



THE HUTT VALLEY ANGLER

Newsletter of the Hutt Valley Angling Club Inc

Issue No 437: August 2018



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Editorial

It is my pleasure to produce your newsletter. I would say my computer skill has become rather rusty but with excellent help have managed to put this document together.

Our Club has always had a newsletter initially a single page newsletter but as more content became available pages were added leading to a booklet which was produced and handed to the members then later issues were posted.

Today with our excellent WEB site information is readily available to members. However, the WEB site requires a written document to provide monthly records of the members' activities.

The newsletter provides this link and it is my intention to use the information you as members provide.

Please include with your fishing reports and photographs supporting information such as: - weather and water conditions, were other anglers fishing and area features such as willow planting, cross blading, or visible 4WD activity on the river bed.

The more information we receive the better the record of how the fishery is today.

Grahame Kitchen

From the President

Is it my imagination, or are the days starting to get noticeably longer?

As I step off the train at Melling station at about 5.30 each evening and walk past the Hutt River to the car, the sky seems a lot lighter and the water is looking more and more tempting.

I can see that in a week or two, it's going to be quite possible to nip down to the river after work and get in a quick fish before dinner.



We seem to be currently having a run of settled weather, making for cold but clear fishing conditions. And yes, there are still a few good fish to be had in the Hutt River at the moment and this will only get better as the spawning fish start to drop back downstream as the weather warms up.

The Turangi trip planned for 24 – 26 August is shaping up well, with a few spaces still available.

The casting and fishing masterclass with John Gummer planned for October has generated a lot of interest, and the start of the new season should see the resumption of regular club trips to the Wairarapa.

And if the weather turns nasty again in the next couple of months, which I'm sure it will, that's always a perfect excuse to relax at home by the fire with your fly-tying box and favourite winter tippie.

See you at the August club meeting.

All the best

Chris

Club Notices for August

Monday 13th Member's meeting King Lion hall King Street, Upper Hutt at 7.30pm

Steve Doughty will be speaking on declining participation in fresh water angling both in NZ and internationally, what is causing it and how we can be part of the solution.

Sunday 19th Casting clinic from 9am at Belmont Domain. Please register with Ian Lawson so he can advise you if there are any changes generally caused by weather.

Wednesday 22nd Committee meets in Stokes Valley RSA rooms at 7.15pm.

Wednesday 29th Fly Tying meeting in the Stokes Valley RSA rooms at 7.15pm

Wednesday 29th Copy deadline for September newsletter

Thursday 30th Rise Fly Fishing Film Festival Light House Cinema Petone 8.30pm.

Club News

Buddy Program

With August now with us, it is time to get prepared for the start of the new season in October.

Things to get sorted in priority are:

- a) Pay annual membership to HVAC.
- b) Pay for new all year fishing license
- c) Get mind and body in shape
- d) Enrol for the Buddy Program
- e) Ensure gear is in up to it for the next fishing trip
- f) All the other things that get in the way of stopping me going fishing

Right, now we have got the priorities sorted give some time to enrolling for the Buddy Program.

The next two months are the best time to do this because, it gets you out of the house and try out the existing fishing gear and justify why one needs to visit the sports shops seeking a bargain.

At this time of year there are some hardy soles who will take you out on the water to improve your casting and give you some practical tips that may make your next fishing trip all the more successful.

Not making the effort now will mean that when the season is in full swing you are unprepared and those helpful hardy soles will be away fishing without you.

We are planning to have John Gummer and his mate Tarn spend a weekend with us in mid October to give us some expert casting guidance.

Getting in some practise beforehand will assist with your casting that the boys can then work on.

I cannot guarantee that you will catch a fish but I can suggest we can all learn and become better fishers if we take some time to get out on the water with somebody else and watch what they do.

Hope to hear from you.

Ross Goodman
Buddy Program Coordinator

Fish of the month

The winner for July is Bill Harris with a 4lb 4oz rainbow hen caught on the Tongariro.

Subs are now Due

This year's subs were payable following the AGM and final date for payment is 31 August. Please give this your urgent attention to help with our cash flow.

