



# *THE FLYFISHER NEWSLETTER*

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April - 2020

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## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

What amazing weather to be “locked down” in! From my house, the Hauraki Gulf is like a glistening mirror but completely devoid of any boat traffic. No doubt the fish are very happy about the silence and are just getting on with eating and growing ever fatter! The same state of affairs of course applies to rivers, streams and lakes, where Rainbows and Browns are busy spawning away producing the next generation which, some day, we will be able to do battle with.

On a more serious note, I trust that everyone is doing their bit to “break the chain” of the covid-19 virus and help eliminate any risk of community transfer. These are certainly strange times and probably only vaguely similar to experiences some of our most senior members may have had during WW2. Personally, I think that we are most fortunate to live

in New Zealand, with its ( relatively ) modest population, a first world health system and a “1,000 mile moat”.

While being confined to our homes for the next few weeks is clearly going to be challenging, it does provide ample opportunity to pay attention to our fly fishing “armouries”. Such things as servicing reels, stretching and cleaning lines, sorting out the accumulated flotsam and jetsam from jackets and gear bags and perhaps most importantly, tying a range of new “never-fail” flies.

It also occurs to me that while normally, all of us lead otherwise pretty busy lives, this enforced period of seclusion could reveal some literary talent from within our ranks and it would be great if some of you could consider “scribing” the odd article for our club newsletter. Just send your notes, ideas, etc. to our editor, Duncan Frew. Duncan’s contact details are on the last page of this publication.

In the meantime, stay healthy and keep in touch with each other.

Dave Symes - President

### **FISHING REPORT**

Naturally, there are no 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**

*Andrew hooked up on the Waitawheta Stream in the Coromandel. A nice 2.5pd Rainbow eventually slid into the net after a spectacular fight.*



## Rotorua

*Karl, sneaking up on a pod of unsuspecting Ngongotaha Trout. Photo courtesy of Karl Kettlewell.*



## Taupo Region

*Barrie enjoying the fruits of some winter swinging on the Tongariro. Photo courtesy of Barrie Barnes.*





## **Saltwater Report**

*My first Kingi on the fly. There is nothing quite like it for sheer power.*



## **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 our own Dave Symes talking to us about Lake Otamangakau. It was a very enjoyable evening and thank you once again Dave.

## **NEXT CLUB NIGHT – 21<sup>st</sup> APRIL 7.30 PM**

This month we be having a video link up Club Night live online. More to follow in the next Newsletter! This is sure to be an interesting evening. We hope you will enjoy it.

## QUOTABLE QUOTES

*The art of tying the wet fly rests upon a knowledge of trout-stream insect life, a knowledge of materials used for imitating the insect life, and an ability to select, prepare, blend, and use the proper materials to create neat, durable, and lifelike imitations of the natural insects*

*James E Leisenring and Vernon S Hidy  
The Art of Tying The Wet Fly and Fishing The Flymph*

## WHY WE FISH

*It is quite easy to debase the sport, change its values, dilute its ethics and destroy its traditional associations with quietness, relaxation and the opportunity to think. Angling is not a competitive sport. The fisherman'- s only real competition is with his quarry and his only real challenge is the challenge to himself. Nothing can add to this, but the blight of interhuman competition can certainly detract from it.*

*Roderick Haig-Brown - Bright Waters, Bright Fish*

## 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**.

## **FLY TYING CLASSES TOO CONTINUE FOR 2020**

The fly tying classes that the club ran in 2019 are scheduled to continue, for 2020, in April. That date will probably be the 7<sup>th</sup>. These will be classes with a difference as they will be conducted online via a video conferencing portal. What this means for you is that you’ll be able to join using your computer web camera or using your smart phone. You’ll see the presenter and he’ll also be able to see and assist you.

Prior, you will be sent the name of the fly to be tied with a materials list. Don’t worry if you don’t have the exact materials, we’ll improvise. We’ll suggest alternative everyday items as replacements e.g. for goose biot (Prince Nymph Wings) use hen or seagull feather, for rubber legs how about mono or rubber bands, for pheasant tails a couple of cat or dog hairs will do. It’s all about technique and well tied proportions.

