

THE HUTT VALLEY ANGLER

Issue No 399 : April 2015
Newsletter of the Hutt Valley Angling Club Inc



April Activities

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| 13th | Club Monthly Meeting — King Lion Hall 7:30pm |
| 19th | Casting Clinic and Workshop — Belmont Domain 9am |
| 21st | Committee meeting — Community House 7.30pm |
| 25th | Olds Shield One Fly Competition — Hutt River |
| 27th | Copy deadline for May newsletter |
| 29th | Fly Tying — Community House 7.30pm |

Editorial

The recent influx of new members has been great because it injects fresh enthusiasm into our club. Over the next couple of months we have some activities planned particularly for people who are new to the sport.

In this issue Tim Trengrove continues his articles on traditional fly patterns and these flies are just as effective in NZ as elsewhere.

John Millar

Newsletter Editor

President's Piece

It is easy in life to take things for granted, especially things that become normal and seem to just happen on their own. This is of course never the case because there is always someone behind the scenes making it happen.



I continually appreciate the work done by the committee of this club. It is interesting that just changing the "e" on the end of committee to a "d" and you describe the type of people that make up the team. You can't single out one person when it comes to making the club run but I do want to use Damian as an example. Were it not for his role of club trip coordinator the recent trip to the Mohaka, that I took part in, would not have happened.

That would have been a great shame given that I got to know guys in the club I did not know very well, got to do some fishing, tell a few yarns and generally have a great time.

Our club trips are often under-utilised, sometimes cancelled and I have to say I have never heard anyone coming back from one not having a good time. Please consider being part of the trips in the future, especially if it has never been your thing, they take a lot of work to organise and the effort is always worth it when people decide to be part of it and I am sure you will enjoy yourself, learn something and potentially make some friends.

I do realise that not everyone can come to everything and I think we understand that as a committee but there is a good offering of activities and the motivation is always to benefit our members in

terms of connecting with others, honing your angling skills of course having fun. As John has mentioned in his editorial, we have workshops coming up over the next few months and these are always worth it if you can be there, especially if you are a newer member.

Newer members are quite a common thing in the club now and we appreciate the new faces among us and I do just want to reinforce the welcome and let you know we appreciate you connecting with us. We are always open to suggestions on how we can grow as a club and serve our members well so I will just draw your attention to a link on our contact us page on the website where you can message the committee on any matter at all. We enjoy feedback.

Steve Doughty

Club News

Club Night – Monday 13 April at 7.30 p.m.

King Lion Hall, King Street, Upper Hutt.

This month we will hold a tips and tricks session where members can share their successful methods. We will set up 4 skills bases which will focus on some of the essentials in fly fishing. The bases will be:—

- 1) Leaders , droppers and add-ons
- 2) Knots
- 3) Flies
- 4) Indicators

There will be some good discussion and members are encouraged to exchange ideas.

Casting Clinic and Workshop

The next clinic will be held on Sunday 19 April as part of our member workshop on the Hutt River. This event should be

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attended by all recent club members and those who consider themselves to be inexperienced or require some help with their fishing.

Riverside Workshop at Belmont Domain Sunday 19 April 9.00 am.

Meet at the Scout Hall before 9.00am. Bring lunch, hot drinks will be supplied.

We will cover aspects of carrying your gear and setting up then walk to the river. Different styles of fly fishing will be demonstrated and discussion on approaching the water and what to look for/ where the fish are likely to be. Members will have a chance to try various techniques.

After the outdoor session we will return to the Scout Hall for lunch and hold an indoor meeting where we can look in more detail at equipment and have discussion about any aspects of fly fishing.

Fly Tying Meeting - Wednesday 29 April 7.30 p.m.

Upper Hutt Community Meeting House, off Logan Street beside Upper Hutt Medical Centre.

This month – March Brown

A traditional pattern from the British Isles.

In April we will tie 2 versions of a dry fly.

Read Tim's article about the March Brown wet fly later in the newsletter.

Our monthly beginner fly tying group will meet at 6.30 p.m. in the same room immediately prior to the senior meeting. Those attending this group are reminded to be there by 6.30.

This month we will be dealing with wings on flies (pinch and loop technique).



Handicap Fishing Competition

Olds One Fly Competition April 25th Hutt River

Enter on WEB site or contact John Millar.

Last competition this season will be the Doughty Shield on the Ruamahanga River on 16 May.

There will be generous scoring allowances given in these competitions so every entrant is in with a chance of winning. It should also be noted that quite often low numbers of fish have been caught so there are no 'gun' fishers taking part.