The preferred method of payment is on line. Visit the club website, or alternatively you can send a cheque to the Club PO Box 40135 Upper Hutt or give to the treasurer at the August club meeting.

Library News

The library is open from 7pm on club nights. Please return all items borrowed to the librarian, Ajit who will record their return. One month is the loan period and return ensures the item is available for another member.

Photo Competition

Congratulations to Ben Connolly this month's winner "Looking at You" which appears on the front cover of this issue. A Hunting and Fishing voucher provided by our sponsor Grahame Kitchen is awarded to you.

Bound Shield Fly Tying Challenge for August

This month we would like members to tie a Chironomid Pupa on a size 12 grub hook. Your fly can be tied to a standard pattern or can be your own design or version of popular flies: the glo bug and a whitebait pattern.

Fly Tying News

At our July meeting an epoxy covered fly was demonstrated and this style of tying has become very popular using UV cured resin that sets like glass in a few seconds, upon exposure to UV light.

The next club fly tying night is 29 August. We will be doing variations of two popular flies: the glo bug and a whitebait pattern.

Ian Lawson will be demonstrating his basic glo bug then his larger egg pattern he's used with great success on still waters like Lake Otamangakau.

John Millar will be tying a small whitebait pattern then a larger, more traditional smelt pattern.



These are all popular patterns for the late winter - early spring period and have been chosen because they are suitable for all fly tying skill levels.

Photo from fishmag.co.nz

Club Trip Programme 2018-19

An important element in providing members with a variety of angling experiences during each season is our club trip programme. You may recall that, in response to declining trip participation over the past 3-4 years, we conducted a survey to better understand the influences on this. This revealed a range of priorities, constraints and other factors were crowding out the time available for participation. These included increased weekend work, leave constraints, family or other sporting commitments, destination and distance, trip structure and, for some, a lack of confidence and trepidation of the unknown.

Using the feedback and suggestions provided we've made a few changes to our trip programme for this year. Firstly, we've reduced the number of multi-day trips to three and we'll focus these toward: Turangi/Taupo (early season), the Hawkes Bay (mid-season) and one other to be determined (later season). In addition, we'll re-start a monthly Wairarapa ½ day/full day trip through the later spring

and summer months and we'll alternate this on Saturdays and Sundays. We'll also try some different things including appointing a trip leader who will help plan and then lead each event in situ, as well as provide additional insight of each destination during club nights.

In combination with the various club championship events, speciality sessions such as the proposed Casting Masterclass, and regular Casting Clinics and Buddy programmes we'll have an enviable range of offerings that should cover most members appetites. The key however is member participation and with this in mind here is our first offering ...

Turangi Fri 24th – Sun 26th August 2018

A fishing trip to Turangi is simply one of those must do activities for most freshwater anglers, and late August provides a perfect opportunity to either cross another one off the list, or renew a past relationship with the region.

Where:	Turangi
When:	Friday 24 th – Sunday 26 th August
Accommodation:	Turangi Bridge Motel, \$57.50 p/night p/person share twin. (4.5/5 Rating on Trip Advisor)
Places available:	Eight (5 booked, 3 available). (it may be possible to book extra rooms)
How to register:	Via the club website/trip
Licence type:	DoC issued Taupo Fishing Licence (not a Fish and Game catchment area)
Trip Leader:	Chris Kuchel

Often referred to as the unofficial trout fishing headquarters of New Zealand, the township sits on the banks of the Tongariro River, with Lake Taupo only a few kilometres away. While it may be preaching to many who are already converted, the Tongariro is renowned as one of the premiere fishing rivers in the world and is considered New Zealand's most fished river.

The Tongariro just one of several fine angling rivers within easy reach of Turangi including the Waimarino, Tauranga-Taupo (TT), Hinemaiaia and Waitahanui – all offering a variety of water to suit most styles and abilities. If there was ever an award for the Mecca of fly-fishing destinations Turangi would rate a strong contender.

