

# THE HUTT VALLEY ANGLER

Newsletter of the Hutt valley Angling Club Inc

Issue No 415: September 2016



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## **Editorial**

This month we have a range of interesting articles from our regular contributors and also a pleasant surprise. After a year in hibernation, Jeff Wood has put pen to paper and written another one of his inspiring articles; this time on flytying. If you have never tried tying your own flies, now is the time to take the plunge. Interest is building as the annual interclub flytying competition approaches and the monthly flytying meetings, held on the last Wednesday of each month are generating good levels of interest. Catching a fish is always a thrill. Catching a fish on a self-tied fly is twice as sweet.

*Chris Kuchel*

## **President's Piece**

It feels like the weather is warming up after a rather cold and wet August when fishing wasn't everyone's first choice of outdoor activity. With the onset of Spring it is time to get ready for the fishing's Opening Day on Saturday the 1st October.



We read that the fish numbers in the Hutt are good but I have found fishing the Hutt hard in the last month compared to last year, perhaps that's just me.

At our last Committee meeting Damian advised us that he was standing down due to his work and personal commitment's. Damian has put in some long hours organising club trips which is not easy given the uncertainty of weather and water conditions. I would like to express my thanks to Damian for the work he has put in and the continuing support he will be providing to the club on club nights and other activities. Colin and Krystal will be carrying on the good work that Damian has already put in place for the following year.

We are looking at modifying the format of the fishing competitions this year in an attempt to get more people participating. Tomas will speak to this matter at our next club night and ask for your input. On that night we will have Dan assisted by Steve presenting his second part of 'Reading the Water' and then Mike will give a run down on his fishing in Iceland. As Mike continues to tell us at each Committee meeting, times are hard for the Big Banks in NZ and their staff at present.

I would like to thank Chris and Grahame for the July newsletter that they put together for us. It was a tribute to Keith the founder of the club and the effort he had put into the club to make it the success it is today. The newsletter was excellent. From feedback we received from a club member at the last club night we have amended our distribution of the newsletter, which means we will be sending where possible an electronic newsletter also to those persons who pay for and receive a hard copy.

At the October club night we have arranged for Bryce Johnson CEO of Fish and Game New Zealand to speak to us on all matters relating to fishing. The state of our rivers and the supply of fresh water is a topic that is in the news a lot more now. November we are hosting the interclub fly tying competition sponsored by Jeff Wood of Fishscene which involves the Wellington and Kapiti Angling clubs. We are currently the holders of the shield and it would be nice to retain it. December we have Alan Markam testing our general knowledge by way of a quiz night that is always well received.

That's it; time to shut down the computer, get outdoors and do something that may improve my catch rate. Just a reminder that membership fees are required to be paid by the end of August.

All the best

*Ross Goodman*

## **September Activities**

- 12<sup>th</sup> Club Meeting - King Lion Hall 7.30pm
- 18<sup>th</sup> Casting Clinic – Belmont Domain 10.00am
- 20<sup>th</sup> Committee Meeting 7.30pm
- 28<sup>th</sup> Fly tying – Community House 7.30pm

## **Club News**

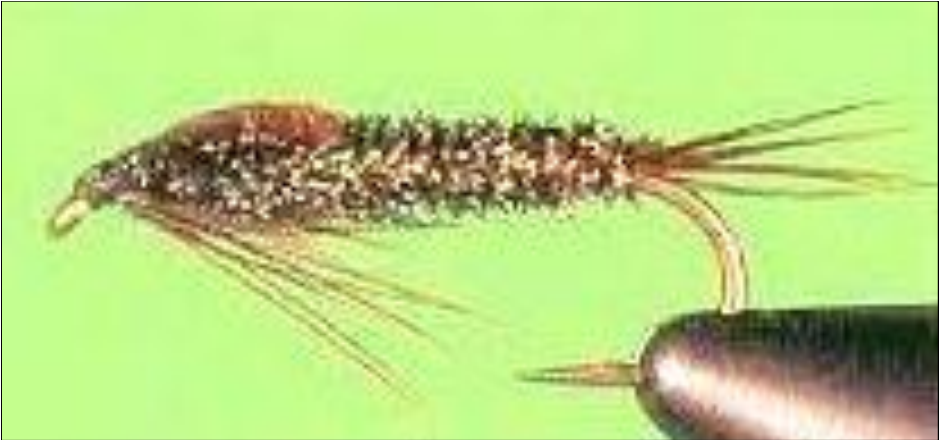
**Next club meeting— Monday 12 September** — Mike Nansett will give a presentation on his recent trip to Iceland. Dan Waechter will present part 2 of his topic “Reading the Water”

