



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

Issue No 440: November 2018



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## **Editorial**

Wow! Mother nature has really hammered us this weekend with gale force winds and driving rain. The Wellington Fish & Game weekly newsletter published that none of the rivers in their region would be fishable. How true it is. Time to fill up the fly boxes for the summer days we hope will not be far away.

## **From the President**

October brings the start of the new season and with it, the opportunity to fish waters that have been closed for the last 5 months.

Traditionally, our October club night has been focused on maintaining equipment and getting it ready for the coming season. However, this year, we took a slightly different tack and focussed on Night Fishing and how to fish Small Streams, both of which come into their own during the summer months.

John Millar and Ian Lawson gave an excellent “tag team” presentation on some of the tips and tricks they have learned over the years. One of the most valuable tips I took away from the presentation was their advice to pick a location at dusk then stay there and wait for the evening rise. I know that too often I have moved around impatiently in the dark and probably missed out on great fishing opportunities. As was noted, the evening rise can be all over in half an hour, so it is best to be well-prepared and set up in a chosen location, ready to take advantage of the rise when it happens.

The other event that took place in October was the Skills Workshop run by John Gummer and Tarn Mack-McEwen, which was attended by just under 20 HVAC members. Despite the challenging weather conditions (including morning hail and strong winds) the workshop went ahead, we were able to secure the use of the Scout Hall, which enabled the casting demonstrations to go ahead indoors.

Fortunately, the weather cleared up in the afternoon, which gave members a chance to get some one-on-one tuition on the double hauling technique that Tarn had explained and demonstrated indoors. Both John and Tarn have the ability to explain the underlying principles behind all of the techniques they use, which helps make learning faster and very enjoyable.

As a follow-up, John and Tarn will be offering a guided session on the Tukituki River in January for those members who are interested. Details, including likely costs will be advertised shortly. The Silver Flies run similar workshops each year at a cost of \$600 per angler. John and Tarn’s workshop will be considerably cheaper than that.

I can also now confirm that all future club meetings will be held at the Hardwick-Smith Lounge, in the Belmont Domain. This new venue is centrally located and will provide opportunities for outdoor activities during the summer months. In the meantime, the Fly Tying meetings and Committee meetings will continue to be held at the Stokes Valley RSA until further advised.

Finally, a word of advice from me. Going to workshops and presentations is a great way to build your knowledge, but at the end of the day, the point of it all is to get out there, go fishing and put the theory into practice. Right at the moment, the Hutt River is looking fantastic, especially in the evenings. So are some of the “Wellington Rivers” and “Local Rivers” just waiting to be explored. Tight lines.

Cheers, Chris Kuchel

### **Club Notices for November**

Monday 12<sup>th</sup>                      Member’s meeting at the Hardwick-Smith Lounge in the Belmont Domain, next to the Scout Hall at 7.30pm.

The hot topic at the moment is the Conservation (Indigenous Freshwater Fish) Amendment Bill. As you are aware, HVAC has made a submission to the Select Committee and hopefully, individual members have made their own submissions, either to the Select Committee or to their local member of parliament. Even though submissions closed on 25 October, this is an important issue that is going to have far reaching and long-lasting consequences for us.

This month, our guest speaker via skype will be Brian Coddington, who is the Communications Manager for the NZ Federation of Freshwater Anglers. Brian has been very pro-active in bringing this issue into the spotlight and will be able to give us background information about what has happened so far and what is likely to happen from this point on. Hopefully, Brian will also be joined by Graham Carter, NZFFWA president.

Sunday 18<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 21<sup>st</sup>                Committee meets in Stokes Valley RSA rooms at 7.15pm.

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup>                Fly Tying meeting in the Stokes Valley RSA rooms at 7.00pm

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup>                Copy deadline for December newsletter

### **Fish of the month**

Fish of the month, caught during the month of September and announced at the October club night was a 3lb 2oz Rainbow Hen caught on the Tongariro by Bill Harris. Bill takes away the \$10 Hunting and Fishing voucher kindly sponsored by Fraser Gibbs and Ross Goodman.

### **Club Raffle Winners**

The winners for October were:

Green Trout Guiding: John Olds

Fly Box: Thomas Fichtner

HVAC Cap: John Olds

### **Library News**

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.

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

### **Photo Competition**

At the last committee meeting it was decided that all photos submitted during October will be published in the November newsletter. The (anonymous) winning photo "I have a Question" is shown on this issue's front cover and its owner will be announced at the November club night. Many thanks to Grahame Kitchen for sponsoring this competition.

Below are the 2 other entries submitted this month



Promising



Go the Whio!

### **Treble Hooks**

In October, our club received a letter from the Kapiti Fly Fishing Club asking for support on the issue of treble hooks. The Kapiti club, at their recent Annual General Meeting, tabled a proposal to ban the use of treble hooks. They have asked HVAC and other clubs in the Wellington Region to support a joint proposal to Fish and Game Wellington banning treble hooks on trout fishing lures in our region.

