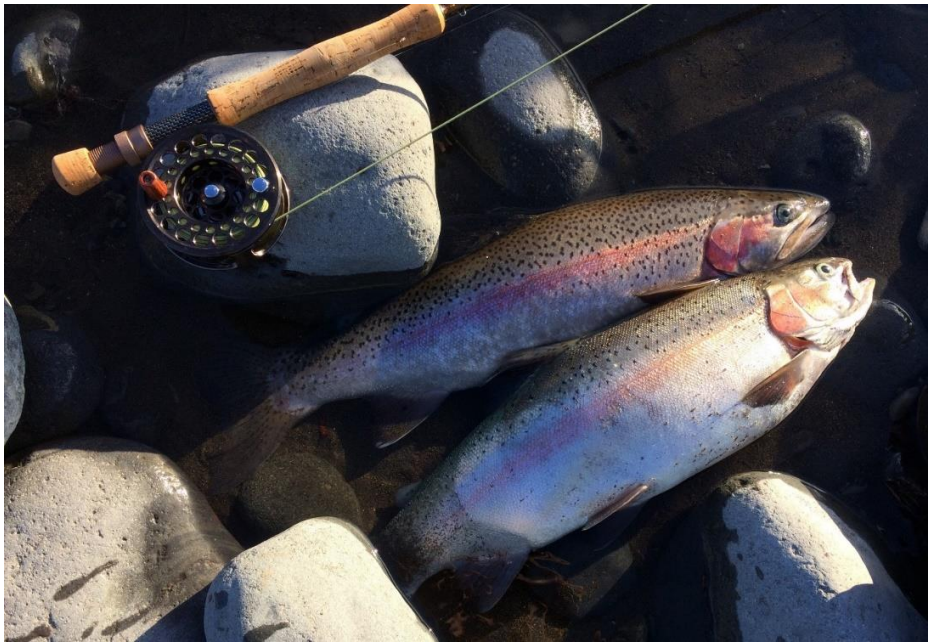




# **THE HUTT VALLEY ANGLER**

Newsletter of the Hutt Valley Angling Club Inc

Issue No 438: September 2018



## **Contents:**

Presidents Report  
Club Notices for September  
Club News  
August Trip Report  
Casting Clinic, "Build Your Skill Set"  
Show and Tell  
Poached Trout

## **Editorial**

Note that this month's members meeting will be held in the Hardwick-Smith Hall by the scout hall on the Belmont reserve.

There is also detail of the casting clinic with John Gummer and Tarn Mack-McEwen "Build Your Skill Set" to be held on the Belmont reserve October 13<sup>th</sup>.

## **From the President**

Over recent years, active participation in all outdoor sports has been steadily declining and fly fishing is no exception. In an effort to understand what is happening, why it is happening and what can be done to turn the tide, Fish and Game have been consulting with Steve Doughty, who gave an excellent summary of his findings at the August club night. In short, the new strategy is going to focus firstly on retaining existing licence holders, secondly, bringing back those who have stopped buying licences and thirdly, attracting new participants to the sport, in that order of priority.

The other new strategy is to increase awareness of the exceptional "front country" fishing opportunities that are available, often right at our doorstep. Every angler dreams of tramping in to a remote wilderness area and finding an untouched fishing paradise. That's a nice idea but it can lead to the back-country rivers being put under serious pressure, while easily accessible productive fishing waters remain largely untouched. In a recent issue of the Fish and Game magazine, I thoroughly enjoyed reading Andrew Harding's article on spinning for trout and kahawai at local estuaries and river mouths. Great fun, and something that I am determined not to neglect as the whitebait season starts soon.

The other exciting development, which was floated at the August club night was a proposal to switch our club night venue to the Hardwick-Smith Hall in the Belmont Domain, next to the Scout Hall. This venue which is operated by the local council, has many advantages and some disadvantages. The committee has visited the venue and has taken up the offer of a free trial night for our next club night on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September. Let's check out this venue and see if it is going to work for us. It would certainly open up new opportunities for club nights with it's easy access to grassed areas, a BBQ area and the Hutt River. I encourage all members to come along to see for themselves and have their say. Looking forward to seeing you then,  
All the best

Chris

## Club Notices for September

Monday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Member's meeting Hardwick-Smith Hall in the Belmont Domain, next to the Scout Hall at 7.30pm
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Casting clinic from 9am at the Belmont Domain. Please register with Ian Lawson so he can advise you if there are any changes generally caused by weather.
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Committee meets in Stokes Valley RSA rooms at 7.15pm.
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Fly Tying meeting in the Stokes Valley RSA rooms at 7.15pm
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Copy deadline for October newsletter
October Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup>	"Build Your Skill Set" training

## Club News

### Fish of the month

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

### Library News

We all need resources of some sort in everything we do, this is no different when it comes to doing the sport we love dearly. Whether we've been doing it a short or long time there are always new things to learn.