**Casting Clinic** — This month’s casting clinic will be held on Sunday 18 September at Belmont Domain. Be there early, ready for a 10am start. 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 — Wednesday 28 September 7.30 p.m. in community meeting rooms off Logan Street.**

This month — **Early Season Nymphs.** Featured Fly — **Halfback**

We will tie some early season nymphs this month and included will be the Halfback. This nymph/emerger can be made as a weighted fly to be fished deep or unweighted to be fished just under the surface. Like other flies that incorporate a peacock herl body the Halfback is readily taken by trout. The Halfback nymph has been around for a long time and is underrated by most anglers. It is worthwhile to tie some bigger nymphs for early season and to use a smaller version during summer.



### **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 through Ajit in the normal way.

### **Raffle Winners in August**

Congratulations to Bill Shkopiak for winning the Green Trout Guiding entry. John Rochester took away the box of flies and John Olds won the Hunting and Fishing voucher.

Monthly winners of the Green Trout Guiding raffle go into the annual draw for a fantastic trip with Jim Rainey. You've got to be in to win, so make sure you buy your ticket each month at club meetings.

### **Photo competition**

This month's winner is Krystal Smith, who takes away the \$15 Fishscene voucher. Her winning photo "An Old Angler's Flies" is on the front cover of this month's newsletter.

Jeff Wood from Fishscene is the sponsor of the monthly photo competition. Members are encouraged to support our sponsors.

### **Fish of the month**

Congratulations to Bill Harris for his fine 3lb rainbow hen, taken on Kourarau Dam.

## **Up-coming club trips**

**Pahiatua trip 7 — 10 October.** We will be fishing the Mangatainoka and Manawatu rivers and stay at the Post Office Hotel in Pahiatua. Cost \$40 per night. Pub meals are available at around the \$20 mark.

**Tukituki trip 11 — 13 November.** This will be a joint event, hosted by our good friends from the Hastings Angling Club and staying at their club lodge at Patangata. Pub meal on the Friday night followed by a shared BBQ on Saturday night. HVAC members will be buddied up with Hastings members. This will be a very popular trip and numbers are limited to about 10 HVAC members, so get in quick.

All trips are weather dependent, 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 Colin at [lewiscREW@paradise.net.nz](mailto:lewiscREW@paradise.net.nz) or Krystal at [krystalarrow@gmail.com](mailto:krystalarrow@gmail.com) not less than 3 weeks before the trip date. Accommodation details will be sent to participants as necessary.

## **HVAC annual subscriptions are due 31 August**

Thanks to all those who have paid their subs. For those who have not yet, the best way to pay is through Internet banking. There is a link on the front page of our website (it is orange) to renew your HVAC subscription. The bank account number is at the bottom.

### **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)



## TROUT TALK

By Big Jack

### **FEATHERS & FLUFF**

This month — a piece on tying your own. Firstly, I stumbled across this and it may amuse some members as it amused me. This is an extract from an article by Frank Reid called Seven Steps To Successful Fly Tying. With acknowledgement to Frank for an article that brought a smile to my face. *“Tying flies. I decided to learn to tie flies because it had to be cheaper than buying those little bitty things. If you get the urge to tie flies to save yourself some money, here is my foolproof 7 step plan to tying flies:*

**Step 1:** *Find a nice comfortable seat at a table. Put something like plexiglass over a 2x2 foot area of the table to protect it from damage. Do not use a clamp vice on your dining room table. The spouse will find the damage, trust me.*

**Step 2:** *Get something to keep yourself organised. I use an old ashtray (don't smoke anymore) to keep small things in because it has nice little indents in the sides to keep all my tools.*

**Step 3:** *Reach into your bag and get the duct tape that you keep handy for those fishing emergencies.*

**Step 4:** *Have someone (you trust) tie you to the chair using the duct tape. Ensure that all is secure and a piece goes over your mouth.*

**Step 5:** *Have that person reach into your back pocket, take out your wallet and burn all the money in there in the ashtray.*

