A photograph of a forest stream with mossy rocks and dense green foliage. The stream flows through a lush, green forest with many trees and ferns. The water is clear and flows over large, moss-covered rocks. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

Hutt Valley Angling Club

1975—2015

40TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

Newsletter Issue No 406 : November 2015

Contents

Up-coming November Activities

HVAC 40th Birthday Celebration

Fishscene Interclub Fly Tying Competition

Book Review and Articles

Editorial

This month has seen the passing of a major milestone in the history of the Hutt Valley Angling Club. 40 years on and still going strong! Why has the club survived and thrived? Because of the dedication and commitment of members to stand by the club's original vision. Here's to the next 40 years!

Chris Kuchel

Newsletter Front Cover

The cover this month is the one used for the Programme at our Anniversary Dinner.

President's Piece

On Monday the 26th October, Mike and I headed off to Paraparaumu to attend the Annual Interclub fly tying competition. This year it was being hosted by the Kapiti Freshwater Angler's Club. The annual event is sponsored by Jeff Wood who operates Fishscene and is contested between Wellington, Kapiti and the Hutt Valley Angling Club.



We arrived at the venue and met up with Graham, Ian and Ajit who were representing our club and getting ready for the night ahead. There was a bit of tension in the air and a few last minute issues were sorted. The rules were explained to those gathered and we settled down to have a drink and something to eat whilst the competitors did their thing.

As I said to the Hutt Valley supporters at our table next to the food, watching such an event is not that dissimilar to watching grass grow or paint drying. So for an hour or so we chatted, ate and mingled with members from the other clubs and had a look at the flies being tied.

As the competition was drawing to an end I went and had a look at the flies that were up for judging. The quality of the flies was outstanding. This was not just a sporting occasion, it was the presentation of art and these guys are good!

The judges did their thing and we had a bit more to eat and what food was left was then consumed by the competitors which seemed only fair. The room fell silent as it was time to announce the results. We were told it was tight and the three team scores were all close.

It was then announced that Hutt Valley had won by less than half a point from Kapiti with Wellington a close third. Our boys had done us proud and their supporters were rapped. We were there to see and feel the drama unfold it was our night. The three

had their photos taken with the beautiful trophy and we had another drink to celebrate. Graham, Ian and Ajit could now finally relax and enjoy the moment.

The Kapiti club were very good hosts and the night went very well. I would recommend that next year you go along and watch and appreciate the skill that those competing for all three clubs showed.

At the time of writing this piece, we are all looking forward to the 40th Anniversary Dinner, which is expected to be a huge success, due in no small part to the hard work that John Millar has put in to its organization.

Ross Goodman

November Activities

7th – 9th Hastings trip

9th Club Meeting - King Lion hall 7.30pm

11th Casting Clinic - Belmont Domain 6.30pm

17th Committee meeting – Community House 7.30pm

25th Fly tying – community House 7.30pm

25th Copy deadline for December newsletter

Club News

Club night – Monday 9th November at 7.30pm in King Lion Hall. King Street, Upper Hutt.

Gavin Courage is confirmed as guest speaker at the meeting. Gavin has a wide range of fishing and outdoor experience which will be of interest to all members.

Casting Clinic – To take advantage of daylight saving and the warmer weather, the casting clinic time has been moved to Wednesday evening 11th November 6.30pm 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 – Wednesday 25th November at 7.30pm. Upper Hutt Read, Write Plus House, off Logan Street beside the Upper Hutt medical centre.

Fly of the month – Coch-y-Bonddu. November/December is the time that beetles will be flying at dusk and many will end up in the river particularly where there is vegetation and grass to the river edge. This traditional hackled fly represents a beetle and can be fished wet or dry. A proven fish taker, the Cochy is an easy pattern to tie and is especially effective in sizes 14 and 16 when fished at dusk.

Check out Tim Trengrove's fine article on the Welsh Beetle in the June issue of the Hutt Valley Angler newsletter. After tying the Coch-y-bonddu we will watch a DVD on foam terrestrials that come into their own when fished throughout the summer.



Library News

The library is open from 7.00pm on Club nights. Please check at home and return all club books that you have borrowed.

Please make sure that all books and DVDs are checked out and returned through Maureen in the normal way.

