



THE HUTT VALLEY ANGLER

Newsletter of the Hutt Valley Angling Club Inc

Issue No 439: October 2018



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Editorial

As I write this there are only a few days before the new season opens. Trust you have prepared for this and obtained your new license.

Last month's members meeting held in the Hardwick-Smith Hall on the Belmont reserve saw a major change in the direction of the club since its formation.

This is the first time in the history of the club that monthly meetings are no longer held in Upper Hutt.

There will be winners and losers but it is important that we recognise the change as being for the benefit of the club and react accordingly.

From the President

At the time of writing this piece, daylight saving and the start of the new season are only a few days away. This is the time of year when keen anglers all over the country are busy planning their trips into waters that have been undisturbed for the past 5 months. We all dream of walking up our favourite stream, rounding a corner and coming upon a prime fish lazily feeding in the quiet shallow water completely unaware of our presence.....that is until the heart starts pounding, the fingers start fumbling, the leader gets a tangle, a breeze comes up and the pressure goes on to make that all-important first cast count. Well, that's what it's normally like for me anyway. By the time this goes to print, opening day will have come and gone and hopefully there will be lots of fishy tales to share at the October club night.

Speaking of club night, last month's trial night at the Hardwick-Smith lounge was a very interesting and useful test. The council has given us until the end of November to make a firm commitment either way. Initial indications are that the positives of moving to this venue outweigh the negatives.

The October club meeting will be another good test of the venue. We have a pre-season workshop planned whereby members will rotate between stations to cover various aspects of preparing for summer fishing. There will also be a buy-and-sell table where members can bring along unwanted gear to sell and perhaps pick up a bargain themselves. This will not be run as a formal auction, but a simple trading table. Label your goods with a stated selling price and negotiate directly with the buyer. Easy as!

Also, a reminder to members that the Fish and Game regional elections are currently being held. License holders will probably have received their voting papers by now by post. HVAC members are encouraged to support Dan Waechter's bid for re-election along with our good friend Strato Cotsilinis from the Wellington club, who is standing for re-election.

That's all for now. Looking forward to seeing you all on 8 October for the next club night at the Hardwick-Smith lounge.

Cheers, Chris Kuchel

Club Notices for October

Monday 8 th	Member's meeting Hardwick-Smith Hall in the Belmont Domain, next to the Scout Hall at 7.30pm
Saturday 13 th	"Build Your Skill Set" training Hardwick-Smith Hall in the Belmont Domain
Sunday 14 th	Casting clinic from 9am at the Belmont Domain. Please register with Ian Lawson so he can advise you if there are any changes generally caused by weather.
Wednesday 17 th	Committee meets in Stokes Valley RSA rooms at 7.15pm.
Weekend 27 th -28 th	Goodmans Shield, Mangatainoka, register via club web site or send request to Thomas Fichtner (unibuildnz@hotmail.com)
Wednesday 31 st	Fly Tying meeting in the Stokes Valley RSA rooms at 7.15pm
Wednesday 31 st	Copy deadline for November newsletter

Club News

Fish of the month

The winner for September is Bill Harris with a 5lb 10oz rainbow hen caught on the Tongariro River.

Club Raffle Winners

The winners for September were:

Green Trout Guiding:- Colin Lewis

Fly Box:- Fraser Gibbs

Hunting and Fishing voucher:- Colin Thompson

Library News

We all need resources of some sort in everything we do, this is no different when it comes to doing the sport we love dearly. Whether we've been doing it a short or long time there are always new things to learn.

We in the club are quite lucky that we have so many resources available to us - casting clinics, buddy programmes, fly tying meetings and the library.

The library seems of late to be disregarded as a resource. We have some really good books available and informative DVD's. Yes, some may be slightly outdated but still are able to teach us tricks we might never have learned.

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

Photo Competition

Congratulations to this month's winner "September Sojourn" from John Olds which appears on the front cover of this issue. A Hunting and Fishing voucher provided by our sponsor Grahame Kitchen is awarded to you.

Fishing Diary Update

It's been a relatively quiet month, with only 2 members registering catches. Bill Harris recorded catches from Turangi and the Wairarapa, all rainbow jacks. Chris Kuchel recorded his catches from Taumarunui, all small brown hens.

Members are encouraged to register their catches with the club diary, no matter how seemingly insignificant, as this diary is a permanent record that may one day be useful in identifying changing patterns of fish population and habitat.

