



# THE HUTT VALLEY ANGLER

Newsletter of the Hutt Valley Angling Club Inc

Issue No 427: September 2017



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## President's Piece



I was heartened to see such a good turnout for our August club night despite the atrocious weather. Those present were treated to an informative and encouraging presentation on didymo by Doug Stevens. It seems likely that scientists are getting very close to identifying its cause and are now at the stage of seeking funding for further research into practical ways to stop its spread. Clean waterways are shaping up as a major election issue and Doug's presentation is a timely reminder to us all.

In last month's President's Piece, I said that I was keen to see club activities catering for both new and experienced anglers. To that end, we have a number of events coming up that should have wide appeal. The first is the September club night which will be a pre-season workshop. We asked members for their suggestions on the topics they would like to see covered and have had a very positive response. This workshop is shaping up to be full of valuable information for anglers of all skill levels.

The second event this month is the on-river Masterclass with John Gummer. On Saturday 16 September, John and his colleague Tarn, will run a session on the Hutt River covering topics such as how to read the water, where to fish and how to fish. The following day, members will be able to book individual casting lessons with John and Tarn who are both qualified casting instructors. There will be a nominal cost to members wishing to take part on each of these days, with the bulk of the cost being subsidised by the club. Both these days will be popular and numbers will be limited so members are advised to register early on the club website. This is a fantastic opportunity to learn from anglers and casters at the top level. Many thanks to Ross Goodman for initiating this event.

The third event for the month is a club trip to Turangi on the weekend of 22 – 24 September. HVAC life member Phil McKeown who now lives in Turangi has offered to meet us and give some tips and local knowledge. Phil tells me that the river is fishing particularly well this season. Further details about what equipment to bring and where to fish will follow. Again, this will be a popular event, so early booking on the club website is

recommended. For details about accommodation and cost, contact our trip co-ordinator Colin Lewis.

And for those wanting to fish closer to home, the GJK Shield competition will be held on the Hutt River on Saturday 30 September. Even if you don't want to compete, I would urge you to come along and watch. You will see some experienced anglers in action and pick up plenty of tips along the way.....just stay behind the anglers and don't come dressed in fluoro orange! Contact Thomas Fichtner for more details.

That's all for this month. I encourage you all to take advantage of these great opportunities. All the best

*Chris Kuchel*

### **September Activities**

Monday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Club Night, King Lion Hall, 7.30pm
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup> -Sun 17 <sup>th</sup>	John Gummer Masterclass (details below)
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Casting Clinic, Belmont Domain, 10am
Wednesday 20 <sup>rd</sup>	Committee Meeting, Stokes Valley RSA, 7.15pm
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Fly Tying Night, Stokes Valley RSA, 7.15pm
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup>	GJK Shield Comp, Hutt River

### **Club News**

#### **Next Club Meeting – King Lion Hall – Monday 11 September 7.30pm**

At September's club meeting we'll be holding a workshop which will cover various areas of angling. Some of the topics covered will be:

- Reel, rod and flyline maintenance and care
- Vests and nets: how to carry and what to carry
- Knots, leaders, micro rings
- Fishing with lighter rods
- Early season flies
- Places to fish on the Hutt River
- Fishing etiquette
- Taking of fish

## **John Gummer Masterclass – 16-17 September**

Saturday 16 September

John Gummer and his colleague Tarn, will run a masterclass fishing clinic on the Hutt River. In 2 separate groups, they will show us how they would approach a piece of water they had not fished before and set ups they would use. After about 2 hours we would all meet up have some lunch and then we would have the fisherman go with the other instructor. Then have a catch up for chat if needed.

Cost to members \$20

Sunday 17 Sep

Members can book an individual 30 minute casting tuition session with John or Tarn, who are both qualified casting instructors.

Cost to members \$40

Both these days are going to be popular and numbers will be limited, so early booking is essential.

## **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.

## **September Fly Tying Night – Stokes Valley RSA – Wednesday 27 September 7.15pm**

At September's fly tying night, we'll be tying early season nymphs such as the Pheasant tail, Hare and Copper, and Hare's Ear.

