



**THE HUTT VALLEY ANGLER**  
Newsletter of the Hutt Valley Angling Club Inc

Issue No 446: June 2019



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## From the President



Over the last weeks we have learned that both Robin Bound and Grahame Kitchen are experiencing serious health issues. When I visited Grahame recently, he had not long returned from hospital but was up and about, pottering with components from his latest railway restoration project and in good spirits. We enjoyed some sticky buns and a cup of tea in the sunshine. Grahame gets very tired in the afternoons will not be able to attend this month's AGM but tells me that he would welcome visitors in the mornings. His phone number is 971 6696.

Robin is at home under hospice care but also in good spirits. He tells me that while normally not up to receiving visitors, he would welcome phone calls from members. His number is 529 8330. We send our thoughts to Grahame and Robin all wish them all the best.

Due to the unavailability of the Hardwick-Smith Lounge while renovation work is taking place over the next 2 months, we have an alternative venue for the AGM.

### **The AGM will be held at the Treadwell Street Hall in Naenae on Mon 10 June.**

**Note: this is not the Naenae Community Hall, which is also in Treadwell Street.**

For the AGM to proceed, it is essential that we have a quorum (25% of club members) so we are hoping for a good turn-out. As extra incentive, there will be 3 door prizes drawn. Every member who simply turns and signs the register up will go in the free draw for

**First prize \$50**

**Second prize \$30**

**Third prize \$20**

We will also have our normal monthly raffle where tickets can be bought for \$2. From now on, the sponsor of the main raffle prize will be Altitude Guiding. We thank Jim Rainey of Green Trout Guiding for his loyal sponsorship over the years, and welcome Johnny Gummer of Altitude Fly Fishing as our new raffle sponsor.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the June AGM club night.  
Cheers, Chris Kuchel

## Club Notices for June

Monday 10<sup>th</sup>      Annual General Meeting. Treadwell Street Hall, 26A Treadwell Street Naenae. at 7.30pm.

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup>      Casting clinic from 9am at the Belmont Domain. Please register on the club website. Our co-ordinator, Kathryn Vinten will 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

### **Club night – AGM - Monday 10 June – Treadwell St. Hall, Naenae**

All members are encouraged to attend this important meeting.

## **New HVAC Club Logo**

The committee is pleased to announce the launch of the new HVAC club logo, which appears on the front page of this newsletter and the club website. Club member, Mark Whitecliffe of MSO Design was given the brief to design a new club logo with a clear, simple, modern and bold design. He came up with a number of proposals which were presented to the committee and the general membership for comment and feedback and we finally arrived at a solution which ticks all of the boxes and does the club proud.

To mark the launch of the new logo, a production run of car stickers has been produced. A sticker will be given free of charge to every club member and can be placed on a vehicle to identify it as being associated with the Hutt Valley Angling Club. Some land owners have said they find this a very useful way of identifying vehicles parked on or near their property.

Many thanks to Mark Whitecliffe and MSO Design for the excellent design services which were provided to the club free of charge.

## **Fish of the month**

Fish of the month, caught during the month of April and announced at the May club night was a 5lb 5oz brown jack caught by Ben Connolly, who takes away the \$10 Hunting and Fishing voucher. The Fish of the Month competition is kindly sponsored by Fraser Gibbs and Ross Goodman.

Fish of the month, caught during the month of May, will be announced at the June club night.

## **Photo of the Month**

The (anonymous) winning photo "Busted" is shown on this issue's front cover and its owner will be announced at the May club night. Many thanks to Grahame Kitchen for sponsoring this competition.

## **Club Raffle**

The May raffle winner to go into the Green Trout Guiding draw was Fraser Gibbs. Second place went to Trevor Jeffries and third place to Simon Auty. A reminder that \$2 buys you **one** number which will give you 3 chances at a prize. Of course you can buy additional numbers at \$2 each.

## **Library News**

The library is open at club meetings. To keep track of all resources, books and DVDs must be checked out and returned through Ajit.

**Fly Tying Meeting – Wednesday 26 June at 7.15 pm in Stokes Valley RSA clubrooms.**  
**This month we will focus on adding rubber legs to flies.**

## **Rubber Legs**

There is no doubt that adding legs to an artificial fly can make it appear more lifelike and therefore more likely to fool a trout. However it is most important to copy the shape and size of a natural insect whether or not legs are included in the artificial. Legs can be simulated by feather or hair incorporated in a dressing or by using rubber legs which have the added attraction of pulsing or moving in the water. We know that movement is a strong attractor for predatory fish such as trout and so the movement of rubber legs will suggest that the artificial fly is a live bug, in or on the water.

