

# THE HUTT VALLEY ANGLER

Issue No 407 : December 2015



Photo taken by Damian Bengree

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## **Editorial**

December is finally here and with it, the start of the warmer settled weather in the evenings. For those of us with day jobs, this is the perfect time to get out on the Hutt River and just relax, observe and fish. Summer also brings the chance to catch up with family and friends. I'm looking forward to spending some quality fishing time up in Auckland with my 2 grandsons. I think I must still be a kid at heart myself. I still get excited about the prospect of going to the Cornwallis jetty and catching piper on light spinning gear. At 7 and 3 years old, the boys are a bit too young for fly fishing but it's all good fun.

Have a great time over summer and if you feel inclined, take some photos of your fishing exploits and send them to me for the February newsletter. Take care, good luck and all the best.

*Chris Kuchel*

## **President's Piece**

As I eluded to in the October newsletter, I was looking forward to the club's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner. I have to say it was a night to remember and most enjoyable. The setting was right for the occasion and the service was very good. It was great to see some of our more mature members catch up with fishing buddies of the past and to talk about fishing ventures they had enjoyed.



True to form, Allan excelled as MC and kept the night running smoothly. It was especially enjoyable to see a good number of previous members come from out of town to be part of the night. Special awards were given to Grahame and Strato for services they have provided to our club and flowers were presented to Alice for the work that both her and Keith have put in to the formation and running of the club. As you will have seen in the October newsletter we were entertained by Chris and Gary throughout the night which showed what talent we have in the club. The boys called themselves the 'Roll Casters' and their were music was appreciated by those there on the night. In all the night for me has been the highlight of the year and shows the strength of the club. A lot of the success of the night needs to be attributed to John Millar who worked tirelessly to ensure the night was a huge success.

Fishing on the Hutt River seems to be hotting up for a number of our members particularly new member Dom who after receiving some guidance from Mike is catching fish regularly now. Again this is one of the advantages of being on Facebook as we share success and advice on what is working for us.



It was a pity that the weather did not allow us to have a club trip over to the Tuki River and thanks need to be given to Damian for putting a lot of effort in setting up the trip and making the call that the trip needed to be postponed. Not easy but the right one given the situation. Damian is planning to rearrange the trip for some time in April when weather and water conditions hopefully will be in our favour.

At our club night in November It was interesting to listen to Gavin speak and the wild life that you may come across when fishing in Africa. We get annoyed with dogs, but how would you deal with a hippo or croc that entered the water near you? In New Zealand we do not appreciate how well we have it currently and we must ensure that every effort is made to protect our unique environment and not take it for granted.

The December club night will be a night not to miss with Allan organising another quiz night for us so make sure you make it.....Right, time to get ready for another fishing adventure which may result in some fish being caught or maybe not. Got to get out there and enjoy it!

*Ross Goodman*

## **December Activities**

- 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Pahiatua trip
- 14<sup>th</sup> Club Meeting - King Lion hall 7.30pm
- 16<sup>th</sup> Casting Clinic – Belmont Domain 6.30pm
- No committee meeting this month
- No Fly tying this month

## **Club News**

**Club night** – Monday 14 December at 7.30pm in King Lion Hall. King Street, Upper Hutt.

Make sure you come along to our the final meeting for the year, which will be the Annual Christmas Quiz Night hosted by Alan Markham. Exercise for the brain plus Christmas mince pies...a great combination!

**Casting Clinic** – To take advantage of daylight saving and the warmer weather, the casting clinic time has been moved to Wednesday evening 16 December 6.30 pm at Belmont Domain.

The co-ordinator 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** – Fly tying will resume in February. Details will be posted in the February newsletter.

### **Library News**

The library is open from 7.00 on Club nights. Please make sure that all books and DVDs are checked out and returned to Maureen. This is essential because we are now operating an electronic check out/in and you will be contacted if your books become over due.

### **Raffle Winners in November**

Congratulations to Steve Doughty for winning the Green Trout Guiding entry. Jason Young took away the box of flies and Colin Thomson 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 December 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](mailto:c.bengree@paradise.net.nz) not less than 3 weeks before the trip date. Damian will send accommodation details to participants as necessary.