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

At the August meeting, members learned to tie different caddis patterns. For the September Bound Shield we would like members to tie their own version of one of these.

## **Bound Shield Challenge Winner for July**

For July's challenge, members were asked to tie a Stimulator of their design. Congratulations to Tomas Fitchner, who took away the Bound Shield for his entry, as well as second and third place. Here are his flies.



### **Raffle Winners in August**

Congratulations to Gerry McKay for winning the Green Trout Guiding raffle. Tomas Fichtner took away the Hunting and Fishing voucher and John Rochester won the box of flies.

### **Photo Competition**

Congratulations to this month's winner, Colin Thomson. Colin takes away the \$10 Hunting & Fishing voucher and his winning photo "Red Sky at Night" is on the front cover of this month's newsletter.

### **July Fish of the Month**

Congratulations to Bill Harris, who caught a 4lb 10oz Rainbow Jack in the Waimarino River.

### **Club Trips**

September 22 <sup>nd</sup> -24 <sup>th</sup>	Turangi-Tongariro
October 14 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup>	Paihiatua
November 24 <sup>th</sup> -26 <sup>th</sup>	Tukituki
December 8 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup>	Mohaka

## **Turangi Trip - 22-24 September**

HVCA life member Phil McKeown who now resides in Turangi has offered to support this club trip. He is keen to meet us and help with advice and has offered to take novice anglers out fishing. He also said that if any members had questions before the trip about what to bring, they could email him and he will do his best to answer them.

These trips are a fantastic way to discover new rivers, socialise with fellow anglers and learn from each other, and are quite simply a really good time.

If you are interested and would like more information about any of these trips, or club trips in general, please contact Colin Lewis. You can sign up via Colin, on a form at the club night, or on the club website.

## **Up-coming Competitions**

Sat 30 <sup>th</sup> Sept	GJK Shield, Hutt River
October	No competitions
November	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 **GJK Shield Competition, on the Hutt River**. This is planned for **Sat 30<sup>th</sup> September**.

## **2017 Subs Now Due**

This year's subs are due. You can see the rates and renew your membership online via the 'about' page on the club website, or alternatively, you can send a cheque to the Club PO Box 40135, Upper Hutt or give it to the Treasurer at club meetings.



## Trout Talk

*Big Jack*

### **This month – Indicators.**

It's fair to say that over the years I have experimented with different types of indicators and I know I am not alone. There are those that don't fish with indicators and stick to the mantra that if you are a good enough angler you don't need one. I am not one of them. If you are going to target spawning fish in deep water in the depths of a New Zealand winter you need a decent size indicator that will have the buoyancy to support heavy flies. They call these "budgies" in the Taupo area where, as I've said previously, you can only use yarn indicators. They need to be treated with floatant (Mucilin (green label) is one of the best although like most fishing gear everyone has an opinion) and allowed to dry before you hit the water.



They also need to be visible; fluoro colours are good and black can also work in different lights. Constructing indicators of varying colours can also be useful in different light conditions. Having an indicator that is cut square across the top also helps provide a silhouette when light conditions are not great. These budgies are usually connected to the flyline by a clip to the loop at the end of the flyline. A Taupo guide used to construct a leader by using 5 feet of 15-20lb Maxima with a loop at one end which was attached to the flyline (or nail knotted if there is no loop). A small swivel was tied to the other end which was a connection point for the rest of the leader (8 feet of 8lb Maxima) and also helped the leader to sink. The thicker connection carries a movable indicator. But

some also use the rubber “o ring” method. This is covered a bit further on.