Please register for the competitions through our easy website registration or by contacting John Millar by email or phone. If you haven't fished a competition before, then give it a try.

Burgess Shield Surfcasting Competition

Five club members took part this year. The competition was held on a Saturday because we had arranged a casting clinic for the following day. The choice of day may have had some impact on the number of participants but this can happen with a busy club schedule.

This year the Burgess shield was won by Ian Lawson with 4 kahawai. His fish measured 66 cm, 66 cm, 60 cm and 27 cm. One of the larger fish had new scarring where it had been attacked by a seal. The likely culprit (a large seal) was spotted patrolling beyond the second breaker.

Ajit Jogi came second with one kahawai.

The strong wind made the surf dangerous and casting difficult so most of the anglers turned and fished into the lagoon.

The club championship leader board placings are given below

Ian Lawson	5180 pts
Trevor Jeffries	2644 pts
Ajit Jogi	1300 pts

Last month's club meeting – Alex Broad clothing designer for Evolve Outdoors Group talked about designing clothing for the fishing and hunting market sectors in the New Zealand and Australian markets. It is a very competitive business because there are many excellent products out there and some widely respected brand names that are well established at the more expensive end of the price range.

Alex talked us through the manufacture stage of a product from concept through testing and trialling of materials, styling considerations and market placement. After a number of high level meetings and discussions a prototype is produced. This is then rigorously tested in the field and assuming it ticks all the boxes then will be released as an addition to the Riverworks or Hunter's Element ranges.

Alex is an accomplished hunter and fisher himself and this is surely an added qualification because he knows from experience what 'works' and what outdoor people are looking for in clothing and gear.

In the second part of his talk Alex dealt with repairs to clothing and in particular reproofing of breathable waders. Three products that were mentioned in his talk were Aquaseal adhesive used in most wader repairs to bond patches or for spot repairs. Aquaseal also can be used to repair neoprene products.



Soiled garments should be cleaned by washing with Atsko Sportwash detergent and dried in air (avoiding direct exposure to the sun because of UV damage).



When dry, breathable waders can be successfully reproofed by treatment with a Nikwax product TX Direct Spray. There are two other proofing sprays that can be substituted in place of the NIKwax spray. These are Grangers brand and are shown in the pictures below. Any waterproof spray recommended for Goretex should work quite well. Seam tape is an essential part of the waterproofing armoury and can be bonded in place with aquaseal adhesive.



Alex's talk was very informative and earned a hearty round of applause from the members present.

Raffle Winners in March

Green Trout Guiding Raffle Entry – (60) Geoff Stuart
Fly Box with 12 flies – (21) Jonathan Gough
\$20 Hunting and Fishing Voucher – (51) John Olds

Fish of the Month

Details of trout caught can be entered in the club fishing diary and will be considered for our fish of the month award. Hunting and Fishing (Alicetown) sponsor a \$10 voucher each month for heaviest fish. Entries need to be received by the Saturday prior to our club meeting to qualify for fish of the month. You can enter fish in the club diary by email or phone to John Millar.

The February winner was Ian Lawson for his 8lb 10oz brown trout caught in a local river on a size 16 dry fly



Please support our Sponsors

Club Trips

Our trip co-ordinator is Damian Bengree. If you have suggestions for a club trip please talk with Damian. His contact details are at the back of the newsletter.

Hutt Valley Angling Club Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the HVAC will be held on Monday 8th June

Notices of motions and Remits for consideration at the AGM must be submitted in writing to the Secretary by Monday May 18th and shall be signed by not less than two financial members.

Recommendations to the incoming Management Committee must also be submitted in writing to the Secretary by Monday May 18th.



March Brown wet fly

The March Brown is one of the best known mayflies in Great Britain. It is also found throughout Europe and in North America. In North America there is significant variation in size and colour which partly explains why there are so many variations on the artificial fly. With an important role in fly tying going back around 500 years, fly tiers have made many changes to this grand old pattern. We are looking at a version of the March Brown wet here but well worth a look are the March Brown spider, March Brown flymph and the March Brown nymph.

What you will notice first about the pattern is the roughness of it. Hare's ear lends itself so well to the job, particularly if pricked out with velcro as Davie McPhail shows in his tying video.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vnDU5_Esoc8

The partridge hackle here is tied 'in the round' and if tied off at this stage, would be a March Brown spider. For this pattern, this is my preferred style of tying the hackle, preserving the roughness of the tie. Davie uses hen pheasant for the wing and mentions woodcock – which I have used here. Woodcock has a darker, mottled appearance and suits the pattern well. All materials fit together pleasingly until that big, bold rib is added. This stamps individuality all over the March Brown wet and helps make it such a striking fly. #14 matches the size of our larger, common mayflies and is my preferred hook size. Naturals in the United Kingdom are said to be closer to a #12.

