

# THE HUTT VALLEY ANGLER



**Issue No 411 : May 2016**

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## **Editorial**

This month sees the first installment of Trout Talk, a new monthly column by John “Big Jack” Olds. If any other members have a particular interest, please feel free to put pen to paper and share your thoughts. The strength of our club comes through sharing ideas and information.

Cheers.

*Chris Kuchel*

## **President's Piece**

Well the mornings are getting a bit colder for those of us getting older and you get to work early. The weather is remarkably settled and perhaps that is the reason for the very good fishing that is being reported for early April. The fish seem to be on the feed preparing for their travels upstream to commence spawning.



Last club night we had as guest speaker via Skype Paul Slaney based in Wales. I found his presentation very good and entertaining. It is interesting listening to such passionate fishermen explaining the lengths they will go to, to go fishing in different parts of the world and particularly in Paul's case to catch trout. For those you missed it, Paul explained that in Europe fisherman have dispensed in some respect from using what we would describe as a fly line. He described a system where a tapered leader being in some cases 27 to 30 feet long, is attached directly to the backing. Paul is planning to be in New Zealand at the end of this year beginning of next and we are working to have him come to our club for a casting tuition session.

Paul also showed us some of the flies he ties — some costing around \$15 each! As he said, some of the persons he is tying flies for are paying \$10,000 for a week's fishing so you want the best flies available and ones that will 'catch a fish'. Paul also explained that in Europe and Wales, fisherman are being encouraged to adopt “Catch and Release” to preserve the fishing they enjoy.

In mid April we held a Workshop for our members that are relatively new to fly fishing. We had about 10 members attend the course that ran for about 4 hours and concluded in a BBQ prepared by John Millar. I thought the day went very well and if someone who attended has suggestions on things we did and how they could be changed slightly I would appreciate your feedback. I heard that one person attending realised that he needed to every so often clean his waders. That's good.

As I said at the end of the course the learning does not stop today. We are all here to assist you as we have all been in the situation you find yourselves in and though learning from other people have managed to progress albeit at different rates. More time spent on the water does help. As Mike says trout have a brain the size of a pea we should be able to out smart them. "Yeah Right" I hear.

In May we will have a presentation by John Gummer who is a young lad that has represented New Zealand overseas in fishing competitions. We are also trying to organise a panel for the night to discuss fishing topics. More to come on this closer to the night.

If someone is out there who is interested about being on the Committee, I would be grateful if you could get in contact with me as there will be some places to fill. A point to note we do enjoy excellent suppers after our meetings.

Okay, time to get my fishing gear ready for another adventure whilst the body and mind allow.

All the best

*Ross Goodman*

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## **May Activities**

- 9<sup>th</sup> Club Meeting - King Lion hall 7.30pm
- 14<sup>th</sup> Doughty Shield Competition — Kourarau Dam, Gladstone.
- 15<sup>th</sup> Casting Clinic — Belmont Domain 10.00am
- 17<sup>th</sup> Committee meeting 7.30pm
- 25<sup>th</sup> Fly tying — Community House 7.30pm

## **Club News**

**Club night** – Monday 9 May at 7.30pm in King Lion Hall, King Street, Upper Hutt. Our guest speaker will be John Gummer, an experienced competition angler and NZ fly fishing team member. His insights and experiences should be of interest to all members.

**Casting Clinic – Casting Clinic** – With daylight saving ended the casting clinic has reverted back to Sunday mornings. The next one will be on 15 May, 10am start at Belmont Domain.

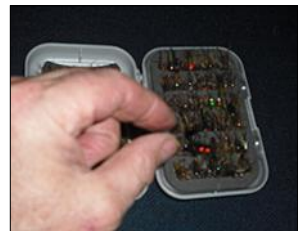
The coordinator is Ian Lawson. If you want to attend, please sign up on the clipboard at our monthly meeting or register on the website. Registration allows us to have instructors available for all attendees and who we contact if there is any change in meeting arrangements.

**Fly Tying Meeting** - Over the next 2 meetings we will tie members' 'favourite flies'.

These will be patterns which have worked well for those members and which we would like to share. Meanwhile we will be circulating a survey to members asking what skills and fly patterns they would like to learn or practice at our meetings.