We in the club are quite lucky that we have so many resources available to us - casting clinics, buddy programmes, fly tying meetings and the library.

The library seems of late to be disregarded as a resource. We have some really good books available and informative DVD's. Yes, some may be slightly outdated but still are able to teach us tricks we might never have learned. I borrowed "Deceiving Trout" by John Parsons, a fly-tying book showing how to tie some really good staple flies. Ok, some of the materials used have been superseded by newer and flashier items the bones of the flies are unbreakable and still relevant to the flies we tie today.

So, give the library a go it's there for us to use.

### Photo Competition

Congratulations to Kathryn Vinten, this month's winner "A couple of Keepers" which appears on the front cover of this issue. A Hunting and Fishing voucher provided by our sponsor Grahame Kitchen is awarded to you.

### Photo Competition Rules

The committee has recently made a ruling that once a photograph has been entered in the monthly Photo of the Month Competition, it cannot be re-entered for a different month. In other words, each photo can have one crack at the competition and that's it.

### Fishing Diary Update

During the month of August, 30 fish were registered in the Club Fishing Diary. Bill Harris caught 3 at the Kourarau Dam and another 26 on the Tongariro River. Ajit Jogi caught 1 fish on the Hutt River. I know of several other anglers who also caught fish on the Hutt. Members are encouraged to register their catches with the club diary, no matter how seemingly insignificant. As was pointed out at a recent committee meeting, this diary is a permanent record that may one day be useful in identifying changing patterns of fish population and habitat.

### **Bound Shield Fly Tying Challenge for September**

Tie (at home) your version of a whitebait imitation using a size 10 hook and submit the fly at our September Fly Tying meeting.

The Bound Shield will be presented at the following club meeting to the person whose fly is judged to have the most fish appeal.

### **Fly Tying Meeting – Wednesday September 26<sup>th</sup> at 7.15 p.m. in Stokes Valley RSA**

This month we will be tying three nymphs that are used in the Hutt river. Graeme will be tying a pheasant tail half back nymph and Ajit will be tying a nymph as per the sample photo.



For those members who have never attempted fly tying before this is a good meeting to attend and learn the necessary skills. The club will supply all materials and tools on the night.

### **August Club Trip**

Unfortunately, the proposed club trip to Turangi on 24 – 26 August had to be postponed due to high river levels throughout the week and the prospect of more heavy rain to come. But not to be beaten, Damian, Ben, Justin and I decided to give the Kourarau Dam on the Saturday morning. We left the Upper Hutt station at 8am and sure enough, were greeted at the Gladstone Bridge by the Ruamahanga in a raging flood and completely unfishable. No surprises there, so we pressed on the Dam to find it coloured but in pretty good nick.



We saw a few infrequent rises and all decided that fishing deep with a wet fly type pattern was the way to go.



Damian hooked up first with a nice 2-pound rainbow, followed by Justin with a similar sized fish.



By late morning the wind started to come up, shortly followed by the rain, so Damian and I decided to head home. Ben and Justin stayed for another half hour but eventually called it quits as well. So not a raging success but not a complete failure either. I'm predicting that as the weather warms up and insect activity increases, the Kourarau Dam is definitely going to be worth another try on the evening rise and into the night when apparently the fish become less cautious and hungrier. Maybe I'll even see if those club float tubes are still holding air

Chris Kuchel

## Last Month's Meeting

The meeting held in the King Lion hall Upper Hutt was attended by 28.

### Raffle winners were:

Guiding Raffle	Kathryn Vinten
Fly Box	Colin Lewis
Club Cap	Peter Parker

### Guest speaker

Our speaker was club member Steve Doughty JP, currently consulting to Fish and Game on retention, reactivation and recruitment of anglers. He talked about the trends, both in NZ and internationally of reducing participation in fresh water angling.

He showed the trend of current anglers aging and a lack of younger people, women and other demographic groups coming to, or back to sport fishing. Like many outdoor pursuits subject to the greater demands on people's time, less people are enjoying the outdoors and the wonderful opportunities that NZ presents. It is less about fishing and more about being part of an active social network that Steve presented as the key to the development of the sport.

