



THE HUTT VALLEY ANGLER

Issue No 410 : April 2016

Club activities in April

Meet the member – Krystal Smith

Golden sausages ride again at Ainwhenua

Our fishing future on Wairarapa rivers

How to grill fish

Editorial

Many thanks this month to Gavin Scott, Colin Thompson and new member Krystal Smith who have contributed interesting articles to the newsletter. April is another busy month, with a wide range of club activities on offer and as always, members are encouraged to make the most of these events, which also provide a perfect opportunity to take some photos and write a short article to share your experience with other club members.

All the best

Chris Kuchel

President's Piece

The weather began to turn a bit colder on the 1st March and it looked like that was going to be the end of the extended summer and then back came the warm weather.

Unfortunately due to ill health, I missed the last club night and in doing so, didn't have the opportunity to listen to Strato Cotsilinis. I

understand that it was a very good presentation and well received by members.

We were proposing to have an open discussion with club members in regard to internet banking at the March club night, which we have put that item off until the club meeting in April.

The club workshop is proposed for the 16 April depending on numbers. This is an opportunity to come along and learn a few things that may assist you next time you venture out fishing and ask those questions that you have on your mind.

The water safety course is still on our horizon with the date yet to be confirmed. Looks like it will be August/September prior to the opening day in October.

With the river levels still being exceeding low, the fish have moved around. It takes a bit of searching and they are sometimes not easy to find. I was out



on the Hutt River recently although some may call it a stream in its current state and the fish were holed up right under the trees seeking cover from fisherman and everything else.

John Olds and I fished the rivers near Taihape recently as those on Facebook will know. There are still a lot of small fish in the rivers (subways) that will chase anything they think is edible. Normally by now their numbers have lessened. It just highlights the unusual weather we have experienced this summer. The fishing was okay with approximately 50 trout caught with most being reasonably small although, we did get about a dozen over 2lbs which were all in good condition. It always seems odd that if you happen to keep one and examine what it has been feeding on it rarely is similar to the fly the fish has taken. There were no browns caught that weekend.

What was noticeable on the Friday when the day started rather misty that when the weather warmed up in the afternoon the fish were on the feed for about an hour until a cool breeze came in from the south. Some days you have to bide your time as the fish are there, but not ready to be caught.

The next day started with a frost and then turned out bright, sunny and hot and the fishing was really quite slow. So good fine weather does not always mean that fish are feeding. We saw a number of good sized fish out cruising with no real interest in feeding. Perhaps they had consumed enough on the previous day.

Soon we will be calling for members interested in being on the Committee to come forward. If that sounds like something you are interested in, get in contact with me or one of the other Committee members. It is a quick way to progress your fishing and have an input into the running of the club.

Ross Goodman

April Activities

1-3rd Tukituki trip

10th Burgess Shield surfcasting competition – Te Horo beach

11th Club Meeting - King Lion hall 7.30pm

13th Casting Clinic – Belmont Domain 6.30pm

16th Skills workshop – Belmont Scout Hall

19th Committee meeting 7.30pm

27th Fly tying – Community House 7.30pm

Club News

Club night – Monday 11 April at 7.30pm in King Lion Hall. King Street, Upper Hutt. Our guest speaker will be Paul Slaney via skype from Wales. Paul is

- Pro tier for Partridge hooks
- Pro angler for Loop tackle
- Internationally recognised fly tier of sea trout and salmon flies
- Professional tier for orders of various flies, sent around the world
- An excellent all around angler
- Blogger
- Photographer

He has done a lot of salt water fly fishing too. With that wide level of experience, Paul's talk is sure to be of interest to all club members.

Casting Clinic – Wednesday evening 13 April 6.30 pm at Belmont Domain. Please note that this will be the last evening session for the season. In May, the casting clinic will revert back to Sunday mornings at Belmont Domain. The co-ordinator is Ian Lawson. If you want to attend, please sign up on the clipboard at our monthly meeting or register on the website. Registration allows us to have instructors available for all attendees and who we contact if there is any change in meeting arrangements.