Bound Shield Fly Tying Challenge for October

Members are to tie (at home) a dry fly that is suitable to be used as a floating indicator for a nymph and indicator rig. The points to bear in mind are that the dry fly must be buoyant enough to support a weighted nymph without sinking and should also be of good visibility so that the angler can see the fly up to 15 metres distant.

Bring your dry fly to the October fly tying meeting for judging.

The Bound Shield will be presented at the following club meeting to the person whose fly is judged to have the most fish appeal.

Fly Tying Meeting – Wednesday October 31st at 7.15 p.m. in Stokes Valley RSA

This month we're tying 3 imitations of the sedge and an emerging pupa.



1. The Elk Hair Caddis. Made famous by the late Al Troth, this is a superb sedge imitation particularly for big water. You can see Al and his son discussing fly selection [here](https://dai.ly/x2mrw57) and the importance of presentation.



2.) CDC & Elk by Hans Weilenmann
This is fun to tie and well suited to our local rivers. Hans says it can be fished on the surface, in the film or subsurface. That makes it versatile as well as very effective.



3.) Hang Dog Caddis. This is my own pattern for fishing the caddis rise at night when caddis pupae are rising to the surface. It is unweighted and presented under the surface. The wing is sparse and lies low over the body, hence the name Hang Dog.

For those members who have never attempted fly tying before this is a good meeting to attend and learn the necessary skills. The club will supply all materials and tools on the night.

Details of the Casting Clinic

To be held on Saturday 13th October.

Build Your Skill Set

John Gummer and Tarn Mack-McEwen are running this event on Saturday 13th October 2018.

This year after discussion with John and Tarn we propose to change the format a bit to better cater for club anglers. Details of these changes were published in the September newsletter.

Costing and how to enrol

Each session will cost you \$20, if you attend all three as we recommend the fee will be \$50.

To enrol you need to send an email to rgoodman@globe.net.nz and pay on line to Hutt Valley Angling Club Inc. Account Number 02 0528 0246 578.

Unless the weather is terrible we will be going ahead, I will get in contact with you mid-week if we are having to postpone the day.

Hardy's Favourite

by Tim Trengrove

The Hardy's Favourite is a wet fly created by Mr. J.J.Hardy from the famous fishing tackle firm Hardy Brothers. Given all the flies Mr. Hardy could have chosen to give his name to, this is an interesting decision. If the choice for a favourite fly is between one that looks nice and one that fishes well, I think Mr. Hardy has chosen the latter.

Hardy's Favourite could have been a small dry fly imitating an olive mayfly or a beautiful lake lure like the Alexandra. It's not though. Hardy's Favourite is a traditionally tied wet fly, usually fished in lakes as the point fly in a team of wets. It also performs well in rivers.

Traditionally tied wet flies have a tail, body, wings, a hackle and head. They're all present here. What makes the fly stand out is the body formed by ribbing peacock herl with red floss. Peacock herl bodies are ascribed almost magical fish catching abilities by some anglers and red floss, well that's still very popular.



Hardy's Favourite (original dressing)

Hook: Standard wet fly hook #14 - #10
Thread: Black
Tail: Dark mallard
Rib: Red silk floss
Body: Bronze peacock herl
Hackle: Dark partridge
Wing: Dark turkey.

Hardy's Favourite (modern dressing)

Hook: Nymph hook #14 or #12
Thread: Black
Tail: Golden pheasant tippets
Rib: Red floss
Body: Peacock herl
Hackle: Partridge
Wing: Woodcock.

Wet flies are great fun to tie and the tying is made easier by using the right materials. The fly in the photo above is an effort to achieve something like Mr. Hardy's original dressing. The wing was formed by folding a slip of turkey tail feather because there was only one turkey feather in our house! Woodcock or mallard quills, using the modern dressing, are thinner in cross section and easier to work with than turkey. It is recommended that you try using those materials first.

If you can tie a reasonable Hardy's Favourite, you will be able to tie dozens of different wet flies. They don't have the razzle-dazzle of flies that use the bright reflective materials of today, but they do still catch fish. Give them a go and find out for yourself.

Expanding My Horizons ...

by Fish On

The lure of "new water" ... and the so-called opportunity to explore ... can sometimes be the last thing I really want to hear and much less contemplate.

Like many anglers my time out on the water, particularly at weekends, is often precious and looked forward to with the same excitement a child might look forward to a trip to the beach or zoo. When the adventure is to be shared, the days leading to the outing seem to progress at half-speed and the increase in email and texts over our state of readiness only serve to increase the anxiety. Oh, the irony, given I commonly associate fishing with calmness and relaxation!