**Step 6:** *Send the person off to the ATM to max out your cards. Please make sure he has your PIN numbers before he ties you up.*

**Step 7:** *Have your buddy burn all the money from the ATM in the ashtray while screaming "Fly tying, Bad!" over and over again. Voila! You're done!*

*This simple seven step plan will save you the time that you'll spend hanging out in petting zoos trying to trim that yak, stopping for road kill on a charcoal black ground squirrel and expounding ad nauseum on how unfair the penalty for importing polar bear pelts is to a true fly tying artist. I won't even go into the prices that people pay for a chicken skin. Or the problems that can occur when an improperly stored road kill has its own "hatch." (never, my God, never mention maggots to my wife). Burning your money in one fell swoop is also cheaper in the long run. It gets it out of your system quickly and is good for your neighbourhood fly merchant".*

When I read this I thought about my efforts at fly tying over the years. It started, not with the desire to save money as by then I'd talked to a number of fly tiers in the club who quickly debunked that notion. My motivation was to take on a hobby that would hopefully result in me being able to fool fish with my creations. Let me say at the outset that I am mainly a nymph tier. I can tie lures but the intricacies of wee wets and delicate dries (a Royal Wulff is ok) is a bit beyond my abilities. Trade Me started my collection with a fairly cheap assortment of material including Hugh McDowell's book "New Zealand Fly Tying". I've also since acquired "New Zealand's Best Trout Flies" and also read Keith Draper's "Trout Flies in New Zealand" as well as watched innumerable You Tube videos. Some of my first fly tying efforts ended up looking like overgrown moths and I've never seen any nymphs that big. Maybe that's why my first efforts appeared to be treated with derision by the fish. Attending the club's fly tying nights helped to hone my skills enhanced by an evening at Al Markham's house. While it was only for a couple of hours or so there were a lot of uh huh moments. Then it was just practice. It was about that time that I started to realise sparse and smaller was best and that the simplest flies are most often the ones that catch fish because they more closely imitate the fish's food. Having said that there are



certain materials (UV dubbing for example) that are strong fish attractors and using these as the weighted fly with a natural looking fly underneath I believe results in more hook ups (in certain circumstances). And it's those three words that underpin our fishing efforts. What works one day doesn't necessarily work the next.

I'm reminded of something Jim Rainey said when talking about the flies he uses — "The nymphs haven't changed colour". He is right — turn over any rock and what do you see? Generally browns, greens and blacks.

I remember fishing with Jim on the Rangitikei in 2011. After a couple of casts into the head of a fishy pool he asked me what fly I was using. I honestly can't remember now but he said "Here put this on". It was his version of the Lunkerbuster. Next cast and hooked up.

The photo of the fish is below.



Some of my motivation for writing this piece came from the efforts of three of our members who I fish with regularly – Fraser Gibbs, Mike Nansett and Ross Goodman. The fly tying results of these three members have gone ahead in leaps and bounds over the last 12 months. Just take a look at Mike’s fly box that he posted on the club’s Facebook page recently. What do you notice – browns, greens and blacks mainly (and small and sparse).

So if you haven’t tied your own, give it a go. Firstly come along to a club fly tying evening, just to observe if you want to. We have some excellent fly tiers in the club. You don’t have to spend a fortune on gear, feathers and fluff (but it will probably happen anyway!). I probably have enough dubbing at home to last until I am 900 years old and I guess many other fly tying members are the same. So if you are looking for some materials let it be known on a club night. Below I’ve repeated the Lunkerbuster pattern instructions that first appeared in a club newsletter many moons ago.

### **THE LUNKERBUSTER FLY**

(with acknowledgement to Jim Rainey and Strato Cotsilinis)

This fly is basically a Pheasant Tail Nymph (PTN) variant. The book NZ’s Best Trout Fishing Flies refers to it in a piece by Strato Cotsilinis. Strato writes that the word Lunker is an Americanism denoting a large fish and that the fly was invented by Roy Cotter of Pahiataua. He has had good success with the fly. His version has “legs” but these are not referred to in the tying instructions but could be constructed of either pheasant tail or hackle. On the same page he also shows a PTN variant which is somewhat similar to the Lunkerbuster. He admits that his Lunkerbuster pattern differs somewhat from Roy Cotter’s original but so it is with a number of patterns.