Fish of the month

Congratulations to Ross Goodman this month for his fine 6lb Rangitikei brown. Ross spent the best part of October based up in Taihape giving the local fish a fright. It's a tough job but someone's got to do it! Well done Ross.



Raffle Winners in August

Congratulations to Bruce Prescott for winning the Green Trout Guiding entry. Colin Thomson took away the box of flies and Ian Porter 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.

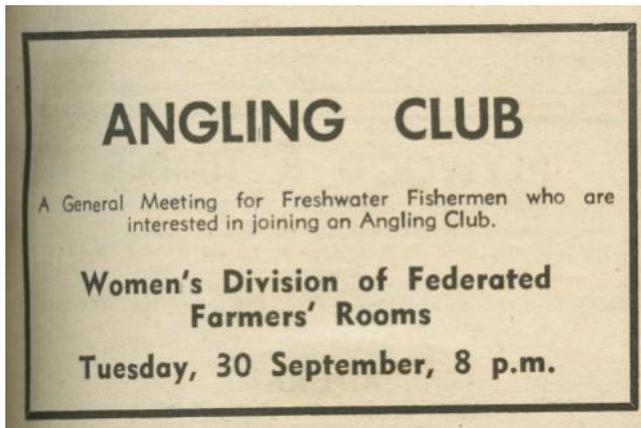
Up-coming trips

Due to flood waters which have closed access to the Mountain Valley Lodge, the December trip to the Mohaka has been postponed until 2016. The new venue for the December trip will be the rivers around Pahiatua.

The HVAC Trip Calendar is from November 2015 to April 2016. 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.bengree@paradise.net.nz not less than 3 weeks before the trip date. Damian will send accommodation details to participants as necessary.

2015 --2016	Destination	Degree of difficulty: high 5 - 1 easy	Dates
November	HVAC & Hastings Club	2 to 3 (Max of 8)	Fri 6 to Sun 8
December	Pahiatua Rivers	2 to 3	Fri 4 to Sun 6
January	Wairarapa Camping	1 to 2	Sat 23rd
February	Rivers around Taihape	4	Fri 19 to Sun 21
March	Rivers around Pahiatua	2 to 3	Fri 11 to Sat 13
April	Tongariro river	3 to 4	Fri 15 to Sun 17

Public Notice in the Upper Hutt Leader , September 1975



Please support our sponsors

Green Trout Guiding

Sponsor of the Club's Guiding Raffle

Phone Jim Rainey (06) 382-5507

Kawhatau Valley Road, RD7, Mangaweka

office@greentroutguiding.co.nz

www.greentroutguiding.co.nz



Great Value

**Simms Freestone Wader & Boot Combo
Only \$599**

**Simms "V" Wader & Boot Combo
Only \$799**

Check Out Our Full Range

**New Simms Gear
New Sage Rods**

And...

**Free sun glasses still available
with Whole Season licence**

The Flyfishing Experts
444 Cuba Street, Alicetown Ph 589 9500
<http://www.huntingandfishing.co.nz>

Hutt Valley Angling Club turns 40

In 1975, when Keith Tourell first proposed the establishment of an angling club based in the Hutt valley, he had a vision. Sure, there were lots of practicalities to consider such the location of the clubrooms, the constitution, legal structure etc, but what was the driving motivation behind Keith's vision? What is a club and why start one up?

- **To meet like-minded people and make new friends**

It's all about sharing activities with like-minded people both socially and out on the river. The diversity of our club membership allows members to fish with others, both beginner and expert alike. It makes it easy to find people with a similar passion for fishing, the environment and the outdoors.

- **To see new places and do new things**

Trips away have played an important part in the culture of the club right from the beginning and allowed members to experience a wide variety of new fishing waters. Beginning anglers have expanded the scope of their own fishing activities by taking part in those organised by more experienced members. If members want to go to a new river, there's bound to be someone in the club who has already been and willing to give you good advice.

- **To learn new skills**

Our club culture means that there are always more experienced members around to provide guidance and specific help, including practical peer-to-peer coaching so that we all learn together. In this way, knowledge is transferred from more experienced members, a bit like an apprenticeship. Most new members would say that they doubt whether they would have made so much progress with their fishing without the support of the club.

