



THE FLYFISHER NEWSLETTER

April - 2018

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Unfortunately, my fly rod has been particularly inactive lately but an Easter trip to Leigh produced some nice snapper and kahawai using softbaits just out off Pakiri beach. We were fishing in around 15 metres over a sandy bottom and quite frequently, the snapper took the lure within 2 metres of the surface. While I have anticipated for some time that Leigh reef would be a good venue for a club saltwater trip, this area, only a couple of kilometres to the north, might well be a better bet. Leigh reef itself has seen very little “bird action” recently, a sure sign that the schools of krill and baitfish are not around, at least for the time being. From a flyfishing viewpoint, the reasonable depth and “snag-free” bottom, would

be ideal for a sinking line set-up while the destination is about 15 minutes travel from the ramp at Leigh harbour. Certainly an idea worthy of serious consideration.

On the 19th of this month, Fish and Game will be releasing this years cohort of 2 year old trout into Lake Pupuke ahead of our annual club competition on the following Sunday the 22nd. It would be great to see as many club members as possible at the release (around midday, depending on travel time for the tanker truck from Ngongotaha) while the same invitation is extended to compete on the Sunday. All you need is a current licence. There are a range of attractive prizes for winning competitors while club members in particular have a chance to win the Ian Hunt Lake Pupuke Challenge Cup together with \$100. It is timed within the school holidays so spread the word within the younger members of your friends and family.

The annual club salt water fly fishing competition closes at the end of the month and at this stage I have received verified entries from three club members. Apparently, snapper up to 4kg's and Kahawai up to 3kg's are being caught off Devonport wharf at the moment so clearly, there are very real opportunities "close at hand".

Having been unable to get to Lake Otamangakau on the March club trip, I am going to organise another visit in mid-May. I am proposing the weekend of 11, 12 and 13 (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) with some of us arriving on Thursday the 10th. The season for the lake closes on 31st May so it is worth giving the trip serious consideration. While it is predominately a boat fishery, by mid-May, many fish are moving through the Te Whaiu (inlet) canal which can be fished from the shore, while the "holding" area immediately above the road bridge, offers a big range of casting positions. Just be aware that with winter approaching and an altitude of some 2,000 feet above sea level, the conditions can go from benign to bleak very quickly!

I have "penciled in" 8 cabins at Tongariro Holiday Park so if anyone is interested, please let me know asap. My contact details are on the last page of this newsletter.

Hope to see at the next club night.

Dave Symes - President

FISHING REPORT

Auckland / Waikato

If the weather and water levels stay as they are, warm and low, then go small with your flies. In the past I have found that the go to dry fly in the Waikato at this time of year has been a size 16 Blue Dun, sometimes so much so that they will look at nothing else.

Having said that, if the water stays low then floating a bigger attractor fly through the ripple water at the head of the pools with a small mayfly pattern underneath it will produce good results.

Barrie, Simon and Lloyd have all been fishing both in the Waikato area and the Coromandel and their reports show that whilst the fishing wasn't always easy, there were plenty of fish about.

Rotorua

By all accounts the fishing in the Ngongotaha and other tributaries has improved a great deal from our February Club Trip with much better numbers of Fish holding throughout the rivers. Also, some of the areas that had been made barren laminar flow straight runs have, with the help of a few small floods, started to develop fish holding holes and pockets once more. It should be perfect down there by next month's Club Trip at the end of May!

Other good news is that with the weird summer and lots of rain keeping Lake Rotorua from getting too hot the Trout are in good condition leading into Autumn. So if you have a day or more free then now would be a good time to head down there.

Taupo Region

Reports from the boat anglers say that the Rainbows are FAT and full of Big smelt. Fingers crossed for another winter of much bigger and better conditioned fish!

The fishing on the Tongariro continues to be pretty challenging. Rainbows are still a bit thin on the ground but there are some nice browns in the river.

Local clergyman Father Michael Fransham spotted three of them fairly close together in a middle river pool. And after a few casts tempted a fish on one of his favourite soft hackle patterns, suspended under the dry.

We've enjoyed some fantastic summer-like weather recently with temperatures well above average for the time of year. But the appearance of fly agaric and other fungi tells us we're well into Autumn and the runs are not far away.

I've been using this quiet spell to catch up on the changes along the river and although we've lost a few good spots...what the river takes away with one hand it gives back with the other. "

Several years ago we lost one of the most reliable and productive spots on the river... the much missed "Braids." A combination of "the powers that be" deliberately altering the rivers course. And the effect of subsequent floods meant that a lot of it became dry river bed and stagnant backwater. For a little while one or two spots clung on. But most of what remained was a shadow of its former self.

Then a few years ago after a big fresh, it began to break through again below the lower bridge pool. Albeit a little further down than its original course. I remember writing a report at the time called "Is the Braids back". Unfortunately it turned out to be wishful thinking and as soon as levels in the main river fell back ... it dried up again.