The Lunkerbuster is relatively simple to tie and is effective in a range of sizes and situations. It is mainly used as a general searching pattern either in conjunction with another nymph such as a heavier hare and copper “Tongariro style” or below a dry fly. General use is upstream nymphing on quite a long leader of 12 feet with 18 inches to the point fly. A shorter

leader can be used when the water has a bit of colour. Strato has also used it tied on 10 and 12 hooks (a slightly longer shank hook is useful here) and fished in larger rivers and lakes as a dragonfly pattern and even swung downstream on a wet line and slowly retrieved. This last option can be effective with two flies, the top fly being a normal lure such as a woolly bugger with about 12 inches to a nymph.

### Materials

- Hook: 12-16 (Nymph or Glo Bug hook). 16 at the start of the season up to a 12 as it progresses.
- Thread: Black
- Tail: Pheasant tail (note that the tail on the Lunkerbuster is slightly longer than the PTN)
- Body: Pheasant tail or black thread
- Rib: Fine copper or gold wire
- Thorax: Hares fur or other dubbing as long as it is spikey. Peacock herl can also be used.
- Weight: Either tungsten bead or 3-4 turns of 0.20" lead. TIP: If you have round lead tap it flat with a hammer to lower its profile.
- Wing case: Pheasant tail or a mylar strip to create a flashback fly that can be effective early season or in high flow situations.

### Tying instructions:

1. If using a tungsten bead position this at head of hook.
2. Wind on thread to tail of hook.
3. Tie in a tail the length of the hook shank.
4. Tie in wire.
5. Cover wire tag with thread about 2/3 of way up the hook.
6. Either wind pheasant tail up hook, tie off at point where you have stopped thread or cut off pheasant tail and wind black thread up to thread point. If using black thread you will need to save the pheasant tail you have cut off for the wing case.

7. Wind wire up the thread and tie off.
8. Tie in wing case (or mylar) facing towards back of hook.
9. If using lead wind on 3-4 turns making sure you leave room to tie off at head.
10. Dub in generous amount of hares fur/peacock herl but don't overdo.
11. Pull pheasant tail/mylar forward to create a wing case.
12. Finish head and add some fly tying cement to the thread and the wing case if using pheasant tail.

Back in the late 1960s this was a must fly when fishing in the Pahiatua area and we would purchase it from Roy at the bike shop in Pahiatua. Also used with success on the Ruamahanga River. (GJK Publisher)

## **FLYTYING**

By Jeff Wood

Is there a better time than now to start or re connect with flytying? With the wealth of knowledge around it will never be easier, as clubs and individuals run flytying courses for all levels, the amount of quality books around is huge, and the videos available on the internet really is limitless. Equipment has moved on in leaps and bounds in quality, even though the tools are designed to do the same basic job.

But it is materials that have made the biggest amount of movement in the last 30 years. What is available now is huge, and a lot different than was available – even though there are a number of cases of re-inventing the wheel. With flytying you do have to beware the magpie theory – I must have it because it is shiny, new, talked up etc. but almost all of it works at some stage. The price of materials hasn't changed in those 30 years either, and really is cheaper now than it has ever been in a real dollar sense when all the economists buzz words are taken into account.

I got into flytying because my father did it some 45 years ago and it was done primarily to allow us to tie the flies we wanted, not only what was available in stores (the first fly I ever purchase was a Parsons Glory from Bob Sullivans in Taupo when I was 6), but we didn't have the technology available then so just using a copy of Tie a Fly by Keith Draper, and also his one on nymphs. Hand drawn pictures made it hard but learning through rote made them come out ok. They also caught fish, a lot of fish, even though they weren't classic looking. The main reason to catching fish numbers was that we were confident to use them in places that may result in losing them. Cheaper to lose a fly that we had tied ourselves, than a shop bought model. This also taught us more about fishing, as we learnt where fish would lie at different times of the day and season. It also meant that we fished water that wasn't popular and so wasn't as pressured and nor were we.

But why tie flies at all when it is just as easy to click on a website like [www.FishScene.co.nz](http://www.FishScene.co.nz) and in a few clicks have all the flies that you need to try and catch a fish, and rocks, and trees and yourself....

While initially the cost of setting yourself up in materials and tools runs from "won't scare the significant other" to "Holy Hell take out a new mortgage", it can get expensive when you take in into the magpie effect ,what it eventually runs into is confidence, and that is what this sport is all about: confidence.