Flies such as Russel Anderson's Spider are virtually all legs since it is a realistic copy of a black or brown terrestrial spider. This fly is absolutely deadly under the right circumstances (often when other flies will spook a fish).

On the other hand, a poorly tied fly with short, stiff, stubby, rubber legs does not look natural and would most probably scare a fish. For rubber legs to work on an artificial fly they must be of the correct dimension and thickness to suggest that they are the real thing.

Tying in rubber legs can be challenging especially for inexperienced fly tiers so we will try to simplify how this can be done. At the meeting we will construct some flies with rubber legs.

All members are welcome to attend and the club supplies tools and materials for use on the night.



*NOTE: a complete beginner to fly tying produced two Copper John nymphs at our May meeting.*

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

Was won by Vivian Carruthers for her brown Woolly Bugger. It was pleasing to have quite a few entries of various colours.

**The Bound Shield Challenge for June** is to tie a size 14 Copper John nymph with a gold or silver bead and flashback wing case.

Bring your Copper John nymph or nymphs to the June meeting for judging.

### **GJK Shield Hutt River Competition Results**

This competition was held on Saturday 18 May and attracted 3 competitors being Ben Connolly, Simon Auty and Thomas Fichtner. Congratulations to Thomas for his winning 48cm brown trout (shown below) caught on a #16 unweighted flashback pheasant tail.



### **Burgess Shield Lake Ferry Competition Results**

This competition was held on Sunday 14 April, which was forecast for good weather and small swells. However, the reality could be called a fishermen's nightmare as the southerly was biting hard at speeds reaching around 80km/h, freezing cold and waves reaching almost 3.0m in some places.

Luckily there were some positive moments as well. Paul Davis and others moved onto Lake Onoke's river mouth as the beach was unfishable and unsafe. This turned out to be a wise decision for Paul Davis who soon started to land fish after fish as the others watched on. What was Paul's secret?





And as usual it all came down to the size of the hook. Most anglers were using size 4/0 or 5/0 but Paul changed his fishing rig and used smaller hooks. Soon after the change he landed the first of his 5 fish. Paul was the winner of that day. In total he landed 2 kowhai and 3 yellow eyed mullet. Thanks to all participants for taking part in this competition in blustery and testing conditions.



## **Annual President's Report (by Graham Carter) to the New Zealand Federation of Freshwater Anglers Inc. (which may be of interest to HVAC members)**

It gives me pleasure to make this annual report. It represents a very active year for the Federation. The Federation is constitutionally bound to be "apolitical" i.e. without any bias or prejudice to any one political party.

However politics are involved simply because of "cause and effect" and irrespective of party, the Federation will be forthright in looking after the trout fishing public's interests.

That includes of course not just trout but their habitat, i.e. freshwater rivers and lakes.

### **Major issues**

**1 Indigenous Fish Bill.** In the past year there was the Freshwater Indigenous Fish Bill which seemed a thinly disguised attempt to belittle trout, blaming them for the demise of some native fish.

This is a 'demise' that we clearly see to be the result of land use practices. This Bill appeared to be driven by the current Minister of Conservation with her adherence to Forest and Bird's ideology of an anti-introduced dogma.

I would remind those afflicted with the anti-introduced dogma that predators are part of Nature's food chain. For that reason, eels and various native birds feed on juvenile trout and no doubt trout ova. The Federation's submissions (written and verbal) on this Bill were well researched, hard hitting and scientifically based.

**2 Trout Farming.** The Indigenous Fish Bill also seemed a thinly disguised attempt to open the way for trout farming for North Island iwi. Rather ironical since when the Treaty of Waitangi was signed in 1840, trout had not been introduced. NZFFA made submissions on this issue.

On top of that, a Marlborough ex-salmon farmer (failed) petitioned Parliament to allow trout farming. Again, we responded forcefully to that.

Trout farming has very marginal economics. The fish from trout farms are nothing like wild trout. Farmed trout, selling in Australian shops, are wrinkled, pale, insipid fish. The marginal economics of trout farming is thus of no monetary gain to NZ. By comparison, recreational trout fishing, through international and domestic tourism, is worth an estimated \$1 billion annually. Recreational trout fishing contributes significantly to the economy when angling retail business, fishing lodges, guides, boats, motels, hotels and rental cars, etc., are factored in. Many trout are "recycled with catch and release" ethics growing in popularity. In fish farms, as with all intensive farming, this leads to disease outbreaks. The entire wild recreational rainbow trout fishery was almost wiped out in Colorado in 1980 from disease emanating from a trout farm. It took decades to recover. Other U.S. states have also suffered.