One of the concerns with the use of treble hooks is the damage they do to trout when caught. Research indicates that the inner mouth of the fish is damaged and the fish is likely

to die from infection caused by injuries. The use of treble hooks has already been banned in the Taupo Region.

Fish and Game have been promoting the value of "catch and release" as a way of maintaining a healthy fishery, and many club members in the Wellington Region actively practise catch and release in their local rivers.

This proposal is in no way "anti-spin fishing" and there is no agenda to discourage spin fishing as a legitimate method where it is allowed by regulation. Banning of treble hooks is seen as a means of preserving our resource for all anglers. The Kapiti club have asked HVAC to obtain the views of our members and look forward to hearing from us in the near future. All HVAC members are encouraged to consider this issue and voice their thoughts when we raise it at our November club night.

### **Tukituki Trip**

The scheduled trip to the Tukituki River in November has been postponed until February 2019. Adam Jerram, the new president of the Hastings Angling Club, is keen to hold a joint event with HVAC and perhaps one or two other local clubs at their Patangata Lodge next February. The exact dates will be confirmed once arrangements have been finalised. Based on the success of previous events with the Hastings club, this is bound to be another "not to be missed" trip. Adam tells me that he is keen to make this a great weekend with the emphasis on fun, renewing old friendships and of course, great fishing opportunities.

### **Wairarapa Trips**

With the start of daylight saving, we are keen to bring back regular day trips over to the Wairarapa. In past years, the best laid plans made weeks in advance have often fallen over due to bad weather on the scheduled day, so this year we are encouraging members to communicate with each other when the forecast is looking good and arrange their own trips. The club has a private facebook page which can help with communication. Also at club nights, we will have a sign-up sheet where members can register their interest for the following weekend. It will then be up to those interested to arrange a meeting spot (traditionally the Upper Hutt Railway Station) and plan their destination.

### **Club Fishing Diary**

There have been some good fish caught during the month of October. Ben Connolly has had success on both the Hutt River and another Wellington river. Ian Lawson has also had success on a local river. Bill Harris has been covering a lot of ground as usual and has caught fish on the Tongariro, Lake Rotoaira and the Makakahi River. The winner of the October Fish of the Month will be announced at the November club night.

Members are encouraged to register their catches with the club diary, no matter how seemingly insignificant, as this diary is a permanent record that may one day be useful in identifying changing patterns of fish population and habitat. For this information to be of future value please name the river fished so that it can be recorded in the fishing diary. When confidentiality is requested, the name of the specific river will not be revealed in the newsletter.

### **Proposals for new HVAC logo**

At a recent club night, we raised discussion about the possibility of a new logo for HVAC. Since then, Mark Whitecliffe has kindly offered the services of his graphic design company MSO Design. His company has provided the following 2 initial concepts to get the ball rolling. Over the next couple of months, we hope to fine-tune and advance this idea further. At the November club night, we will be welcoming feedback from members.



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

Members are asked to tie 2 flies using the same body material, same hackle, same wing material (if wings are included). One fly is to be a dry fly that will float on the surface and the other fly is to be a wet fly or nymph that will not float on the surface. Bring your entries to the November fly tying meeting for the judge's assessment.

The Bound Shield will be presented at the following club meeting.

**Fly Tying Meeting** – Wednesday November 28<sup>th</sup> at 7.00 p.m. in Stokes Valley RSA  
This month we will tie two flies then fish them in the Hutt River.

***Please note that the meeting will start earlier than usual so that we can set off to fish by 8.00 p.m.***

The flies we will tie at the meeting are a small soft hackled emerger to fish in or under the surface and a dry fly (Goddard Caddis) to fish as a dry fly.

A good demonstration video of how to tie the Goddard caddis can be viewed at the following URL

<http://intheriffle.com/fishing-videos/fly-tying/goddard-caddis/>

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.



Goddard Caddis



Tim's Emergers

## **The Curse of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cast Catch** by Fish On

With little resistance, she presents you a fish – gilded of  
flank iridescent orange to accent  
Eagerness overtakes, you misread the message,  
thoughts of abundance invade.

She believed her part complete, what you wanted - just  
this fish  
Confusion in the past has there been, doubt begins to  
gnaw  
Today you will not be fooled, you persist when others  
might concede, you will not depart.

She refuses to relent, gradually pulls the door and draws  
the blind  
The light dims - an ominous sign, business has closed this  
day  
You stand there disbelieving, you are numb, left knock,  
knock, knocking on heaven's door  
Sometimes Mistress River needs a day off too.

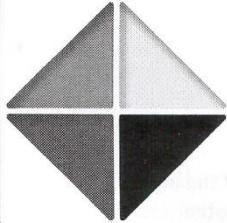
And so, in the first run  
Just a short walk from the car  
On the first cast of the day  
She gives you that fish  
As if to say “there you go, now be on your way!”



**Green Trout Guiding**

Sponsor of the Club's Guiding Raffle  
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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 member of the Club.