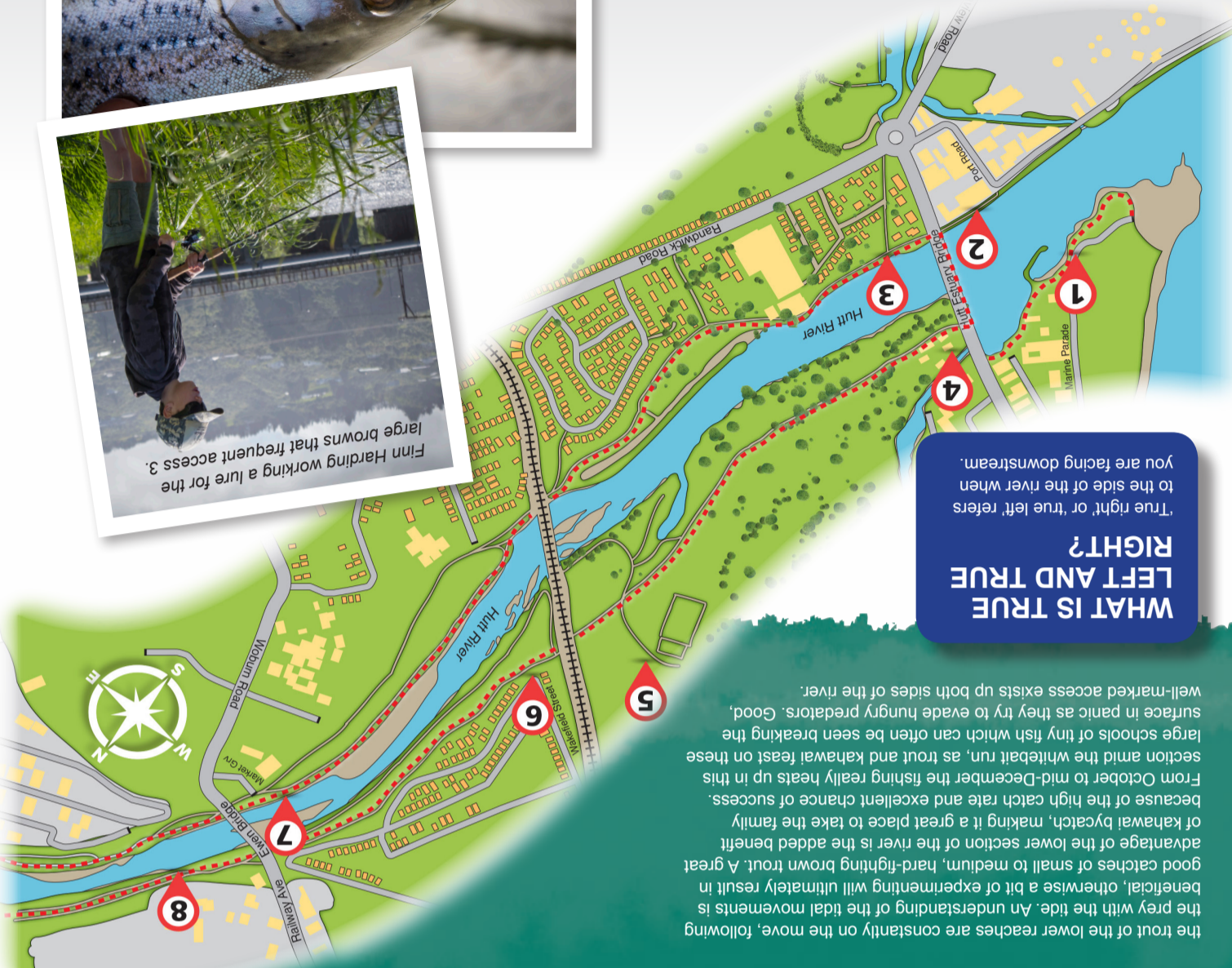




- 6 Wakefield Street - Access to the true right side of the river via Ava Park.
- 7 Market Grove - Access below Ewen Bridge to the true left side.
- 8 Marsden Street - Entry point to the true right side of the Hutt River Trail provides access upstream and downstream of Ewen Bridge.

