unweighted. Out it flew and straight into vegetation behind. The back cast would have been sufficient in a normal wind. Not here though!

This is a crunch time. Get frustrated and try to pull the fly free or calm the heck down and gently release the fly? Well, you can forget about the

calmly bit but I did unravel the fly and tippet carefully as it was a length of 4lb mono, only .12mm in diameter. Free. Now to find the fish. It was still there and the cast pitched less than a metre in front. Perfect enough as the fish sped over to grab the fly. ON! Off the weed bed it sped, over the edge and down into the deep, dark centre of the pool. Then nothing. It was still on, well there was tension on the line. Often a fish will get around a snag, draw the line tight then break off. I've been left feeling still connected to a fish before but it's a damn snag instead. After no signs of life, there is nothing to do but break the fly off.

Not here though, this felt different. It isn't a hole for snags but it does have huge weed beds. Drawing the rod back there was strong resistance, no trout wiggle and I could imagine the trout wedged deep in a submerged weed bed. Too much pressure would snap the fly off. Too little and I'd be here all day, still with no fish. Pressuring the fish with the rod tip risked breaking the rod and imparted little pressure on the fish. What I did was point the rod tip at the fish, levering the rod by the butt section. This way a whole lot more pressure was applied. There felt no change. Maybe a little. In this game, a little is a lot! Do it again, just enough pressure to move the fish but not enough to break the line. 3 and 4 times, it worked. Slowly, I was making some line. Holding the line tight and levering with the butt section was working. And then it popped out, the fish was free of the weed. If it got off now, I felt it'd been a huge victory. Larger fish have snapped me off in this pool before and now I could see this fish again. It didn't want to come in but the game was over. After a few more minutes, I was reaching down to free the tiny fly from the front of the mouth, leaving the fish in the water. Now free, it continued to sit there and recover as I backed quietly away.

That's how it went today and if the situation arises again of a fish stuck in a weed bed, I'll try the same tactic.



Trout Talk

Big Jack

Three topics this month as I prepare to head off to help our son in Christchurch with some work on his recently purchased first home (what you do for one you have to do for the other!)

Toe Biters

This is interesting. Also known as the Dobsonfly larvae. Just returned from a weekend fishing on the Rangitikei with Ross Goodman. The Waterstrider is a great way to fish a river you can't cross and you have the pools to yourself. An inner tube may do the same job if you are adventurous enough. Anyway, I digress. One of Ross's workmates joined us for fishing on Saturday. He landed a trout of about 2lbs which he kept and inside said trout were 5 of these Dobsonfly larvae. Now, they are reasonably large (they can get up to 75mm) and Ross's friend reckoned these ones were about 50mm. So, for



this particular trout it was a pretty reasonable meal. The interesting thing is that catch and release was practised on this occasion as three of them were still alive and swam away happily. So, the trout gave up its life for the greater good! I told you this would be interesting!!

Wading Sticks

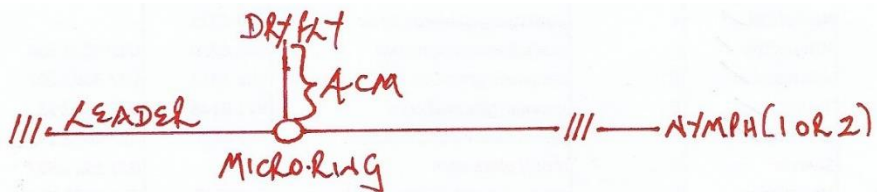


I posted on the Club's Facebook page that I had purchased one of the above wading sticks from Macpac for \$41.99. These have a clip system to keep the sections in place and they are also designed so that they extend further than normal and a camera can be screwed into the top of the stick so it acts as a steadying "pole" so to speak. I test drove mine on the Rangitikei last weekend. They are well worth the money. The clip system is superior to the usual tighten up sticks and each section has a hole in the bottom to allow drainage. You can buy more expensive poles at \$89.99 and \$99.99 from Bivouac if you so desire. This one suits me fine. A

tip is to separate all the sections after you have finished for the day and lean them against something to allow drainage. Then put the sections together loosely but don't tighten the clips. A touch of silicone spray is a good idea.

Dry/dropper set-ups

I have just celebrated my 66th birthday and to prove that you are never too old to learn, I took a tip from Ross Goodman. It's not actually his idea; Ajit Jogi can be thanked for it. I have been in the habit of tying my dropper line truck and trailer from the dry fly as many do. Ajit's method is to have a micro ring between the leader and the dropper and then tie the dry on a length of nylon no more than about 4cm from the micro ring.



Advantages:

1. Less tangles.
2. Seems to cast better.
3. Dry fly floats better on the water (proven on the river).
4. When you've finished fishing just snip off the dry at the micro ring and wind everything back on your reel. With truck and trailer you have to remove the dropper section.
5. Without the nylon at the bend of the dry fly hook you have a better chance of hooking a fish that has a go at the dry.

And for those who are worried about knot strength with three knots in this scenario, don't be. I tied everything with an improved clinch and hooked a 3.5lb rainbow in fast water. I gave it plenty of willing to get it into the net and everything held together. I've said one or two nymphs. You have to experiment a bit with weight depending on what you are using for your dry. Obviously a large dry will support more weight. Personally, I find I catch just as many fish using one fly (usually a tungsten bead #14) and it's easier to change one that faff around with two. But, each to his own.

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Trout in Oatmeal

- 2 large trout fillets
- 1 cup of fine ground oatmeal
- 1/2 cup of milk
- 1 tsp salt
- 3 tbsp butter, softened
- 2 tbsp finely chopped parsley
- The zest and juice of half a lemon
- A good grind of black pepper
- nut oil to fry



Mix together the butter, parsley lemon zest/juice and black pepper together until smooth. Place on a sheet of glad wrap and wrap tightly, before putting it back in the fridge to firm up.

Mix together the salt and the oatmeal. Cut each fillet of trout in two, then dip into the milk. Let the excess milk drain off, then dip into the oatmeal mixture - being sure to coat thoroughly. Place in the fridge while you prepare the sides.

Heat a decent amount of oil in a shallow frying pan. Get it nice and hot - we want to get a good crunch going for the oatmeal - without overcooking the fish. Carefully lay the trout into the oil, and allow to cook for a couple of minutes, until the oatmeal is nice and golden. Carefully turn and cook for another couple of minutes on the other side.

Serve the trout with roast potatoes and veg. Take the parsley butter out the fridge and cut into slices with a shape knife. Place the butter on the trout - and enjoy!

Source: <http://kittensinthekitchen.blogspot.co.nz/2008/08/scottish-scran-3-trout-in-oatmeal.html>

If you have favourite recipes to share, please email them to Krystal

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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.