But after a few more false starts, with every passing flood the breakthrough gradually widened and deepened. This enabled a greater volume of water to flow down the right hand side in front of the lodge. And last year in particular {during the runs} fish again began using the stretch in big numbers. The floods earlier this year have allowed the river to consolidate its hold here, and there are once more all kinds of fantastic nymphing opportunities. With new pools, runs, glides and riffles in this part of the river.

Because of the breakthrough the river now divides again below the lower bridge pool. At present it's probably a 60/40 split so the flows have slowed through Vera's. This will be a change for the better because it's been a little too fast through here the last few years and fish tended to move through quickly. That nice run along the TLB is forming again and it should fish well this winter.

Some of the other old favourites look a little different too. But Spot X, The Stones and the braided section between there and what was The Plank are all back and there is also plenty of other very fishy looking water all the way down to Reed.

In its heyday, ease of access and big concentrations of fish in winter, made this the place to be on the Tongariro. And from the early hours of the morning until late in the afternoon there'd be a steady stream of anglers trying their luck here.

This year I'm sure it's going to be back with a bang. And residents of Herekieke Street will once again hear car doors opening and closing well before dawn as fly-fishermen try and intercept migrating trout before they experience the "delights" of the Bridge Pool.

"Summer" rolls on in Turangi and the wonderful autumn weather ensured visitors flocked to the area during the Easter break. The tracks and pathways along the Tongariro were busier than ever with bikers, walkers and anglers which is always good for the local economy.

Much quieter this week and I never saw a soul on the upper river a day or two ago.

There's still a lot of juveniles in the river and I don't think I ever remember them hanging around for so long. Anglers fishing the lower river this week have had a lot of fun catching these feisty little rainbows with small dries imitating passion vine hoppers.

What we need is a drop in temperature and some of the wet stuff to get things moving. But you have to be careful what you wish for sometimes ... now I've done it!

Tight lines guys – Mike

www.tongarirofishingguide.co.nz

Fishy Tales - If you do have a report, success story, or anecdote to share then just send it to iconp@ihug.co.nz . Happy Fishing and Tight Lines – Freddy Da Fish.



Russell recently went out for an early morning soft-bait session in the Rangi Channel. Having caught all he needed he headed back in, but not before pulling out his 8wt freshwater fly-rod and having a crack near some east coast bays reefs. When he could get the fly past the marauding Kahawai he managed another 6 pannie Snapper. Photo courtesy of Russell Nelson.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

It is perfectly true that good fishing is not all luck. But it is just as true that there is no good fishing without some luck.

Roderick Haig-Brown

LAST CLUB NIGHT

Last month we had Stephen Pratt from CTS Rods talking to us. It was a very informative evening and thank you once again Stephen.

NEXT CLUB NIGHT – APRIL 17th 7.30PM

This month we have Barry Schultz talking to us. Barry is a flyfisher of many years experience and as well as freshwater fishing he has done a fair bit of saltwater fly as well. It is sure to be an enjoyable night and we hope to see you all there.

In his words: “I have been kindly asked to talk to the club about a recent trip to Christmas Island, primarily to saltwater fly-fish for bonefish, as well as to a lesser extent other species & methods.

I once read a very profound statement that perhaps we all should reflect on which was :-
“At the end of your fishing days, would you rather reflect on the fish you caught, or the Fishing experiences both good & bad, along with the friends made”

Personally I am inclined to subscribe to the latter choice, therefore have decided the presentation will follow that general theme that hopefully fellow fishos can relate to.”

Cheers Barry Schultz

CHOOSING THE RIGHT FLY ROD

Our own resident webmaster Phil Gates, has put a couple of very helpful videos onto the Club Website, www.nsff.org.nz . They are both by Tim Rajeeff, a world champion fly caster. One is about ‘Choosing The Right Fly Rod’ and the other is about ‘Light Vs Heavy Weight Fly Rods’. These are excellent informative videos and both are under 3 minutes long, so they are short, and to the point. Check them out.

INFORMATION SHARING

As well as having a guest speaker on Club Nights we would like to give an opportunity for some of our own Club Members to share knowledge on any fly fishing subjects.

Member Speakers

Besides having a major Speaker on Club Nights we would like to have some of our own Club Members to speak on any fly fishing subject for 10 – 15 minutes or so.

Some subjects could be:
 Local fishing spots.
 National / Taupo fishing regulations.
 Riparian rights, access.
 Clothing and equipment ideas / tips.
 Saltwater fishing, what rods / flies.

So, Members please get out there and do some research to enlighten us all.

FISHING BUDDIES SOUGHT

The intention is to display a list of names of Club Members that are keen on finding a 'buddy' to go fishing with, either on a regular basis or just for a day. In essence it's a fly-fishing dating service...