- **To save money on trips and equipment**

Our club enables people to share transport and get cheap group accommodation in club huts, bunk houses or hostels. It also provides equipment that members can use such as the water striders, practice rods and walkie-talkies. And don't forget the books and DVDs from the club library. Businesses such as Hunting and Fishing and Fishscene support the club also provide members with discounts on fishing products and equipment.

- **It's fun!**

It's more fun spending your day out with others. Members can get great photos of their fishing successes and you can't beat sitting around after a great day on the river exchanging lies about the ones that got away.

Saturday 31 October marked a major milestone in the history of the Hutt Valley Angling Club. The club's 40th birthday dinner was held at the Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club with approximately 80 members and guests in attendance.

Unfortunately, Keith was unable to attend due to on-going health issues, but he was proudly represented on the night by his wife Alice.



Proceedings were opened by club president, Ross Goodman who acknowledged Alice and asked her to pass on our warm wishes and thanks to Keith, without whom, none of this would be possible.

Special presentations were made to Grahame Kitchen for his outstanding service to the club over the last 40 years and to our good friend Strato Cotsilinis for his outstanding contribution to fishing in the Wellington region.

We were also privileged to hear special guest Bryce Johnson , Fish & Game New Zealand, pass on his best wishes to the club. He encouraged members, as custodians of the Hutt River, to keep fighting on behalf of our precious river on our doorstep.



An audio visual presentation outlining the club's history, gave newer members and guests a fascinating insight into the establishment and history of the club. It certainly was a humbling experience to be made aware of the rich history of the Hutt valley Angling Club. Of course, no HVAC celebration is complete without an MC for the evening and once again Alan Markham did the club proud by keeping the proceedings light hearted and moving along seamlessly. Musical entertainment between presentations was provided by our own Rollcasters, Chris and Gary (formally known as the Wooly Buggers before Chris trimmed his beard!)

Following is a brief selection of photos taken on the night.



















And of course, special thanks must go to John Millar for his vision and tireless efforts to make the evening the huge success that it was. It was a special night to remember and a fitting tribute to Keith Tourell's vision 40 years ago. Let's all look forward to the 50th birthday celebrations in another ten years!

FishScene Interclub Fly Tying Competition

This year the competition was hosted by the Kapiti Freshwater Anglers Club in their new meeting rooms just north of Paraparaumu.

The Hutt Valley team and an entourage of ten supporters made the trip and were warmly greeted by the host club. The club rooms were spacious, well lighted and tastefully appointed providing a pleasant and relaxed ambiance for the competition.

The teams were

HVAC - Ian Lawson, Graham Odlum and Ajit Jogi.



Kapiti - Tony Jacques, Craig Gutry and Malcolm Francis.





Wellington – Gordon Baker, Jim McLean and Strato Cotsilinis.



The head judge and competition sponsor was Jeff Wood and each club supplied one member to make up the judging panel.

Three specimens of the compulsory flies were mounted on the display board and then the competition adjudicator Wayne Cameron explained the rules to competitors and on looking supporters from the three clubs.

After a few necessary alterations to the tying instructions the competition was commenced. The teams had one hour to complete and submit eight flies for judging. Throughout the one hour session, as flies were mounted to the display board the team of judges would assess and compare to other attempts at the same fly on the board and judge against the specimen provided then give each fly a score.

Compulsory flies could score up to 10 points and the “own choice” flies were allocated extra points for flair and innovation which could achieve a maximum score of 15 points.

Whilst the judging and rechecking of scores was being carried out the assembled group were treated to an excellent supper.

Finally the moment of truth had come. The adjudicator read out the total scores for each team.

In first place Hutt Valley with a score of 133 points.

In second place Kapiti with a score of 132.5 points.

In third place Wellington with a score of 130.5 points.

The scores were incredibly close with only 2.5 points separating first and third so any of the teams could have been winners but Hutt Valley came out on top so congratulations to our victorious team.



Graham Odlum's small Caddis Fly was judged to be best fly and so Graham was presented with a bottle of wine.

A very happy Hutt Valley team returned home with the handsome trophy and they wish to thank our band of loyal supporters for their encouragement.

Next year it will be HVAC's turn to host the competition and hopefully we will introduce other new competitors who may wish to try for a place in the team.