HVAC will be hosting the FishScene Interclub Fly

Tying Competition in October and in preparation for this we will hold a club fly tying demonstration and competition at our July club meeting. Aspiring club representatives are encouraged to take part in this event that will give them some idea of what is required to be part of the club team for October.



## **Library News**

The library is open from 7.00 on Club nights. There are over 164 items in our library. Of these the most popular has been Tony Orman's "Trout on a Nymph."

We have found that 3 items are out long term with some members.

Reminder in fairness we expect borrowed items to be returned the next month. Please make sure that all books and DVDs are checked out and returned via Maureen in the normal way. Loaned items are now being tracked.

## **Raffle Winners in March**

Congratulations to Ajit Jogi for winning the Green Trout Guiding entry. John Rochester took away the box of flies and Damian Bengree won the Hunting and Fishing voucher. Monthly winners of the Green Trout Guiding raffle go into the annual draw for a fantastic trip with Jim Rainey. You've got to be in to win, so make sure you buy your ticket each month at club meetings.

## **Photo competition**

This month's winner is Krystal Smith, who takes away the \$15 FishScene voucher. Her winning photo "Empty Handed" is on the front cover of this month's newsletter. Jeff Wood from FishScene is the sponsor of the monthly photo competition. Members are encouraged to support our sponsors.

## **Fish of the month**

Congratulations to Ian Lawson for his fine 7lb 1oz brown, taken on a local river.



## **Doughty Shield Handicap Competition**

We are planning to hold this competition at Kourarau Dam on Saturday 14 May, which will be fished over 2 sessions of one and a half hours each. The competition will be 'fly only' and no spinning gear allowed. Competitors are not allowed to wade except to land a fish. Trout and Perch will count for points. This will be the last competition where points can be counted towards the club championship 2016.

To enter, please use the online registration on our website or contact John Millar (phone 5636491 or email [john.millar@xtra.co.nz](mailto:john.millar@xtra.co.nz)) for more information. Entries can also be made by adding your name to the clipboard which will be circulated at the club meeting on 9 May.

The Kourarau Dam is a 10 minute drive from the Gladstone Hotel and holds good numbers of fish, some trophy size. It is a good stand-by when the Ruamahanga is unfishable (either too high or too low). A year ago, the Wellington regional comp had to be relocated to the Kourarau Dam due to storm conditions on the Ruamahanga. You will see from the following photos that the conditions at the dam were, by contrast, very good.

Small unweighted flies on a floating or slow sinking line, cast out then stripped back slowly proved to be a successful technique. Alternatively, a fast sinking line with a short tippet to a floating booby fly, slowly retrieved can be very effective. Still-water fishing skills are fun to learn and will improve your general fishing skills. Members are encouraged to try something new and give the Kourarau Dam a go on 14 May.

Strato Cotsilinis lands another feisty rainbow at Kourarau Dam.





Tony Hout — A picture of concentration. Note the straight line to keep in direct contact at all times.

### **Next club trip – To be advised**

All trips are weather dependant, with early bookings essential. Some venues do require a deposit, which should be paid by members directly to the hotel/BB/lodge to secure a bed.

Members will be given the opportunity to sign up for club trips at the monthly meetings. To confirm a place on a club trip, email Damian at [c.dbengree@paradise.net.nz](mailto:c.dbengree@paradise.net.nz) not less than 3 weeks before the trip date. Damian will send accommodation details to participants as necessary.

### **Proposed HVAC Calendar**

At the March club meeting, it was proposed that the club produce a 2017 calendar. Initial response from members was positive, so this project will be going ahead. We aim to have this ready for sale by September. Grahame Kitchen and Chris Kuchel are organizing the calendar. We are calling for a range of photos, not necessarily photo competition winners, but any that could be used to suit a “seasonal” theme. Of course, each



contributor would be given full acknowledgement as the author of the original photograph. Please email your photos to Chris — [chriskuchel357@gmail.com](mailto:chriskuchel357@gmail.com).

### **Book review: library ref 001 “A Fisherman’s Year”**

In this unique angling calendar, John Parsons looks back on a lifetime of fishing from his boyhood in Kent, England, to his service days in India and, for the past twenty-two years, a resident of New Zealand. “A Fisherman’s Year” takes each fishing month of the year in chapter form, and these are divided into two parts. One set in New Zealand and one in England.