Name	Availability	Contact Details
Ron Blair	Anytime, now has a brand new 14.4 Marco with 60hp etec Evenrude for serious fishing Salt or Fresh	home 09 834 8841 mobile 0275 006 336 ron.blair@xtra.co.nz
Les Rose	Retired and is happy to take another person fishing during the week. Has a small 2 person boat.	home 09 4183634
Graham Carter	Lives in Hamilton, keen on weekday / mid-week trips.	021 026 00437 07 855 1833
Lloyd Altham	Has 12' Pontoon boat /15 HP Honda. Available most time, but prefer weekdays.	Mob. 021 0295 9167 Home 09 420 3120 email-lloyd@skysupply.co.nz
Matt Meikle	Available both week days and Weekends	09 908 1909 027 285 7521
John Gausden	Time limited - weekends / arrange trips only. 5m aussie barra boat / 70 yamaha / minn kota - serious fishing manly lake / saltwater but keen to learn more on the rivers	021704373 john@st-classic.com
John Rust	Anytime. Keen to give it a crack.	021 648 991 joan10@live.com 09 415 4919

So, if you are keen to find someone to share the cost and the fun of a fishing expedition with, then send in your details and we will get it all started. Send details to iconp@ihug.co.nz

WEBSITE ARTICLES REQUEST

As many of you will know, Barrie Barnes has started up his own online fly fishing store and he is keen for articles and pictures to put into his Blog section. What he is looking for is simple short little articles and a picture, ie: ‘Bob and I headed down to Turangi last weekend and ...’ So if you have something you would like to share please contact Barrie on barrie@flyfishinginxs.kiwi

“BROWN TROUT TROPHY”

Winning fish will be determined by weight.

Verification by partner where possible and/or by photograph.

Details to be provided to any committee member.

Competition period May 1st to April 30th. Prize awarded at AGM in May. Winner’s name and weight of fish to be published in June club newsletter.

NORTH SHORE FLY FISHERS CLUB SALT WATER FLY FISHING COMPETITION RULES

The “essence” of the competition is to encourage club member participation and in the process, to award a winner’s trophy to the individual who catches the greatest number of salt water species. It will run from 1st May in one year to 31st April in the next year with the trophy awarded at the following AGM.

For the full rules please refer to the Club Website www.nsff.org.nz

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 .

CLUB TRIPS 2018

January – Mohaka River

February –Ngongotaha River and Rotorua Lakes

March – Whanganui River – Rodd and Gunn Trophy

March – Lake Otamangakau
May – Ngongotaha River and Rotorua Lakes
August – Tongariro and Tauranga Taupo
October – Kai Iwi Lakes – Rodd and Gunn Trophy
November – Tuition weekend
December – Lake Otamangakau

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.



Simon at it again with another fantastic backcountry Rainbow. Photo courtesy of Simon Hoole.

SALTWATER EXCURSIONS

The possibility of Club trips to the Meola Reef and to the Mangawhai Estuary has been raised earlier. With summer approaching, we would like to establish an Email Contact Group for those members interested in shore-based saltwater fishing to these or similar destinations. This sort of venture is tide and weather dependent and can only be organised at short notice. If you would like to be included in this group, please tell Dave Symes (dssymes@xtra.co.nz).

MAY CLUB TRIP TO LAKE OTANANGAKAU

Having been unable to get to Lake Otamangakau on the March club trip, I am going to organise another visit in mid-May. I am proposing the weekend of 11, 12 and 13 (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) with some of us arriving on Thursday the 10th. The season for the lake closes on 31st May so it is worth giving the trip serious consideration. While it is predominately a boat fishery, by mid-May, many fish are moving through the Te Whaiu (inlet) canal which can be fished from the shore, while the “holding” area immediately above the road bridge, offers a big range of casting positions. Just be aware that with winter approaching and an altitude of some 2,000 feet above sea level, the conditions can go from benign to bleak very quickly!

I have “penciled in” 8 cabins at Tongariro Holiday Park so if anyone is interested, please let me know asap. My contact details are on the last page of this newsletter.

Dave Symes

NGONGOTAHA / ROTORUA CLUB TRIP - MAY

This year’s May Trip to fish the Ngongotaha River and the Rotorua region is on the weekend of Thursday 24th, Friday 25th, Saturday 26th and Sunday the 27th of May. We will again be staying at the Paradise Valley Lodge. Costs will be \$105.00 each, which will cover 2 nights’ accommodation in the lodge and a BBQ on Saturday evening. If you want to come down on the Thursday, as many of us do, then simply add \$45 to make it \$150.00.

The Club has had a policy of if you book a Trip then you need to pay up front and if you have to pull out late then you may or may not be refunded, but it has seldom been implemented on this Trip in the past. However from now on it will have to be. If the Club is not losing money on the Trip then a refund is not a problem, equally so if you / we can get someone to take your spot. But if the Club is going to lose money by your pulling out of the Trip then you may well get no refund.