In this article, I’m going to talk more about indicators that lean more towards smaller water/summer fishing although there are crossovers to the bigger budgies. And I’m not going to talk about stick on indicators as I tried these many years ago and found them unreliable – they have a low profile that is hard to see in fast water, they tend to get lost in the foam line, they pick up dirt and can get dislodged on rocks and other obstacles. Small yarn and float indicators and dry/dropper rigs are the focus. As I’ve tried various indicators I’ve come to the conclusion that an indicator needs to be moveable on the leader. The water I generally fish varies from riffles a few feet deep to pools of 9 feet and more. Stuffing around on the river changing the length of a leader especially if you are dry fly/dropper fishing obviously isn’t productive. There are two main rigs I use, with a couple of variations:

### **The Dry Fly/Nymph Dropper Rig:**

In simple terms (and I apologise if I’m preaching to the converted here) this usually comprises tying a dry fly on the end of a tapered leader (tapered so the dry turns over effectively) of at least 9 feet then tying a dropper length of “nylon” (you can choose mono or fluoro – I use nylon as a generic term) of about a metre to the bend of the dry then attaching a nymph or nymphs at the end of this. If fishing two nymphs the point fly is generally unweighted (you can use glass bead flies) although some anglers put the heavy fly on point and tie the unweighted fly on a dropper about 50cm above it. You choose. This is also known as the “double your chances rig” as in summer fish will also take the dry fly. The photo below shows a movable dry set up.





The dry is a home tie and the “indicator” material is poly yarn which, together with brushed out macramé yarn, are in my opinion the best materials for this. I fish the Rangitikei a lot and find that these larger indicators work well in the more turbulent water. The dry needs to be as buoyant as possible with plenty of foam and deer hair – I also add peacock herl dubbing for its lustre. I also buy large hopper type patterns when they are going cheap (12 for \$15 recently) and just add a piece of poly yarn or macramé yarn.



The dries above are just variations of the indicator fly. The first two flies from the left are hopper patterns I bought cheap. The first fly has multi-coloured macramé yarn to suit differing light conditions, the second fly has had “Lightning Strike Indicator Yarn” attached. The third fly is a Madam X with a parachute post of chartreuse and yellow poly yarn. The fourth is also a home tie using red poly yarn. Hi-viz posts are good especially as we get older and our eyesight fades. The first thing to say about the rig is that you don’t generally want to have the dropper nylon any longer than about a metre as it tends to get a bit unwieldy. If you have to fish deeper than that go to the yarn indicator discussed below. There will be some that will be asking - why would you want a moveable indicator on a metre-long piece of nylon? If you are fishing water that is consistent in its depth and is mainly free of weed you may not. However,

there are times when a much shorter dropper is required – 1) fishing to spooky browns in shallow water for example (in which case you should have a much smaller dry (Royal Wulffs, Humpies, Elk Hair Caddis, Parachute Adams), 2) fishing an emerger under the dry which is usually no more than 30cms from the dry and 3) keeping your nymphs off the weedy bottom as happens in many rivers in summer. It all comes down to judgement and also remember that you should have your flies as close to your indicator as possible. It can take longer in some waters for your indicator to register a take. You will see in the photo above that there is a micro ring to the right of the dry. This is tied into the tapered leader after it has been shortened a bit. I favour this approach because many tapered leaders have very thin nylon towards the end. I shorten a 9-foot leader to about 7 feet where I can attach a 3-foot length of 6lb nylon with the micro ring. Below this I tie in a nail knot using some thickish braid I have. The dry has a short piece of nylon attached through the eye and at the other end a micro ring. The micro ring is slid onto the leader and then another nail knot tied in. By moving the nail knots the dry will slide up and down the leader without crinkling it.

Now this is one method and once you get into discussing dry/dropper rigs with anglers it can take up a day! Others prefer to adopt the fixed fly method; either truck and trailer or tie a short piece of nylon to the first micro ring I mentioned or tie the dropper off the eye of the dry instead of the bend. It's all about experimentation and finding the best method for you.

## **Yarn Indicators**

As I mentioned earlier these are best used when you need more than a metre of nylon to get down to the fish and they will vary in size depending on what weight you expect the indicator to support and the water you are fishing. You'll generally need a larger indicator in turbulent water and a smaller less obtrusive indicator when stealth is required. Use the smallest you can get away with. I make up leaders for this type of fishing that are generally 9 feet of 15lb nylon with another 2 feet of 10lb 0.23 nylon nail knotted to it. By attaching a movable indicator to the 15lb nylon I can fish water between 2 and 11 feet.