- 1 Marine Parade - Access to the estuary and river mouth on the true right side.
- 2 Port Road - Access to the estuary and river mouth on the true left side.
- 3 Croft Grove - The start of the Hutt River Trail, offers access to the lower reaches on the true left.
- 4 Shandon Golf Course - Access to the lower reaches on the true right adjacent to the golf course.
- 5 Bracken Street - Access to lower reaches through Sladden Park. Toilet and playground facilities at this access point.



WHAT IS TRUE LEFT AND TRUE RIGHT?

'True right' or 'true left' refers to the side of the river when you are facing downstream.

The trout of the lower reaches are constantly on the move, following the prey with the tide. An understanding of the tidal movements is beneficial, otherwise a bit of experimenting will ultimately result in good catches of small to medium, hard-fighting brown trout. A great advantage of the lower section of the river is the added benefit of kahawai bycatch, making it a great place to take the family. From October to mid-December the fishing really heats up in this section and the high catch rate and excellent chance of success. Large schools of tiny fish which can often be seen breaking the surface in panic as they try to evade hungry predators. Good, well-marked access exists up both sides of the river.

TACKLE TIP

Owing to its estuarine nature, spin fishing and streamer flies work best in the lower reaches of the Hutt River. Use silver or white spinners to emulate bait fish like mullet and small kahawai. Similarly, white streamers (or even green rabbit flies) will look like the prey items in this part of the river. Look to cast into defined current lines, eddies, or near submerged structure where baitfish may seek refuge. An erratic retrieve will also imitate a prey item in distress and provoke a predator to strike. If you're having trouble locating trout, keep casting and moving – cast, retrieve, move on 10m or so, then repeat.

LOWER REACHES

The lower reaches of the Hutt River are defined by slower moving water, a less defined and more open channel, with moderate tidal influence. Although not the most aesthetically pleasing part of the river, it is nonetheless very productive with marine fish species following the tide up and down. This provides a very rich food source for trout which congregate in good numbers to make the most of the high-protein diet. Unlike further up in the catchment where fish tend to be more sedentary, remaining in defined pools for most of the year.