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

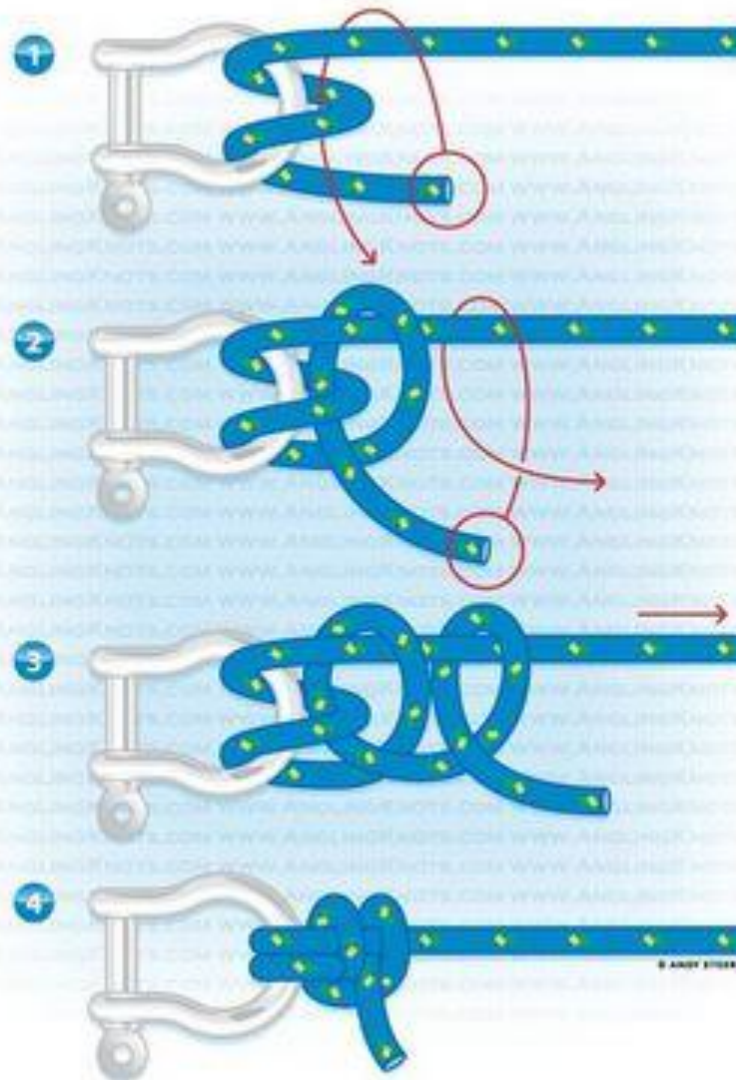
Duncan – 021 648 956 – iconpromote@gmail.com



Maurice Parlane in action on the Ngongotaha on last year's May Trip. Photo courtesy of Carl Kettlewell.

KNOT OF THE MONTH

Anchor Bend



The anchor bend is one of the most secure and widely used sailing hitches. Used for attaching an anchor line to an anchor.

JOKE OF THE MONTH

All too rarely, airline attendants make an effort to make the in-flight safety speech a bit more entertaining. Here are some real examples that have been heard or reported:

After a real crusher of a landing in Phoenix, the attendant came on the horn, "Ladies and Gentlemen, please remain in your seats until Capt. Crash and the Crew have brought the aircraft to a screeching halt against the gate. And, once the tire smoke has cleared and the warning bells are silenced, we'll open the door and you can pick your way through the wreckage to the terminal."

Part of a flight attendant's arrival announcement: "We'd like to thank you folks for flying with us today. And, the next time you get the insane urge to go blasting through the skies in a pressurized metal tube, we hope you'll think of US Airways."

A plane was taking off from Kennedy Airport. After it reached a comfortable cruising altitude, the Captain made an announcement over the intercom, "Ladies and gentlemen, this is your captain speaking. Welcome to Flight Number 293, nonstop from New York to Los Angeles. The weather ahead is good and, therefore, we should have a smooth and uneventful flight. Now sit back and relax... OH, MY GOD!"

Silence followed, and after a few minutes, the captain came back on the intercom and said, "Ladies and Gentlemen, I am so sorry if I scared you earlier. While I was talking to you, the flight attendant accidentally spilled a cup of hot coffee in my lap. You should see the front of my pants!"

A passenger in Coach yelled, "That's nothing. You should see the back of mine!"

AUCKLAND/WAIKATO REEL LIFE MARCH 2018

Plenty Fish, No Footprints

Staff have been in the field water sampling on the upper Whanganui River and have seen some huge fish and only a handful of anglers.

The February rains flushed out the Whakapapa and Whanganui Rivers leaving behind clean river beds with plenty of fish.

Staff member Adam Daniel travelled to the upper Whanganui and the Whakapapa in mid-March and only encountered a single angler from the Czech Republic who was happily catching and releasing nice rainbows near Owhangō.



Above: Jeremy Lurgio fishing the upper Whanganui River.

