

HVAC Tips & Tricks

Fly Selection

Most successful anglers will use very few different flies and generally catch most of their trout on variations of **not more than ten flies**. Talk to experienced fishos to find out their favourite patterns then base your collection around their choice.

Experienced anglers will also tell you that size is almost always more important than colour when changing a fly. Very often, putting on a smaller fly will tempt a trout that has refused the same pattern in a bigger size.

Fly Protection

No doubt quite a number of our members carry their arsenal of flies in the slit foam type of fly box that slips into the pocket easily. They can also slip out of your pocket just as easy. Our president attaches strings or chains to his boxes to prevent loss and we would recommend that if you don't wish to do something similar then at least write your phone number on the box with a waterproof marker pen. If it is picked up at the river then there is a very good chance you will receive a phone call from the finder.

Nymphs

Having trouble figuring out which are weighted nymphs and which are unweighted? If you have more than one fly box then try keeping weighted nymphs with your dry flies in one box and the unweighted in another box but always replace them into the box they came out of.

Another tip worth repeating is to make sure you carry a few HARE AND COPPER nymphs. These should be tied in three sizes, 12, 14 and 16 and it pays to have some heavily weighted with bead heads. The golden rule is to tie these nymphs as rough and hairy as possible. They are a good all round representation of many mayfly nymphs and caddis larvae.

Line Weights

If you have several different weights of fly line, it can be a problem to remember what the line weight is for each one. Joan Wulff uses a waterproof marker and makes coloured dots near the end of the line. 5 wt line = 5 dots etc.

Rod Sections

Rod sections are less likely to jam together or fall apart during casting if the spigot is waxed from time to time. Specialty waxes can be bought at tackle stores but Paraffin wax (candle) works fine and Beeswax is better still because it increases the grip due to its low melting point and tacky feel. Beeswax is also very handy for waxing your thread when fly tying. Beeswax is available from HVAC @ \$1 per cake and will last your lifetime.

Support our **sponsors** by buying locally and qualifying for a discount by producing your membership card.

Floating Indicators

These days there are many variations of floating indicators available. Your local fishing tackle stockist will carry a range varying from clip-on foam indicators, to small bubble float types, to sticky disposable types, to the more traditional globug yarn types. We should not forget the bushy dry fly option as well.

If you are looking for information on indicators then look at Utube and other sources by Goggling —strike indicators or something similar. The best way to decide what works for you is to try several different types throughout the season. When you discover what suits you then share it by telling other club members. Remember that even experienced anglers are always keen to learn.

Netting Trout

When netting your first trout you should not chase the fish with the net. Tire the fish sufficiently then place your net low in the water and lead the fish over the net whilst keeping its head high. Lift the net out of the water to capture the fish.

It is often best to net your own fish because a good fish lost through careless use of the net may result in a stony silence between fishing mates!!

Hooked Up

If you, or a companion, are unfortunate enough to drive a hook into exposed flesh then the best way to remove it with very little discomfort is to hold the hook with the shank parallel with the skin. Next take a loop of nylon around the bend of the hook.

Press the hook downwards to disengage the barb and quickly pull the hook free using the loop of line to pull it back out.

Spinning Gear

When spinning gear is allowed on rivers and lakes it is worthwhile considering making use of a lightweight spinning outfit to fish a fly. Using a bubble float to give weight, a short leader is attached to the end of the line beyond the bubble float. It is advisable to use small swivels at the joints to avoid snarling. This gear can be used effectively to make a long cast under overhanging trees on a river or to gain distance in a lake. The beauty of this system is that there won't be the obvious presence of a fly-line just fine monofilament that should not scare fish. The float doubles as an indicator for sunken flies. If it bobs under, this tells that something has pulled the fly.

Fishing Advice

Some of our newer members are in the very early days of their fly fishing lives, and it can be very confusing when you are bombarded by all sorts of advice from other anglers. There are countless points of view on technique, suitable tackle and the best brands and breaking strains of nylon or fluorocarbon tippet to use. The "Fish and Game Magazine" which is published periodically carries a lot of advice from experts on where to fish and the most proven methods for a given location and time of year. The "New Zealand Trout Fisher" is another quality publication that offers excellent and innovative advice on fly fishing for trout. Copies of these magazines can be sampled in the library swap box and members are encouraged to read through them at leisure.

Line Control

Most of our novice fly fishers will have learned by now that there is a golden rule that applies in most cases when dry fly or nymph fishing. AVOID LINE DRAG that will cause the flies to drift in an unnatural way. We talk of making a drag free drift. This can be achieved by casting across and upstream, then retrieving slack line as it floats downstream. It sounds simple but this business of line control is often the main difference between successful anglers and the others.

Line control may involve mending which is repositioning the line in relation to the fly or flies in order to minimise the effects of differential current flows on the fly line between the rod and the fly. When fishing blind, it is usually desirable to manage as long a drag free drift as possible. In this way the angler will be presenting his fly in a manner that is attractive to more fish.

Another very important point in nymph fishing is that nymphs and larvae live on the riverbed or in weed beds and only rise upwards if dislodged by fast water or if they are in the act of

hatching into a winged fly. This is not strictly true because scientific studies show that nymphs drift freely downstream twice during the night. It can be assumed that this is a way of populating fresh pastures or moving away from potential problem areas. Bearing in mind that nymphs are usually on the bottom then it is of paramount importance to drift the artificial fly in the same zone so that it behaves in a natural manner.

Best Fishing Advice

Although this message may be getting repeated quite a lot and at the risk of boring our newer members, this is probably the best tip we can offer: FISH THE RIVER OR LAKE EDGES BEFORE YOU WADE. A member of the HVAC had his first outing to the Hutt River, in a while. The water level was high and very slightly coloured. He only saw two fish but both were less than two feet from the bank. Brown trout favour slack water and can be found close to the edge at night and early in the morning. If undisturbed they may remain there during the day, although they will most likely move to a better feeding station.