Fly tying Meeting- April 27 at 7.30 p.m. Community Meeting Room, off Logan Street, Upper Hutt

Fly of the Month - Parachute Adams

This American dry fly pattern can be very successful in smaller hook sizes 14 to 18.

It floats low in the surface and can be taken for a Mayfly Spinner or emerging adult.

It works, particularly well, late in summer when the Mayflies tend to be smaller than early in the season. This fly is tied with a post giving it good visibility for the angler.

Many “fussy” trout are taken on this fly when other patterns fail to succeed.



There are many Youtube videos showing how to tie this fly. To find them, use Google or other search engine. Type in ‘Parachute Adams fly pattern’.

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 Maureen in the normal way

Raffle Winners in March

Congratulations to Jono Gough for winning the Green Trout Guiding entry. Maureen Burgess took away the box of flies and Bill Shkopiak 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

Jeff Wood from Fishscene has kindly agreed to sponsor the monthly photo competition. This month’s winner is Chris Kuchel, who takes away the \$15 Fishscene voucher. His winning photo “Cicada Time” is on the front cover of of this month’s newsletter. Members are encouraged to support our sponsors.

Fish of the month

Congratulations to Ian Lawson for his fine 5lb 9oz brown, caught on the Akatarawa River.



Change of date for Burgess Shield

Due to a clash with Easter weekend, the Burgess Shield surfcasting competition will now be held on Sunday April 10 at Te Horo Beach. Members please register for this competition/excursion so that transport can be shared. Contact John Millar by email or register on the website.

Members' Workshop in April

We are proposing to hold a members' workshop on Saturday 16 April. This will be approx. 4 hours duration with a sausage sizzle included. There will

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

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be some instruction and advice on tackle and techniques then those attending will buddy up with experienced members for some on-river mentoring.

Last year's workshop was well supported by club members, with reports of positive feedback. Some of the topics covered on the day were

- What to carry in your vest/pack/Waders.
- What type? Advantages of each.
- Rods, reels, leaders, nets, sun protection, eye wear.
- Where to fish/reading the water/upstream or downstream?
- How to set up. Indicators, dry fly, dry/nymph, across and down, Czech nymphing, fly selection.
- Netting and handling fish
- Water safety
- Practical on-water casting and fishing tuition.

Tukituki trip in April

April 1st to 3rd fishing the Tukituki river. This being a trip hosted by the Hawkes Bay Club staying at their club house. All trips are weather dependant, with early bookings essential. Some venues do require a deposit, which should be paid by members directly to the hotel/BB/lodge to secure a bed.

Members will be given the opportunity to sign up for club trips at the monthly meetings. To confirm a place on a club trip, email Damian at c.dbengree@paradise.net.nz not less than 3 weeks before the trip date. Damian will send accommodation details to participants as necessary.

Proposed HVAC Calendar

At the March club meeting, it was proposed that the club produce a 2017 calendar. Initial response from members was positive, so this project will be going ahead. We plan it will be ready for sale by September at a cost of around the \$10 mark.

Grahame Kitchen and Chris Kuchel will be organizing the calendar.

Our first task is to source the 13 photographs that will be needed, so this is where members can help. We are calling for a range of photos, not necessarily photo comp winners, but any that could be used to suit a

“seasonal” theme. Of course, each contributor would be given full acknowledgement as the author of the original photograph.

The photos must be originals taken by the member who agrees the club can use them for including in the HVAC Club calendar. Photos should have a title, member’s name and be of quality suitable for commercial printing.

Please email your photos to either Grahame - grahame2@paradise.net.nz or Chris - chriskuchel357@gmail.com by 30 April.