Don't let the autumn rain put you off, most of our higher elevation rivers clear up quickly and fishing has been great.

A couple of casts on dark saw Adam land a beautiful rainbow on the upper Whanganui.

If you happen to be preparing for the roar don't forget to pack your rod – it's a great time to catch fish.

The Awakino Flows On

The passing of Russell Gaston in January was a huge loss to the Fish & Game community.

Mr. Gaston had been keeping a close eye on Awakino River for over half a century as a ranger and council delegate.

Russell first got involved with Fish & Game in 1948 and briefed staff annually on the health of the Awakino River, amongst other things.

Adam Daniel recalls meeting Gaston for the first time in 2012. “I introduced myself and Gaston sat me down pulled out an iPad and briefed me on Fish & Game matters for a good hour, including staff wages, as he thought we were paid too much.”

Since that first visit Mr. Gaston’s annual update has been an integral part of our Awakino drift dive survey.

Although staff did not get their briefing on the health of the Awakino fishery from Russell this year the annual drift dives were carried out in March.



Bryce Rhodes counting fish on the Awakino River.

The lower reach of Gribbon road was nearly void of fish just like the previous dive in 2016, but the upper survey reach was packed with nice fish. Staff found up to nine large rainbows in a single hole with a couple of fish in excess of six pounds.

EASTERN REEL LIFE MARCH 2018



Above: Cruisin...Fish in our hatchery display pond snapped by a camera crew from <http://www.boxfish-research.com>

It's All On - Autumn Fishing

Autumn's in the air here in the central North Island and there are lots of trout fishing opportunities for anglers to make the most of.

Firstly, lake fish are in prime condition at this time of the season as they build toward spawning.

If you're looking for a fish for the table there's no better time to do it as trout pack on reserves of fat for the winter.

Autumn is probably your best opportunity to catch a really big fish too, as once spawning is complete trout lose condition and a lot of weight – so get to it!

The thermocline on most local lakes is shallowing with surface temperatures beginning to cool overnight.

Expect fish about the 15m deep mark during the day and at the surface hunting smelt in the morning.

As the season progresses trout will spend longer smelting over the shallow weed beds and sandy bays, and this is a good time to try methods such as spinning or fly fishing from a drifting boat.

Reports from Lake Tarawera have been mixed over the summer with anglers saying the fish condition factors were poorer than hoped.



Old hands...fishing guru Geoff Thomas (left) and former Fish & Game CEO Bryce Johnson.

But recent reports seem to have picked up and we're receiving feedback now of trout looking much plumper!

Lake Rotorua continues to consistently produce a high catch rate at the stream mouths and fish here look in good nick too.

Expect trout to be less congregated at the cold water inflows as the lake cools during autumn but mature browns will be returning from April onward.

Eastern News Snippets

- Hatchery releases are underway for 2018. This seasons fish will be marked Rp (right pelvic)
- The Lake Okaro health warning for blue-green algae has now been lifted
- A health warning has been issued for lakes Ohakuri and Maraeai for blue-green algae
- We'd love to receive photos of your Eastern region catch – please email them to msherburn@fishandgame.org.nz

Are Soft Baits Legal?

Just to clarify, here are the rules on use of soft bait lures in the Eastern Fish & Game Region.

Soft bait lures are allowed but if they're scented in any way or have chemical attractant properties, wet or dry, then they're classified as a 'bait' - so they can only be used in waters where bait fishing is allowed (not the Rotorua lakes).

We have recently been made aware of lures which aren't packed in a liquid scent solution but clearly have an attractant added, so these lures are classified as 'bait'.

Fishing Tips For April

Although autumn indicates cooling weather and adult fish focusing on spawning, dry fly and nymph fishing can still be very productive when conditions suit.

Late season hatches of mayfly aren't unusual at this time of year especially in the changing light just prior to a rain storm.

A nymph suspended below a dry fly, commonly known as a 'dropper' is a great rig under these circumstances.

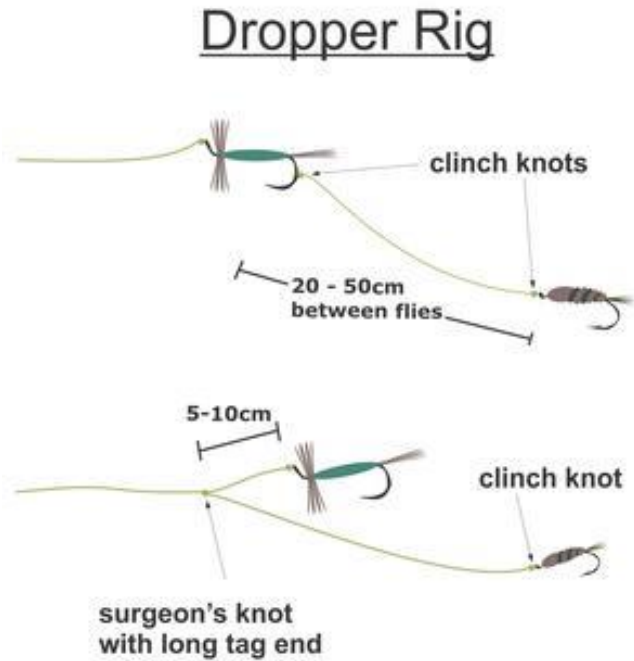
It allows you to represent both the emerging nymph and the adult fly, and the dry fly doubles as a very effective indicator.