<b>2015 --2016</b>	<b>Destination</b>	<b>Degree of difficulty: high 5 - 1 easy</b>	<b>Dates</b>
December	Pahiatua Rivers	2 to 3	Fri 4 to Sun 6
January	Wairarapa Camping	1 to 2	Sat 23rd
February	Mohaka trip	4	TBC
March	Rivers around Pahiatua	2 to 3	Fri 11 to Sat 13
April	Tukituki trip	3 to 4	TBC



## New Season

Photo by Fraser Gibbs



This photo of John Olds was taken on the last day of the old season. John, Mike Nansett, Ross Goodman and I travelled to the Rangitikei for the opening of the season. We fished one of the tributaries of the Rangitikei of the 30th with each of us landing fish all in very good condition. We subsequently fished the Rangitikei on



opening day with mixed success – success for John and Ross. The weather came in the next day so it was fishing over for the next few days.

### **Olds Shield Handicap Competition 21 November**

The organiser was quite nervous leading up to this competition. It had been postponed once already and the weather forecast for this particular Saturday was not very encouraging.

He decided to take a punt and hope for better weather than forecast because another postponement was fairly unpalatable and a group of keen anglers were showing support for the competition. On the Friday it rained a fair bit and we had gale force winds right through until night time.

Six competitors assembled at the Rimutaka Forest Park gates on a fine and calm Saturday morning. This had to be a good omen. After rules had been explained and access information given out the competitors drew their beats and set off for a 9.00 am start.

When they met again at lunch time it was reported by John Olds that 5 minutes into the competition he hooked a very powerful fish. He soon realised that it was hooked in the tail and not the mouth and so he had an almighty struggle to land a fine 5lb hen which of course did not count because it was hooked at the wrong end. He told the other anglers that he had hooked but lost another two fish in the first session. This must be the hard luck story of the day and to top this off he also slipped and fell over in the river so he definitely gets our sympathy vote. The real story is *“I didn't just fall in the water. I got my foot caught in a big cattle hoof print on the muddy river bank and fell forward into the mud covering my waders and part of my vest”*

The only angler to record a catch in the morning session was John Millar with a 3lb 4oz hen taken on dry fly. He saw quite a number of fish rising in that session and managed to spook a few trout and one flounder that were close to his bank.

The other anglers had no luck but some reported seeing quite a few large trout.

The afternoon session where anglers fished on a different beat brought success to several fishers. The wind began to rise from around 1.30 in the afternoon and by the time they had finished it was gaining strength and of course this led to the inevitable tangles and casting difficulties.

Despite these setbacks three anglers recorded catches. Mike Travers caught a 5lb jack which was the biggest fish counted. Tim Lee was not far behind with a 4lb 12oz trout and John Millar caught his second fish of the day which weighed in at 4lb 4oz.



The result for this competition is:

1<sup>st</sup> John Millar (allowance per fish 100) score **1700**

2<sup>nd</sup> Mike Travers (allowance per fish 180) score **1180**

3<sup>rd</sup> Tim Lee (allowance per fish 180) score **1130**

These placings also count towards the club championship

John Millar           5 points

Mike Travers        3 points

Tim Lee               2 points

## Meet the member – Dom Scahill

Hi all

A little background of myself to start. My name is Dom and I am 20. I have been brought up in Upper Hutt my whole life, living in Heretaunga. Went to schools locally throughout it all. I'm very passionate about my sports and have played many! I have been brought up in a very much outdoors life. Love doing things outside.

My dad is the person who got me into fishing (from as little as I can remember) and myself and dad have been on so many fishing adventures I couldn't count. All of that was sea fishing either from the boat or surf casting. We also do a lot of free diving which is one of my biggest passions. We thought we would start doing some trout fishing about 2 years ago and so we started doing just that. All with spinners and have had great times. More recently I have taken up fly fishing. We both still go out together, dad on the spinner and myself on the fly. Although, a lot of the time I go out by myself because I find it extremely relaxing!

Joining the club has allowed me to learn so much already and meet new people. Looking forward to learning more and experiencing new things.



Dom Scahill

### 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](mailto:office@greentroutguiding.co.nz)

[www.greentroutguiding.co.nz](http://www.greentroutguiding.co.nz)



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*The Flyfishing Experts*  
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<http://www.huntingandfishing.co.nz>



## A Fishy Tale

A senior club member has made a habit of looking off bridges when trout spotting because bridges have a magnetic appeal for trout and there are almost always fish to be seen in the water around these structures.

He recently found that more fish can be seen at night (in the dark) provided there is the glow from street lighting shining into the water.

When talking to an inexperienced club member who told him he had still to catch his first Hutt trout on a fly and was having difficulty locating trout, our man mentioned that large numbers of trout could be seen in the dark under the right conditions.

He arranged to meet the novice at the river just before dusk to prove this point and hopefully to put the learner onto some fish as well.

They met as planned and looked off the bridge before dark but only saw a couple of trout. The water had risen and was slightly coloured making it harder to spot fish.