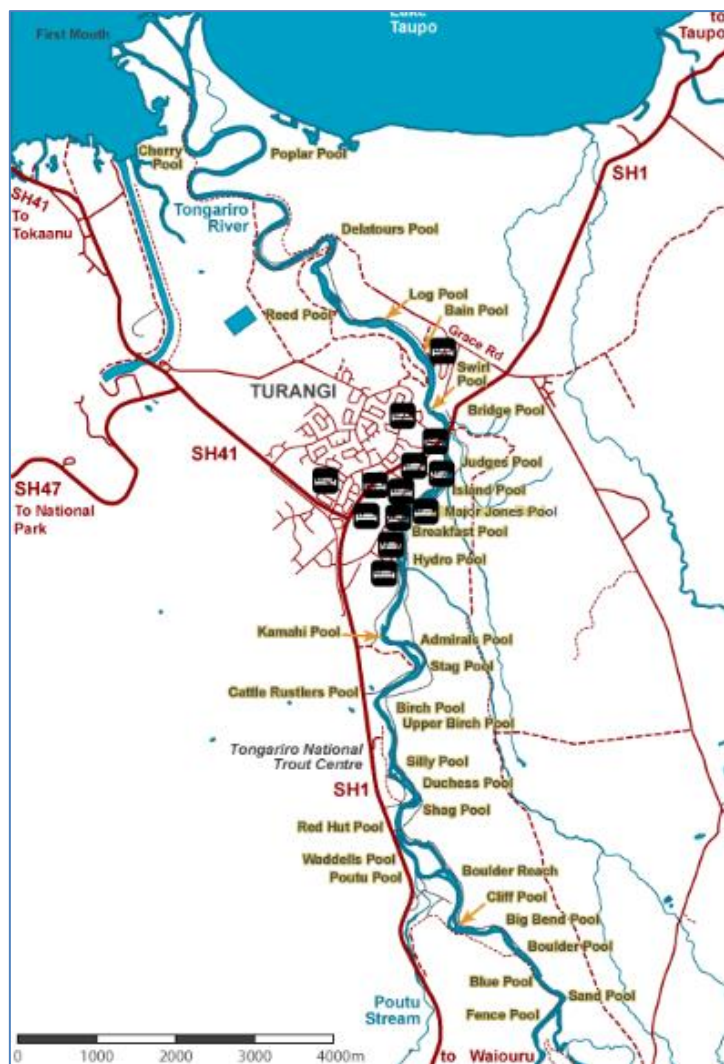
The Tongariro River

The Tongariro is a wide swift flowing and deceptively powerful river entering Lake Taupo northeast of Turangi. It has a number of easily accessible and fishable pools and runs and while it is prone to flooding after heavy rain it does clear relatively quickly. It is estimated 75% of the trout in the Tongariro are rainbow trout which make their migratory run up the river from the lake over the colder winter months between July and September. These runs can see schools of several hundred fish each taking time to rest in pools as they progress upstream.

The river is a mixture of deep pools, long runs and boisterous rapids. Pools on the Tongariro add to its mystique and often reference historical people who have fished the river (eg, Major Jones Pool, Duchess Pool), or their location (eg, Bridge Pool, Birch Pool, Red Hut Pool). Many of the "town" pools are accessed by well-groomed and easy walking tracks. There is also good vehicle and short walking access running parallel with SH1 to most pools and rapids further upstream.

The Tongariro and other rivers in the region are suitable to a range of fishing techniques including nymphing, wet lining and dry fly options. In winter, the most common approach is nymphing using 8lb leader/tippet with a heavily weighted nymph/bomb (with a 4mm or larger tungsten bead) and trailing egg pattern (Glo Bug) tied truck and trailer style. Many colours are used for the egg pattern with various shades of pink, orange, yellow being popular.

General Geography of the Tongariro River



(image c/-NZFishing.com)

Licensing

Falling under Department of Conservation (DoC) management, a separate Taupo Fishing Licence is required. Options and prices for these range from \$99 for a 2018–19 season licence, \$42 for a week and \$20 for a 24hr licence. Rivers in the region are frequently patrolled by DoC rangers and a licence should be purchased online in advance (you will need to print the licence), or can be obtained from one of several tackle shops including Sporting Life at Turangi.