During summer, and in the back country, a cicada and stonefly is a top combination, whereas during a mayfly hatch you might try a pheasant tail and a twilight beauty-type combo.

Droppers can be rigged in a variety of ways as shown here.

One useful thing to consider is the length of your tippet determines how deep your nymph will swim – deeper (longer) in summer, shallower (shorter) during a hatch.

Either way, droppers can be a deadly way to catch trout on streams and rivers – and on lakes too, but that's another story...



ONE MORE FISH A DAY - TEN THINGS THAT WILL EACH CATCH YOU AN EXTRA FISH

9) FISH WHERE OTHERS AREN'T

Yes, on a river like the Tongariro, or even the Tauranga-Taupo the big name pools are great, they are the ones you hear about and see written about in magazines and books. But they are also very popular and can be very crowded as well as heavily fished. If you look for the small little calm patches in between the big name pools you can often do quite well. Even more so if you are fishing during a busy period on the river. Sometimes the pools are absolutely hammered by anglers and this forces the fish out of the pools and into the pockets between the pools.

Get out there early and be the first through a pool. After a nights rest the Trout will move back into the big pools and be sitting within easy casting range and in the obvious places that you would expect them to be. Getting to the water early and being the first to fish through the pool can provide the best fishing success of the entire day.

Be prepared to walk and get to places that most people are too lazy to go to. Most of us are not prepared to put in that extra effort that can be required to get the better fishing. But if you walk that bit further away from where the main crowds fish then you can often end up with water to yourself with nobody else around and with fish that are seldom fished too. Fly-fishing heaven.

DIDYMO

It's not going away, so make sure you aren't the one who spreads it.

CHECK: Remove all obvious material from all items that have been in contact with the water.

CLEAN: Soak or scrub all items for at least one minute with:

- A 5% solution of dishwashing detergent, or 5% solution of antiseptic hand cleaner (A 5% solution is 500ml (two large cups) with water added to make 10 litres)

DRY: If cleaning is not practical, dry the item to the touch then leave for at least 48 hours before using in another waterway

If using wading boots, the best way to dis-infect them is to put them in a plastic bag, put them in the freezer and freeze them overnight or until solid.



Phil with a beautiful Lake Aniwhenua Brownie caught in shallow water. Photo courtesy of Phil Gates.

MANY REGIONS LONG WAY FROM HITTING WATER QUALITY TARGETS **– REPORT**

Radio New Zealand – 30/03/18

A government report shows many regions are a long way from achieving water quality standards set by the previous government, which were criticised for being too lax.

The joint report by regional councils and the Ministry for the Environment and the Ministry for Primary Industries reveals Northland and Auckland have the dirtiest rivers, with fewer than one in four clean enough for swimming.

Under the standard set by the previous government, 90 percent of larger rivers and lakes must be swimmable by 2040.

Ministry for the Environment deputy secretary Cheryl Barnes said improving water quality was complex.

"Having some standards in place is a useful step always, it's tricky to work out what the right standards should be, so you know there'll always be some debate about that and as we get new and better information that always helps us refine that over time."

Ms Barnes said the report would help communities understand where more needed to be done.

Massey University ecologist Mike Joy said the goal that 90 percent of larger rivers and lakes must be swimmable ignored smaller rivers, which account for 90 percent of waterways.

"To take such a stupid target such as 90 percent of 10 percent of our waterways and then make it off in the distance some time to have to achieve it is just wasting everybody's time, I think if the money spent on doing these reports was actually spent on doing something about it, we might actually get somewhere."

The government had a mandate from the electorate to improve water quality and it was time to stop giving farmers special treatment and make them pay their way, Dr Joy said.

But a farming lobby group is warning tougher requirements for fencing waterways would drive some out of business.

Councils have already committed to \$217 million a year worth of improvements in cleaning up waterways, of which \$135m will be borne by the rural sector.

Federated Farmers water spokesman Chris Allen said this cost didn't include fencing off sheep from streams, which would increase the cost ten-fold.

"It's probably the quickest way we could make everyone go bankrupt is go beyond what is deemed to be reasonable when it comes to fencing."

Mr Allen said farmers were already doing a huge amount of work to clean up waterways but the costs had to be proportionate to the benefit.

Auckland Council said it had got public support for a plan to charge households a targeted water quality rate to clean up polluted rivers and beaches.

