



# *THE FLYFISHER NEWSLETTER*

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May - 2020

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## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Level 3 now and (hopefully) only just over a week to go to level 2 and a bit more freedom!

While a return to work is still some way off, I have been kept pretty busy looking after a wife in a moon boot and attending to my Tui feeder which has a constant stream of up to 20 hungry individuals on any one day. A pleasing development of this relatively quiet period has been the appearance of the first Bellbird, a species not normally associated with the busy, urban environment and certainly possessing a magnificent singing voice. I last heard those melodious tones from numbers of Bellbirds in the kowhai trees lining the banks of the Tongariro River.

Level 3 has seen a little “crack in the door” for fishing activity but limited to the shoreline (not rocks) and wharves while still maintaining the 2 metre “social distance”. A couple of overly keen individuals have been caught out using boats with one unfortunate kayak fisherman having to be rescued about 2km’s offshore after capsizing. The saltwater domain is of course, close at hand for most of us and while freshwater flyfishing is available to a limited extent on local waters, the best is still further away and probably outside the “region” referred to in the current rules. However, with any luck and with continuing success in our battle against this insidious covid-19 virus, I hope that the day to pull on the waders is not far off.

While there is no doubt that our economy is going to suffer a very large “hit” as a result of the protections put in place and the closing off of our borders, from a purely selfish viewpoint, there will obviously be a significant gap in fishing activity normally enjoyed by overseas anglers and consequently, more space on the riverbank. Conversely, of course, there will be a reduction in licence sales which do represent a significant income stream for both Fish & Game and DOC.

In any event, recent weeks would have seen large numbers of trout going about their annual spawning activity undisturbed.

I will take this opportunity to bring to your attention, the launch of a new website for the club.

Our club “stalwart” and committee member, Barrie Barnes, has put in a huge amount of work and time to construct a brilliant “Shopfront window” and if you search [NSFF.org.nz](http://NSFF.org.nz), you will see what I mean. We are very fortunate that Barrie has the technical skills and the energy required to undertake what is actually, quite a demanding task. The website will be our principal tool to attract new members so I ask all existing club members to “spread the word”, particularly to the younger generation and anyone else showing even the slightest interest in our favourite pastime.

Dave Symes,  
President.

### **FISHING REPORT**

Naturally, there are limited fishing reports, but to help keep up our enthusiasm for when we can once again go fishing here are some pics of past catches in the related areas.

**Auckland / Waikato**



*Simon and his brother headed up the Whirinaki just before the lock down started. As you can see, they loved it. Photo courtesy of Simon Hoole.*

**Rotorua**



*It's not just about the fishing. Sometimes it's the camaraderie and storytelling in front of a warm fire at the end of a cold winter's day. Photo courtesy of Carl Kettlewell.*

## **Taupo Region**

Naturally none of us can head down to Taupo but from reading reports from the locals there are fish being caught. Mostly recovering / resident Rainbows that are feeding plus a few BIG Browns.

It seems that the fly for the daytime has been the Green Caddis, but the trusty old Glo Bug has been doing the job at the end of the day as the sun sets.

No reports from the smaller rivers and at this stage the Waitahanui River and foreshore are still under a Rahui by local Hapu.

Note: This recent rain has seen a 300cumec flood go through the Tongariro and will undoubtedly bring on the first early runners of the winter season. Fingers crossed that we can get back down there soon.

## **Saltwater Report**

As you could predict, lots of great weather during lock down then crap onshore winds as soon as we are allowed back in the water. Oh well....

The anchovy work ups are still there in force but all currently at 300m to 800m off shore!

## **Fishy Tales**

- If you do have a report, success story, or anecdote to share then just send it to [iconpromote@gmail.com](mailto:iconpromote@gmail.com) . Happy Fishing and Tight Lines – Freddy Da Fish.

## **LAST CLUB NIGHT**

Last month we had Johan Kok talking to us in an online Club Night. It was our first online Meeting and seemed to go very well. It was a very informative evening and thank you once again Johan.

## **NEXT CLUB NIGHT – 19<sup>th</sup> MAY 7.30 PM**

This month will be our Annual General Meeting and once again we will be having it via a video link up live online.

As it is our AGM there will be no Guest Speaker.

Please ensure that you have logged in prior to this time. To log in check the instructions "How To Login" on the email sent out to you next week. You may participate by video, by two-way audio (no video), just listen or via your landline (listen & Talk).

We look forward to seeing you there.