Hook. Partridge G3AY #14
Thread. Veevus 12/0 olive
Tail. English partridge back barbs
Body. Hare's ear
Rib. UNI Mylar gold #16
Hackle. English partridge neck
Wing. Woodcock primary

Materials are available locally. I have used Hungarian hen partridge before but found English partridge to have far more useable and better marked feathers. There are so many patterns, old and new where partridge can be used and a good skin is a great

investment.

I like to fish the March Brown wet fly downstream in bigger, faster water. The Ruamahanga is ideal. That gold tinsel makes a bold statement and the pattern also performs well fished deep, in tandem with a weighted nymph. On a recent trip to the Ruamahanga, temperatures were in the high 20s by midday. There was no surface activity so fish had to be lying deep in well oxygenated runs. Sure enough, they were there with several browns and rainbows falling to the March Brown wet. At times when duns are riding the fast water, I like to use one March Brown wet, either prospecting under the surface or covering rises. The fly is resilient and still looks good after catching several fish. It is a pleasure to be tying and using a fly so steeped in fly fishing history. A true classic. Give it a go!

Tales from the Riverbank

Rob Winwood sent in a report that missed the February newsletter by a couple of days then last month a rather forgetful editor omitted to add it into the March newsletter.

My apologies to Rob. It is late but worth adding to this month's edition.

Hi John,

Happy new year to you. I don't know how the Ruamahanga trip went but I'm gutted I couldn't go. I was away that week on holiday with the family. The good news is we got a friend's timeshare in Turangi for the week so I was able to complete a few firsts for my fly fishing.

Caught my first rainbow stripping a black woolly bugger on the Kuratau Dam measured at 48cm.

Caught two more rainbows on the Tongariro, at the lower bridge pool. They were both under the 40cm limit so were quickly returned.

Had several more hook ups including an awesome fight at the Major Jones pool on the Tongariro but after two big runs I tried to bring the rainbow into the shallows but just ended up pulling the hook out its mouth, a lesson learnt the hard way.

I was able to get out for an hour or so most days so my casting and confidence have really benefitted.

I have included a couple of photos, the Kuratau Dam trout and me at the Major Jones pool. Looking forward to taking part in the club trips this year, now I feel a bit more confident.
Cheers, Rob.

Editor's note - Rob is one of our less experienced members who put his hand up to act as a controller in the regional fly fishing competition and has done a second stint in February on the Ruamahanga. This has been of great help he tells me and he has had some successful outings on the Hutt River since then.

Mohaka River Adventure.

Six eager club members ventured north to the sunny Hawkes Bay to fish the mighty Mohaka, alas due to a dry summer the Mohaka was very low and contaminated by patches of floating green slime. Mountain Valley lodge, situated on the banks of the river is a great place to stay, the food plentiful and good value, while the beds were comfortable and best of all the fishing buddies were helpful, and enjoyable.

Thursday afternoon Steve and I ventured upstream from the lodge to fish under sunny skies with little wind. Steve pursued the trout using an eight weight rod and a demon secret dry flytrouble was the trout knew that Steve's fly spelled danger so they stayed clear.

I set up my five weight rod with tungsten bead hare & copper nymph and a wee wet fly and followed behind Steve. Steve being the gentleman he is, suggested I fish through a nice run: three strikes and three nice



fish came to the net, however my wee 5 weight was struggling! Note to self 'change to 8 weight rod on Friday'. Running and landing fish proved tricky due to the nature of the slippery river bed stones all of which led to at least two baths over the weekend. After a great sleep, Steve and I were joined on Friday by Mark

and Trevor to again fish up river of the lodge with Steve and I walking up for about 4-5 kms, leaving the lower runs and pools for the other two to fish. Although the water looked appealing, few fish were seen, however while creeping up the river edge a nice eel took a fancy to Steve, pursuing him with vigor until Steve fought him off with a wading stick. Throughout the day, fishing the white water and deep pools proved successful with a few nice fish being landed.

By Lunchtime on Friday the last two in the party from HVAC Ian Lawson and John Millar made an appearance. On arrival they went through the usual formalities of booking in then it was off to the river which was literally a stone's throw from their cabin, Kingfisher Lodge. Ian set off upstream and John walked down to the lower reaches on the property. It didn't take long for them to discover that the faster shallow water was chocka with green slimy weed. What a pain it was, having to continually clean the line and flies. This weed was drifting in chunks downstream and was catching on everything subsurface. John caught a number of tiny rainbows (some still had the parr markings still on them so they were very young). By the end of the afternoon he had caught only one rainbow of around 2lbs. Ian fared a little better by catching a couple of small fish and a nice 4lber. They headed back to their cabin and could see the others were already taking refreshment before dinner.