Thanks to Strato

At the March club meeting, HVAC members were again treated to an informative and entertaining talk from Strato Cotsilinis. He spoke about the autonomous nature of the Wellington Fish and Game Council and its willingness to challenge regional councils when contentious issues arise. At present, some Wairarapa waterways are under threat, which you can read about in Gavin Scott’s article in this newsletter. Other Fish and Game roles include the monitoring and analysis of scientific data to set regulations each year, as well as resource consent work. Strato also spoke about the issue of carp farming in Taupo, and a proposed rainbow trout “research farm” in the Marlborough Sounds.

The second half of Strato’s presentation focused on his recent trip to Alaska where his main challenge was fly fishing for King Salmon as well as Arctic Grayling, Arctic Char, Pike, Chum and Sockeye. The weather was a lot kinder than on his previous trip to Alaska which was affected by severe flooding. No such issues on this time. As Strato summed up, fishing in Alaska for 30lb King Salmon is truly a “bucket list” experience.

As always, HVAC is very grateful to Strato for his tireless advocacy work and his willingness to take time out of his busy schedule to talk at our club nights.





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Meet the Member – Krystal Smith



Hi everyone, I'm Krystal. I'm a nature enthusiast and I'm generally tramping, camping, biking (or snowboarding in the winter) whenever I possibly can, and if the weather is bad I'm doing crafts like sewing, weaving, cheese making or baking. I took up fly fishing in Canada while I was on a working holiday because my Canadian best friend was taking her canoe out fishing on the lake and I thought that sounded like a great idea. She taught me what she knew while we were trolling the local lake for the rainbow trout and kokanee they stocked it with. We caught them every few trips on our nymphs and woolly buggers, but it was easy - no casting, just a slow steady paddle while having a beer or two. When I came home I realised I wasn't going to get it so easy on the rivers, so decided I needed to learn about river fishing and especially how to cast correctly! Since attending my first casting clinic with HVAC, I've been hooked (hah), and get out as many evenings and weekends as I can spare, wherever I happen to be. My partner and I have a cottage near Ruapehu and I've fallen in love with the Manganuioteao river and the rugged rocky beauty surrounding it. Sometimes we stop for an hour or so at the Rangitikei on the drive home too! I'm hoping to learn all I can from the more experienced members of the club about reading rivers, fly selection and tying,

and stalking fish! Next time I go to Canada I want to go straight to the rivers with all I've learnt, and teach my best mate a thing or two as well! That's where the photo above was taken.

Book review:

Trout with Nymph by Tony Orman

Library number 013

Nymph fishing revolutionised angling in New Zealand. This updated edition has important new advice including the latest nymph patterns, commentary on the nymph revolution at Taupo, and many other practical hints on how to trick the wily trout.

Golden Sausages Ride Again at Aniwhenua

By Colin Thompson

A number of years ago the club had a regular Wgtn Anniversary weekend trip to Lake Aniwhenua. Over the last few years the conditions for fishing deteriorated until it was deemed waste of time travelling such a long distance for minimum satisfaction. I had been back a number of times over the last few years and found it very hard to fish due to excessive weed growth that was choking the place to death.

When I attended the recent Silver Flies fishing clinic at National Park I was talking to one of the NZSF team members, Dan Comer. He is a Galatea local and is currently one of the top fly fishers in the country. He told me that the lake was on the improve and there was some decent fishing to be had in the lake again. Also that Aniwhenua Lodge had new owners and the place was humming with lots of visitors.

When I got home, a check on the web confirmed that the lodge was “under new management” and the place was looking pretty smart in the photographs. The lodge is now called Kohutapu Lodge and has been purchased by the Toe Toe whanau, a local family. A phone call had us booked into one of the self-contained cottages for three nights in mid-January and we were lucky to get that. The place is booked out most days, as they have full tourist buses for overnight stays. The tourist, mostly young people, do various activities during the day and they are catered for at night by the lodge. There is even a licensed bar. The people who run the lodge are great. A nice friendly smile greeted us when we arrived and the accommodation was quite smart. We

were made to feel welcome. (Some of you will know what I'm talking about here). The place was really busy, with a different group of tourists in each night that we were there.