Auckland Council's water strategy manager Andrew Chin said many popular beaches were also contaminated with E Coli.

"We do have a plan, we want to bring that investment forward, we've gone to Aucklanders over the last month ... and there's been a fairly substantial positive feedback on the proposal to pay for the targeted rate to address these water quality issues faster."

Mr Chin said the targeted water rate in Auckland's draft 10 year budget will help cover the \$2 billion cost of upgrading wastewater and storm water networks.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES FACING NZ

The bureaucrats are the Big Environmental Challenge facing New Zealand in 2018

Press Release - NZ Federation of Freshwater Anglers

Water quality and availability, rapid urbanisation, and the impact of natural hazards and climate change are the top three planning issues affecting New Zealand in 2018 and beyond, according to the New Zealand Planning Institute (NZPI).

These challenges will be among those addressed at NZPI's annual conference Breaking New Ground to be held in Tauranga from 21 to 23 March 2018. Agri-food disruption, housing supply, biodiversity offsetting, new technologies and reviewing the implications of the National Policy Statement on Urban Development Capacity were also on the agenda. These issues have been happening for years and we don't need a fancy conference wasting taxpayer's money to identify what is needed.

Planning and resource management within New Zealand is out of control. The Resource Management Act spawned by Labour's Geoffrey Palmer and then embraced and tinkered with by National's Simon Upton (now the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment) and Nick Smith has been an absolute failure for New Zealand except for lawyers who have profited greatly out of the confusion and the resulting court wrangles. Also benefitting have been bureaucrats within central government and local councils. Bureaucrats have a self-serving interest in keeping what should be simple matters protracted into time consuming extended processes in order to keep their jobs justified. The public end up footing the bill either through rising rates to pay bureaucrats salaries or if involved in resource consent hearings, paying expensive lawyer fees and escalating consent costs to councils.

What of the environment itself after the long drawn out processes? Clearly the environment is not benefitting. Many rivers are seriously declining in quality of water and flows.

Intensive monocultures, be that cows, grapes or pine trees, proliferate. Urban sprawl spreads over quality agricultural soils. The inescapable conclusion is after almost thirty years of the RMA there has been no benefit except to lawyers, bureaucrats and consultants. Worse, self-funded NGO's are now often the only groups battling for environmental protections through the courts, often against Government Departments and Regional Councils.

Environment standards have alarmingly declined after three decades of the RMA and its parasitic attendants.

The role of planners and resource management specialists has to be questioned as the issues New Zealand faced thirty and forty years ago remain the same but much worse. Councils brimming with bureaucrats have increased fees and rules and little positive outcomes have been achieved.

The issues like water, climate change, unbridled population growth and rapid and expanding urbanisation are much more pronounced than a decade ago. Meanwhile bureaucrats hold meaningless conferences, devise new rules often impractical and ineffective while ignoring the key causes of environmental declines. A prime example is the erosion of water quality and quantity and the public's right of access to water resources.

New Zealand has been facing the challenge of weighing up the need for protecting the environmental quality of our water resource while also allowing for the use of water for economic, social and cultural reasons. Corporate power has deep influence. There is more than a sniff of suspicion that some bureaucrats will do backroom deals and whisper invitations to corporate companies – often foreign owned – to take water which belongs to everyone – and to export it overseas for their gain and none for NZ.

This year's conference is destined to be another failed "talk-fest" as bureaucrats, consultants and lawyers debate the issues without actually taking responsibility for the mistakes they have made over past years.

There is a need for a complete clean-out of local and central government bureaucrats. Local government politicians have forgotten they are public servants elected by the people to serve the public interest. Councils are failing to recognize and take responsibility for failed sewerage systems, allowing environmental damage to continue and ignoring the pleas from residents on the many issues that will affect future generations.

Continued over-use of chemicals and poisons is destroying farm soils, wildlife and ecosystems. Urban and rural developments are allowed to seep effluent into waterways. Raw and treated sewerage continues to be discharged into waterways as “accidents” in times of above average rainfall.

The Predator-Free-2050 programme is a classic case of a ludicrous, unrealistic, unjustified piece of bureaucratic nonsense. It would never be achievable and besides many of the bureaucrats and politicians flag cheering on the 2050 dream will not be around at completion to answer for their abject failure and massive waste of public money.

Councils and the bureaucrats need to be made accountable as Councils have failed the voting public. Most councils are mired in deep debt and cannot afford to upgrade failed infrastructure. At times elected councilors are stymied by bureaucratic CEOs and managers who are busy covering their butts and making nebulous excuses.

Another prime example of failure is the sorry state of rivers and waterways. The responsibility for failure sits on the shoulders of overpaid councils and recent inept central Government who have been captured by corporate interests such as dairying, forestry and others.

Most people know the problems and causes. More excuses, platitudes and rhetoric and dim-witted ideas are not needed.