## **Burgess Shield Report**

**by Maureen Burgess**

What a fabulous day to go fishing on the West Coast! I have been trying for years to pick a spot away from the Wellington Southern Coastline. Not normally an easy task at this time of year. But this year has been different. Long hot summer and not too much wind.

We started off at 10am — Ian Burgess, George Skinner and myself in one area, John Millar, Ian Lawson and Ted Carton down the beach a bit and Ajit Jogi across a small stream and a bit further down the beach. 20 minutes into the comp and I landed a Dogfish — I was so proud — I don't normally catch anything and looking down the beach I thought I was the only one to do so. I asked Ian B and George how things were going, they both moaned that their bait was being stolen, so I reminded them both I had caught my dogfish.

After an hour or so I thought I better go and see the troops down the beach and I hadn't bragged yet to them about my catch. Well, John M. was looking forward to lunch. Ian L. had caught 2 Dogfish and 2 Kahawai ( how typical) and later added a Tarakihi. Ted was just enjoying the experience of fishing at Te Horo. Ajit caught 4 Dogfish. And Ian B landed himself a Dogfish later on.





We had a lunch break, left our lines in the water. Just finished eating and Ian B's rod got an enormous strike — ran over and dragged in a huge bunch of weed.

George had come over to me and commented on how his Pilchards weren't working as bait, how they were falling apart and didn't stay on the hook. So I gave him some of my squid bait. He put it on his hook and cast it out. I turned to see Ian B still struggling to get the weed off his line and I heard George make a comment, but the breeze had gotten up and I couldn't quite make out what he said.

Ian B said , "He probably has weed on his line like me", but when I looked towards George what ever it was dragging him into the sea.

I yelled to Ian B — "quick, go help George".

We both ran over to see what was happening and he said he had a Stingray on.

Poor George, that Stingray put up a fight. 40 Minutes later and a fair way down the beach with Ian B in tow incase he needed a hand, the Stingray broke off.

How disheartening. George was exhausted.



By now it was 1.50 pm and comp finished at 2pm so we decided to pack up and drive down to the others and have a catch up and group photo.

We all had a fantastic day and all agreed what a wonderful place it is to fish (on a good day).

And congratulations to Ian Lawson who took out overall honors on the day, winning the Burgess Shield. Well done Ian!



The Spiny dogfish – *Squalus acanthias* – is perhaps the most maligned fish in the sea around New Zealand. When anglers hook one the usual comment is, “Oh no, not another spiny dogfish!”

It is found mostly in shallow waters and further offshore in most parts of the world, especially in temperate waters. It eats mostly fish (including other sharks), but also eats squid and octopus.

They get their name because they hunt in packs. Eaten commercially often in fish and chips, has good flavour and there are no bones





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# **Tukituki Trip Report**

By Chris Kuchel

On 1 April, 6 members from HVAC travelled to the Hawkes Bay to be hosted by the Hastings Anglers Club for a weekend of fishing, companionship and friendly competition, based at their fishing lodge at Patangata, right next to the Tukituki river. Peter Kennedy (ex HVAC member now living in the Hawkes Bay), had been liaising with Damian Bengree for some time to make this trip happen. After a disappointing postponement last November due to bad weather, the trip finally went ahead and we were fortunate enough to have generally fine weather and good water levels.

Early on the Friday morning, Dom Scahill and I left Wellington. We arrived in Mangatainoka mid-morning and fished for a few hours, with some success. Lots of fish landed, mostly undersized rainbows, however Dom did manage to hook into a nice 3lb brown lurking in quiet water. After lunch we moved back down to Pahiatua and again had fun catching small rainbows in the riffly water. At 4.30, we set off for Patangata and arrived at around 6pm to be greeted by Fraser, JO, Peter Kennedy and the Hawkes Bay boys at their fabulous lodge...comfortable, basic and right next to the pub and the river....perfect! After a cold beer and introductions all round, we settling our gear into the bunk room, then all walked over to the Patangata pub for dinner. The publican and his wife are great hosts and treated us to country style hospitality and excellent food. Then it was back to the lodge for a good night's sleep after a long day.