They crossed the bridge and went to the waterside whereupon some trout were seen to be rising close to the shingle beach. They had set up their rods differently. The novice's rod was set up with a Rabbit lure and the coach's rod with a dry fly. So the coach handed his rod to the novice and told him to cover the rising fish. As expected, the rising trout were easily spooked in daylight and they took off for deeper water one by one.

The coach asked the novice to cast his rabbit fly across and work it through where the fish might now be lying. This didn't bring any success and the light was now fading fast.

When the coach thought it dark enough they both left their rods and walked onto the bridge to spot some fish. After a few minutes to adjust to night vision the novice was able to see up to a dozen fish below. He was amazed at this revelation and was keen to go down under the bridge to try for them.

On the coach's direction our novice cast his fly to cover the nearest group of trout. Unfortunately he wasn't imparting enough movement to the fly to seduce the trout. The coach demonstrated with the rabbit fly and on his 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> cast was into a fish. He quickly swapped rods with the novice so that the learner could find out what it was like to play and land a fish at night. Unfortunately in the switchover his fly line must have been trapped in his grip and the fish broke off when it jumped.



Well at least the novice could see the potential in this style of fishing. He tied on a replacement fly and continued to fish for the other trout that were lying further across the stream. There were no more takes and so the chums left the water about 10 pm.

Next evening the coach was heading off to a meeting and happened to spy the novice's vehicle close to the bridge again. So he resolved to stop on his way home at around 9.00 pm and have a chat.

When the coach reached the bridge just after nine he could not see his friend's car but he parked off the bridge and walked back to look over the side. Whilst standing in the middle of the bridge peering into the water he was aware of the blue and red flashing lights of a police car going past. It stopped on the bridge beside him and as he turned he found a young police officer standing beside him. "Are you alright sir?" the officer enquired. The fisherman replied that he was fine, realising that his activity may seem odd to the uninitiated. "What are you doing on the bridge at night?" The officer asked. "I'm looking at the fish below". This explanation did not convince the cop who wanted to get the guy off the bridge because he might be a 'jumper'.

"Just come off the bridge sir, can you show me some ID? If you accompany me to your vehicle I'll check your licence". The cop kept our man talking all the while as they walked back to his car. It was clear that the cop and his partner were not convinced that our man's 'normal behaviour' was not suspicious so they had escorted him off the bridge and to the safety of his car.

Their parting advice was to wear reflective clothing at night, then they sped off in their patrol car to check out other suspicious activities in the Hutt Valley.

## **Corner**

By Tim Trengrove

Could it be that we have turned a corner?

The *Fish and Game New Zealand* magazine that arrived in the mailbox this month had an important cover photo. Hamish Carnachan is the new editor and this is his first issue at the helm. It was always going to be a smooth transition. After all, why mess with a (somewhat old) very successful formula?

But look at the photo he has chosen.



It's a trout, like in many *Fish and Game* covers, but this one is still in the water. Still in a landing net too. What makes this cover different is that the fish is not being hoisted up in the air by a jubilant angler. It is alive, but that's nothing new. All the covers are of live fish, because dead fish on magazine covers went out years ago and are as popular as a trout left out in the sun for a week.

Anglers make a lot of effort these days with their 'grip and grin' catch and release shots, to show that fish are alive. A lot of organising precedes the images we see of fish being held aloft. Trout are held in landing nets while camera angles and lighting are worked out. Sun glasses correctly positioned, clothes adjusted, the grin practised and then when lifted, water is seen dripping off the fish. An unwritten code of good form has developed and those water drops are now essential. They denote that the fish was just lifted out and will be quickly returned to the water. But of course it's impossible to tell how long the fish has actually been 'in custody' and subjected to multiple takes. Even with a video, editing can conceal the length of time a fish is exposed to the air.

To be fair, this isn't the first cover shot of a fish in the water (November 2011 was another), but this cover does deviate from the fish-out-of-the-water shot we have become used to seeing. It isn't just on *Fish and Game* covers either. Add the plethora of out-of-the-water images on YouTube and Facebook and you may have thought that this was the only way to photograph trout. Catch and release has a definite look these days. Fortunately it hasn't always been this way.

My favourite cover shot is from *Flyfisher* Feb/Mar 1984. Hans Riman and Frank Schlosser walked into the headwaters of Lake Rotoiti in the Nelson Lakes National Park. The photo backdrop shows mist rising above rugged native bush. In the foreground Hans peers out from a raincoat, still in the rain spotted river, line attached to a lovely brown trout held aloft by fingers well up the fish's gills. You may be able to see the bulging trout eye which has resulted from receiving a whack over the head. No effort is made to hide this. THE FISH IS DEAD! What a magnificent photo. I still love that shot but may struggle to find others today who share the same view. Because there is no 'proof of life' the photo doesn't fit with current perceptions of a good photo. That's odd really, because I believe the only fish that should be held up in the air for photos are dead fish.