We took a "tinnie" (that's a small aluminium boat) with an outboard motor so we could investigate the lake's quieter nooks and crannies. This proved to be an excellent idea.

The first day on the lake provided us with a good number of hook ups. At first we went to the tried and true places that I had fished on previous visits. There was less weed in some areas so it was easier to navigate around the lake. The fish were easily visible cruising the edges of the weed beds, resembling a pod of killer whales with their dorsal and tail fins exposed. We wedged the boat up onto a weed bed and waited for the fish to come within casting range, for the perfect ambush. After trying a few different flies, Damsels were the go to solution. A lot of the fish were in the 3lb range and we also lost quite a few bigger ones (well I reckon they were bigger) in the weeds. It was stinking hot with no breeze and we remained on the lake for about 4 hours. In the end it was determined that it was "beer-o'clock" and time to have a few cold ones that were back in the fridge.

The next day we decided to go further up the lake (towards the Taupo) and cruised into right hand arm until we could go no further. There were fish of all sizes scooting everywhere as we made our along the shallows. There was a slow current running through the arm and we settled the boat on a sandbar and proceeded to cast to fish sitting in the current. Awesome fishing, when you can see the fish take the nymph and get the timing right for the strike. Again it was the damsels doing the damage. We must have hooked at least 16 fish between us, in about an hour and a half. We then just drifted down the lake casting to fish as we moved along. We then returned to where we fished the previous day to finish the day off. It was really hot and finally we got a breeze, unfortunately the fish activity slowed right up. Therefore, time to go back to the lodge for a few more cold brews.

In total we must have hooked up at least 20 fish each over the two days on the lake. We didn't fish from the lake edge, that's why we took the boat. A small boat or even a canoe will allow you to get into some of the shallower areas. The fishing was definitely better since my last visit and we intend to return. When talking to one of the ladies that runs the lodge she said that the lake had been seriously drained during 2015, to make some repairs to the dam or something like that. Maybe that had something to do with the distinct

lack of weed I've experienced over the last few years. The lodge was good to stay at and they will even prepare a meal for you. Not that we took the offer up as we prepared our own, because as the title of this article suggests; yes, I took my traditional fishing trip meal of "Golden Sausages" with me.



What! Didn't you bring Alan Markham this time?



A nice fish that was cruising the weed bed

GOLDEN SAUSAGES

500g sausages
1 onion finely chopped
1 carrot grated

Sauce

2 tbsp. flour
1 tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
2 tbsp. vinegar
1tbspn sugar

To produce the sauce, mix the above ingredients to a smooth paste then add one cup of boiling water.

Lay the sausages in a large flat casserole dish and cover with the onions and grated carrot. Pour sauce over sausages and vegetables. Add salt and pepper to taste. Cover and cook slowly for 1½ hour at 180°C.



Our fishing future on Wairarapa rivers

By Gavin Scott

The Ruamahanga River in the Wairarapa and its feeder tributaries are important to fly fishers in the Wellington Fish & Game Region. Wellington and Hutt fisher people look forward to driving over the Rimutaka Hill for a day of enjoyable, productive fishing. Nevertheless, the Greater Wellington Regional Council, as part of its reason for being, has a plan for enhanced use of Wairarapa waters, the WAIRARAPA WATER USE PROJECT, <http://www.wairarapawater.org.nz/>

The idea is to use 'unused' water for a variety of economic and community uses, “done in a way that promotes sustainable management of land and water and creates regional prosperity”.

To date, a number of identified water collection and storage sites have been investigated and written off as unsuitable, the latest rejection being one that would have put a dam on the Mangatarere Stream flowing from the Tararua foothills into central Wairarapa. This is fortunate because the Mangatarere Stream is considered to be the most valuable brown trout spawning and

rearing stream in the Wellington region, and is recognised as extremely important in maintaining the trout fishery of the entire Ruamahanga River catchment.