The photo below shows o-ring yarn indicators all made with macramé yarn. You can attach these by looping the leader, passing it through the o-ring and then over the top of the indicator and pulling it tight. This method can result in the leader getting a kink in it that requires straightening. Some anglers try to move these indicators up and down the leader but this tends to result in more kinks. It is better to take the indicator off and re-position it.



This next photo shows the method I use now for a movable indicator using o-ring indicators. Two nail knots similar to the dry/dropper set up above and between these and the o-ring are some small rubbery fishing “floats” I bought from Pete’s Emporium. These are cut in half and stop the nail knot slipping through the o-ring. The indicator is relatively small and made of red poly yarn.



The photo below shows indicators made using a method known to many anglers – the Strike Indicator set up. The bottom indicator has been made using the tubing and wool supplied with the Strike Indicator kit. <https://www.strikeindicator.com/>

The top indicator has been made using a slightly wider piece of tubing and poly yarn. So, you can vary the size of these indicators by using wider tubing. Some anglers have recommended cutting up used ball

point pen tubes but I've found these can slip if the material is too rigid. The flexible tubing is best. These indicators are really light and easy to cast and land gently on the water. Especially good for clear water and jumpy trout. They can get dragged down in faster currents.



The final photo shows the nail knot system used with a fluoro float also purchased from Pete's Emporium. These come in various sizes and colours – the others are fluoro yellow and green. These are effective too although after a while the hole in the float tends to expand with the nail knot pushing against it from casting. But they are as cheap as chips so you can throw away a few.



And if you want to look at some alternative strike indicator ideas just go to You Tube and type in "Strike Indicators".

Over the last few seasons I've been doing a lot of casting practice at home on the back lawn, especially roll casting, then trying to apply it on the river when I go fishing. I'm a big fan of Czech nymphing, but I think it's fair to say that nothing beats the enjoyment of casting a small fly on a fine leader on a nice fly line. So recently, I've been feeling quietly confident that my casting has been getting better. That confidence came to a crashing halt last week when I saw a true casting expert in action.

I'm talking about the Tongariro Roll Cast. Each year, Turangi legend Herb Spannagl runs a casting workshop to raise money for the National Trout Centre. I'd seen YouTube videos of him performing the Tongariro roll cast and it looked reasonably simple (yes, you can laugh now), so I booked myself in.

So, what is this cast and why would you anyone voluntarily put themselves through the pain of trying to learn it? Anyone who has collected a bomb in the back of the head, or worse still, in an ear or the face, can tell you just how dangerous traditional back-casting can be. The Tongariro roll cast eliminates all back-casting. And because of that, it also allows the angler to stand and cast in places with virtually no space behind, thereby giving access to water that would otherwise be unfishable. To prove that he had no tricks up his sleeve, Herb let us choose the heaviest bomb in his fly box, then proceeded to tie it onto a standard 9 foot leader under a standard yarn indicator. He then executed the cast which sent the indicator and bomb a good 25 metres, perfectly and accurately.