The next morning, we were split up into pairs to fish our allocated beats. I was paired up with local angler Brent, who introduced me to a new way of thinking about fishing. We walked from the lodge straight down to the river and I was immediately struck by its clarity — perfect for sight fishing. As a rule, Brent only casts to sighted fish, which for me was quite different to my usual short line nymphing technique where I try to cover as much likely looking water as I can. This was going to be a real treat. We walked quietly along the bank and it wasn't long before we spotted a solid rainbow doing a feeding circuit in quiet water. Of course, I was flustered by nerves and managed to get my line tangled in the tall grass, before finally landing a sloppy cast and spooking the fish — oh well, at least I now knew that there were good fish there to be had, and that I would have to quickly lift my game.

We kept walking upstream then came to a nice run where Brent spotted and landed a solid rainbow. Easy — so that's how it's done! It was my turn next. I spotted a nice fish holding about 2 metres from the edge. Somehow, I managed to land my fly in generally the right area. After an initial refusal I cast again and watched as time stood still. The fish slowly turned and took my size 16 black beadhead nymph. I was suddenly snapped back into real-time reality as the fish tore off downstream. The fish put up a great fight and just when I thought I was winning and starting to get some line back onto the reel, it pinged and I lost the fish. I reeled the line back in to find it covered in weed, which may have had caused part of the problem, but in reality, I think I just put too much pressure on my 4lb tippet which was proving to be too light for the conditions. Did I realize this at the time? No, I re-tied a new 4lb tippet.

By lunchtime, Brent had landed another nice rainbow and I had hooked and lost 2 more solid fish by being broken off. We had a fantastic morning, walking up the river and only stopping to cast when we spotted a fish, taking it in turns to try our luck. It was one of those special mornings where I was beginning to think about fishing in a different way. Sort of a “quality versus quantity” scenario. I had certainly been introduced to quality fishing — no doubt about that.

Then it was back to the lodge for lunch and to see how everyone else had got on. Not surprisingly, the Hawkes Bay boys were leading the tally count. It was then that I suddenly realized that maybe a 6lb tippet would be a more sensible option for these solid sized fish and weedy conditions. For the afternoon session, I was paired up with Mark, another local angler with vast experience. We drove to the Waipawa River to another stretch of great-looking water and started walking upstream. Within about 10 minutes, Mark spotted a nice rainbow feeding in a small, clear run and invited me to have a go at it. The fish was only 5 or 6 metres away, so a delicate cast was all that was required. I flicked out my first cast and watched as my indicator dry and nymph cruised by with no response. Same result from my second cast. My third cast must have been more to its liking, because slowly the fish turned and gulped down the nymph (again a size 16 black beadhead, but this time tied on with 6lb tippet). The water exploded and I found myself hooked up to a solid 3½ pound rainbow which came to the net 30 metres downstream a few

minutes later. Success at last and a landed fish to add to the HVAC tally. Over the course of the afternoon Mark and I both spotted more good fish but many of them were tucked under overhanging branches, making a good presentation near impossible. We returned to the lodge at about 4.30, both pleasantly exhausted and looking forward to a cold beer and to checking the catch tally for the day.



The weedy conditions had made fishing quite challenging for all anglers, so not a huge number of fish had been landed during the day. The photo shows Peter Kennedy presenting the Patangata Challenge Trophy to President Peter Frizzell. This trophy is up for challenge by any fishing club who stays at the lodge, won this time by Hastings Angling Club 11 fish to 7.

Following the awarding of the trophy, it was time to eat — Hawkes Bay style. That means freshly shot wild venison and pork, slowly roasted in the BBQ with an array of other goodies to go with it.



Some of the Hawkes Bay boys had to return home that night, so we said our goodbyes and thanked our fishing buddies for their help, generosity and companionship. The next morning, Dom and I decided to spend the morning fishing downstream from the lodge. Peter Kennedy had given us some inside info on a good location and he came down with us to help us get started in the right spot. The pressure was really on now because I had been given instructions to bring home 2 trout for a special dinner. True to form, Peter's advice paid off and Dom and I were both able to land fish. We kept the last 2 fish caught then stopped at the local gas station to put them on ice for the drive back home to Wellington.







Overall, a brilliant weekend and hopefully the start of a closer relationship with the Hastings Angling Club. I'm sure the Hutt Valley boys will jump at the chance for another crack at that Patangata Challenge Trophy!