Confidence to go out on the river, confidence to try new water, confidence to try new flies, and confidence to just be yourself.

People think that they have to be good with their hands to tie flies, that they want to catch fish not scare them and that their flies aren't pretty enough. Not so, again it is confidence.

It is my experience that from the start tying your own flies will see 3 definite patterns/trends (with some sub trends).

In the beginning you tie flies to give it a go and are a little bit scared of the results – just don't reach for the can of Raid, they aren't that bad (but spiders are and it is often hard to tell the difference). A day on the river or 2 and not a lot to show for it with those fancy flies that you bought from a

shop, so the thinking goes what the heck might as well try one of mine. Because your confidence isn't high about catching anything you tend to put the home tied fly into areas where you wouldn't put an expensive fly. By that snag, under the willows, into the rocky rapid and low and behold you actually start catching fish. This gives you confidence in your fly tying and your fishing – people actually admire you for both of these attributes. Then with that confidence, comes over-confidence. You start tying up a lot more flies, and to your credit they actually look good. But you start expanding your tying, and then you need new fly boxes to store them all, and a new carrying thingy for all those boxes and then spend more time trying to choose a fly than actually fishing it. All because you thought of adding a bit of bling to that one, a different bead to that one and well it would look good on a different hook. And of course you need 10 of each one....

The third (and last) phase is when most of the boxes have gone – having been given away or more importantly put into the club auction, you tend to tie only 6 patterns and in only a couple of sizes. You may tie the odd one or 2 with differing colours in them but not that many. You go out on the river and are able to catch fish, mostly because you have confidence in your ability, confidence in your equipment and most importantly, confidence in the fly you have tied on, you know, the one you tied yourself. So give fly tying a go. Not only is an extension of fly fishing, but it is an extension of yourself and that can only bring confidence in what **YOU** are doing and what you are able to do.

On Monday evening 14 November the Hutt Valley Angling Club will be hosting this year's Fishscene Interclub Fly tying Competition in Upper Hutt. If you have not seen anyone assemble a fly before then here will be a chance to watch teams from Kapiti Freshwater Angling Club, Wellington Fly Fishers Club and the Hutt Valley Club competing in an annual competition sponsored by Fishscene as they try to match the sample flies upon the display board. The teams will appreciate support from their fellow club members on the night. Spectators always find this to be an interesting and instructive evening.

# J. C. MOTTRAM IN NEW ZEALAND

By Tim Trengrove

Reading about anglers in colonial times is a constant source of fascination for me. Thoughts of their heavy gear, thick gut leaders, silk lines and gaff at the ready make me glad to be fishing today. Then there were the big fish. Huge fish. They weren't all like that though, nor was the gear all stout and heavy.

I've just finished reading the book Fly-Fishing: Some new arts and mysteries (1915) by J.C. Mottram, a gift from a friend overseas. The book includes essays published in *Field*, *Salmon and Trout* magazine and the *Flyfisher's Journal*, with three chapters set in New Zealand. Dr. Mottram breaks old stereotypes by shunning extra heavy tackle and with his delight in catching smaller fish too. Fishing a dry fly was Dr. Mottram's preferred technique, but when fish weren't taking duns or spinners he modified existing flies to imitate larval forms or sat down and tied imitations. His usual tackle was a light split cane rod matched to a Hardy's Perfect reel. No yacht-mast-rod for this man.

"I toured over both islands with a rod under my arm, not seeking fishing, but taking it as it came. Had I taken the advice of others I should have missed all the best, the most sporting, and the most artistic of the fishing; instead I should have gone only to certain places – I call them slaughter grounds – where there is quantity but no quality of fishing". Fly-Fishing: Some new arts and mysteries, page 80.

Think the ends of dusty, pot-holed roads and very few accommodation houses. Very few sign posts too. One place he visited was Diamond Lake, near Queenstown, and Diamond Creek, which drains the lake. Locals told Dr. Mottram that fish were there but difficult to catch. What a red rag to a bull. Off he went, noticing fish were cruising just off the lake bottom and not rising. He wandered out in the water, finding drowned green beetles in the sediment. After tying up a green beetle imitation on the spot, he was soon catching good fish.