Open Season: An Angler's Life in New Zealand, by Dave Witherow. Random House, 2014.

Reviewed by Tim Trengrove

Dave Witherow has put together a collection of stories covering his vast angling experience, his mates, the locations and the getting there. Many of these stories have appeared in shortened versions in *Fish & Game New Zealand* where Dave writes a regular column called Streamside. He is also a long serving member of the Fish and Game National Council.

To describe Dave would take a long article indeed and come up with some very colourful language. Better to read his articles and this book. A short list of descriptions could read something like Humorous, Hangman, Opinionated, Polarising, Blunt, Fearless - and Dave is far from done yet. He's also Irish. The mix makes for a very good read. Dave's stories are certainly entertaining. There's a feeling of familiarity too. Dave lives close to and regularly fishes the Matura, as did Norman Marsh. Norman also wrote a column called Streamside which appeared in *Rod and Rifle* magazine. The culmination of Norman Marsh's work was a book called *Trout stream insects of New Zealand: How to imitate and use them* which is arguably the finest book published on fly fishing in New Zealand. *Open Season* is not in that league, but still worth reading.

Another familiar link is with Dave's friend Brian Turner. Brian wrote *Into the wider world* in 2008 and dedicated it to Dave. Dave has returned the favour, dedicating *Open Season* to Brian. Sweet. They also tell one same story about a trip into the Thomas River. If there is one chapter that makes reading this book worthwhile, it is this. The story is a ripper of a yarn, so compelling you won't put it down. *Into the wider world* and *Open season* are both published by Random House. The similarities end there though.

Into the wider world is meticulously set out and crafted. In comparison, the feel of the paper and quality of the colour photos sadly make *Open Season* look like a cheap

mishmash. Using black and white photos on poor quality paper has made for a forgettable presentation. Perhaps the author places much more value in the written word than the appearance of the book but I think many will agree with me here. Our expectations for publishing quality are high following *The Trout Diaries* and *The Trout Bohemia* by Derek Grzelewski.

While I'm not looking for a clone of these fine books, there are other things I was hoping to see in *Open Season*. Dave Witherow is an expert angler. So are many of his friends. I found myself asking many times, How did he do that? What did that fly look like? What line weight, tippet diameter? Dave would say CDC fly but not go into further detail on flies. It is his book though, his style and what interests him. I would have liked to read a bit more technical detail though.

This is not a step by step story for *Flylife*. Herein lie some of the main differences between *Open Season* and the angling images we are bombarded with today. Photos on Facebook and sequences on YouTube are repeated to the extent of boredom, with anglers holding trout up out of the water. Catch and release rules, and usually killing a fish is frowned upon. For some time *Flylife* wouldn't accept photos of fish with blood on them. Dave likes to take a fish home for eating and has included plenty of photos of killed trout. That goes against what we see widely today and is exactly one reason why you should read Dave Witherow. For the opposing view!

Another reason is for what Facebook photos and YouTube struggle to give you. How does it *feel* starting out on a fishing adventure, to lie back in the tussocks sheltering from a strong wind, to land on a wilderness river bank? It is about the experience, not about digital images. This may be old school but I for one like it.

Read the book then see if you would answer these questions the same way.

Would I drink with Dave Witherow? No.

Would I fly with him? Maybe.

Would I fish with him? Absolutely yes!

Hunch

by Tim Trengrove

I've had a hunch for a while now. My hunch is that a trout's preference is to feed on what it can see most clearly. It came about 10 years ago, after re-reading *The trout and the fly* by Brian Clarke and John Goddard (1980). That and many years of observing and fishing for trout.

The book was ground-breaking for fly fishermen and is well worth reading. There are videos on YouTube of how they researched and got photos for the book. They had a fly tier make flies to their new specifications, and I for one am happy those designs have been largely forgotten. One, the Upside Down Fly, was novel and

caught fish but was a beggar to tie! It wasn't tying new artificials that sparked my interest. It was thinking about how trout might view the flies.

How often have you dropped a dry fly on a glass of water or watched a nymph sinking in a bowl of water? I'm told it works the same with a glass of wine or in a gin and tonic. Look up to the surface film as your dry fly sits on the surface and what do you see? Push the fly into the film and look again. Lastly sink the fly down 20cm (tall G&T!) and now look. If you can't be bothered, then read the book. The photos in the book tell the story much better than I can.