The preserved Mangatarere Stream

However, two proposed irrigation schemes remain on the books, each with the potential to damage the waterways we Hutt anglers love to fish. These days, new irrigation usually equates to intensified dairying and its associated detrimental effects on waterway quality arising from water extraction and nutrient run-off. We all know that the present Government is very keen on farm irrigation schemes, and on 11 March 2016 the Greater Wellington Regional Council released a media statement that the Government through its Irrigation Acceleration Fund has committed \$804,000 towards advancing the Wairarapa Water Use Project. This is “to support sustainable primary sector growth in the regions; helping to achieve the government’s goal of doubling the value of primary industry exports by 2025.” <http://www.wairarapawater.org.nz/Portals/153/MPI%20media%20release%20Wairarapa%20project%20FINAL.pdf>

This funding boost is on top of \$2.2 million previously given to the Wairarapa project by the Ministry of Primary Industries. This grant money is for subsidising feasibility studies on the two remaining proposals.

One is the **Tividale Scheme** with a dam approximately 23km NE of

Masterton towards the coast, situated on the Tauweru River at the Mangapurupuru Stream confluence. These are tributaries of the Ruamahanga River. If developed, construction cost is provisionally estimated between \$71 and \$105 million.

The other is the **Black Creek Scheme**, which I will describe more because Chris Kuchel and I fished two of the affected waterways earlier this season. Construction cost is estimated between \$138 million and \$205 million.

In the Black Creek Scheme, a reservoir will be formed towards the Tararua's approximately 11km NW of Masterton. It has two separate dams, one on Black Creek and one on Wakamoekau Creek. These are the two catchments immediately north of the Waingawa River. A channel cut through a low saddle between the two catchments will link the two areas of dammed water into a single reservoir. This water will supply the plains of the Ruamahanga valley floor from north of Masterton down to Lake Wairarapa. When the reservoir runs low in dry times, water will be pumped from the Waingawa R to top it up, which will reduce flows into the Ruamahanga River.



Wakamoekau Creek

There may be alleged benefits, but there are two reasons for being awake to the Wairarapa schemes. One is whether it makes sense to float dollar notes down irrigation channels to produce milk at costs much higher than the Europeans and North Americans are able to do, and who have recently markedly increased their milk production capabilities. With diminished world demand, foreign over-supply and crashing prices, the previous high prices for milk products are sadly gone for any foreseeable future. Irrigation subsidies

now to boost milk production would be akin to the Government propping up Solid Energy and re-opening its coal mines “to boost the economy”.

The second objection is to do with Clean Green New Zealand. More intensive farming is the main cause of our rivers getting dirtier and having less flow. For fishers and most other Kiwis, this is Black.

On top of those two objections there is the possible loss of good trout spawning locations in the dammed catchments. This would need investigation.

In March 2016, Primary Industries Minister Nathan Guy said the Government is a strong supporter of irrigation and water storage, and he signalled up to \$400 million in total towards irrigation over time. So if either of the Wairarapa feasibility studies looks useful for the current Government's agenda but is economically marginal, they are likely to subsidise the scheme into reality using some of the \$400 million set aside nationally. Based on similar New Zealand experiences, it takes about ten years from the time of the initial idea until a scheme is built. The Tivdale and Black Creek schemes are the equivalent of about five years into this process.



Primary Industries Minister Nathan Guy (centre) with two dry farmers near Greytown in March

So stay awake! Add your voice as you see fit.

How to grill fish

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There are several easy ways to barbecue fish. You do not always need foil paper or special tools. Cleaning up is fast also, with nothing to toss away or wash. With minimal prepping and seasoning necessary, you'll be a pro in no time.