### **QUOTABLE QUOTES**

*The biggest lie I tell myself is I am just going to run into the tackle shop and grab one thing!*

*A.N. Ybodie*

### **CHANGES TO CONTACT DETAILS**

Committee members organising club trips and similar events are finding that the phone and email information that we hold for some members has become out of date. If you have changed your address, landline number, mobile number or email address in the last year or so and have not passed the new details on to NSFF, could you please advise John Cuthbertson by email, his **new** email address is [john.cuthbe@gmail.com](mailto:john.cuthbe@gmail.com) .

### **CLUB TROPHIES**

**Brown Trout Trophy** – This is awarded to The Heaviest Brown Trout caught by a Club Member during the year – May 1<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> April. Current holder is **Roy Richardson**.

**Chain Snore Trophy** – A fun award given immediately after any Club Trip to the person who has done the ‘funniest’ thing over the weekend. If nobody has had anything like this happen it may be awarded to the worst snorer.

**Ian Hunt Memorial Trophy** – Heaviest Trout caught fly-fishing by a Club Member during the Pupuke Challenge Competition. A competition run every year to promote the Lake Pupuke fishery. Current holder is **Lucas Bathurst**.

**I Love Flyfishing Trophy** – Awarded to the Club Member who has caught the most species of Saltwater fish fly-fishing over the year – 1<sup>st</sup> May to 30<sup>th</sup> April. Current holder is **Simon Hoole**.



**Rodd And Gunn Trophy** – This is the Club Competition which takes place over two days. One Day on a Lake and one day on a River. Current holder is **Simon Hoole**. The Lake part of the competition has its own Trophy, the **I Love Flyfishing Stillwater Trophy**. Current holder is **Simon Hoole**.

**FOR SALE**

Just a reminder, if you ever have any Fishing Gear you are keen to sell then the Club is happy to put something in the Newsletter for you.



**FOR SALE**

Pelin 12ft Plywood Dingy -  
8hp Mercury Outboard  
2 Tanks – 11lts each  
Oars – Life Jackets – Anchors – Seats  
(09) 418 3634 – Ask for Les  
**\$3750-**

**WHY WE FISH**

*If, as I suspect, trout fishing is something of a disease, then it is also something of a therapy in itself.*

*Tom Sutchiffe*

## **FLY TYING INSTRUCTION**

The first online session of Fly Tying instruction took place at 7.30pm last Tuesday. As a watcher rather than a tyer I found it excellent. Easy to follow, easy to connect, and easy to hear. Reports from the Members receiving the interactive instruction were equally positive.

A big credit and thank you to Johan Kok, our instructor, and to Barrie Barnes for setting it all up.

If you would like to see the video of the Fly being tied just click on one of these links: [https://youtu.be/YdlVZRj8\\_Go](https://youtu.be/YdlVZRj8_Go) or [Friday Fly Day #9](#)

The second online instruction will take place tonight at 7.30pm. See the email sent out earlier by Barrie for how to participate.

## **CLUB TRIPS 2020**

January – Mohaka River 2020

February – Ngongotaha River and Rotorua Lakes

March – Whanganui River – Club Competition Trip 2020

March – Lake Otamangakau

May – Ngongotaha River and Rotorua Lakes JUNE 2020 – 19<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> 21<sup>st</sup>

July – Tongariro and Tauranga Taupo JULY 2020

November – Lake based Club Competition Trip – NOV 2020

November – Tuition weekend (Held if enough ‘novice’ anglers are interested)

December – Lake Otamangakau – DEC 2020

The NSF committee arrange various Club Trips over the year to different parts of the country. If you would like to be involved, or have an idea for a trip please let one of your committee know.





## **JUNE CLUB TRIP TO NGONGOTAHA AND ROTORUA AREA**

**AT THIS POINT IT LOOKS LIKE WE MAY BE ABLE TO RUN THIS TRIP IN JUNE. It Will All Depend On The Alert Level We Are At And Whatever Restrictions Apply. If You Have Any Questions Call Duncan On 021 648 956.**

This year's May Club Trip to Rotorua / Ngongotaha will be on **the weekend of Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> , Friday 19<sup>th</sup> , Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> and Sunday the 21<sup>st</sup> of June. All dependent on the Alert Levels.** We will again be staying at the Paradise Valley Lodge. Costs will be \$90.00 each, which will cover 2 nights' accommodation in the lodge. **The regular Saturday night BBQ will not take place as this involves shared preparation of food.**

If you want to come down on the Thursday, as many of us do, then simply add \$45 to make it \$135.00.