Where the mayfly legs or the dry fly hackle points pierce the film it looks like a cluster of diamonds. When the fly or the natural sits in the film, the view is better. It's two dimensional. Pull the fly under and now it can be seen distinctly and in 3 dimensions. Somewhere between 20cm – 30cm under the surface, the fly or natural can also be viewed in the surface mirror. That sounds okay but what difference does it make to feeding trout? This is where the trout observations came in.

Watching trout feeding in my local small streams, it seemed that they fed far more under the surface than from items on the surface. This was early in the 1980s during the boom in nymph fishing. A catch cry was that 90% of a trout's diet was taken below the surface. Got it. But why and how does that relate to the work done by Clarke and Goddard?

This goes back to my hunch - that the trout's preference is to feed on what it can see most clearly.

Goddard and Clarke's photos showed a progression from indistinct fly images to distinct fly images, and I observed trout feeding mostly where those images were most distinct. In fishing terms, a dry fly worked sometimes but a sunken fly was much more reliable.

Fishing a mayfly rise successfully can be difficult. It made sense to offer the trout a choice. A fly on top and one underneath. Selwyn Shanks was the first person in New Zealand I read about doing this with a small unweighted fly trailed off the bend of a dry fly. It worked very well for him on fussy Central Otago browns and was a favoured rig for Selwyn's guiding during mayfly rises.

The best evidence for my hunch, though, wasn't fishing a mayfly rise during the day, but fishing a caddis hatch at night.

Take two artificials. A caddis sedge and a caddis pupa, both tied on a #14 nymph hook. Take a good look close up and see the differences. Now turn out the lights and who can consistently see the differences between the sedge and the pupa? It seems that trout can do this in the dark though. I've been lucky enough to fish some great caddis rises at night and since first looking in 1985 at trout stomach contents,

have only seen caddis pupae in trout I've kept from the caddis rise. The trout got it 100% right, but how? The answer to me is not about appearance but about location. Trout were not looking for the difference in appearance between sedge and pupae, they were feeding under the surface and that's where the pupae are. Why feed under the surface? Well, I believe that is where images of caddis are most distinct AND that trout's preference is to feed on what they can see most clearly.

What about feed size or colour? There is no doubt that trout can get very excited over big prey. My point here is that given two similar sized food items, trout will prefer to feed on the one they can see most clearly. That means eating the item in or under the surface film in preference to the item floating on top. Colour is another whole story and one where I don't have firm ideas. Others do though. Read Mike Weddell's *10 of the best New Zealand trout flies*.

By this stage you may be thinking that I never use dry flies or only ever fish flies under the surface. While I have hardly fished dry flies since the 1970s, I am enjoying tying them now and fishing them more. Not because I think they're more effective than subsurface flies but because I enjoy the choice. Whatever flies you enjoy fishing, it is a good idea to swim them in a glass or bowl and see how they might appear to trout. Who knows, you might just get a hunch about what you see.

New Girlfriend

by Tim Trengrove

Over the winter I felt the itch for a change. It comes on every couple of years actually.

There was nothing wrong with my current model or the last two for that matter. A friend had talked about his new model and I must admit to coveting his. He had a big budget and paired up with something very posh. Knowing that was out of my league, I planned to go the Chinese mail order way and settle for something cheap. Cheap isn't bad though. It just comes without a name. Initially I'd be ashamed to show her to my friends but time would improve that.

My requirements were pretty simple. A shorter one that would fit in the car without disassembling. Lighter, a slow action and most importantly a 3 weight. That's right. A new fly rod.

I've had Chinese 6wt rods over the last 15 years. None broke, they were all different and performed well. The last two seasons I used a Chinese 5wt and really enjoyed it. Each rod was finished better than the last. The first cost \$100 and the prices went down after that.

Years ago, I'd have tried any rod out thoroughly before buying. Now I was buying sight unseen off Trademe. If the rod didn't suit, my plan was to sell it on Trademe. They were that cheap. The 5wt cost \$30 plus freight from Auckland. So far, I haven't struck a dud.