Finally, the day arrives. There are a number of "go to" rivers and pieces of water I am confident will again produce. I have become a creature of habit and fear of the unknown can cause anguish. I crave comfort, the familiar pools, runs and pockets that I know hold fish. Many of us have our own 3lb Thelma or 5lb Fred and a good knowledge of their place of residence and feeding patterns. They are like a mince and cheese pie with a swirl of T-sauce, or a favourite chair in the study, with just the right sag. Familiarity and no surprises. Is there anything wrong with the tried and true, they are understood and there is a comfort, even expectation.

The day arrives, it's a stunner, my spirits are lifted. The gear is stowed, the journey begins, conversation flows. We head forward, no fixed destination yet a list of favourites from which to choose. Midway a smaller water is mentioned, previously unfancied and often passed. Then a 3rd party mention is recalled suggesting good access, few anglers and great reward, all just an extra hour away.

But if it was any good why have we not heard more? The mention wasn't from our normal network. Doubt emerges and creeps in like a shadow. My comfort zone is under threat. Do I want to spend my first adventure in several weeks on something new and untested? New doesn't guarantee success, and sometimes new things just don't work. I am suddenly at sea.

I recall our conversation at the end of last season. We need to expand our horizons and work on expanding our to-do list of destinations. We've had good success, listened, practised and applied lessons over time, there is now greater consistency. If we were afraid of failure, fly fishing would not be the sport to adopt. We challenge each other, if not now, when? We make the call, decide to give it a go and reset our bearings.

And what a pleasant surprise. My anxiety was proven unwarranted. The water was clear, the scenery a picture, with not another soul to be seen. Fish were evident, with good numbers and presented a balance of risk and reward for the thoughtful angler. We enjoyed our share of success. The homeward conversation questions why it has taken so long to give this place a go? We begin to ponder other destinations we've overlooked or discounted in the past. We realise our to-do list just got a little longer.

Once again, exploration and pushing my personal comfort zone was a fruitful, enlightening and rewarding experience. My horizon was expanded, I have a new story to share and my fly-fishing experience just added a little more depth and breadth. I can't help but feel there's a life lesson in here somewhere ...

Show and Tell

Thank you to the contributions received this month for Show and Tell.

From Ben Connolly September 24th

Another quick flick after work in the lower reaches of the Hutt River.

There was a mayfly hatch and I saw the bow waves and swirls from a fish nymphing, and then a nose as it took off the top, but I couldn't actually see the fish due to the low angle of light and glare (does this count as sight fishing?). I had to wait for the wind to die down a bit because I was casting directly into it, managed to get one out, turn over 16ft of leader and land exactly where I wanted it (going buy a lotto ticket) and I was rewarded with the dry going down. Then the fish had an identity crisis and thought it was a bird but every time it took off it just crashed back down to the water again.

Chalk another one up for my own tie.



These photos were kindly sent in by Bill Harris who, along with his wife Carolyn, are doing all they can to encourage the next generation of fishers by spending quality time with their grandchildren; Amy, Isla and Zach.

These pics were taken on Tuesday 18 September at Lake Rotoaira. The lake is about 20mins south of Turangi and requires a separate fishing licence as well as a Taupo licence to fish it. It holds a large population of rainbow trout in the 2-4lb range.



According to nzfishing.com:
"Rotoaira is a shallow lake. The large amount of weed around the margins produce good food for the large population of rainbow trout. This lake was used as a venue for the 28th World Fly Fishing Championships (2008)."

The lake is open to fly fishers and spin fishers.

Bill describes the lake as being "a great place for kids and old men".

Fantastic pics Bill.
Keep up the good work.



Fishing Comp – Saturday 29 September

– from Ben Connolly

Saturday morning saw perfect conditions on the Hutt river, nice and warm with a slight breeze on my first beat.

I saw 2 good sized fish very early on, the first of which spooked as soon as my rod moved and the second did a disappearing act. A while later I spotted another 2 very good sized fish feeding away, popped a cast out and found myself connected to a taniwha that dislodged the hook after going aerial for the third time.

I went back to where the second one was in the hope that it hadn't spooked and sure enough it was still there and still feeding, so I put out a cast, but this time a third smaller fish that I hadn't seen zoomed out and hoovered up the nymph before the big one got a look in. This fish also went aerial which seems to be a common theme at the moment, but thankfully this time the hook held and a good condition 42cm fish made it to the net.