Fish and Game accept that it is current licence holders that are an important group as we are the network those who are recruited will become part of. We are the mentors and coaches. Our expectations being met as anglers through the work of Fish and Game is important but we each have a responsibility for the present and the future of fresh water fishing in NZ.

## Details of the Casting Clinic

To be held on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October.

### Build Your Skill Set

Following on from the very successful clinic that John Gummer and Tarn Mack-McEwen ran on the weekend of 16/17 September 2017 the club is running another event on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

This year after discussion with John and Tarn we are proposing to change the format a bit to better cater for club anglers.

Essentially, we want to simplify things down for you, by focusing on the basic skill sets that everybody will have to employ in their daily fishing ventures no matter where each individual is at.

### Part 1: Hutt River Belmont Domain: 10.00 am

Introduction to fly casting and basic casting efficiency. Incorporating the 5 essentials into the basic dynamics of fly casting.

John and Tarn will then cover the Double haul and Casting efficiency and effective tools to help each angler. This is often overlooked in our sport. The goal is to get everybody competent at hauling.

As John explains hauling exponentially increases efficiency beyond belief!

Break for a tasty BBQ lunch at 12 noon. This is a "bring you own" food and drink.

### Part 2: Hutt River Belmont Domain 1.00 pm

We will then split the group into two with both John and Tarn covering types of aerial mends or slack line presentations. Practical ways to implement drag free presentations with the cast. Again, something that everybody in the club can benefit from. Some beginner anglers may never have seen or known about these aspects.

Even the advanced anglers will learn a boat load here.

The two groups will:

Alternate between both presenters i.e. Tarn on reach mends, then John with shooting mends, then alternate as they go through each cast.

Both will then teach roll casting dynamics. Making roll casting easy and more efficient, and practical ways to implement into your fishing.

If time permits Tarn will demonstrate the Tongariro roll cast on the water.

Afternoon tea break 3 pm

### **Part 3: Hutt River Belmont Domain 3.15 pm.**

Apply Techniques for different water types.

Getting the fundamentals down for learning fly fishers. What, where, when, how.

From the dry fly to nymphing to streamers.

The basics. Set-up, water types and the how to's. A couple of tools in each of your Fly-Fishing skill set is essential to have success on the water.

There will be lots of whiteboard diagrams so learning is easy and fun for everyone John promises.

John and Tarn will then touch on some light European style nymphing for any intermediate to advanced anglers who wish to stay. Again, set-up water types and the how-to.

Q & A all through the day especially in class sessions.

### **Summary**

What we are seeking is that each member will get the most value possible out of the day and be able to practically implement each part into their current single handed fishing techniques. The basics are often overlooked. Hence why we are focussing on getting everybody's 'finger on the pulse' regarding the basic/fundamentals but essentials.

John and Tarn would like to see each member with their 'go-to' rod and line set-up so bring along your gear. It's good to see what people are using and to ensure that they are using a system that works for them.

Approximate finish time 5.30 pm.

If the water and weather is good we then will go down for a fish employing the new skills we have learned.

### **Costing and how to enrol**

Each session will cost you \$20, if you attend all three as we recommend the fee will be \$50.

To enrol you need to send an email to [rgoodman@globe.net.nz](mailto:rgoodman@globe.net.nz) and pay on line to Hutt Valley Angling Club Inc. Account Number 02 0528 0246 578.

Unless the weather is terrible we will be going ahead, I will get in contact with you mid-week if we are having to postpone the day.

Regards

Ross



## Show and Tell

Last month we started 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.

Thank you to the contributions received this month for Show and Tell. Dave Syms proves that you don't have to be up at the crack of dawn to catch fish.....

"Hi

Last week I had a few days at Turangi. The weather was punctuated by a reasonable quantity of rain mainly overnight. The river conditions changed and fishing was hard with few fish being caught.

On Wednesday 22nd of August at 11am I went nymphing on the RHB at the bottom of the lower bridge pool; river was coloured and rising. I fished using glow bug droppers for 4 hours and hooked 9 fish landing 4. A fisherman next to me also hooked about the same number of fish in that time. On the opposite bank no fish were hooked by the half dozen wet liners attacking the trout.

To me it was a classic case of right place right time right conditions. Great fun and all action. Attached is a photo of the first two fish landed."

Dave Syms



From Simon Auty

I picked up the latest issue of Fly Fisherman in Magnetix the other day and after a quick peruse I was drawn to the article about the Driftless Flyathon.

Driftless is an area in Iowa that looks a little like the back of Upper Hutt with a number of small streams running through it.

