



THE HUTT VALLEY ANGLER

Newsletter of the Hutt Valley Angling Club Inc

Issue No 425: July 2017



Contents

Club activities in July

Summary of June AGM meeting

Big Jack's Trout Talk

Gibbs Shield Competition – Hutt River – 8 July

Editorial

I'm honoured to take over from Chris Kuchel as the new Editor of the Hutt Valley Angling Club Newsletter and hope to continue with the great effort he has put in for the past two years.

I would like to encourage anyone to submit any articles, anecdotes of fishing trips, trials and tribulations that they would like to share with the rest of the club. Even just a few photos and a brief description is a great addition. If you fancy yourself a bit of a comic strip artist, or want to make an angling related crossword or other game, all additions are welcome and encouraged.

This month's newsletter contains a summary of the June AGM, as well as a great Trout Talk from Big Jack on fishing in the Central Plateau. Hopefully we have enough of those perfect, crisp but sunny winter days to get out and amongst it. Enjoy, and have a great July.

Krystal Smith

President's Piece



It is with great sadness that we send our condolences to the Millar Family. John's wife Joan passed away peacefully at the Hutt Hospital on 15 June surrounded by family. Joan's funeral was attended by committee and club members. In lieu of flowers, the Hutt Valley Angling Club has made a donation to the Te Omanga Hospice to help them to carry on their valuable work.

We wish the Millar Family strength at this very sad time.

At the June AGM a new committee was elected. I am very pleased to accept my new role as Club President, ably supported by Ajit Jogi (Vice president), Ross Goodman (Immediate Past President), John Olds (Secretary) Mike Nansett (Treasurer), Krystal Smith, Thomas Fichtner, Colin Lewis and new committee member Trevor Jeffries. Steve Doughty will be taking a break from the committee, but will continue his excellent work as club Website Manager.

Looking to the coming year, I am keen to welcome new members into the club and help get them quickly up to speed with their fly fishing. Likewise, I am aware that we also need to cater for the more experienced members and give them opportunities to share their expertise and learn new skills themselves. Over the next few months, the committee will be mapping out a schedule of activities for the coming year, so any ideas from members are most welcome. One of the new initiatives will be to provide a suggestion box at club nights, where members can throw their ideas into the hat.

Looking forward to a great year. I encourage all members to get involved with the wide range of activities, trips and events that the club has to offer. All the best

Chris Kuchel

July Activities

Monday 10 th	Club Night, King Lion Hall, 7.30pm
Sunday 16 th	Casting Clinic, Belmont Domain, 10am
Wednesday 19 th	Committee Meeting, Stokes Valley RSA, 7.15pm
Saturday 8 th	Gibbs Shield Competition, Hutt River
Wednesday 26 th	Fly Tying Night, Stokes Valley RSA, 7.15pm

Club News

Next Club Meeting – King Lion Hall – Monday 10 July 7.30pm

Winter time is here so it's time to tie some streamers and get out onto the Hutt River. This month we will have a practical demonstration session suitable for both the complete novice and the experienced angler. Tim Trengrove will tie a woolly bugger in both the weighted and unweighted version, giving tips and advice as he goes. This will be followed by a demonstration on how to rig it up, for both floating and sinking lines and a discussion about leaders. Then will come the all-important discussion on where to find fish and how to present the fly to them. The woolly

bugger is a lethal pattern that will catch fish at any time of the year in streams or still water.



Casting Clinic

This month's casting clinic will be held on Sunday 16 July at Belmont Domain. Be there early and ready for a 10am start.

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.

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.

July Fly Tying Night – Stokes Valley RSA – Wednesday 26 July 7.15pm

At July's fly tying night, Tim Trengrove will be taking members through tying a Chenobyl Hopper pattern.

Here's a link showing the Chenobyl Hopper <https://goo.gl/KU2B6v>

Bound Shield Fly Tying Challenge for July

We would like members to tie the Stimulator. It was called the Stimulator by the originator, Jim Slattery. Jim named it after a friend's New York punk rock group called the Stimulators.

Here is a link showing you how: <https://goo.gl/1qVj1f>

Bound Shield Challenge Winner for May

For May's challenge, members were asked to make their own variant of Frank Sawyer's Pheasant Tail nymph, incorporating pheasant tail and copper in their fly. Congratulations to Ian Lawson, who took away the Bound Shield for his entry. His flies are 1st and 2nd on the left, but the judges noted that they were all fish catchers and well done.



Raffle Winners in June

Congratulations to Steve Doughty for winning the Green Trout Guiding raffle. Damian Bengree took away the Hunting and Fishing voucher and Colin Thompson won the box of flies.

Photo Competition

Congratulations to this month's winner, John Olds. His winning photo "Burning Off" is on the front cover of this month's newsletter.

Members will be aware that at the end of the last financial year we lost our sponsor of the photo competition. It is pleasing to announce that life member Grahame Kitchen has generously offered to sponsor this competition by providing 11 Hunting & Fishing vouchers of \$10 for the monthly winners. We thank Grahame for his very kind gesture and look forward to another year of quality photographs.