Placing a dollar value on trout encourages poaching and black markets. Parallels are there with venison, paua and crayfish black markets.

The Federation asks "Why risk the public's trout fishery for the disease-fraught farming of trout which fetch just a few dollars a kilo for each poor quality of farmed trout?"

**3. Salmon.** NZFFA has supported the New Zealand Salmon Anglers Association in the problems facing the Canterbury salmon fishery most notably the Waimakariri, Rakaia and Rangitata rivers. They have taken the lead in tackling the agencies responsible (or should be responsible), especially Environment Canterbury. We urge all NZFFA members to consider also

supporting NZSAA's waterway protection initiatives. We eagerly await the outcomes of their proposed litigation against ECan over ineffective fish screens on irrigation "offtakes".

**4. Fish & Game.** NZFFA applauds the excellent submission to the parliamentary Select Commission delivered by Sir Geoffrey Palmer for NZ F & G on the Indigenous Fish Bill. We met with the new CEO of Fish and Game NZ and discussed matters of mutual interest. We now await his impact on the issues that matter.

**5. "Battles fought".** NZFFA has had another very active year with submissions to the Parliamentary Select Committee on the Indigenous Fish Bill, Submissions to ECan and Christchurch City Council on water issues, Central South Island Fish & game on spawning fish protection, Queenstown Lakes Council and Mackenzie District Councils on motor boat use on waterways, numerous published press releases, letters to the editor and an active presence on social media. The Federation has thus actively pursued many important issues affecting water quality and quantity with its submissions to select committees, written submissions to parliament, position statements, press releases, and publications on its web site and Facebook pages.

**Other ongoing issues** (tackled over the last year) include:

- The problems with pine forest monocultures on waterways and aquifers as a response to massive reforestation proposals. Monoculture of pine forests mainly now by foreign owned corporate companies, have a profound effect on stream flows and at clear felling time, a runoff of silt and debris. Environmentally they are detrimental.

**Sedimentation is destroying trout rivers and streams across the country.**

- The restoration of Democratic representation at a regional level (i.e. ECan) in Canterbury.
- Opposition to the use of toxic chemicals to control weed infestations in and alongside waterways.
- Advocating for the "decommercialization" of whitebait and eels.
- Publicly protesting about the deteriorating state of New Zealand's waterways, and the stupidity of pursuing governance and operational policies that contribute to that.
- Publishing graphical information on the deterioration of our freshwater fisheries, and the major reasons for that, wherever possible.

**The Federation's views:**

**1 The wider picture.** The Federation notes with alarm that the sport fishery is severely declining in a number of river systems, and when looking at the bigger picture, the total ecosystem shows symptoms of disturbing decline – to the point of potential collapse. The mismanagement, of waterways is rife throughout the country at a local and regional government level; and by major industries. While there are plenty of local community efforts to improve our public waterways, their impact is frustrated by government not addressing the major issues.

**2 Federated Farmers.** Federated Farmers NZ is often in denial, and indeed some spokesmen portray trout as "evil introduced fish." Never mind the introduced cows, rye grass, and pesticides that devastate the indigenous biodiversity. It is not just dairying that is damaging the waterways. Local councils discharge sewage, toxic chemicals and storm water into rivers and coast lines. The latter contain a cocktail of chemicals from drugs and contraceptives that can change the gender of fish, to modern detergents and cleansing agents; such as chlorine. The latter for example (published in a 2011 NZFFWA newsletter) was shown in 1971 to be lethal in very minute quantities to trout; as has the runoff from spraying herbicides and insecticides on golf course greens, etc. How much of all this ends up in rivers, and to what effect? Sadly no one probably knows, and most don't care.

The Federation will not actively lump all farmers in the same boat but will concentrate its future efforts on remedying the effects of unsustainable practices, especially by corporate farms.

**1 Environment Aotearoa 2019 Report.** This sense of alarm has only been amplified by the recent release of the Environment Aotearoa 2019 Report from the Ministry for the Environment and Statistics NZ. This is the most comprehensive, inclusive and accurate report yet of our environment, and paints a dismal portrait of the state of our waterways. 94% of urban river lengths and 82% of rural river lengths (remembering that urban lengths account for only a few % of a rivers length) are unswimmable, even by the current weak standards.