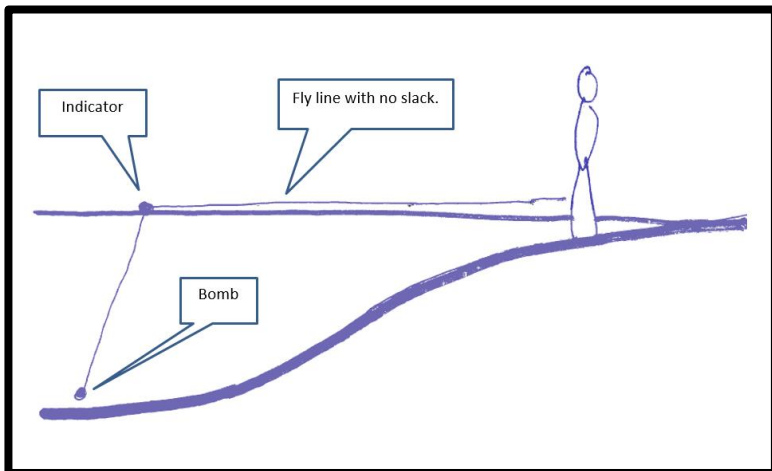


## A selection of Herb's Tongariro bombs

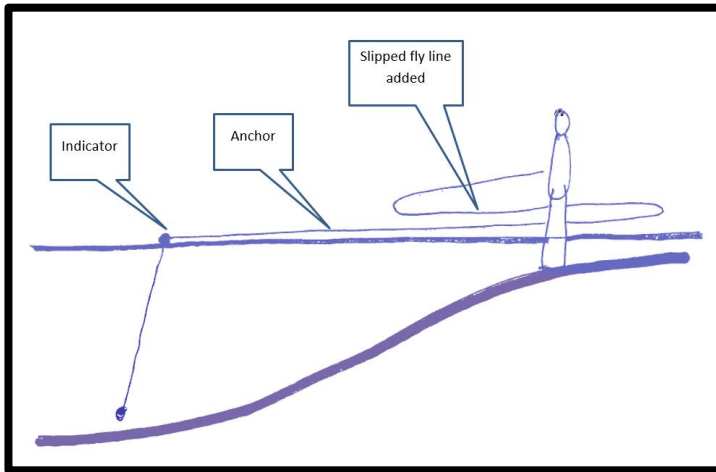


This style of casting gets incredible distance and opens up water that is not accessible using traditional back casting.

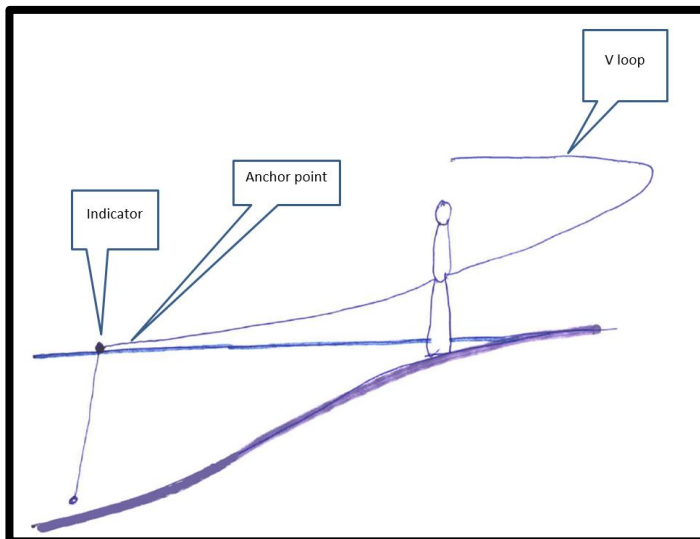
Trying to describe the precise details of this cast in words and pictures would be a futile exercise, so I won't even try. However, by the end of the workshop I think I came to a pretty good understanding of the principles, so that's what I'll try to convey in this article. As Herb explained, spey casts have 2 critical elements, the anchor and the D loop.



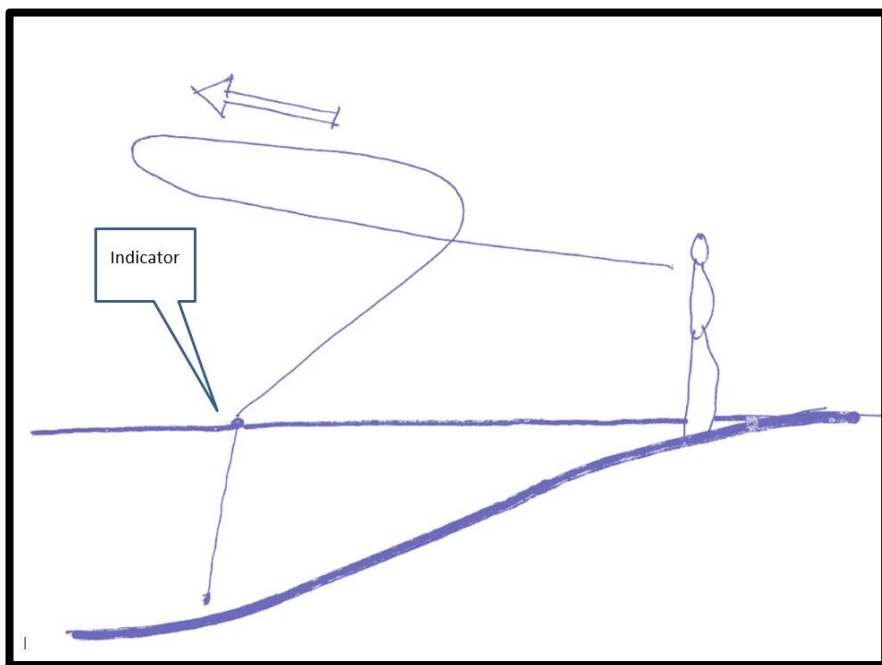
The first point to make is that the roll cast is not a change-of-direction cast. Start by lobbing the indicator out in the desired direction then pulling it back towards you until the fly line is lying straight on the water with no slack.