On Saturday Mark unpacked his guns. Wow, the trout are in real trouble, however he'd decided to trek into the hills and go deer hunting while Trevor joined Steve and I to fish the Glenn Falls area of the Mohaka which proved difficult in gusty conditions and with our flies being struck down by even more green slime. Fishing through a run of fast water I hooked a submarine trout who took me close to the backing twice, made me tip toe through chest deep water before finally jumping and throwing the hook. Note to self, keep the rod tip high!

The two latecomers had decided prior to the trip to set off on the Saturday and to fish in the vicinity of one of the many tributaries. This would avoid crowding in the local water at Mountain Valley Lodge. Due to some difficulty reading maps and getting the Navman to take them to their destination of choice, they ended up at the confluence of the Te Hoe River.

They fished some good water but it was very exposed to the blustery wind and casting became extremely testing. It was difficult to manage a good drift because the downstream wind

pushed the line far ahead of the drifting nymphs. Ian scored a 5lb trout and a few smaller ones whereas John's biggest would have been close to 3lb but it escaped before being netted. John was blown over by the wind at one point but luckily had been standing beside a large rock and was able to fall against it instead of tumbling into the pool.

It was a not a great day for these two but the good company over dinner and in the bar made up for this earlier disappointment. Sadly on Saturday night the rain fell heavily in the hills and Sunday's fishing was washed out.

If you've never fished the Mohaka River, add it to your bucket list as the scenery is really worth the trek.

Damian Bengree

A report from Ian Lawson

I fished the Hutt River a couple of weeks ago, on a stretch around the Stokes Valley entrance with good success using a Stimulator dry fly with rubber legs, also involved a point fly 18 ins (size 16 leafhopper) the stimulator was on a 60 to 70 mm dropper.

Ended up with 3 nice fish 2 jacks and a hen, one of them a 4 lbs jack followed the fly downstream for some distance before taking the stimulator, one other on the stimulator 3.25 lbs and one took the leafhopper 3.75 lbs. Later in the week (Thursday evening) I fished a favourite stretch of water with equal success, only one fish, but what a fish, a magnificent brown jack of 9 lbs 1 oz taken on a size 16 Goddard caddis with 4 lbs tippet on my 4 weight SLT Sage rod. Unfortunately I couldn't get the flash on my camera to work so not a clear photo which was very disappointing. The fish was returned to be caught again, hopefully when it gets to that magic 10 lbs.

I made one more evening trip this week which involved yet another stretch of my favourite water but this time with my good fishing mate J M.

We arrived in good time before dark but didn't see any fish rising until the light faded and then there was only the odd one so John decided to have a look 100 m downstream from me. He hooked into a good sized fish which unfortunately threw the hook after some 2-3 minutes, which is very disappointing but as John said it is better to hook and lose a trout than not to hook one at all.

In the meantime I was not having any success although there were 2 or 3 fish rising but persistence very often pays off and sure enough I hooked and landed a good jack of 6.75 lbs. This fish was taken on a small fly rather similar to the TT2.

On the Saturday along with four others I fished Lake Ferry in the Burgess Shield surfcasting competition. I landed 4 Kahawai, 3 of which were over 60 CM which proved to be enough to win the Burgess Shield



The previous week Ian had sent in another 2 diary entries, a 3lb 8oz trout from the Hutt River and an 8lb 10oz trout from a local river. Here is a guy who is making the most of his retirement!

It is only two seasons since Mike Nansett took up fly fishing and joined our club. At that time he wondered if he would ever catch a trout on fly. It has to be said that Mike has learned well and has spent a lot of fishing hours with more experienced fishers than himself. He has enjoyed quite a lot of success this season. Mike has not limited himself to the Hutt River but has been clocking up a few miles by fishing Wairarapa rivers and going north to tackle the Rangitikei.

On a recent trip to Taihape he caught nine trout, here is his report for the club fishing diary.

I went up to the Rangitikei over the weekend. Hooked 12 and land 9, not including the 5 inch specimens of which there were plenty!

My best was 4.75 lb rainbow (I am pictured with it in the photo attached) - personal best on fly rod, my previous best was a 3.75lb rainbow.