Populations of both fish and the aquatic insects they feed on are plummeting. And the situation continues to decline rather than stabilise or improve. The report also identifies the main contributors and the issues that need to be addressed to reverse their effects. It is obvious that polluting industries (despite their protestations) are unwilling to address this crisis.

It is equally obvious that regional government (despite their responsibilities) are also equally unwilling to address it. NZFFA will continue to urge central government to take a strong lead on this issue, but as yet, all we have seen is placating words.

**2. Protecting Public Interest re. “quality” waterways.** Actions to date suggest that the public interest does not matter to politicians and policy makers at either the central or local government levels. After all, a Horizon poll showed more New Zealanders participate in fishing than in any other sport (five times more than Rugby!). Freshwater fishing is only a part of that, but it serves to underline the importance of what the Federation does, and the broader values that it strives to preserve. That strength should serve to give us conviction to take up the cudgels when developers, bureaucrats or politicians threaten the egalitarian access traditions, the quality of rivers or the status of trout. Remember politics in the world of trout fishing is nothing more than “cause and effect.”

**3** The Federation believes that a government committed to producing a “Well-being” budget needs to factor in the well-being achieved through the healthy enjoyment of swimmable and fishable waterways and their environs.

## **Personal remarks**

### **Executive**

For me, it has been a privilege to be the President of the NZ Federation of Freshwater Anglers and to work with those executive members that have a passion and drive to see change in the manner in which our waterways are managed, by getting involved and speaking up on paper, on line, in email and

in the newspapers.

It is this participation that makes the tasks at hand easier and manageable. When I took on this position I barely knew the people involved or the requirements of the position.

We have seen a range of issues and topics covered this last year and I thank the executive for their participation, expertise and dedication to these. No one organisation can stand on the shoulders of just one person and survive. We have collectively shown that we are a strength which can only be maintained through everyone’s continued support and participation.

When our personal circumstances make us “time poor” this is not easy, but with the support of our wives and partners we can and have achieved many great things. Not all “wins”, but education and comment help others to change their thinking. We all have an opinion on issues, some need redirecting but that is part of the process and I have learnt so much from the executive that have chosen to be involved I feel privileged feel humbled to have been asked to join the executive and work with and alongside such a fantastic group.



I would like to specially thank Executive members Brian Coddington, Tony Orman, Peter Trolove, Rex Gibson, Larry Burke, Steve Gerrard and Ken Sims in particular for doing much of the hard graft. It is also important that the Federation seeks new and younger members to ensure a sound future and I welcome those visitors here today at the AGM.

### **The Federation's Mission**

The Federation was set up in 1974 in response to the trout farming battle of the 1970s, to bring a united voice from the trout fishing public to New Zealand and to act as strong advocates for trout, their habitat in rivers, streams and lakes and the public nature of trout and salmon fishing and to confront any threats that may arise to these aspects.

I believe that with the assistance and guidance of the executive members that have stood with and contributed, that we have gone a long way to achieving that.

Government agencies, the media and in particular NGO's are coming to us for opinion and comment. That is fantastic.

### **Communications**

Steve Gerard has attended to the Federation's website as well as its newsletters. Even if you do nothing else after reading this please take the time to see the great job that Steve has done, with the website, for your sport and encourage others. We continually need more and new material on it, not just on the issues but on trout fishing itself, in order to capture an audience of keen supporters.

There is a need to visit freshwater angling clubs throughout the country to promote our objectives and ourselves and gain more members. Executive members can help you there. Remember it is free to join up!

### **In closing.**

I will have to step down as I have personal commitments which will take me out of NZ. The future is bright for the Federation as it is often an effective voice when Fish and Game NZ are, at times, constrained by statutory obligations to the Minister of Conservation, i.e. the Department of Conservation. We have no such constraints. The Federation can tell it as it is!

Let's go forward with full participation by all and a positive, optimistic attitude.

Graham Carter  
President.

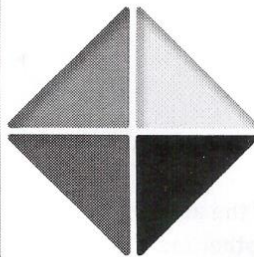
Welcome to Johnny Gummer of Altitude Fly Fishing, our new sponsor of the Guiding Raffle



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