This is always a fun Trip and even if the weather turns to absolute rubbish there is a plethora of Lakes to fish and you can always find somewhere out of the wind.

If you are keen just let me know which nights you can make ASAP and then pay your money to the Club in any of the normal ways.

- internet banking to the Club's bank account: North Shore Flyfishers Incorporated ASB A/c #: 12-3209-0190179-00 (please include your name and the word Ngonga as a reference);
- by cheque made out to North Shore Flyfishers Inc and posted to the Club's mailing address (PO Box 31387 Milford, Auckland 0741); or

Duncan – 021 648 956 – [iconpromote@gmail.com](mailto:iconpromote@gmail.com)

## **JOKE OF THE MONTH**

Muldoon lived alone in the Irish countryside with only a pet dog for company.

One day the dog died, and Muldoon went to the parish priest and asked, 'Father, my dog is dead. Could ya' be saying a mass for the poor creature?'

Father Patrick replied, 'I'm afraid not. We cannot have services for an animal in the church. But there are some Baptists down the lane, and there's no tellin' what they believe. Maybe they'll do something for the creature.'

Muldoon said, 'I'll go right away Father. Do ya' think €5,000 is enough to donate to them for the service?'

Father Patrick exclaimed, 'Sweet Mary, Mother of Jesus! Why didn't ya tell me the dog was Catholic?'

### **I COULDN'T GIVE A STUFF!**

An opinion piece by Tony Orman - This article was originally published in "NZ Outdoor" April-May 2020

The Prime Minister Jacinda Adern has announced the election this year will be held on September 19.

I was talking to a friend, a keen trout fishing and hunting guy the other day and when I mentioned it, he retorted "I couldn't give a stuff" – well in words similar to that and a tad more emphatic. He went on to tell me that he didn't vote last election in 2017.

"What the heck! The politicians take no notice. So I don't give a stuff!" he declared.

Well he's the problem and there's too many like him. The reality is if the public at large fail to take an interest in what is going on politically, then governments will do what they like. My friend was apathetic – in his words, he couldn't give a stuff – and together he and other indifferent, disinterested Kiwis amount to a widespread attitude of apathy.

### **Old Geezer**

There was old geezer a long time ago born in Greece about 425 BC. He was Plato a Greek philosopher and a wise man. He said in a famous quote "The price of apathy towards public affairs is to be ruled by evil men."

It's the people who don't vote or are too disinterested to tackle the issues and tell politicians what is needed who are virtually inviting politicians to be "evil", often corrupt and to ignore the public interest. Business interests, often corporates, feast on the public inertia, making donations to political parties in return for special favours. Bureaucrats have free reign, for the public no longer hold them to account.

Politicians whether in the House of Parliament (Beehive), your local council or even on your local fish and game council, are in essence, public servants. They are not your masters. Even the prime Minister, too often referred to as the country's leader, is the country's most senior public servant.

Should a government dictate to the public or should the people tell the government what to do?

### **Apathy Is Rife**

If you believe the latter i.e. government should be fearful of the wrath of the public and a subsequent backlash at election time, well you are out of step with political moods of the last few decades. Apathy is commonplace.

It's plain to see.

The 2017 election was typical. Around 3.57 million people were registered to vote in the election. But only 2.63 million voted, i.e. a 79.8 percent turn-out. Almost one million did not vote. Those one million are selfish. They do not care about tomorrow and the legacy they leave to their children and grandchildren. They are short-sighted because they only live for themselves, for today, and don't give a toss about tomorrow.

Take a look at recent Fish and Game elections where in some regions not enough nominations were received to fill the council seats. The voting turnout by shooters and anglers was poor. From memory in some regions only 40 percent of those eligible to vote bothered to do so.

Sixty percent couldn't give a stuff.

So who is going to challenge the government on undemocratically rushed moves like the government's anti-firearm measures that hit law abiding people and ignored the gangs, criminals and would-be terrorists? COLFO did with CEO Nicole McKee doing great job in the media. SSANZ manfully supported COLFO. But who else?

### **Toothless Tiger**

Fish and Game NZ?

Forget it. In a short-sighted – in fact stupid – move when Fish and Game NZ was established under the Conservation Law Reform Act, it was bound by the letter of the law to the Minister of Conservation and government and the department. It is a toothless tiger. DOC, obsessed with predators and poison, is woefully incompetent both in intent and action. True there are some fine individuals who do understand the environment and the ways of fish and wild animals. But dominant within DOC are bureaucrats – public servants who dictate what will be done.