The thing that interested me rather than the area though, was the Flyathon, and its by-line: "Run, Fish, Beer".

Apparently Flyathlons have been held throughout the States since about 2014 ish.

So, it's an event where entrants do a 5 or 10 km run, with their rod, along the way they have to fish, each inch of fish they catch (and only 1 fish counts) takes 10 minutes off their time.

If you don't catch a fish then 30 minutes gets added.

Then when they cross the finish line they are handed a can of the sponsors product (a la Coast to Coast)

The event is fun, but its more about the connections made, introducing new people to the sport, and fundraising for a designated Conservation Charity (in the States it seems to be Trout Unlimited usually or a local River Restoration project).

It sounded like fun even to a non-runner like me. So after checking out their Facebook site and then a few YouTube videos, I started talking to the guys who run the event.

So apart from being nice guys, happy to talk to some stranger in New Zealand, Ryan Rahmiller and Andrew Todd are happy to spread the word of Flyathon.

The guys said that because the event caters for a wide variety of abilities that they do allow those who have never Fly Fished before to use a Spinner Setup.

Andrew said that its the kind of event that brings a variety of people from trail runners to people who have never fished before.

Ryan was more than happy to answer any questions about getting an event off the ground here in New Zealand.

Given our location to some good River Trails and Local Councils that want to promote the area and the connection to the River plus some good local breweries I thought it could be something that might work here.

So type Flyathlon in YouTube to get a flavour of the event.

[Simon Auty](#)

## Poached Trout

by Kathryn Vinten

Back in February 2007 I fished with my husband Grant and a friend Pete on Lake Otamangakau on Pete's boat.

It was a long day and the fish weren't biting. We were drifting damsel nymphs below beetles on long leaders and telling a few lies, enjoying a few laughs and partaking in a few refreshing beverages. It took a while but I eventually had a fish on. I don't recall the fish or how big it was but it wasn't a keeper.....and neither were the next three. The funny thing was the boys couldn't latch onto a thing. Not a single fish all day long.

So when my 5<sup>th</sup> fish took the damsel fly about 10m from the boat they were just about ready to push me overboard. However this wasn't any ordinary fish; I could tell by the weight on my rod that this was a big one. It seemed to pay little regard to the fact that it had my hook in its mouth and retreated at some speed into the weed bed about 4m below the boat. Pete had fished Lake O a number of times and, although he had caught a few nice fish, none of them were worth writing home about. And here I was fishing Lake O for the first time and hooked into....well who knew what! I was offered much advice on how it would never come out of the weed bed and that I should put more pressure on it but I decided to play the waiting game. I was using a 7wt rod and my leader was 6lb so I knew that too much pressure would certainly mean I would part company with the fish if I gave it the hurry up. It's about this time that you start praying that your knots are good and wondering just how big that bend in your rod should be.

I knew that the fish would eventually get annoyed and move, which it did. Up she came - and then down she went - into the weed again. After 10 minutes my arm was starting to ache a bit but the

adrenalin rush had worn off. I knew at that time that I was really in control and that I had a good chance of landing the as yet unseen fish – if I was patient.

After 20 minutes of as much pressure as I dared, but of mostly waiting it out with a few mad runs thrown in for good measure, the fish finally succumbed.

So picture this: I'm on one side of the boat leaning out with my rod bent like a wet noodle high over my head unable to wind in any further because of the indicator; the boys have their backs to me and are leaning over the other side of the boat trying to reach the fish and get it into a reasonable size net which, by contrast, is too small. I couldn't see what was going on but there was much mayhem and swearing and instructions being shouted by all to everyone else.

Before I continue I need to tell you another story.

Back in 1996 when I was still relatively new to fly fishing Pete offered to take me up the Tongariro for an afternoon of fishing. I didn't know Pete very well at that stage; he was a friend of a friend. Pete's quite a big bloke; 6'3", legs up to his armpits and a no-nonsense sort of attitude. We parked up at the Blue Pool and walked up river. Well Pete walked. I scurried along behind him in my neoprene waders with about 50 layers underneath in a white hot sweat trying to keep up with him. Each time he got too far ahead I had to jog to catch up. We eventually arrived at the Cattle Rustlers (I think) and Pete proceeded to fish and quickly latched on to a fairly ordinary fish.

Thinking I would make myself useful and get the fish in I walked to the water's edge and as I was about to take the leader in my hand he bellowed "DON'T TOUCH THE F\*\*\*ING LEADER"! I just about filled my waders! I'm sure he was heard half way to Turangi. (However I can assure you that, to this day, I have never touched a leader with a fish attached to it.)