The fly line sitting on the water acts as an anchor. Move the rod forward while slipping line. This will add extra line into the equation. Notice that the indicator has not moved.



Sweep the rod backwards and upwards. This will aerialise the extra slipped line into a D loop. Actually, a V shaped loop is better because it will generate more power. As the fly line is lifted off the water, the anchor point moves closer towards the indicator. At this stage, the aim is to minimize the anchor without moving the indicator. This is incredibly difficult and takes hours of repeated practice to master. If the anchor is too great (too much fly line on the water) energy will be wasted and power will be lost. If the anchor is broken, the rod will not load properly and power will not be generated properly. For extra power, a haul is added during this final power stroke.



The final step is to project the V loop forward with a normal roll cast action. If all goes to plan, the indicator and bomb will be pulled from the water and projected forward. Note that the indicator and bomb do not come anywhere near the angler.

That's it! Deceptively simple but devilishly hard to execute. For those interested in finding out more, there are a number of YouTube videos



that show the cast in slow motion. And if in a year's time you are still struggling, Herb will be running another workshop next August.

[www.manictackleproject.com](http://www.manictackleproject.com)



Fly fishing's most celebrated annual event, the RISE Fly Fishing Film Festival, continues its global tour during August and September in Australia & NZ. The film tour serves as a stage for the best Australian and Kiwi filmmakers in the industry to premiere their latest offerings, allowing the fishing community to share their passion for the sport by attending film screenings across the country.

RISE showcases the best adventure fly fishing films of 2017 in a big screen extravaganza. The mission of the festival is to inspire audiences with epic adventures, strong stories and big fish in pristine environments. Check out [www.gin-clear.com](http://www.gin-clear.com) for all tour information, videos, photos and more.

The Wellington show is screening at Lighthouse Cinema, Petone.  
8.30 -10.30pm, Monday 2 October.

Buy your tickets here: <https://app.etickets.to/buy/?e=15197>

## Grilled Trout with Parsley, Dill and Lemon

Two 3/4 lb whole trouts, scaled, gutted and cleaned, (don't stress about the size, medium is a good gage)

Butter or coconut oil;

1 bunch fresh flat leaf parsley;

1 bunch fresh dill;

Zest of one lemon;

2 lemons, one sliced and the other halved;

Salt and pepper to taste;

### Preparation

1. Preheat your broiler.
2. Slash the sides of your fishes about 8 times each side with a knife so the butter or oil can make its way in.
3. Rub the trout with butter and season with salt and pepper.
4. Stuff the cavity with the chopped parsley, dill and lemon slices.
5. Put the fish on a baking rack on a pan for the drippings.
6. Sprinkle the lemon zest on top of the fish and add generous knobs of butter on the fish to form a wonderful golden crust.
7. You can place the lemon halves on the baking tray too.
8. Grill at about 6 inches from the heat source for about 6 minutes on each side.
9. Squeeze the roasted lemons on the fish before serving.



Source: <https://paleoleap.com/cooking-whole-fish-grilled-trout-recipe/>

**Green Trout Guiding**

Sponsor of the Club's Guiding Raffle

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