1 x 4.75lb — rainbow hen
2 x 4.5lb — rainbow hen and jack
1 x 3.5lb - rainbow jack
1 x 3.0lb - rainbow hen
3 x 2.25lb - 1 rainbow hen 2 brown hen
1 x 1.75lb - rainbow hen

I went over for a few hours on Saturday morning before I went to the cricket. The river looks nice, none of that horrible green slime, and it is nice to see some water in it.

I went down by the mushroom factory. I hooked 5, landed 4.

The rainbows of 2lb are fighting really well, as I did not have much time (had to leave the river by 11.00am) I was very selective in where I was fishing and time I spent at each spot. Best I caught was a 3 1/2 lb brown, in good nick too.

What I learnt over there is that it is pretty slow going until there is a bit of sun on the water - I arrived there at 6.30am and it was 2 degrees outside - nothing biting and I got a tangle - with poor light this was a cut and re-tie job with very bad language in between.

Attached is a photo of the lie where I hooked my brown trout.

Mike.



Camping Trip to the Ruamahanga 24th/25th. Jan

Damian, Chris, Kieran, Armani and I all signed up for the overnight fishing trip to the Ruamahanga River. The destination was "the Cliffs". All I needed for this trip was my tent, sleeping bag, a little food for dinner and breakfast and my fishing gear. Easy, travel light no fuss. Then came the "just in case items" and before I knew it I looked like I was going for a month.

We all met up at Damian's place around 3pm. And set off for our destination. We arrived not long after 4.30pm, me being last as usual. However this is a very popular site and was loaded with day trippers enjoying the hot weather and cool water in the river.

Nobody was keen on setting up and leaving everything unattended while we fished so we moved further down the road and parked just before the vineyard. I was last to arrive again.

One by one everyone set up their rods and headed for the river. I had left my favourite 6'6"4wt rod leaning against the fence back home but fortunately I had another in my bag a 6wt.

As I was way behind everyone else and the river looked pretty low I decided to forgo my waders and just put my wading boots on. Finally I got down to the river, the 6wt rod I hadn't cast for a while felt like a telephone pole.

Damian and Chris headed upstream past the swimmers and Kieran and Armani headed downstream. I stayed in the middle of these two groups and realised the river was a lot deeper than I thought which was a bit disconcerting when I discovered I still had my phone in my pocket.

We fished for a couple of hours when everyone slowly came in from their various fishing locations catch less. However Armani had spotted a fish in a pool just below where we had parked and was determined to catch it. While the rest of us headed back to the cars he carried on and was rewarded with the catch and came back beaming.

It was around 7.30 by now and we set up camp and went about our respective meals.

I looked up and saw Chris and Damien were ready to go down for some night fishing and decided to join them (last again). I got half ready but couldn't see to thread my fly as it was pretty dark by then so gave up but went down to see how the others were getting on.

Chris was having a lot of success landing small rainbows that were rising. Damian didn't do so well.

Not too much later we were back at the campsite and off to bed

planning to get up around 6am. which we duly did. The consensus was that the fish were on holiday at that part of the river so we would move over to the Gliding Club.

We got there around 7am and as each one set up they headed off to various spots on the river. I was last again. I headed upstream while the others went downstream. It was a fairly productive morning with Chris Czech nymphing and landing a nice rainbow in a deep run then hooking and losing two nice fish in the same run. I swapped to a sinking tip and went downstream past Kieran and landed two nice browns. Damian had the most productive day catching ten or twelve. At the time of writing I haven't heard from Kieran and Armani as to how they fared. It was an enjoyable trip and I am looking forward to doing this again.

Gary Jacobsen

The Wellington Regional Fly Fishing Competition was held on 15 February on a very drought stricken Ruamahanga River. The fishing was hard as Chris Kuchel wrote in his article in last month's newsletter.

Paul Baker won the competition over the three sessions that were held. This amounted to 6 hours of fishing under difficult conditions. Several competitors groaned that a two hour session did not give enough time to explore the longer beats thoroughly but everyone was playing by the same rules so there was no advantage to any individual.

It is interesting to read through some notes that Paul put together after the competition.

The abbreviations are not difficult to figure out

DN = Dry/Nymph, CN = Czech Nymph, R = Rainbow, RHS = right hand side, LHS = left hand side and so on.

Paul's reflections' on the Wellington Regional – Ruamahanga - Sunday 15 February 2015

Two hour sessions – beats 500m – 800m long

Conditions — moderate southerly breeze and grey cloud cover, some showers and few brighter periods. River at around 3 cumecs & in good order, after a small fresh in the previous week.

Controllers — 1. Dan Waechter, 2. Rob Winwood 3. Alan Roy
Two rods made up in first session, three in next two sessions, Dry/nymph (9' 4wt) & Czech Nymph (10' 3wt) 0.14mm tippet.