## **TROUT TALK**

**By Big Jack**

This is the first of a short monthly column touching on some of the aspects around trout fishing that we all need to either be aware of or remind ourselves about.

### **GET 'EM BOTH WET**

Social media is full of fishing videos. Trout handling is a bit like a Clint Eastwood movie – The Good, The Bad and The Ugly. If you are going to keep a fish you are obviously going to dispatch it as humanely and quickly as possible. This piece is about one aspect of trout handling when you are going

to release the fish – that is the effect the net and your hands can have on the fish. Those of you with a lot of experience who are reading this will be saying – “Yes, but there’s more than wetting your hands to fish handling”. Quite right and I intend to cover these in subsequent columns. Trout have a coating of slime and scales on their bodies, which is their natural protection against parasites and infection. Treat the fish gently.

Always wet your net before netting the fish and ideally leave the trout in the water in the net before releasing it. Do not drag up the bank any fish you want to release. This will also remove the slime on its body. And always wet your hands before handling the fish. Gloves are a useful extra in this regard and they also protect the backs of your hands from the sun. Take photos of the fish in the net or, if you must have a grip and grin photo, make sure your photographer is ready, pick the fish up quickly (more on how to do this next time) take the photo and return it to the river quickly.

One thing I have noticed this hot summer is how warm some of the water on the edges of pools became; in some cases it was like a warm bath. Be aware of this when netting fish. Try to keep them in the cooler current while you release them.

Next month – removing hooks and how to hold the fish.

## **18-8**

**By Tim Trengrove**

When it comes to fishing a local small stream, I like to go fine. 3wt. rod, finest tippet and the smallest flies. #18s and even the odd #20.

By mid-March, most fish here have either been caught or been pricked by an angler’s hook. Their way of showing it is by disappearing. Where once trout roamed freely, the waters now look empty. They are there though, hiding in between and under weed beds. They’re wary, super spooky. That’s why I like to fish fine.

And so it was in late March that Tomas Fichtner and I went to fish there. Beautiful water, well grown weed beds but only a few smaller trout visible.

Trout will feed on tiny items and I managed to fool one 2lb. fish into taking a tiny fly. What about the larger ones though? Time for a change.

A fortnight back I'd seen schools of smelt in the Hutt River below the Melling Bridge. So dense they looked like a dark sheet slowly moving on the bottom. A trout would ambush the smelt, split the schools into disarray and pick off the dislodged fish. Smelt leapt in the air and some ran up on stones. The hunter was showing its supreme predatory skills.

Are there smelt in my stream? I believe so, and schools of galaxiids too. It's the same old game with a different name. In the Hutt the trout didn't even bother hiding. After the smash and grab it returned to a visible position in the middle of the river. In the little stream, trout hide under weed beds waiting for the hapless small fish to pass by. To witness a strike is to feel you've been knocked backwards. The trout attack is ferocious. That occurs right about now in my stream (late March).

Fishing blind with a nymph can do it but it seemed the trout had grown wary of nymph imitations, nearing the end of the season. I'd been tying up some #8 rabbit fur Zonkas for big rivers but never considered them for a small stream. They were big, black and bold. The naturals were long, slim and translucent. Worth a go? Well, I didn't have anything better.



#8 Zonka and #18 unweighted fly.

Out went the Zonka between two weed beds. The serenity was rudely interrupted by two small trout materialising then hassling my retreating lure. They didn't eat it though, more like saw it off their patch. Next target was beyond a big weed bed on the far side. The Zonka landed with a plop. All at once a large Rottweiler trout performed a crashing barrel roll and dwarfed my #8 lure. One smash and they were both gone!

The advice could be one of those over-used epithets, 'Think Outside The Box', but I'll leave you with a different one. If you go from a #18 fly to a #8 fly, change your tippet material too. Needless to say, I hadn't!

Tomas didn't need any of my pearls of wisdom. He appeared back from a good walk downstream wearing a huge grin. That said it all but I still wanted the details. A 2lber then a 6. Well done Tomas! I'd be delighted too.

## **How to buy a good knife**

Reproduced with permission from EHow In *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*.

Not all knives are equal – often a fashionable brand can be found selling poor quality knives at a high price, while it is possible to find a better quality set for cheaper with a lesser known brand.