It is easy to overlook Dr. Mottram's fishing experiences as just things of the past. Aren't our rivers and lakes so fished-over, modified and devoid of

great fish? Fortunately, not all. The secret locations are still there - if you look hard enough. Diamond Lake is a good example. Some years ago I bought a water colour painting of Diamond Lake dated 1875. A man and woman sit with their backs to us in the bottom right corner, probably the artist and his wife. His explorer hat looks borrowed from David Livingstone. Thick bush reaches down to the pale blue lake and high up above are jagged peaks framing a Pleistocene amphitheatre. There is a romanticised feel to the painting, I thought, until we eventually got there. The rough road that Dr. Mottram travelled on hasn't improved much. The pristine scenery and unspoiled pale blue lake are just the same, still absolutely majestic. Fish are cruising the lake edge and I can report, are still catchable.

You may have already read Paradise, chapter 4 in Fly-Fishing: Some new arts and mysteries. This is not the Paradise near Diamond Lake, but fishing the Clinton River beside the Milford Track. Norman Marsh delighted in including the story in his Trout Stream Insects of New Zealand. How to imitate and use them. He and his son were hardy souls, well used to the rigours of fishing in Fiordland some 70 years after Dr. Mottram ventured there. The Marsh fly boxes contained all the imitations they needed but Dr. Mottram had to discover for himself what to use.

“It was then that I first saw a dun on the water; quickly others appeared, and very soon I saw a great neb break the surface on the far side of the water – my questions were soon answered. *Delealidium lillii* \*I afterwards found was the dun's name; three-quarters of an inch across the wings; body a very dark olive, almost black; wings, very long, and of an even dark smoky colour; three setae; a brother of our blue-winged olive, so I called him the black-winged black. At once I got out my fly-tying book and soon had three fair imitations made”. (Fly-Fishing: Some new arts and mysteries, page 36)

\*Dr. Mottram spells the mayfly *delealidium lillii* here and on page 193 *dealidium lillii*. The correct spelling since 1899 is *deleatidium lillii*.





Black winged black tied as per Dr. Mottram's description

Dun: Setae, barbs of guineafowl hackle; body, black floss silk, wings, two black cock hackle points; floating hackle, grey cock hackle.

The incredible part for me is not that a London surgeon in 1911 lost and caught magnificent trout in the heart of primordial Fiordland rain forest.

I can imagine that, but really struggle with the thought of tying three dry flies with a very basic fly tying kit while hordes of large sand flies delighted in taking their unholy communion on every exposed square inch of the doctor's skin. That must have been hell and only mitigated by seeing large trout snouts taking duns off the surface. He called it Paradise. I call him a fly fishing hero.

# **OBSERVATIONS OF A NOVICE FLY FISHERMAN**

By Chris Kuchel

One thing I've given a lot of thought to over the years is the idea of specialization versus generalization. Which is better? When talking about specialists, one could say "as time goes by, they learn more and more about less and less, until in the end they know everything about nothing". The counter position is that "as time goes by, generalists know less and less about more and more, until in the end they know nothing about everything". Which is better, a single Swiss army knife or an array of specialist tools? Interesting question.

When we start fly fishing, the most common advice we hear is to start with a medium-fast action 9 foot, 6 weight rod matched with a floating line (the Swiss army knife). That's good advice. Having one rod like this for the rest of your angling life would be perfectly adequate for most river fishing situations. But of course, human nature being what it is, many of us get excited and soon develop GAS (gear acquisition syndrome). We start buying specialist gear, which undoubtedly helps us fish more effectively and with more enjoyment in specific situations, but which also comes at a cost.

I'm a teacher, so I'm often reading articles about the kind of skills that employers are looking for in student graduates. Recently, I came across an article which asked the question "Is it better to employ a person who can do most things pretty well, or a person with high-level skills in one particular field?" People with highly specialized skills are essential, but as technology changes, today's specialists might become tomorrow's dinosaurs unless they are willing to move out of their narrow comfort zone. Generalists tend to be the creative free-thinkers willing to look for new opportunities but to be useful, they also need to have specific marketable skills. So it seems that flexibility, an open mind and a willingness to adapt and focus intently when needed are all important personal qualities.

Maybe it's the same when fishing. Maybe fishing is a thing we do to help us make sense of the other parts of our lives. When we arrive at the river, things might not be as we expected. The wind might be blowing a gale or the water level might have risen dramatically overnight. Fish might be rising like crazy or not at all. So what do we do? We assess, we plan and we adapt. At times like these, we can use our Swiss army knife or our specialist tools. Both will do the job. It's just a matter of doing the best we can with the equipment we have available to us at the time. The main thing is to give it a go. In conditions like this, the best gear in the world is completely irrelevant unless we use it.