May Fish of the Month

Congratulations to Bill Harris, who caught a 5lb 9oz Rainbow Jack on Lake Otamangakau.

Up-coming Competitions

Sat 8 th July	Gibbs Shield, Hutt River
August	No competitions
Sat 23 rd Sept	GJK Shield, Hutt River
November	No competitions
December	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 **Gibbs Shield competition, on the Hutt River**. This is planned for **Sat 8th July**.

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.

Tisdalls Cup

This cup has been awarded for many years and is currently presented to the member who catches the heaviest fish in the Wellington Fish & Game Region excluding the Hutt River. Unfortunately, it is starting to lose its plating and there is also little room left for winners' names. It is not cost effective to re-plate it so at the last committee meeting it was decided that the current cup would be retired and a new cup purchased to be presented at next year's AGM.

It was also decided that because Tisdalls no longer exists that we should re-name the cup and it will now be known as the Grahame Kitchen Cup. We think it entirely appropriate that another of our cups should bear the name of a life member. We are in the process of selecting a new cup with Grahame's help and will advise members further in due course.

Literary Award

Thanks to John Millar for making this outstanding new trophy to replace the previous one, which was getting a little worse for wear. John's beautiful craftsmanship means the club has a new Literary Award trophy to be proud of.



Prizegiving Results from the Annual General Meeting

Thanks go out to Grahame Kitchen, one of our two life members, for presenting this year's awards.

Kernow Cup for the heaviest fish caught and released

Tomas Fitchner



Rex Chapman Taylor Trophy for the heaviest fish caught in the Hutt River or its tributaries

Ian Lawson



Keith Tourell Cup for the heaviest fish caught in New Zealand, outside of the Wellington region

Ian Lawson



President's Trophy for the Club Championship, based on the three best club competition results

Ian Lawson



Tisdalls Cup for the heaviest fish caught in the Wellington Fish & Game Region (excluding the Hutt River)

Ian Lawson



Literary Award for the best newsletter article of the year

The first recipient of this new trophy, for his article "Curse of the Hutt" is Steve Doughty



Photography Trophy for the photo voted best out of the monthly winners

"Autumn Makotuku"
by Krystal Smith



Jacques Cousteau Trophy for underwater exploration

Damian Bengree



Green Trout Guiding Voucher

The first draw for this prize resulted in John Olds name being drawn. He then announced that, seeing he had been on two trips with Jim Rainey it should be re-drawn. Maureen Burgess' marble was then drawn. Maureen was reluctant to accept the prize as both her and her husband Ian had won it previously and she thought it should be redrawn. Following a bit of discussion, she was in agreement with the prize going to one of the club's learner anglers. Thanks to Maureen for her generosity. The plan is for John Olds to accompany that person, who is yet to be selected, on the trip and include a day's fishing either side on another river to add to that angler's development. The trip will likely be taken in the New Year.



Trout Talk

Big Jack

Continuing my Central Plateau (CP) theme from last month many anglers think that the rivers of that area, and particularly the Tongariro are too daunting in terms of their size. An old angler once told me not to think of

the Tongariro as a big river but to think of it as two smaller rivers because you can only fish it from one side at a time. It is true that parts of the Tongariro are deep and weight is required to get flies down and these two pools come to mind.



Neverfail Pool



Cattle Rustlers Pool (foreground) with Barlows Reach in the background.
The National Trout Centre is behind the trees in the background.

Casting a line with plenty of weight on it is bloody hard work for most of us especially in a wind but if you want to get onto the fish that are deep you do need to get down to them. I'm reminded of Steve Doughty's article "The curse of the Hutt" that won the Literary Award this year in which he talked about varying your rig and adding weight to suit the pools you are fishing. However, there's a lighter side to the Tongariro. I have fished a number of pool and runs with a dry/dropper rig just like many of our rivers in the Wellington District. Late one afternoon in October I pulled 3 and a 3.5lb fish out from under willows in 3 to 4 feet of water using a dry and one fly dropper. That same day I had fished a run against a bank that would have been 4 feet deep at most and had 7 fish. And I have also tackled some deeper runs that do not require ridiculous amounts of weight. Chris Kuchel has had great fun Czech nymphing the Tongariro and if you want a pleasant day's fishing with lighter gear head to the Tauranga/Taupo river.

Last month I talked a bit about using split shot as an alternative to big heavy bombs. I am grateful to **Chris Dore, South Island fishing guide** for allowing me to reprint part of his article "Better Nymphing" which I would recommend as a good read. What I have reproduced deals with weighting flies and adding shot and also how to add the shot to your line.