Wee-wets (9' 2 wt)

Dry fly – Parachute Adams tied with red aero-wing on a TMC2487 (my "go to" indicator dry)

Nymphs – all sorts – silver bead, pink bead, shiny copper bead – it didn't really seem to matter – mostly size TMC 14 – 16, but size 12 TMC2499 also worked on the point when CN.

Session 1 – Beat 2

Started in slower water in bottom of beat where I spotted some fish behind willows on the opposite side, but they didn't stop there long. Then fished up the pool with DN followed by CN in deeper water and drop-off. Reverted to DN to fish edges of the next run, then switched to CN in deeper water. Hooked & lost 2 fish in the run above the long pool, the second a large brown when the hook snapped!

The next pool had open beaches on both sides, with the current near the centre. Used DN up the RHS edge, landing three fish, but one was foul hooked. Then crossed, fishing the tail of the pool for dinks when crossing, but no touches. Fished up LHS with DN, hooked 5 fish (1 foul hooked), landed two. Result – 4 rainbows 40 cm – 43 cm, but a lot of missed opportunities. I definitely wasn't getting a good hook-up with the DN, although the largest fish, a brown was a busted hook just as it was coming to the net, and the last fish was on a size 16 TMC2499SP-BLB hook that opened up! 4 fish for session.

Session 2 – Beat 5

Concentrated on the faster water and drop-off in the bottom pool which ran against RHS. Picked up a 20cm R CN in deeper water, but couldn't find another, then continued with DN in shallower water. Landed a good rainbow, missed a strike on the dry, and had a large R break me off. No joy in the large open pool above, with poor visibility making very hard to see the holes or anything else. Spotted a fish in the deep hole in around the willows on the LHS and managed to get a take on CN. Fortunate enough to keep it out of the willows without breaking it off. 3 fish for session.

Session 3 – Beat 9

Thrashed the bottom of the beat which was open with a lot of riffly water & some deeper glides with DN, CN, & wee wets without success.

Then fished DN in the fast run. Hooked, played & lost a good R (reprimanded Alan for talking to me just as I was going to bring the fish closer, and in that instant the fish flipped and fell off. Probably not his fault but one does get touchy at these times!). Tried DN up

the LHS edge without success. Switched back to CN to cover the faster deeper water more thoroughly. Dropped a good R CN in fast water.

Finished fishing up LHS of top run without success, so was left with 15 minutes and the tail of the very large pool above. Tried wee wets across the tail and into top of rapids without a touch. Took DN rod up to the backwater under the willows on the RHS. Spotted a couple of fish while going up to the top of the beat without success, then came back down to have another go. Picked up a 45cm R on a size 16 Umpqua flashback nymph that saved my bacon in the last few minutes. 1 fish for session

© Paul Baker - 17 Feb 2015

Meet the Member – Peter Zillwood

Hello my name is Peter Zillwood, I'm 63 and I live in Totara Park, Upper Hutt. I am a plumber by trade. I went to Brooklyn school and Rongotai college. I started my apprenticeship in 69. I spent most of my free time back then tramping the Tararua and Orongoronga Valley.

In the mid 70's I moved to Tokoroa, a small but fast growing town in the south Waikato, working on schools, hospital, and commercial buildings, then onto the industrial pulp and paper site that was nearby. Here I spent my weekends skiing, sailing on the hydro lakes and later out of Whitianga as deck hand.

I travelled to the UK and Europe on my O E for about a year, then in the mid 80's I moved to Whangamata in the Coromandel where I was in business for a couple of years.

I got married about then and moved back to Wellington, where I started a small plumbing business.

I have 4 sons now, all adults. Unfortunately my marriage went pear shaped.

About 4 years ago I shifted to Totara Park.



I started going to Motuapa, with some friends who have a crib and a boat there, spending many enjoyable week ends on lake Taupo fishing. This last January whilst there I decided to try my hand at fly fishing so I booked a morning with a guide.

Until that weekend I had never held a fly rod in my hand, after a brief introduction the guide took me to the Tongariro river and there standing thigh deep behind a large rock in very swift water I hooked my first river trout and now I'm hooked.

The One Handed Fly Fisherman

- a personal point of view.

By John Millar

There can be several different ways to carry out an action and in many cases one method or style can be as efficient as another. It is a matter of personal choice whether someone reads a newspaper



from front to back or from back to front. I would not venture to say that either way was the wrong way.