Turn on your grill and blast the heat. As you're heating up the grill, cover the grate loosely with aluminum foil. The intense heat will cause any debris to break down and dissolve, starting the cleaning process for you. This also minimizes sticking. At its highest heat, this should only take about 10-15 minutes.[1]

"Blasting the heat" is another way of saying very, very hot. We're talking around 550°F (288°C) here. [2] So, obviously, cover your grill while this

process is going on. The heat will sear the fish initially, sealing it. If you throw it on a warm grill, it'll stick. If you're using a charcoal grill, those babies need to be gray, not black.



Clean the grill grate. If you used aluminum foil for the previous step, remove it now. Using a stiff-wired grill brush, scrape the grate clean. Fold a couple of sheets of paper towels into a small square or pad. Grasping the paper towels with tongs, dip the paper towels in oil (vegetable or olive) and rub over the bars of the grate.

Continue to wipe the grate with the oiled paper towels until the grate is somewhat glossy. Plan on doing this about 5 times. It's a good idea to re-dip the paper towels in oil for each application.[1]



Choose your fillet. When choosing a fish for grilling, you first want to consider how hearty it is — how well can it stand up to the torture of a live fire. Flaky or delicate fish like flounder or sole won't cut it here. You want thicker fillets or steaks of more sturdy contenders such as:[3]

Halibut

Tuna

Swordfish

Haddock

Salmon

Mahi-mahi

Grouper

If you do opt for a delicate fish, you'll be better off with putting it in aluminum foil or using a grilling basket -- or else you risk your meat falling through the grill to the flames.

Of course, there's always the option of taking a whole fish and filleting it yourself.



Cut it up into smaller portions. Not only will it be easier to manage on the grill but you can ensure the fish cooks up evenly -- the skinnier tail end doesn't need to cook as long as the thicker part of the fillet. Cut your fish into portions that have an even thickness to ensure you don't have dry parts and/or undercooked parts all on one portion.



Season or marinate the fish. If you have a marinade you've been dying to try, go for it. Just make sure to keep the fish in the marinade for no longer than 30 minutes -- both salty or sugary marinades have a negative effect on taste if left on too long.

However, all fish really needs is a coating of olive or coconut oil and some salt and pepper. The art is in the grilling -- just make sure you lather up both sides evenly.



Place it skin-side down and diagonally on the grill. This not only creates those masterful grill marks you see in restaurants, it actually makes it easier to flip the fish because it's on an angle. [1] The general rule is a fish will take 8 minutes to cook through per inch of thickness, which means about 3 to 5 minutes per side.[4]

Reduce the heat to medium, cover the grill, and let cook! Don't try to move the fish until you see that the skin side has a nice sear and looks crisp -- if you do, you risk it falling apart. If you're not sure when to check the fish to

see this, try gently lifting with a fine-edged spatula after a few minutes. If it doesn't lift off the grate easily, let it cook a bit longer and check at 20-second intervals until it does.[1]



Flip the fish. Okay, so the fish is lifting off the grate and has the right color on the bottom. Time to flip. First, you need the right tool. A wide spatula with a thin, tapered edge does the job nicely by being able to slide easily under the fish and also large enough to support the whole fillet while you flip it. To make your life even easier, pair it with a flexible turner which can help hold the fish in place while the larger spatula slides underneath. While attempting the turn, if you feel too much resistance, just stop and walk away. If you've properly cleaned and oiled the grate, the fish will let you know when it's ready to turn by releasing itself from the grate.[3]

Cover, cook, and check for doneness. When cooked properly, the meat will be firm to the touch, flake easily with a fork, and appear opaque all the way through.



Take a fork and gently pull back a flaky section in the center. If the fish is opaque with just a bit of translucent center, it's ready to come off. If using an instant read thermometer, the fish should be pulled when it registers between 130-135°F (54-57°C), letting it carry over to 140°F (60°C) while it rests.[3]

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