## Contrasting magazine covers

Let's quickly look at trout and what is important to them.

Firstly, to survive they need to breathe. To breathe, they need to be in the water. Their greatest need for oxygen is while being caught by anglers.

Secondly, there is the risk of damage to skin and scales, as described in these recent comments by fish pathologist Brian Jones:

*"... Part of the problem is that we (as mammals) assume that fish skin is, like ours, mostly dead cells on the surface, but that's not so for fish. Fish skin is live tissue, with not only nerves but also taste buds and other sensors over the whole surface. Think of someone putting their bare (grubby) hand in your mouth as an example. Fish skin is protected by the mucous which has powerful antibacterial and antifungal properties. The purpose of a cotton (or plastic) glove is to stop your acids and chemicals on your skin interacting with those sense organs. Wipe the fish mucous off, and the fish is open to infection until the layer can be restored. Scales are embedded in the dermal layer deep below the skin surface and are covered with skin.*



*Any dislodging of scales is a major injury, and can compromise the life of the fish (through osmotic shock) as well as providing a portal for infection. The moral - treat fish like you would your finest bone china, not like a dog or cat."*

(Source <http://www.caddischronicles.com/>)

Dragging fish over stones, using landing nets and of course handling trout can all remove slime and scales. The trout's gills are also vulnerable to damage. Touching, dragging line over them and excessive exposure to the air can damage gills. The animal we are catching and releasing is incredibly vulnerable to harm by anglers. Why the hell then are we handling trout and lifting them out of the water? Sadly, a large part is about recording images of ourselves with trout.

Imagine a world which despises Grip and Grin and Trout Selfies. Instead of halls of fame, these images only make it to halls of shame. Faces are pixilated to avoid incrimination. Anglers recognise the damage they can cause though poor catch and release practices. Fanciful? We have many corners to turn before that state of affairs but today anglers have the choice. Carry on handling trout, lifting them out of the water for photos, or leave fish in the water and don't touch them. Choose between the angler's interests or animal welfare. Which is it going to be? Photos can still be taken without handling trout so why not choose animal welfare?

We have clear thoughts on other animal welfare issues but scant regard for the welfare of trout during catch and release. Take the recent animal cruelty case of a West Coast dairy herd manager breaking cow tails. He admitted a charge of wilfully ill-treating an animal and was found guilty of other charges.

Result, jail ([nzherald.co.nz](http://nzherald.co.nz) . 3 August 2015).

Everyone I spoke to about this was disgusted with his actions. How long will it be though before charges of wilfully mistreating an animal are levelled at an angler catching and releasing trout?

Have we turned a corner? Hamish Carnachan says he will mix the cover shots up – some trout in the water, others out. Perhaps that sounds more like making a cautious start than turning a corner. As a club we can do more though, by acknowledging the damage anglers can do catching and releasing trout. Start thinking about animal welfare in relation to catch and release. Take pride in our photos. There is nothing wrong with taking photos of fish out of the water – if the fish are dead. Trout are great eating. Start keeping some to take home and encourage other anglers to keep some fish. Never seeing another photo of fish being lifted out of the water by anglers



would make me happy. That is ultimately a decision for editors, but it is a decisions that will be influenced by anglers' views.

How about we all work together and clean up our catch and release practices?

## Plan B

by Chris Kuchel

For weeks, I'd been looking forward to the Tukituki trip which was planned for the weekend of the 7<sup>th</sup> November. Not just for the fishing, but to meet the guys from the Hastings Anglers club who were to be our hosts for the weekend. Damian had been liaising with ex HVAC member Peter Kennedy and preparations had been made for a day of buddy-fishing on the Saturday followed by a combined BBQ tea that evening. Things were looking good up until the Wednesday night when the report came through that the Tukituki was unfishable due to heavy rain in the ranges, so the trip was postponed at the last minute.

Gavin Scott and I had planned to travel up to the Hawkes Bay together. I was going stir-crazy through lack of fishing time and Gavin had given up an orienteering competition that weekend, so we both had the time and the inclination to just get out there and have a fish....anywhere!