Since a knife is an investment, selecting good quality ones that have durability, strength, good handling, and endurance is a must. In this article, you'll learn what to look for when you go shopping for a quality knife.

**When buying knives, hold each knife in your hand.** If you are going to be using this tool, the grip should be comfortable and sit well in your hand. Be aware that what one person finds comfortable does not necessarily mean it will be comfortable for you, so while advice is helpful, do a first hand test for yourself.

**Look at how much steel is in the knife as well as where it is located.** Look for any signs of joining or welding, particularly in the hilt of the knife. This

is a weak point in the knife and should be avoided as weak knives are more likely to bend or break at this joining point. The best knives are made from a single piece of steel, hand-forged (although these are rare and often cost prohibitive), while cheap knives tend to be thin with insubstantial hilts and handles covered thickly in plastic.

**Examine the balance of the knife.** Quality knives tend to have very good balance with not too much weight either in the blade or the handle. The old fashioned way to test is to place your finger at the finger grip at the hilt or blade-end of the handle, holding the knife horizontally with the cutting edge down. A quality, well balanced knife will balance at that point and not fall off your finger. *Naturally, utmost care should be taken when doing this test! Only very expensive and high quality manufacturers consider the balance so most knives will simply fall off your finger.*

- The key reason to consider balance is that a well balanced knife makes any cutting action easier and requires less effort. It is essentially the leverage point – like a seesaw's balance – and it has to be at a specific point or it is unbalanced. A balanced knife offers far less strain on the arm.

**Look at the hilt of the knife.** It should be solid, easy to clean and well joined. For most knives it is the most solid part of the knife as it is like a conduit where the strain of pressing on the handle travels through into the blade. If it is thin, is not evident (such as covered in plastic), or there is evidence of a weld or join, then it is not a good sign. If you can see any gap, not only will this increase the weakness of the knife but it can also trap minute portions of food and breed bacteria.

**Consider the material the handle is made from.** The handle is often made of wood, plastic, toughened resins and other strong materials. Old fashioned bone handled knives are not a good choice as bone becomes brittle after time. There have been several cases where an antique knife's bone or wood handle has crumbled in the user's hand, causing injury. Low density or soft woods or other low density materials are not recommended for knife handles.

**Consider the blade itself and what it is made of.** Arguably the best knife blade is ceramic as it can be sharpened to scalpel quality, hold its sharpness

for a long time and does not rust. The key drawback is this type of knife is extremely fragile and can break with ease – and good ones are often prohibitively expensive. Cheap ceramic knives should be viewed with high caution.

- Good knives are often made of non-stainless steel (carbon steel), which gives a good edge fairly quickly, but care should be taken so they will not rust. Carbon steel knives are easy to sharpen at home but need vigilance to prevent rusting.
- Stainless steel is what many cheap modern knife blades are made of, but they often tend to go blunt quickly and take a very long time to sharpen again. Aim to purchase high-carbon stainless steel knives; they require sharpening but they won't rust. With less carbon content than rust-prone older carbon steel knives, these ones hold their edge better and are harder.<sup>[1]</sup>
  - If you're on a budget, an inexpensive stainless steel is a good choice until you can afford a high-carbon stainless steel knife.
  - Forged blades are better than stamped ones because the forging renders the metal stronger.
  - Avoid knives that claim to never need sharpening. They are not very sharp to begin with and they cannot be sharpened, meaning that when they lose their edge (and they will), they have to be disposed of.

**Look at the width of the cutting edge.** As well as the thickness and smoothness of the blade. The best knives are smooth as though polished with no sign of pitting in the metal. The cutting edge should run the full length from tip to the hilt.

**Maintain your knives in good, sharp condition.** For a good quality set, also invest in a steel and a sharpening stone. The steel maintains a nice cutting edge, but will not give the knife one if it has gone blunt without a lot of work. Stones will restore an edge or improve an existing cutting edge.