"The most common way of getting deep is to add weight to the fly. With the advent of tungsten beads, smaller flies can now be fished deeper, without the added bulk of layers of lead. The home tier can now achieve success in a wide range of waters by employing unweighted nymphs to fish near the surface, lightly weighted ties for the wider, shallower riffles and flatter waters, a tungsten bead (or two) for the deeper, or faster runs, or really load their tie with an underwrap of lead and an oversized bead to really plunge the depths. However, this means that for any one size of a given pattern you may require three or four different weights, according to their purpose, and for the average tier with limited vice time, or those prone to losing more than a few flies this may not be achievable. Over the past couple of seasons, I have been employing split shot on and off to present the same tie to fish over a variety of depths. With practice, it only takes a few seconds to add a shot or two or remove it according to the conditions, without the necessity of remembering which flies are heavily loaded and which are medium weight."

Fishing a season or two ago with Chase Jablonski, Chase demonstrated the benefits of utilizing good quality, soft lead shot. He explained that unweighted nymphs take but a moment to tie and by favouring a couple of smaller shot over a single larger piece, he can easily explore a range of depths in only moments. If his moderately weighted rig needed extra weight for that heavier drop off, the addition of another piece of shot would get him there, and the moment he approached the shallower tail – out above, it takes but a moment to remove the recent addition and be back in the bingo zone.

Rigging Shot

Attaching shot is easy, and requires but a pair of forceps or needle nosed pliers. Firstly, I split my tippet several inches from the fly and rejoin it with a simple blood knot above which I attach my shot. This will prevent the shot from sliding down upon the fly, and more importantly, will ensure that whilst the weight may bump along the bottom, the fly rides slightly above, avoiding unnecessary foul ups along the streambed.



Using good quality, soft lead will prevent any nicks or abrasion of the tippet, for the edges are less rugged, although it is good practice regardless to check your leader often for any weak spots. Simply hold the tippet tight and place it well down into the groove on the shot. Applying steady pressure with the forceps will close the shot snug around the line

resulting in instant weight. As mentioned, I regulate the depth by employing two or more smaller shot over one larger, more awkward piece, and also find less water disturbance when splashing down smaller pieces. Maybe that's just me. To remove shot, simply hold the leader tight and squeeze the groove the opposite direction using your forceps – the gap should simply open up so you can remove, and again check your tippet for abrasions. Easy as".

All you need do now is buy some split shot because you already have forceps for removing hooks from fish, don't you?! You can purchase oval split shot as well as round but whether it makes any difference I don't know. A more aerodynamic piece of shot hitting you on the head would still have the same hurt factor I'd imagine!

Now onto walking (and biking!) You don't have to fish the CP rivers in the dead of winter to catch good fish. The rises in summer can be spectacular and there is always a spot where you can catch fish while wet wading in the summer. In a lot of cases all you have to do is walk – there's nothing like exploring new bits of river. The Tongariro in particular appears to be fished by a number of anglers who have mobility problems and don't stray far from the pools around the main road bridge or those that are right by a road. This is good, because it means there is plenty of river left for the rest of us. It is true that at the height of the season a lot of anglers descend on Turangi to make the most of the winter runs (and as I write this there is plenty of evidence that this winter's runs are pretty damn good!). They usually turn up from June to August – winter. I used to do this until I discovered that I enjoyed fishing far more when I wasn't freezing my butt off. And don't tell anybody but the runs of spawning fish actually extend far further than these three months! So, you can turn up from November onwards when it's much warmer and still have great fishing.

While writing this I have counted up the pieces of "small" water (places where you can fish like the Hutt) on the Tongariro from the Blue Pool to the Hydro Pool (about half the river). I came up with 14 and that's just a rough tally. There is a trail alongside the river from the SH1 bridge to the Red Hut bridge and back again. The official Tongariro River trail that can be cycled runs from the Major Jones bridge to the Red Hut bridge and

back and is 15km. So, if you have a trail bike you can get in a lot of fishing in a day. And if you head west for about an hour you have the Whanganui & Whakapapa Rivers and many others that are full of fish.

Boy, are we spoilt for choice. Get out that piece of paper and start planning a road trip.

Next month

Tungsten and brass beads



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 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>

Hot-Smoked Trout Pâté



300g hot-smoked trout fillet, skinned
2–2½ teaspoons English mustard
1 heaped tablespoon crème fraîche
½ teaspoon caster sugar
1 tablespoon lemon juice, or to taste
1 teaspoon coarsely ground black pepper
2–3 tablespoons chopped dill or chives
½ teaspoon paprika (optional)

Put half the smoked fish into a food processor or blender with the mustard, crème fraîche, sugar and lemon juice and blend until smooth. Transfer to a bowl.

Break the remaining fish into flakes and stir it into the blended mixture with the pepper and dill or chives. Taste and add more lemon juice, if necessary. Ideally, leave to rest in a cool place for an hour or two before serving.

Serve the pâté with a dusting of paprika, if you like, and with buttered bread or toast. A scaled-down version of this, on small pieces of toast, makes a lovely canapé.

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Any articles published in this newsletter are the opinions of the author alone and do not necessarily represent the views of the club as a whole or other members of the club.