After a few tales and a biscuit at the meet point I headed off to my second beat and narrowly avoided being stuck in a massive traffic jam on the motorway, which would have been a disaster. My second beat was a lot windier and now it was a case of casting in between gusts to the fish I could see, but couldn't catch, and once again it was a much smaller unseen fish that took the nymph meant for another, this one also made it to the net and went 22cm.

By now the sun was really starting to pack some heat into my PVC/nylon waders, the solution to which I found in the form of a random unnoticed hole in the river bed slightly deeper than my waders were capable of, which while nice at first, made the rest of the beat slightly uncomfortable.



When Someone Writes a Song on Fly Fishing....

from Jim Embury

There are a number of actors that are also very accomplished musicians and singers.

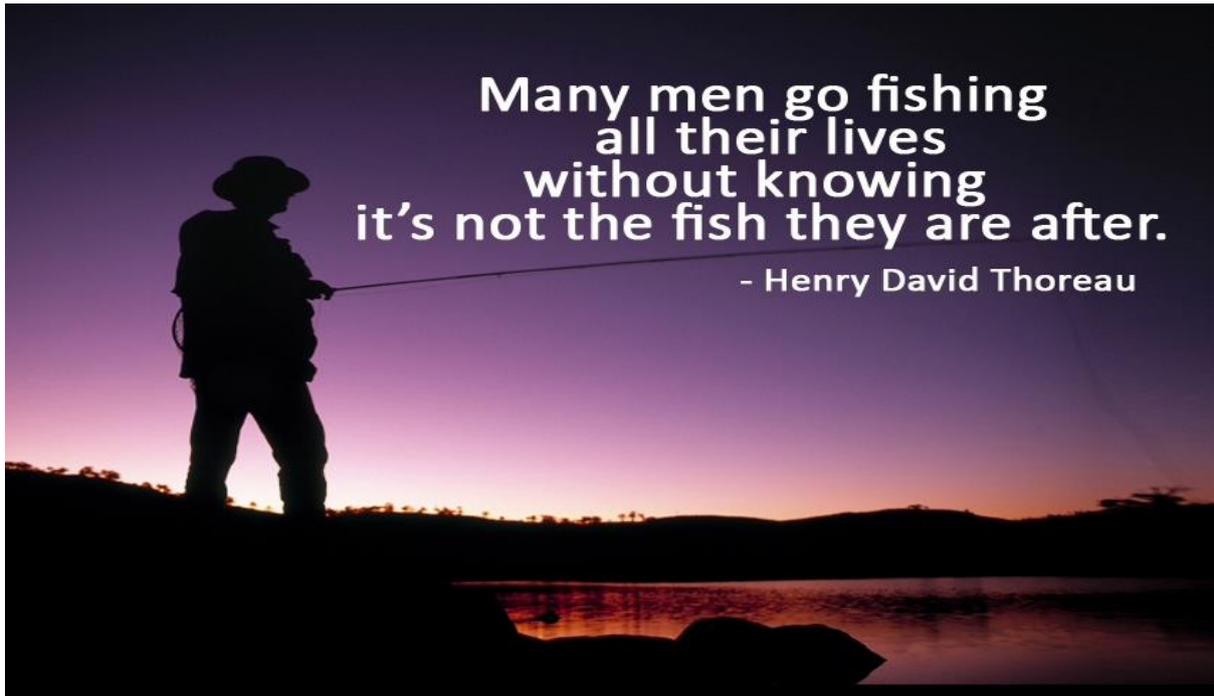
Hugh Laurie of the TV show House views himself as a frustrated musician. He has played in concerts around the world playing the piano. Blues music grabs his fancy. Jeff Goldblum, who starred in Jurassic Park, Independence Day and Thor: Ragnarok, released his jazz debut album earlier this year playing the piano.

And Steve Martin, comedian with numerous movies under his belt, plays the banjo in a blue grass style and sings about the Yellow Backed Fly; a fly that beckons a fish called Jim out from under a rock. Like all good fishing stories the fish has to win every now and then. And next year.... he will make a fly with a hypnotizing eye.....



If you are interested check it out at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cdivVbqC4Iw>



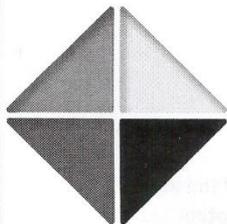
Many men go fishing
all their lives
without knowing
it's not the fish they are after.

- Henry David Thoreau

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