When it comes to fly fishing however I have very strong views on how an angler should set up his rod and reel for fishing. Once again it comes down to personal choice as to which hand he casts

the rod with and which hand he winds his reel with, but from my viewpoint there is a correct way and an incorrect way to do this.

I say that anyone who casts their rod and winds their reel with the same hand is doing it wrong.

I will spell it out so that the above statement is not misunderstood. A right handed caster should wind their reel with their left hand and a left handed caster should wind their reel with their right hand. I know of a number of very good anglers, some who are members of the national fly fishing team and also some high profile fishing guides who are doing it wrong. If they were to change to the correct way they would gain efficiency without needing to raise their skill level.

If you don't believe this then just watch some of the NZ fly fishing DVD's on the market. It can be like watching a comedy show as an angler juggles his rod from hand to hand in order to wind in some line whilst still trying to put pressure on a trout and the hilarity increases as they come to net the fish.

As I wrote at the beginning of this article anglers are free to choose how they set up and use their gear and I do not have a problem with this providing that they **do not influence other people to fall into that same trap.**

Let's go back to an early stage in a fisherman's development. Picture a general sports store where a novice or total beginner has walked in to buy some gear. The assistant who probably doesn't own a rod will show the beginner some options and probably will attach a reel to rod and hand it to the customer to "have a feel". In earlier days most reels were set up for right hand wind and may not have been convertible to either side and so in this case the right handed angler is unwittingly taken down the wrong path from the beginning. These days with specialist tackle shops I am sure the experienced assistants would point out that most reels are now ambidextrous and can be used on either side so the earlier scenario should not happen, or does it?

Some fly fishermen started out as saltwater fishers or may have come from coarse fishing where quite often the reel is set up for right hand wind. Many fly fishers have graduated from beginning with spinning gear. Understandably they would most likely continue in fly fishing with this configuration even although it may be the wrong one according to my argument.

At club level most fishing clubs offer coaching to inexperienced members and this includes fly casting, sometimes using club

equipment. It does annoy me when I see right handed casters being handed a rod set up for right handed winding. To me this is normalising the wrong way to use a reel.

I suspect that this is being done unwittingly but the outcome could be that the beginner assumes that this is the correct way and would follow suit.

More effort should be put into setting people up correctly when they are beginners so that wrong techniques do not become engrained from the start.

I should point out that my own fishing skills are mediocre at best (on a good day) but I do not suffer from trying to use a fly reel wrong-handed which would make my efforts even more lamentable than they are at present.

Woods Waffles

Saltwater Fly Fishing

Having done a reasonable amount of SWF over the years, both here and overseas, it's great that there is another "pulse" of anglers giving it a try. While the majority of them seem to be in Auckland, and they are having a great season up there for snapper and kingfish on the fly, there are probably more doing it in different places around the country that are doing it under the radar. Cut and paste this link from Anton Donaldson, who is a guide in the Nelson region*: <http://vimeo.com/122509003>.

Talking to surfcasters and reading some of the blogs around, seems that there is a lot of good fish around Wellington at the moment, from "pan size" snapper at around 50cm to what are called rat kings. For those with a boat, or access to one, there is also albacore off both the west and south coasts (may change due to the cold southerlies that we are having), but if you want to try for snapper, kingfish or albacore on lures or the fly give Matt Dobson at Black Pearl Charters a call, as I know he was keen to start some trips for them around the Kapiti region.

Watching this video clip has got me keen to go and have a look at some places around the coast for a chance to throw a fly. On the south coast there are a couple of places towards Karori Light that look like they could be good, but only having seen them from a far ridge a closer look is on the cards, with rod in hand of course. The west coast north and south from Makara should be good as well, not to mention around the entrance to the Plimmerton bay. I would also be keen to try the beaches at Raumati and Waikanae in

the right conditions e.g tide and light. Then there is the Wellington Harbour itself, with all the outcrops, beaches and holes out there. It is untapped really, and I have already seen a couple of places a few minutes stroll from my house that I reckon will be worth a try. Luckily I have a few rods sitting under the house that need to let loose a few cobwebs.

*For those who only like trout, also watch some of his other videos through his website www.nztroutadventures.co.nz

Dry Fly

Having just finished a book on angling in some parts of the USA, I got to thinking about the use of dry flies here in New Zealand. In the book, the hero of the story, well John Gierach is a hero to me, and his friends often fish the dry fly during times when it has snowed – because there is a hatch of some sort and the fish are looking up towards the surface. This got me to thinking (not easy these days) when was the latest time in the year that I have used a dry fly and caught fish. I can recall using one around the Avalon area one late May, or was it early June (a black humpy I was really using as an indicator), but also remember an ex-club member using a dry fly with success one August on the Hydro Pool on the Tongariro. The fish were there but not taking anything at all so David starting playing around with a dry fly and hooked 3. It sort of reminded me of those great Lani Waller videos of using surface flies on Steelhead in British Columbia.