For example, DOC seems disinterested in river flows and escalating nitrate levels yet those rivers are habitat for not only trout but native fish too.

That leaves one other option – you. Collectively, the people.

Do you as a New Zealander care?

### **Major Worry**

Well the record of the public ever since 1984 (and the advent of Rogernomics) has been one of apathy and disinterest – and yes, selfishness and shortsightedness.

Apathy is a major worry. Consequently the world has become ruled by top-down, dictatorial, often arrogant governments. But one country stands as an exception – France. As political commentator Chris Trotter put it several years ago, “French governments are frightened of the French people.”

“Any perceived threat to their rights—is met by the French people, with action – on the streets.”

He said “Governments should always be afraid of their people, but people should never be afraid of their government.”

Think about it, especially come September 19 later this year.

*(Footnote: Or whenever our next election is held...)*



*Jimmy with his first fish after lockdown, taken on his 4wt. There are real advantages to living in Trout Country! Photo courtesy of Jimmy Teen.*

## **PRESENTATION KEY TO HOOKING TROUT**

Ben Hope - Posted on 19/04/2020 - [www.nzffa.com](http://www.nzffa.com)

We all carry too many fly patterns by the stream side. I don't know why except a head shrink might have an answer. Some of the masters of the fly fishing world by example, illustrate a top fly fisher does not need to. Take the example of the Englishman Franks Sawyer who wrote the excellent book "Nymphs and the Trout". Frank Sawyer in the 1940s and 1950s, became the father figure of nymph fishing as a follow-on from the immortal G E M Skues of the 1920s.

If you read Frank Sawyer's book – and you must if you haven't – you will learn Frank Sawyer used only four nymph patterns – the Pheasant Tail, Grey Goose, Killer Bug and Bowtie Buzzer. He did not carry 101 patterns, but just four.

The other key aspect of those four patterns is they are easy to tie -basically simple creations. Frank Sawyer's Killer Bug for instance, is heavily weighted by a double even covering of wire and with the body simply of darning wool of a pinkish – fawn shade wound around the hook.

The Pheasant Tail, well known in New Zealand is very simple to tie, made from cock pheasant herl and copper wire. The Grey Goose is a herl or two from the wing feather of an "ordinary farmyard grey goose" of "a lightish grey, green, yellowish appearance," ribbed with a gold coloured wire.

Frank Sawyer believed presentation of the fly to the trout was the most important requirement.

So do other masters like Charles Ritz, who wrote "A Fly Fisher's Life".

### **Art Lee**

The other day I read a book on dry fly fishing by American fly fisherman Art Lee. He wrote that only a few dry patterns were needed.

"An obsession with matching the hatch and fly pattern rather than fly presentation wastes hours of fishing time as devotees change flies every twenty seconds to find the right pattern."

Trout after all can't rise to flies they don't get to see and anglers—are certain to have the devil's own time keeping flies on the water when a third of each outing is spent lopping off tippetts and tying knots.



Then Art Lee in emphasis added “no fly is ‘right’ unless it’s fished correctly.”

So you could have the “buggiest” looking fly and unless it’s cast to and fished properly, it is unlikely to tempt the trout.

In a sentence, “presentation” of the fly is of far greater importance than pattern.

### **Just Two**

It might be interesting to go through a summer season and fish with only two flies, well two of each type.

For instance here are two nymphs I would restrict myself to:-

Hare and Copper: What does it imitate? I don’t know, but it certainly catches trout. Tie the nymph in sizes ranging from 8 to 16.

Pheasant Tail: Probably imitates a dominant mayfly (deleatidium). Great in sizes 10 to 18.

What of dry flies?

For summer you would have to have a cicada imitation – wonderful in mid-summer, from December to March.

Humpy – a great brown beetle imitation and top general dry fly, sizes 12 to 14.  
How about lures?

Woolly Bugger. – good in olive and doubles in about a size 8 as a damsel fly nymph for Canterbury lakes and other still waters.

Hamill’s Killer – great fly lure anytime, anywhere, day or night and doubles as a great dragon fly larva imitation for lakes.

Within each pattern have a variation in sizes. For example a Hare and Copper nymph can be tied in Size 8 and down to 14s and 16s.

### **Near Misses**

Some close runners-up. In **nymphs** perhaps he the Green Stonefly and Half Back Nymph.