Some time ago I heard someone mention the Waingawa, which has its headwaters west of Masterton. The Wairarapa had missed the worst of the rain, so Gavin and I agreed that it would be worth a look. Being an experienced tramper, Gavin knew the area well, so on the Saturday morning we headed off to the Wainagawa and parked the car at the Pines at the end of the road. Sure enough, the water looked fantastic. A month earlier, we had explored the Pakuratahi. The Waingawa was very similar....just bigger. Stunning scenery, crystal clear water and easy wading conditions.



A quick check the previous night on the Fish and Game website indicated that trophy fish were resident way up in the back country, but that fish were scarce in the lower



parts of the river. And that's pretty much how the day played out. After 3 hours walking upstream with not one fish being sighted, Gavin hooked onto a good size fish while blind nymphing in a smooth deep run. Judging by the way it pulled steadily and strongly we both reckon it was a big brown. Despite taking lots of care, a minute later Gavin's tippet parted company from his leader and the fish was gone. We continued walking upstream for another half hour and came across only one more very small fish holding in the tail of a shallow pool. We decided to turn around and head back to the car.



A few kilometres down the road, we came across another access point and decided to give it a go. This time it was my turn to hook and lose a good size fish. While Czech nymphing in a fast moving run, a good fish was hooked which then took off downstream like a train. Desperate not to let it get too far downstream, I took a few steps to follow it but stumbled on the bouldery bottom and soon found myself taking a bath with my rod waving above my head. In a split second the pressure came off the line and the fish was gone.

On that note, we decided to check out one of the smaller tributaries of the nearby Waipoua River. After checking in with the landowner, we made our way along a very shallow creek, seeing nothing but a good size eel sunning itself in the foot-deep water, completely oblivious to our presence. By this time, the sun was starting to disappear behind the hills, so it was back to Masterton to gas up and head home.





So how did the day go? No fish landed and an unexpected drenching ....absolutely brilliant! Of course it would have been great to have landed those fish, photographed and released them, but that's just the luck of the draw. We had a great time exploring a part of the Waingawa and decided that next time it might pay to bring our push bikes to get quicker access up the river track to some of the more remote spots.

Oh, and Gavin didn't go home completely empty-handed. He managed to knock over a rabbit running along the road. No fish for dinner....rabbit casserole instead.

## **A New Look at Our Fishing**

By Grahame Kitchen

I was recently talking to an ex club member. He no longer fly fishes because he found that fly fishing was becoming too complicated for him. Have we overlooked the basics?

I considered this during a quick visit to Christchurch where I was able to briefly visit some of my favourite spots.

First was Shag rock—a place I caught my first fish. Gone are the trams that took us there and now Shag rock is a heap of rubble thanks to the destructive earthquakes.

Next visit to the Waimakariri River mouth.

This was late on a Friday but was a hive of activity and the number of cars arriving indicated that it was a favourite spot for after work relaxation.

The tide was going out fast but the solitary white baiter was still enjoying a good catch. White bait for his tea.



Saturday was a quick visit to the kids fish ponds at the Groins. What a great asset this venue is. Fish out ponds have been stocked by Fish & Game with salmon and brown trout. When these fish are released there is an organised fish day with clubs taking part. I hear there are traffic jams as it is attended by hundreds of people. After the day the ponds are available for families with junior licences.

A walk around and it was easy to spot cruising fish just above the weed beds. I then spotted an elderly gentleman in a wheel chair and when talking with him noticed the chair was fitted with a rod holder. His son told me he was an old angler who had had



a stroke but with severe disability was still able to come to the pond to enjoy a quiet morning fishing. Further around were two family groups , each with two children about 3 to 4 years old. One lad keenly showed me a small salmon he was going to have for lunch. He wanted to release the fish but it would not swim away and a Dad (an experienced angler) had removed it from the pond. His wet trousers showed his commitment.

During the morning there were many families visiting with their children usually staying for around a half hour. I was impressed by the popularity of this venue and firmly believe it is a great way to get kids interested in our sport. At this age they only want to catch a fish but I am sure they will be back to greater participation in later years.



Are these the basics we should be looking at adding to the use of the Hutt River?

Advertise a kids fishing day at the Whakamooney pool with club members assisting with baited rigs!