Footnote: Graham Carter is an environmentalist of “the rational” kind and president of the trout and rivers advocacy, the NZ Federation of Freshwater Anglers

CLUB TRIP TO TEKAPO ANYONE???

Our own Fikrit Chinassi recently headed off on a week long road trip to fish the Tekapo Canals.

The fishing was hard at times but in the end he managed to get into them with a bit of advice from our South Island Correspondent Jimmy Teen.

The biggest was 31pds, with several over 20ps, and nothing under 10pds.

They were all caught fly-fishing.

Needless to say Fikrit now wants to move South!!



Arriving...

Almost there...



Camp set up, time to go fishing!



The smallest is 20pds !!!



*And...the Big One. 31pds
of Rainbow!*

*As you can see below, the
flesh is a perfect colour
too.*



CREASY'S COLUMN - BY HUGH CREASY



A maize crop has been harvested and the Canada geese are moving in. There are hundreds of them, and a few black swans and plovers – a noisy congregation with the swans as silent celebrants.

On the mountain screes high up where the vegetable sheep grow and dwarf hebes throw seeds to the wind after a hard summer, there is the crackle of ice in the mornings. The shingle breathes as the sun strikes, a slow susurrant as particles expand. Stones are clumping – ice bound, soon to be gripped in winter's chill.

Mountain daisies look dead, desiccated, flowers long gone, their root systems hard, fibrous, searching for protection in rocky fissures. Winter is coming. At altitude it is meaningful and the plants have adapted.

Lower down the evening freeze is thawed by midday, and the chill waters descend to the lowlands where fish and birds search hungrily for sustenance. Cool water wakens the trout and the insects they feed on. Where mayflies and caddis have survived the heated flows of summer, they now rise in the mornings and evenings, hurrying to mate and spread their eggs. Nature's in a hurry. Another month or two and it will be too late.

To survive the winter, birds need to feed. If they don't have a protective layer of fat, the cold will kill them. Trout will be spawning, and they need strength to fight for the right to cover the redds where the hens are already feeling the urge to mark a territory.



Geese in the paddock next to the river are skinny. They are still recovering from the rigours of the moult and a hard summer raising their young. Hunters often shoot them too early in the season and complain that they are scrawny and poor eating, and their carcasses are left to rot. Given a month or two for the fat to cover their breasts and the eating quality rises enormously. A Canada goose in prime condition makes a marvelous roast, but the bird must be carefully chosen and prepared.

It's the same with trout. They are at their peak as a game fish just before spawning in late autumn. Their flesh will be succulent and oily. But take only a brightly silvered fish, deep in the stomach with no darkness of skin. Return the dull ones. They will grow brighter as the season progresses. There are exceptions to the rule, of course.

A few years ago I was fishing one of the southern West Coast lakes. Its inlet flowed through heavy beech forest, and a tangle of fallen beech had to be negotiated to reach open water. The fish I spotted were cruising over golden sand heavily streaked with leaf mold. They

were big brown trout and because I stood in shade with the sun behind me, I was invisible to them. I flicked a big damsel nymph to the nearest one and it took it with great gusto. It was more by good luck than good management that I landed it, after a battle through sunken branches and heavy weed.

The fish weighed three kilos was deep in the body, and apart from a pale strip of belly was coal black. I killed it and opened its gut. It was full of hard-cased caddis. Its flesh was bright orange and there was a thick band of fat on its skin. It was a creature of stunning beauty and had a flavour to match. I think its colour came from a combination of tannin-stained water, caddis and snails. In the lake itself the fish were of normal colouration.

Although tannin-stained, the water had a clarity that was quite deceiving and stepping off the bank had to be carefully judged. The forest acted as a filter and stabilised the flow in an area where rainfall is measured in metres. It is only when you are in wild, virgin country that you get an inkling of what the rivers must have been like before settlement and development turned them into drains, largely unfit for drinking and marginally of use for recreation.

Planting the margins will work wonders on our rivers, especially those that run through urban environments. Perhaps, in a few years, urban dwellers will once again wonder at the richness of our natural heritage as they swim the pools of rivers and streams, unworried by swallowing the occasional mouthful.

In the meantime we fish the slime and politics-infested, near-poisonous rivers where trout survive by the barest of margins. Still, the memories are good, and the purity of southern waters gives us an idea of great possibilities.



EDITORS NOTE

This is to the less experienced Club Members out there. The Club runs a variety of Trips to some great locations but quite often it may seem a bit daunting to someone with little fly-fishing experience. It really doesn't have to be. If you let the Trip organizer know that you would appreciate a bit of help then we will make sure that you aren't left floundering along on your own. We will try and pair you up with someone more experienced that can show you the ropes.

So if you are in doubt about a Club Trip then contact the organizer, let them know you are keen but inexperienced, and let the fishy fun commence.

FISHING FUNNIES



"Welcome back, sir. Are you planning on being our guest for one night only, or will this be your usual extended stay?"

(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.

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

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