Now back to my story.

So, I'm still on one side of the boat leaning out as far as I can while the boys are attempting to get this fish into the net.

You know how sometimes things happen in slow motion? They don't really happen in slow motion but because they are so traumatic or shocking your brain speeds up so you can observe every minute detail and you absorb so much more of what you are witnessing.

Well this was when the slow motion started for me.

Pete seemed to slowly turn to face me with his hand raised in front of him clutching what looked like a piece of nylon. I tried to process where this nylon had come from but then observed the horrified yet pleading look on his face; his jaw had dropped, his shoulders were shrugged and his eyes were wide as he traced the arc of the fly as it flew over his head and towards me, pivoting from the point where he held my leader in his hand. As the realisation dawned on me my face instantly became a mirror of his with my jaw dropped and my eyes just about popping out of my head. I had time to flashback to 1996 to a loud bellowing voice heard half way back to Turangi. I was just about to wind up with a few not very well chosen expletives when Grant popped up, a beaming smile on his face and my fish spilling out of the net: "I GOT IT"!

I don't know quite how he managed it but a split second after Pete pulled the hook Grant had managed to net the fish. We never did get the true weight of it but the old scale on the net showed it as being just shy of 10lbs.

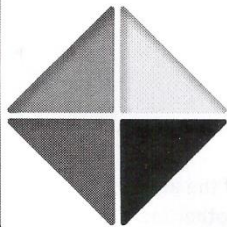
To this day Grant still tries to lay claim to my fish that he netted, that now resides on the wall in my hallway. And each time he does I remind him that he's nothing but a dirty poacher.



#### **Green Trout Guiding**

Sponsor of the Club's Guiding Raffle  
Phone Jim Rainey (06) 382-5507  
Kawhatau Valley Road, RD7, Mangaweka.co.nz  
[office@greentroutguiding.co.nz](mailto:office@greentroutguiding.co.nz)  
[www.greentroutguiding.co.nz](http://www.greentroutguiding.co.nz)

**Our newsletter is printed by:**



**Rapid  
Copy**

191 Thorndon Quay  
Wellington, 6011

Open: 7:30-4:00 Monday-Friday

[orders@rapidcopy.co.nz](mailto:orders@rapidcopy.co.nz)  
[www.rapidcopy.co.nz](http://www.rapidcopy.co.nz)

Ph: 04-471-2537

Hutt Valley Angling Club Incorporated  
[huttangler@hotmail.com](mailto:huttangler@hotmail.com)

President	Chris Kuchel	021 036 7639	<a href="mailto:chriskuchel357@gmail.com">chriskuchel357@gmail.com</a>
Vice President	Ajit Jogi	021 235 9168	<a href="mailto:ajgweru@yahoo.co.uk">ajgweru@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Secretary	Peter Parker	(04) 527 7487	<a href="mailto:parkerpf58@gmail.com">parkerpf58@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Mike Nansett	(04) 586 5659	<a href="mailto:mnansett@xtra.co.nz">mnansett@xtra.co.nz</a>
Committee	Thomas Fichtner	021 073 6210	<a href="mailto:unibuild@hotmail.com">unibuild@hotmail.com</a>
	Kathryn Vinten	027 249 2492	<a href="mailto:kvinten@gmail.com">kvinten@gmail.com</a>
	Brian Jones	(04) 563 7737	<a href="mailto:jbjones@xtra.co.nz">jbjones@xtra.co.nz</a>
	Dan Waechter	(04)527 7236	<a href="mailto:dlwaechter@yahoo.com">dlwaechter@yahoo.com</a>
	Trevor Jeffries	(04) 569 9250	<a href="mailto:trevor.e.jeffries@gmail.com">trevor.e.jeffries@gmail.com</a>

### Who to Contact

Casting Clinics	Ian Lawson	
Buddy programme	Ross Goodman	
Club trips	Trevor Jeffries	
Club competitions	Thomas Fichtner	
Newsletter Editor	Grahame Kitchen	<a href="mailto:grahame.elderslea@gmail.com">grahame.elderslea@gmail.com</a>
Fishing Diary Holder	Entries via website	
Fly tying	Ajit Jogi	
Librarian	Ajit Jogi	
Club website	<a href="http://www.huttvalleyangling.org.nz">www.huttvalleyangling.org.nz</a>	
Club postal address	PO Box 40135, Upper Hutt 5140	

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 member of the Club.