A couple of years ago, my wife and I stopped in at the prawn farm in Taupo, paid our money and were each given a 3 foot long bamboo stick with a piece of string tied on the end, with a single hook, no sinker and a bag of bait cubes. It doesn't get more basic than that.... (actually, that sounds a bit like Tenkara!) We flicked our baited hooks out (casting distance 3 feet!) and waited for the tell-tale jerk to let us know that a prawn was interested in the bait. Then it was a matter of applying slow gentle pressure to lift it out of the water. Wait too long and the bait would be gone. Strike too soon and the prawn would let go and drop off. But pretty soon we started to get the hang of it and it was game-on....a noble contest of man versus prawn. It was fishing stripped down to its bare essence .....and great fun, regardless of the primitive equipment.

It seems to me that it is easy to get side-tracked into debates about equipment and techniques. So whenever I hear people scoff at split shot, indicators, tungsten beads, foam, soft plastics, rapalas, bubble floats and yes, Tenkara, it doesn't bother me at all. To each their own I say, as long as the regulations are obeyed. Don't get me wrong; I love my new Scott G2 rod for specialist presentation casting, but the most important piece of equipment is the fishing attitude....and it's free.



Proudly presented by [The Flyfisher](#), RISE Fly Fishing Film Festival, the world's most extensive fishing film festival, hits theatres on the Australian and New Zealand leg of its 2016 worldwide tour.

In its 11th year, RISE is celebrating a decade of bringing the best fishing entertainment to cinemas around the world. Audiences can look forward to stunning footage from Iceland, Australia, New Zealand and the USA presented in high definition on the big screen. It's the biggest kick-off to the fishing season there is!

RISE will screen as a limited release stopping in 30 towns and cities across Australia and NZ, including Perth, Darwin, Hobart, Launceston, Burnie, Melbourne, Ballarat, Canberra, Albury, Bowral, Sydney, Central Coast, Brisbane, Gore, Dunedin, Christchurch, Nelson, Wellington, Hawkes Bay, Palmerston North, Rotorua, Nelson, Hamilton and Auckland.

Tickets available online or at the door.

Screens at the Lighthouse cinema Petone 8pm to 10pm  
On Wednesday 7 September 2016.

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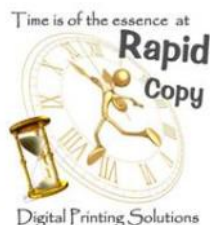
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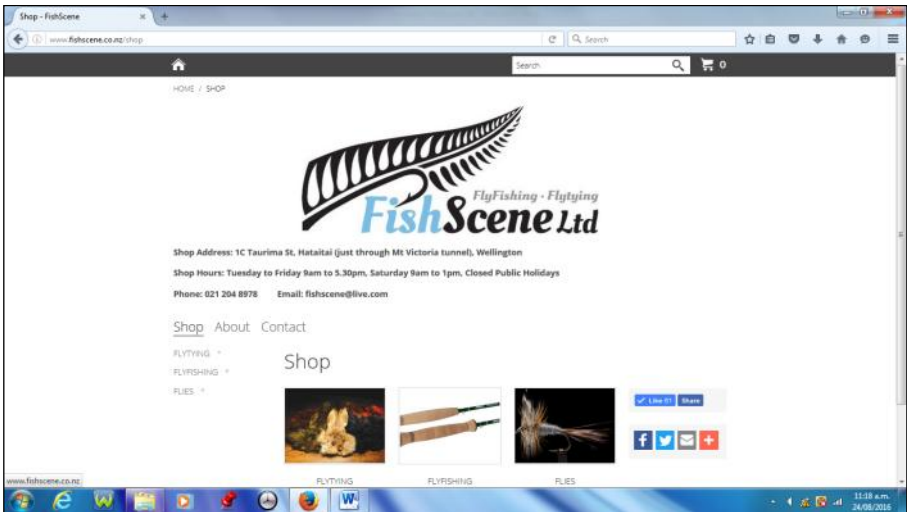
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Shop Online: [www.FishScene.co.nz](http://www.FishScene.co.nz)

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1c Taurima Street, Hataitai Village, Wellington

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

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