So back to the thinking part. Would it be possible to take a fish on a dry fly in the Hutt River throughout the year? A challenge like one per month even through winter? While there are plenty of negative thinkers around that will say that it can't be done – trout don't rise during the cold months you know – is it only our "conformity of the rules" that won't allow us to try something like this. And why shouldn't it work? The Hutt River gets plenty of sun light to highlight the fly, the nymphs don't all die off and are available as trout food, and at the end of the year if it doesn't work who is going to know?

But there would also have to be a definition of Dry Fly. Should it be changed to surface fly? This would open all sorts of extra thinking as you could then start using nymphs that are trapped in the surface film, or even mini-poppers to stir the fish up a bit if they are in a bit of a lethargy slump. We call flies like the Goddard Caddis and Elk Hair Caddis dry flies, but really they are what the USA/Canada anglers call waking flies, i.e they are best fished

making a wake across the water. And this is exactly what a popper does - tracks across the water creating a wake in the surface to show fish where their prey is. And often the smaller ones are made out of deer hair so the purists amongst you can't say they aren't tied with normal/natural materials. Also what happens if I don't put floatant on a dry fly and it sinks? Is it then not a true dry fly - even though it has all the properties of a dry fly except a man made one and the form is the same - oh boy I think this is getting into the too deep area and I think all it needs is a bit of experimenting to found out if the basic premise works, or doesn't as the case may be.

Cost of Fishing.

I was having a discussion with a customer of mine from waaaaay back and we both agree that fly fishing and fly tying today is cheaper than it ever was, not only on the pricing of the equipment but when you add quality into the mix. But the saying that you only get what you pay for is so true, and yet we all want Rolls Royce Quality with only a bicycle price. The old price vs quality argument is sure to create waves, and you can get 10 anglers in a room and not really get a cohesive agreement. But what happens when the price starts going one way - up or at least stays the same and the quality heads down? There is really only one way for manufacturers to supply distributors with cheaper prices and that is to find a cheaper way of manufacturing the goods, often at the expense of quality (this should be really be read as longevity). I was reminded of that this afternoon as I finally got around to looking at a lot of samples I had been sent in the past year. The 2 main areas I was looking at were hooks and beads. The hooks were made in Korea, which does have a big tackle manufacturing business, and the beads were manufactured in India. Seeing as these were both provided by large overseas companies I would have thought that there would have been some quality control, but as I was looking at bulk supplies they came plastic wrapped. Alas the quality was not what I would have expected, but at least the price was. Probably 60% of the beads were distorted to some extent and the hooks had a failure rate of approx. 10% and the styles weren't what they purported to be. So even though the Commerce Commission says you can't use the saying Caveat Emptor*, from some countries you apparently can.

*Let the buyer beware

Next Month in Woods Waffles.

Ain't going to be much. As there hasn't been much

correspondence, written or verbal, to reply to over anything I have written in the last few years, I am going to take a few months off writing this diatribe and only use the cut and paste function on my computer and troll through a few websites and pick out what I think is interesting. If that much! You have been warned!

KRAZY KORNER



A keen fisherman received an urgent phone call informing him that the body of his mother-in-law had been washed up by the tide with a crayfish firmly attached to each toe. "What shall we do with the body?" asked the Coastguard. "Sell the crayfish and set her out again," replied the fisherman.

First Fisherman: "How can you exaggerate like that and still look me in the face?"

Second fisherman: "Believe me it isn't easy."



"I know you'll have your waders on, Bobby," said his mother, "but I don't want you to go right into the middle of the river when you go fishing". The currents are quite strong and you could easily get swept off your feet and carried away."

"But Mum," protested young Bobby, "When Dad goes fishing, he goes right into the middle of the river."

"Yes dear, but your father is insured."

Here is the fishing hit parade top ten as compiled by the Finn Brothers

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Please Release Me | 6. Come Fly With Me |
| 2. Bad Moon Rising | 7. Straighten Up and Fly Right |
| 3. On a Clear Day | 8. Stormy Weather |
| 4. Hooked On a Feeling | 9. Summertime |
| 5. You Raise Me Up | 10. Cry Me a River. |

Can you come up with a better compilation?
There is a prize of ten flies for your song list if the editor publishes it.



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

Our newsletter is printed by:
Rapid Copy

Hours Monday to Friday 7.30am to 4.00pm

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