- A diamond steel can cost a lot more, but will give a very fine edge. They also wear the knife down faster so knives can start to take a curved or sickle shape if care is not taken when sharpening. Very often people sharpen the middle of the blade on a steel, which also often happens most when you sharpen it with high speed (as it can look impressive to sharpen knives that way). Take it slowly and evenly the whole length of the blade, so it wears and sharpens evenly.
- Do not use the knife on stone, glass, steel or ceramic cutting boards or surfaces; this can damage the knife and put fine chips in your food as well as being more likely to slip and cause an injury. Wood or rigid (not flexible) plastic is still the best cutting board. The board must be cleaned regularly and if plastic soaked in a 10:1 water and bleach solution once a week in high-use environments on top of regular cleaning.
  - Most knife handling injuries are caused by blunt knives rather than sharp ones as more pressure is applied to cut and the knife is more likely to slip.

**Focus more on quality and not brand.** Of course your aim is to get good quality products at cheaper rates. Be it from high brand or from low brand, after all you have to make the payments.

- Try not to let anyone else use your knives if they are your personal set. Ultimately the most knife injuries where bluntness was not the cause was someone using a knife with which they were unfamiliar.

**Store your knives carefully.** A knife block is fine, so is a knife roll which is a cloth pouch much like a roll of spanners or wrenches. Some knives come in their own storage box, but many chefs simply wrap the knives in an old apron (ensuring no knife touches another) for storage, with the apron strings securely wrapping the bundle so it does not fall open. Magnetic knife strips are not as ideal, but are fine in an environment where there are no children and should be installed where they will not be knocked and fall off.

- Storing them loose in a toolbox or utensil drawer is not recommended.

**Shop around for your knives.** The internet can be excellent to find good prices from quality brands and many hospitality wholesalers have buy-direct websites to get robust knives at a very good price. However, be sure to have at least visited a store to get a feel for the knives you want to buy online, or be sure that there is a good returns policy in case you don't like the feel of the knife on receipt. Knives are an investment as a good set can last many years (20 to 30 years or more) so it is best to choose one will last and work well for you as well as making using them far easier and more enjoyable.

*The following is part of an article from St John Wakefield first published in the newsletter 209 December 1997.*

## **At the end of the day**

There are heaps of hints relating to putting your tackle together but little emphasis is given to packing your tackle away at the end of the day. Improperly disassembled and storing your tackle can cause damage, deterioration, or delay before you use it next.

After a days fishing, it is easy to neglect your tackle and forget it until next time but you can avoid problems by following these simple steps.

**Line/leader on Fly Reel** — Wind your flyline and leader carefully and evenly back onto the reel under light tension only. You can wipe the fly line nearly clean as you wind in your line. Do not wind the line onto your reel too tightly or loosely as either can cause damage or tangles when you next use your reel.

**Fly Removal** — Cut the fly off the leader and carefully store it in an open area (vest patch or your hat band) to dry. Flies stored wet in your flybox can deteriorate and affect your other flies.

**Reel Storage** — Remove your reel from your rod. Wipe it clean with a small towel or cloth. Put it into its storage bag, or a pocket but do not close either tightly. Allow air to reach it so any moisture remaining in it will be able to evaporate.

**Fly Rod Disassembly** — Take a firm grip on adjacent sections and pull the ferrules apart. If the ferrules become stuck, have someone help you by also taking hold of the section as both of you pull them apart. Don't grip over the rings and be particularly careful that you don't bend or twist either section as you pull them apart. Use your towel to dry and clean the rod.

**Rod Storage** — Make sure the rod is dry and place it ferrules down in the cloth bag. The butt section should have the reel seat at the opening and the tip of the top section alongside the butt for best protection. Place into the rod tube. If you must store either a damp rod or bag, remember to remove them from the rod tube and allow to dry when you get home or return to your accommodation.

**Storage** — Keep both the rod and reel in a cool, dry, dark place away from sunlight when possible. Be sure you don't seal either the rod tube or reel case too tightly during long storages.

When storing your reel and flyline for any length of time, it's best to remove the line from the reel, clean and store it in large loose coils to extend its life. Flylines have soft, flexible coatings or finishes that will deform if left tight on the reel for long periods.

Well maintained fly fishing equipment is a joy to use and less likely to fail when the fish of a lifetime is at the end of your line. Routine maintenance and care will ensure that your equipment gives you the best service for your investment.

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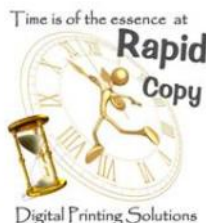
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