Other

I'm also told the local bakery at Turangi has pies to die for, can vouch for the meals at the local hotel, and for those wanting a full-emersion trout experience, a stop at the DoC run Tongariro National Trout Centre and Hatchery (SH1, 3km south of Turangi) is well worth an hour or so on the way home!

Last Month's Meeting

The meeting held in the King Lion hall Upper Hutt was attended by 28. Andrew Burdon the advertised speaker was not available to speak on fishing from Turangi and Chris Kuchel gave a very interesting and informative presentation using film clips.

These included fishing the Tongariro – a cold August day on the boulder reach, Fishing the nymph, The use of heavy flies with weighted size 14 and a second fly size 16.

Basic presentation on Czech nymphing to match conditions when there are hatches.

Raffle winners were:

Guiding Raffle	Peter Parker
Wading Stick	Fraser Gibbs
\$20 H&F voucher	Geoff Stuart

Fish of the month was won by Trevor Jefferies for a 4lb 5oz rainbow hen caught in the TT.

Members were reminded that a new licence was required from 1st July to fish the Tongariro District.

Articles

"Something is wrong when you see that" was an opening remark by Mike Joy at the World Water Day Forum last March.

No, he was not commenting on dairying or nitrate issues, but the state of the Hutt River and the amount of silt it was carrying into Wellington Harbour after recent rain.

The question then was what could be contributing to the silt load given the relatively short length of the Hutt River, much of it flowing through an urban environment.

The reasonable assumption was the logging operations in the Akatarawa and Whakatiki catchments as well as on the western flanks of the river around Totara Park as prime sources. Logging of 43 hectares has now commenced in the Mangaroa Plantation with operations due to finish in six months.

Over the next two years further operations will proceed in the Pakuratahi Forest bringing the total logged area to one hundred and eighty hectares.

Greater Wellington Regional Council and PF Olsen entered into public consultation through a mail out to affected communities and held a public meeting on the matter which included relevant parties and people from the local community.

The key message from all speakers at the meeting was health and safety. Friends of the Hutt River queried what would be done to reduce sediment flowing into the river. PF Olsen's response was "they do have to meet the National Environmental Standard and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Standard, as well as consent conditions. They will be laying sediment traps, among other measures.

According to research and surveys, the area will be back to normal within five years. PF Olsen cannot guarantee 'no sediment' at all".

Of note is the fish spawning season coincides with the current logging operation and subsequent replanting this time next year.

Will the remaining logging operations coincide with the fish spawning season as well? If so, the potential is there to disrupt trout spawning in the area for six plus years.

Is that of concern for anglers that fish the Hutt River and its tributaries?

If so, any ideas on what action we can take individually and collectively?

A week in the life of a young hunter/fisherwoman

Bill Harris
(and a lesson in the perils of social media)

"When are we going for a bushwalk?" was Isla's greeting to us at the beginning of our school holidays routine of being with our youngest N.Z. resident grandchild for 5 days. Ever since her first "live in" stay at her grandparents' house, with 8 mounted stags on the walls along with the rainbow trout, Isla has always thought of herself as a "Hunter and Fisher" when with us.

The next day Carolyn, myself and Isla were almost cresting the ridgeline after an hour and a half climb in the Akatarawas when a quiet but not altogether sure question from Isla behind us, said "Granddad I think I can see a deer.....?".

I had crossed a junction in the ridge track after looking to my left at a small clearing not 50 metres downhill and was studying a similar clearing to our right, when this young 4 point stag appeared. Well, that's my story; nothing to do with the fact that Isla's 7 yr old eyes might be better than my 77 yr old ones! For about 3/4 of a minute the three of us eye-balled this stag below us, me quietly whispering "don't move" before this wild deer, Isla's first ever, broke for cover leaving a very excited little lady with questions about why I wasn't carrying a rifle; not at your tender young age.

Not a week later, after a few days back with her Mum and Dad, found the trio of us walking around Lake Rotopounamu alongside Pihanga Peak behind Tokaanu, Turangi.

"Why can't I go fishing today?" was the question repeated 2-3 times while on our almost 2hr bushwalk.