## **Presentation is Everything**

Written by Charlie Robinton, published 8 April 2015. Reproduced with permission [www.fix.com](http://www.fix.com)

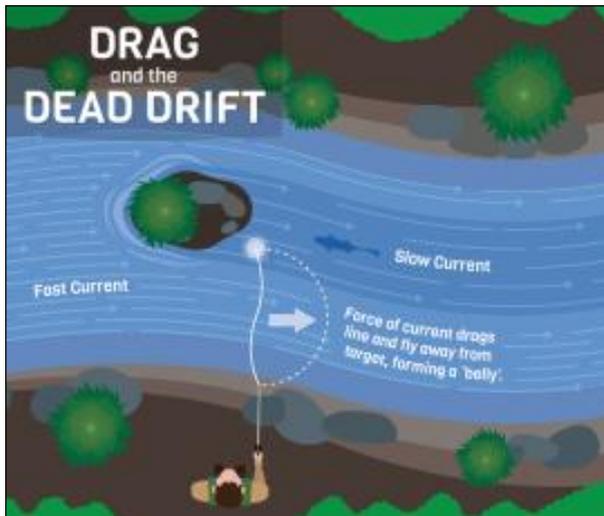
An important step in becoming a successful fly angler is learning to properly present your fly to the fish. Presentation involves choosing a target, placing a cast without alerting the fish, and manipulating your fly in the current so it looks like food to the fish. You could easily spend a lifetime perfecting the art of the presentation, but it is



important to start with a solid foundation. Learning basic presentation strategy will give even the neophyte fly angler the chance to tangle with more fish.

### **The Dead Drift**

If you want to catch fish on a fly rod, learn to imitate what they eat. Fly fishers do this by matching the hatch with the right fly, and also by presenting the fly in a way that looks natural. In a stream, a fish's dinner is usually served drifting in the current. The technique fly fishers use to imitate a naturally drifting insect is called "the dead drift." The challenge for fly fishers is that the line on the surface of the river creates drag, which disrupts the natural drift of the fly. A wary trout or other river fish will notice any unnatural movement of the fly and quickly realize it is a fake. Anglers must take care that the fly is allowed to drift unhindered. There are many ways to ensure this, but the most important technique that will help to achieve a good dead drift is learning to "mend" the fly line.



### **The Mend**

A "mend" is the technique of repositioning the line on the river's surface to counteract the force of drag from the current. Fly fishers are often casting over swift currents to place their flies into pockets of slower water where fish are hiding. When the fly lands in the slow water, the faster current in between can quickly sweep the line downstream. The tension from the current creates a downstream "belly" in the line, pulling the fly with it. To correct this, and allow the fly time to drift like a natural insect, the line is repositioned upstream immediately after the cast.



How to mend upstream:

1. Cast to the target, ending with your rod tip pointed low and toward the fly.
2. Don't let the line settle. Immediately draw a wide, upstream semicircle with the rod tip, raising the line up off the water and placing it upstream of where it landed.
3. Done correctly, the line should land with a slight upstream curve without pulling the fly away from the target.
4. Point the rod tip back at the fly and follow it as it drifts downstream. Now there will be slack in the line, giving the fly time to reach the trout before the current catches up with it.

Practice the mend until it becomes natural and automatic, and understand that there is no rule dictating how large the mend should be, how many mends you can make in one drift, or which direction you should mend. The only rule is: do whatever it takes to get your fly drifting naturally. Once you have a good understanding of the dead drift and the mend, correctly presenting your fly to trout from different angles will seem much easier.

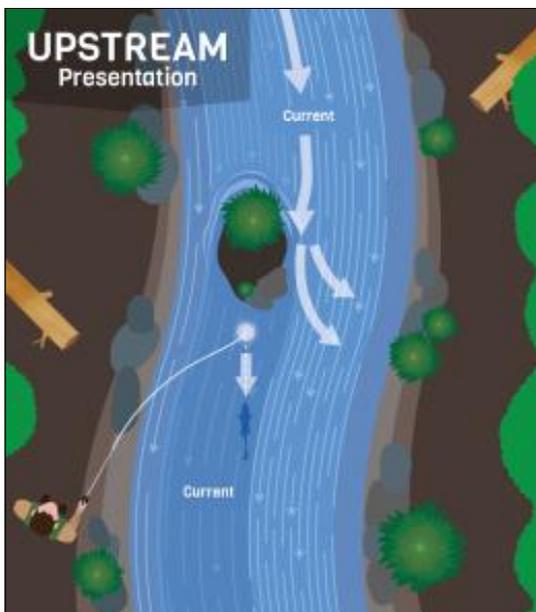
## The Cross Stream Presentation



This style of presentation is commonly used when casting to targets in the middle of the stream or on the opposite side of it. Position yourself directly across or slightly downstream from the intended target, and make a cast perpendicular to the current. When the fly lands, make a quick upstream mend. End with your rod tip low, and follow the fly, allowing it to drift for several seconds before making another cast.