**Dry Flies** – Parachute Adams and Royal Wulff.

**Lures** – Grey Ghost for whitebait time in lower river reaches and Mrs Simpson.

While it's foolhardy in trout fishing to have a closed mind in restricting yourself too tightly, the words of Frank Sawyer, Charles Ritz and Art Lee are sound, practical advice – just a few patterns rather than a proliferation.

The basic message is don't spend time snipping off and tying on flies and not fishing your fly.



*Another of Fikrits Tekapo monsters. He says, and having eaten some I can agree, that they are the nicest eating fish he has ever had. Photo courtesy of Fikrit Chinassi.*

## **THE REEL**

*Article printed here courtesy of Dave McLellan*

We were attending an international fly fishing championship in Jackson Hole Wyoming, and the group of contestants were talking in the hotel lobby as they waited for the bus that would take them to the contest venue for that they day. As I walked past, one very loud American angler was offering his opinion on the merits of various fly reels. I would only use one with large arbour he told his largely disinterested audience" what like New York" I said as I passed, the glib comment not being appreciated by the man airing his knowledge

But seriously most anglers don't even use the reel to play the fish, preferring to simply strip the line in by hand, and only use the real when they have to wind up their line, when they need to move. So the reel could be considered the least important of the anglers tools, and should be treated as what it is, simply a gadget to hold the line.

That is not to say that you should not buy the best, if you can afford it, but if funds are limited, they are better spent on the flyline which has more the direct bearing or whether you're fishing is successful or not. There are however a few features that I would prefer if there was a choice.

First of all, I do not like small fat reels, preferring a large reel with a narrow drum, which is less likely to jam the line and will speed up the retrieve.

Also it should be of a weight when filled with line and backing that balances the rod at the point where your hand grasps the rod.

If you have a choice of two sizes of real that would suit the rod always choose the larger one.

It breaks my heart to watch Roy Richardson struggling to get his floating line that is jammed into a tiny hardy fly reel that I suspect he liked because of the hardy name rather than its practicality.

## **NZFFA PRESIDENT'S COMMENT**

Proposed review of Fish & Game

The recent video conference of the F&G National Council meeting attended by the Minister of Conservation and Mervyn English, DOC's Director of Governance, was disturbing.

It appears DOC plans to (opportunistically) take advantage of F&G's tenuous financial position, exacerbated by COVID-19, to undertake an "independent" review of F&G.

Almost from the inception of New Zealand's acclimatisation societies, Government departments/ministries have been covertly &/or overtly attempting to wrest control of our freshwater recreational fisheries.

It appears DOC is trying this on with the NZ acclimatisation societies' successor F&G. A review of F&G may be no bad thing 30 years after its formation, but such a review should be managed by F&G's National Council without political interference. F&G and its predecessor are valued New Zealand institutions that have done more to protect New Zealand's freshwater resources than any Government body.

DOC is compromised by entering into a NZ\$20 million deal with Fonterra and DairyNZ, spread over ten years to study freshwater pollution. The dairy industry is this country's biggest user and polluter of our freshwater resources. In Canterbury there is a joint DOC/Fonterra project looking at the LII catchment. The LII has twelve long established dairy farms in a catchment situated on heavy lowland water logged anaerobic soils which typically reduce nitrate in the groundwater.

The adjoining Selwyn River catchment is Canterbury's "problem child" fed by aquifers heavy polluted with nitrate and pathogens from the large scale dairying made possible by the Central Plains Water irrigation scheme. This is the primary source of Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere's world class pollution requiring a NZ\$300 million dollar fix. This is the catchment requiring study.

F&G's value lies in its generational knowledge and its grass roots angler advocacy. Ministers have short-lived/ephemeral careers, yet their policy can deliver consequences that last for generations. Government Ministries are "captured" by the latest policies of a Minister driven by short term political expediency.

The MfE's recent Our Freshwater 2020 report records a sorry tale of continued pollution, inadequate monitoring, and an increased number of threatened species.

It would be disastrous for New Zealand if F&G were taken over by a Ministry such as DOC and the country's only effective freshwater advocate was lost. For this reason the NZFFA expresses strong support for the continuance of F&G

Dr Peter Trolove  
President NZFFA

## **EDITORS NOTE**

150 new flies tied.