"It's too windy today" was my reply as we checked out another stoat trap alongside the lake edge track, which I was to learn something about, because Isla got down on her hands and knees and said "No stoat. The golf ball hasn't been eaten yet".

"What! It's an egg Isla." But no, she was right; better eyes again. Persistence pays in Isla's case so on the way back to Ric's house in Turangi we took little Miss Muffin to Lake Rotoaira to show her where she would end up nice and early next morning.

It's obviously not only her eyes that are better than mine, but her fishing as well. Her first cast with the spinning rod with a single hook black Toby fitted (that her 50 yr old mother used to use) and "I think I've got one Granddad". I was thrilled but almost embarrassed at the same time with this apprentice hunter as I scrambled to give her the net! The fish was safely landed this time, not like the trout she caught in February at Lake Kuratau above Lake Taupo, which she sadly lost.

Isla has to dispatch her own trout. She has done so with some I have caught in the last few years and she has learned to enjoy carefully releasing them as well. But she was going to cook this one herself for her parents as even though it was only 2lb it was legal size, as I carefully explained to Isla as we measured it.

As I scrambled to try and find time to assemble my fly rod, not 7-8 casts later an excited little voice exclaimed "Got another one" followed not 5 seconds later with "It's huge Granddad!"

This was almost too much for this life-long troutfisher elderly Granddad as I couldn't find where "someone" had put the net, but another yell "Don't need the net, I've got it, it's huge!"

Well we were both thrilled. I managed 15 minutes with the fly-rod, while an exhausted Isla had a rest and photos were dispatched via my 'smartphone'; yes I know how to do that now!

The end result, a very happy Granddad, a very happy grandchild, and a lesson learned about 'social media'. On arriving back in Turangi and a big hug and lunch from Grandma, I was shown what was already on Facebook, lovely photos of Isla's 2lb and 2 1/2lb trout, with the message underneath: Isla 2, Granddad 1, have a happy day Grandad. Think I will go by myself next time.

Remembering my start in the great outdoors, I've strongly advised Isla to frame her first Taupo full season licence as well as her Rotoaira one. I've started a lot of young people in my time, but never one this young!

Show and Tell

This month marks the start of a new section to the newsletter where members can contribute their recent catches for us to admire. With less than half the membership using the club Facebook page there are a lot of people missing out on seeing what other members are catching.

Thanks go to Dave Syms for his contribution.

Hi All

These fish were caught mid July, in the middle of the day, in the lower bridge pool on the Tongariro.

The day was clear but cool around 8 degrees. Both fish took the globug which was fished under a weighted hair and copper, and both takes were light.

The wetliners had more success than the nymphers but both methods hooked and lost several fish.

Cheers
Dave



Hi All

On the 30th June Justin Murphy very kindly took me fishing on Hutt River, after I put up a post on a Facebook page looking for a fishing buddy. To be honest I didn't expect to catch a thing. I was using a single size 12 gold bead hair and copper which I thought would be too big for Hutt River. The day was a mixture of cloud and sun and it was impossible to spot fish, even though the water was clear. I let Justin fish through ahead of me. He blanked through the run but, even though I was following him, I did okay.

The first fish that took the fly was as fresh as you could hope for and somersaulted all around the pool about half a dozen times. I didn't have my net with me and there was nowhere to beach it so I called Justin down to do the honours. However just as he went to net it, it made one last effort for freedom and spat the hook. It was a good size fish – only slightly smaller than the second fish which didn't put on such a show but is easily the largest I have caught since I started fishing the Hutt last summer. I estimate it was about 4lb.

The third fish was a sardine but still very pretty.

Kathryn



If you've got something to Show and Tell send it to me kvinten@gmail.com with details on where, when and how.

Green Trout Guiding

Sponsor of the Club's Guiding Raffle
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RISE Fly Fishing Film Festival - Wellington

LIGHT HOUSE CINEMA - PETONE

52 Beach St, Petone

Thursday, 30th August 2018

8.30pm- 10.30pm

visit

www.flyfishingfilmfestival.co.nz

to buy your ticket online

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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 members of the Club.