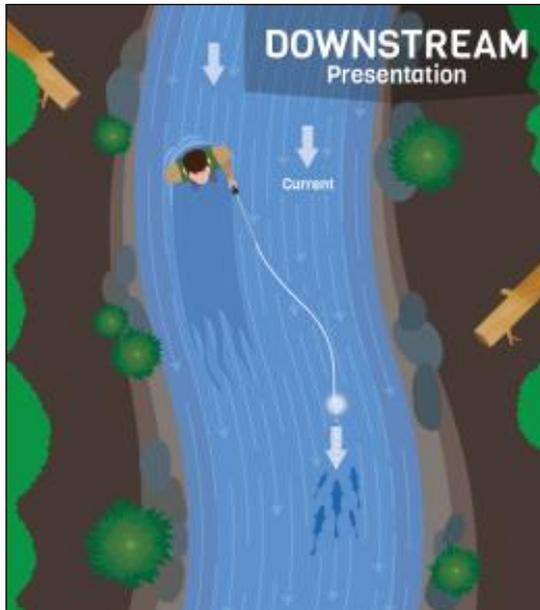
When the fly lands, make a quick upstream mend. End with your rod tip low, and follow the fly, allowing it to drift for several seconds before making another cast. Cross stream presentations are great for reaching mid-river structure that is difficult to wade to. Mending the line makes it possible to reach far into the river across multiple current seams and still achieve a natural drift with the fly. When practicing the cross stream presentation, it is good to try to land your fly a few feet ahead of the target, so you have time to mend and let it settle before it drifts down to the fish.



### **The Upstream Presentation**

The upstream presentation involves positioning yourself well downstream of a target, casting directly upstream or slightly across the stream, and allowing the fly to drift back toward you with the current. This is an easy way to create a dead drift because slack naturally builds in the line as it floats back downstream. Make sure to retrieve the slack line as it comes in, so you have enough line tension for a hook set if a fish strikes.

Because you are casting from behind the fish as they face upstream in the current, presenting upstream is a great way to sneak up on fish. Casting from behind the fish can be a challenge, because you risk the fly line and leader crossing over the fish and scaring them. Try to imagine where the fish will be, and make your cast from a slight angle so the line doesn't land directly over them.



### **The Downstream Presentation**

To perform a downstream presentation, position yourself well upstream of the target, cast downstream, and feed slack line as the fly drifts down to the trout. Before making the cast, pull a few extra feet of line off the reel with your free hand. As the fly drifts downstream after the cast, let the extra line slide through your fingers to extend the drift. Maintain contact with the line and be ready to set the hook at any moment.

Unlike other presentation angles, the downstream presentation ensures that the first thing the fish sees is your fly, not the leader or fly line. This makes it a perfect



presentation in glassy, calm water, or when sight-casting to rising fish that are easily



spooked.

### **High Sticking**

High sticking is different from other presentation methods because it involves keeping most of the fly line off the water by keeping your rod tip in the air and dangling your fly on a short line. To perform a high stick presentation, get as close as possible to your target and make sure you only have a few feet of line – plus your leader – past the rod tip. It can help to hold a few feet of slack in your free hand in case you need to cast further. Cast upstream and slightly across, ending with your rod tip high so the fly touches down before the leader. When the fly lands, keep your tip up and follow it as it drifts, dangling it on the surface. As the fly progresses downstream, lower the rod tip to add slack and extend the drift.

This presentation works wonders in rough water or rivers with lots of boulders and complicated surface currents, because you can hold the line off the water where it won't create drag. Typically, high sticking is reserved for situations where the target is only one or two rod lengths away.

There are no rules dictating exactly what presentation to use in a given situation. It takes experience to figure out what works and what doesn't. If you practice and become proficient in each of these methods, you will begin to see that they are all interchangeable, and it is up to you to pick the one that will create the best presentation. Read the water before making a cast. Present the fly to the same target from different angles, and observe how it is affected by the current. Use big mends and little mends. Fish structure that is close to the bank and structure that is on the



other side of the river. Try combining the different methods of presenting the fly in tricky spots. With practice, you will soon have an entire bag of tricks to present your fly naturally in almost any situation.

## **No fish?...Deep breath...Release that tension**

By Chris Kuchel

Summer is just around the corner which means warmer weather, more insect activity and therefore more fish feeding higher up in the water column. Fishing dries or emergers just below the surface is an exciting way to catch trout, but it can also be frustrating. In the evening, the water can be boiling with fish but they often refuse to take an offering drifting downstream. Why?

Could it be the wrong size fly? Un-natural drag? Not enough life-like movement? Possibly all three, but here's another factor to consider....is the floating tippet spooking the fish?