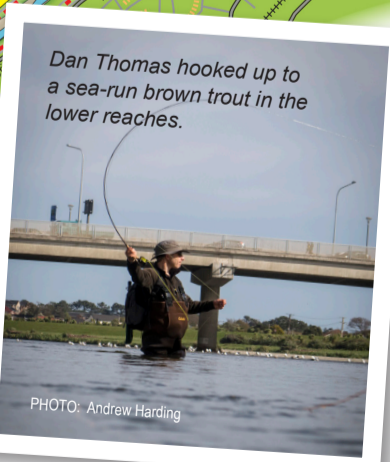
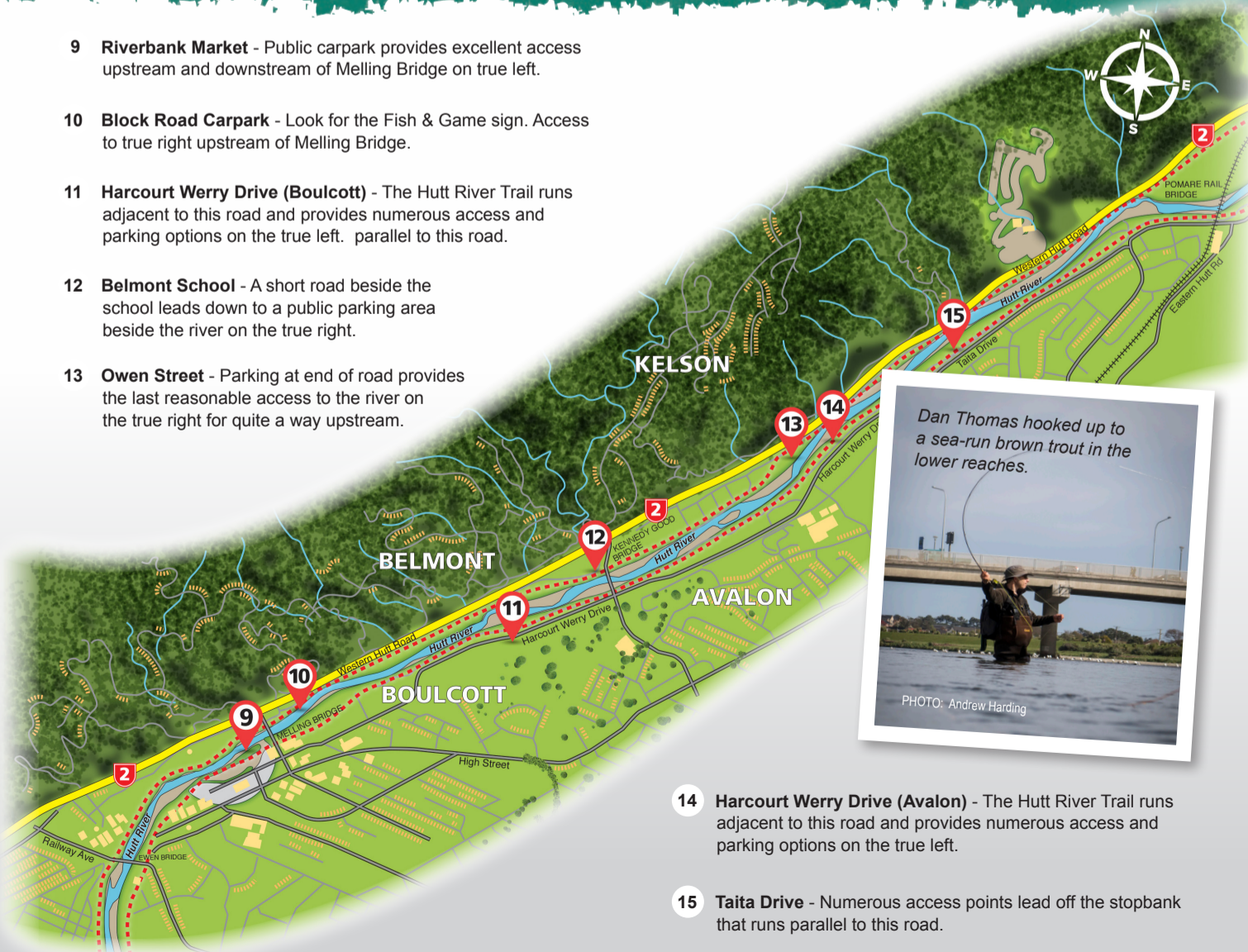
LOWER - MID REACHES

Melling Bridge to Taita

This is where the Hutt River starts to take on a more classic rapid/riffle-pool configuration. The river here is highly modified for flood protection and although there is a degree of meander with the odd gravel bank, it is still largely confined to a managed channel. Rock groynes installed to prevent erosion are good places to find trout as the fish use these structures for cover in the absence of natural instream shelter. Other places to fish are deep under overhanging

willows and around bridge abutments. Because the river is easily accessible on both sides, trout will tend to shy away from human intrusion and seek cover where they can find it, which even includes the very shallow riffly water that is difficult to spot fish in. Bear that in mind when angling – don't waste time where people have been swimming or throwing sticks for their dogs. Target the places where trout are less likely to be regularly disturbed. Fly fishing with a dry fly/nymph dropper combination is the most successful method in this reach, though when there is a hint of colour in the water following a fresh streamer or spinner can be very effective. Good evening hatches occur here too.

- 9 Riverbank Market - Public carpark provides excellent access upstream and downstream of Melling Bridge on true left.
- 10 Block Road Carpark - Look for the Fish & Game sign. Access to true right upstream of Melling Bridge.
- 11 Harcourt Werry Drive (Boulcott) - The Hutt River Trail runs adjacent to this road and provides numerous access and parking options on the true left parallel to this road.
- 12 Belmont School - A short road beside the school leads down to a public parking area beside the river on the true right.
- 13 Owen Street - Parking at end of road provides the last reasonable access to the river on the true right for quite a way upstream.



- 14 Harcourt Werry Drive (Avalon) - The Hutt River Trail runs adjacent to this road and provides numerous access and parking options on the true left.
- 15 Taita Drive - Numerous access points lead off the stopbank that runs parallel to this road.



HUTT RIVER FISHING ACCESS GUIDE

A guide to help anglers make the most of this exceptional recreational fishery – defining access to the lower, middle and upper river reaches.



PHOTO: Andrew Harding