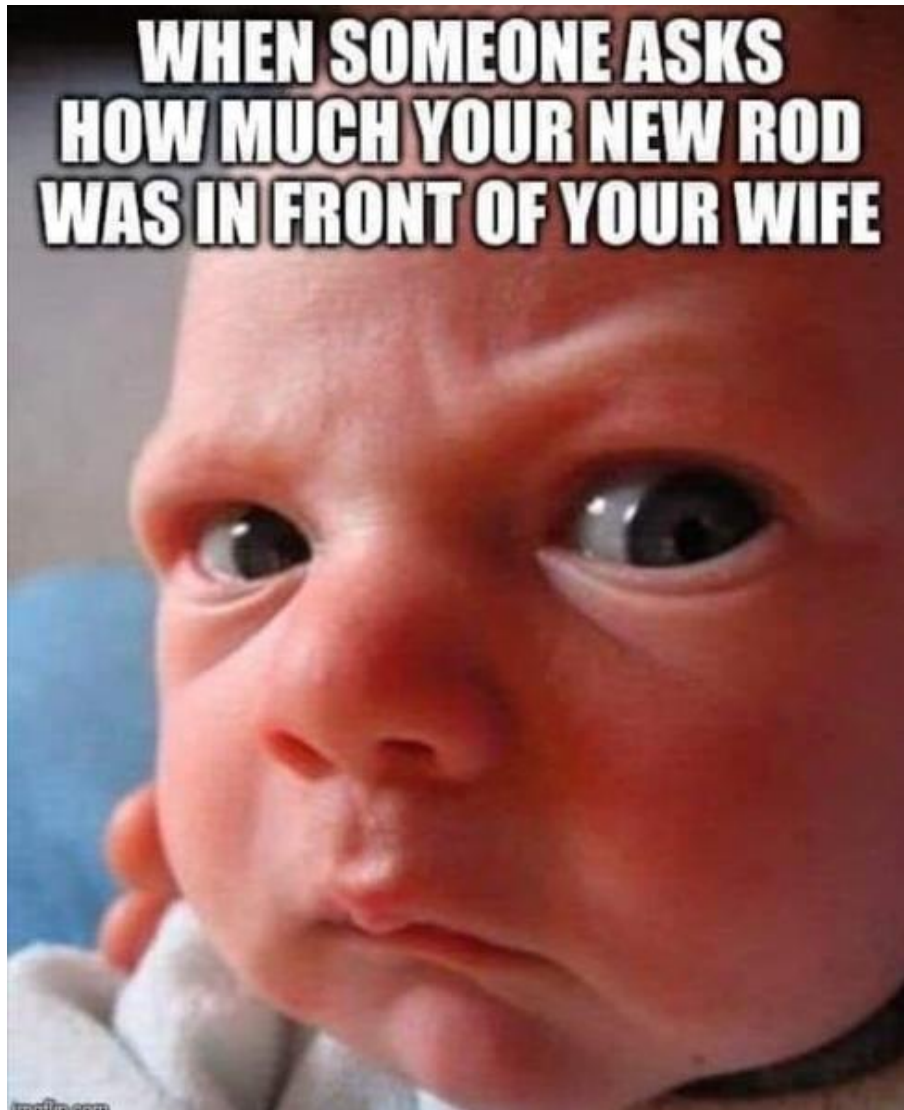
5 Flylines stripped, cleaned and new leaders attached.

1 pair of wading boots repaired, I hope.

1 fishing vest / backpack emptied of all contents, reorganized and repacked.

I'm ready whenever they give the go!

## **FISHING FUNNIES**





(Opinions expressed in this Newsletter are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of North Shore Flyfishers Incorporated)

## **MEMBERS FEEDBACK**

We, your committee, are always trying to give you what you want.

## **But are we??**

In order for us to do our job properly we need to have your feedback, positive or negative. For example, have you been on a club fishing trip? Did you enjoy yourself? What would you change, if anything? Club nights – what would you like to see more of? Less of? In short, talk to us.

The contact details of all your committee members are listed at the end of every newsletter. So if you have something on your mind let us know.

Thank you - Your committee

## **NSFF CLUB MERCHANDISE**

Cap – \$15.00 Inclusive of GST

Green or Beige, one size fits all, with embroidered badge.

Embroidered Cloth Badge - \$7.50 Inclusive of GST

Brushed Brass Metal Pin Badge - \$12.50 Inclusive of GST

If anyone is interested in purchasing these products please either place an order at Club Nights or at Hunts Sports.

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**Meetings held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm:**  
Milford Cruising Club, 24 Craig Road, Milford, North Shore City

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## **NORTH SHORE FLYFISHERS EXECUTIVE**

**Club Patron** – Dave McLellan

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