The surface tension of the water stops the tippet from sinking. From a fish's point of view under the surface, a floating tippet shows up as a thin black line with a white halo on each side as the surface of the water distorts around it.

Time to release that tension. The cure is to degrease your tippet so it sinks just below the surface. Applying a coat of fullers earth based degreasant allows the tippet to sink and avoids the tell tale silhouette of the leader. The fullers earth mix should be applied sparingly, allowed to dry, and then re-applied. When cast onto the water, give it a moment or two, then cast again, the fullers earth mix will wash off and leave your degreased tippet sinking just below the surface film and a lot less visible to the fish.

You can buy commercially prepared degreasants, but a far cheaper way is to make your own.

A bit of searching on Trademe revealed that fullers earth can be purchased quite cheaply. It is essentially very fine powdered clay which is often used to make mud-packs for beauty treatments. Just put a teaspoon of the powder into a small plastic container and add some drops of dishwashing liquid until it forms a paste. Film canisters make good containers but they are becoming less common these days. Another good container to use is the type that come out of Kinder eggs.



For fishing weighted nymphs down deep, applying fullers earth mixture to the tippet is probably a waste of time, but for surface film fishing it helps eliminate one more barrier to catching fish.



## **The Rangitikei Red**

**John Olds**



This is a fly that came about from my experiences on the Rangitikei River where the rainbows were loving flies with gold beads and red in them. So with this tie I decided to go right over the top and incorporate as much red as I could. A fellow angler has extensively field tested varieties of these flies and found that beads other than gold do not work as well and that the fly works just as well on browns as it does on rainbows. He has also found that you can lose these flies to fish just as well as any other. AND – they work just as well using black thread and black feathers (or bristles from a black paint brush) for the body and tail.



## Ingredients

8/0 black thread.

#14 grub hook

2.8mm gold tungsten bead

Pheasant tail dyed red

Small red wire

Red holographic tinsel

Red krystal flash.

Black spikey dubbing for the thorax preferably with some red glitter in it but not absolutely necessary. The dubbing doesn't necessarily need to be spikey but spikey dubbing gives a bit of a leggy look. You can also use peacock herl which has a built in "sparkle".

## Recipe

With the bead on the hook and the hook in the vice, wind black thread to the bend of the hook.

Strip off 4/5 strands from the pheasant tail and tie in. The tail should be about the length of the hook shank.

Tie in red wire.

Wrap the pheasant tail up the shank of the hook leaving room for the thorax and tie in.

Wrap the red wire up the shank with the wraps fairly close and tie in.

Tie in a piece of red holographic tinsel for the flashback.

Directly behind the bead tie perpendicular to the shank three pieces of krystal flash using four figure of eight ties.

Pull the krystal flash back and put in two wraps to make the krystal flash sit alongside the shank.

Tie in dubbing to make a thorax.

Bring the holographic tinsel over the thorax and tie in.

Put a spot of head cement behind the bead and whip finish.

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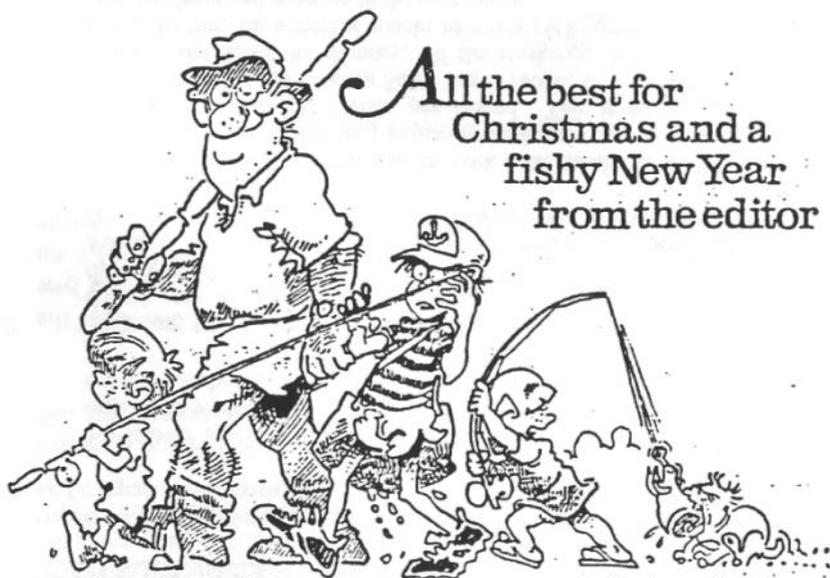


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All the best for  
Christmas and a  
fishy New Year  
from the editor



Give the kids a merry Christmas-take 'em fishing!