The first thing I do with any rod is to feel the action. Tony Entwistle showed me how 25 years ago. Hold the cork high, place the tip spine-side down on a clean surface and gradually bend the rod. When progressive tapers were becoming widespread, this was a handy technique. At this time rod actions seemed to be getting faster and faster. I got one of those state of the art American rods and fell completely for the advertising hype. After exasperating years of being unable to load the rod with short casts, I sold it and other fast action rods from my cupboard. My preference had swung right over to slow action rods. Many of these cheap Chinese rods fitted the bill perfectly.

The hunt was on to find an affordable, slow action 3wt rod. Trademe had one but it was \$229, way over my budget. Alibaba was my next port of call. There were many rods listed but nearly all necessitated buying more than one rod and paying expensive freight. AliExpress was much better for my needs. Plenty of good looking rods, ability to buy only one AND free freight. I was in. The task now was to sift through them and find the slower action rods. Any talk of fast action didn't make it to my short list. No one describes graphite rods as slow action – well not in China - so I looked at anything other than fast. Reels looked good and so too did breathable waders. They'd have to wait though. The first purchase was to be only one rod. My pick was a 4 piece 3wt that was 8' long. Price delivered was US\$29. SOLD, I was on to that faster than a rat up a drainpipe.

What do you expect buying a US\$29 rod? Well, my expectations were quite high. It took about a month to arrive after initial doubts that my credit card would be scammed and no rod turn up.

An ugly plastic tube with taped up ends was dropped off by courier. The rod within though was beautiful. A quick bend up showed it was indeed a medium action rod. The reel seat and matt rod finish were gorgeous. Was it a 3wt though? I had acquired a Lamson reel loaded with an Airflo WF4F. The rod could handle it but oh, what an awful line. I ordered a 3wt Barrio SmallStream and it turned out to be a match made in Chinese heaven.

Girlfriend was complete and has now accounted for a few early season local browns. If anyone in the club wants to try my new girlfriend, just give me a yell.



The sentimental first fish with the new Girlfriend.

FishScene Ltd

Fly Fishing and Fly Tying Specialists

Shop Online: **www.FishScene.co.nz**

Jeff Wood

Ph: 021 204 8978

FishScene Ltd

E: fishscene@live.com

1c Taurima Street, Hataitai Village, Wellington

Just through the tunnel

Hours: Tuesday - Friday: 9am – 5.30pm, Saturday: 9am – 1pm

Our newsletter is printed by:

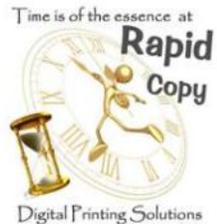
Jill and Tony

Sammons

471 2537

027 242 0660

Thorndon Centre
191 Thorndon Quay
Wellington 6011
PO Box 937
Wellington 6140
copyit@rapidcopy.co.nz
www.rapidcopy.co.nz



Hours Monday to Friday 7.30am to 4.00pm

Check out our Web Site. www.rapidcopy.co.nz

CLUB CONTACTS

President	Ross Goodman	(04) 233 0087
Vice President		
Past President	Steve Doughty	(04) 527 7799
Secretary	Gary Jacobsen buskernz@gmail.com	(04) 563 8689
Treasurer	Mike Nansett	(04) 586 5659
Committee	Damian Bengree	(04) 938 3372
	Maureen Burgess	(04) 238 2304
	Ajit Jogi	021 235 9168
	Chris Kuchel	021 036 7639
	Ian Lawson	(04) 563 5486
	John Millar	(04) 563 6491
	Rob Winwood	(04) 566 1817
Buddy Programme Coordinator	Ross Goodman rgoodman@globe.net.nz	(04) 233 0087
Casting Coordinator	Ian Lawson lawsieig@gmail.com	(04) 563 5486
Librarian	Maureen Burgess	(04) 238 2304
Newsletter Editor	Chris Kuchel chriskuchel357@gmail.com	021 036 7639
Newsletter Publisher	Grahame Kitchen grahame2@paradise.net.nz	(04) 971 6696
Fishing Diary Holder	John Millar john.millar@xtra.co.nz	(04) 563 6491
Club Web Site	www.huttvalleyangling.org.nz	
Club email address	huttangler@hotmail.com	
Club Mail address	PO Box 40135, Upper Hutt, 5140	

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.