To make it work for you, all you’ll need is a web camera, computer (preferably) or smartphone, and access to the internet via a web browser, e.g. Chrome or other. There’s no downloading or installing of any files or apps – it’s really very easy. Full connection instructions will be sent to you if you advise me, 021925006 or [barrie@flyfishinginxs.kiwi](mailto:barrie@flyfishinginxs.kiwi) that you want to take part. In the meantime, once you’ve decided you want to take part, so you’ll be prepared, I would suggest that prior to the session, you try a connection out. To do this let me know and I’ll set it up a five-minute test for you – I’ll talk you through it.

## **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-**

## **CLUB RIVER FISHING COMPETITION**

There were six competitors managed to make it down for this Comp / Trip and they struck some perfect weather. In parts the fishing had some challenges with a lot of slime in the rivers, and constant hook cleaning was the order of the day. And there was what appeared to be a new slime. It was an iridescent green and looked like it should glow in the dark.

The fish were in the main big and very fat as the green slime was full of caddis and so subsequently were the fish. The best fishing was on the Whanganui as the Whakapapa was hopeless - low, dark, full of slime and no fish

Simon took out the day with a hugely impressive catch of nine fish being 50, 60, 51, 39, 58, 61, 57, 57 & 61cm, a total of 494cm. Add this to his lake performance and the total is nearly 8m of fish.

Well done Simon, another great result.

### **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 MAY 2020 – 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</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.

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

**DUE TO CORONAVIRUS AT THIS POINT THE NGONGOTAHA CLUB TRIP IS ON HOLD AND PROBABLY CANCELLED. 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 21<sup>st</sup>, Friday 22<sup>nd</sup>, Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday the 24<sup>th</sup> 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.

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**

So, there's this yellow toad wandering around in the forest kinda pissed off because he doesn't want to be yellow.

Life would be easier if he were brown like the other toads. He'd sure be less visible to predators for one thing.

Anyway.... This yellow toad bumps into a fairy godmother.

"Fairy godmother, please make me brown like the other toads" he begs her. "I'm hacked off being so visible to predators. The stress is like, killing me, you know?"

"Okay" says the fairy godmother, who whips out her magic wand and goes:  
"Abracapokus! You're brown!"

The toad looks down and sees that he is brown! Except..... for his weenie, which was still yellow.

"Hang about lady," he says to the fairy godmother, "My pecker's still yellow!"

"Yeah, well I don't do weenies," she says, "You'll have to go see the Wizard of Oz for that."

So the toad thanks her and hops off on his way.

There is also a purple bear wandering about the very same woods.

As luck would have it, he encounters the very same fairy godmother (yes, okay, it's a coincidence, but it's true).

"Fairy Godmother! You're just the person I need!" says the purple bear, "I can't pull any bearesses cos they don't want to be seen with a purple bear on account of the hunters. They can spot me from a mile off."

Being a fairly nice fairy godmother, she takes out her magic wand. "Oh for goodness sake, what is the matter with you lot round here" she says and with that, she yells: "Pokuscadabra! You're brown!"

The bear looks down and sees that he is, in fact, brown. Except for his goolies, which remain purple. "Hold up sweetheart!" he says to the fairy Godmother, "My goolies are still purple!"

"Yeah, well I don't do those goolie things," she replies, "You'll have to go see the Wizard of Oz for that."

"Well that's just dandy, innit?" the bear replies, "How the hell do I find the Wizard of Oz?"

"Easy," says the fairy godmother as she flew off.....

"Just follow the yellow-prick toad!"

## **FRIDAY FLY DAY - MODIFYING YOUR FLIES**

By Chris Dore 03/27/2020 [www.manictackleproject.com](http://www.manictackleproject.com)

Today's Friday Fly Day was inspired by an online conversation I had recently about modifying your flies when on the water, or simply fishing them differently to get the eat. We all know how many variations a fly tier can create of a single pattern but we don't usually have a vice and a bunch of materials handy when tricky situations present themselves on the river. Here are a few ideas how you can make your fly selection a lot more versatile in an instant.

### **Clipping Your Dry Fly Hackle**

Face it, not too many natural insects sit up high on their legs while drifting downstream for any amount of time. Why would they? They would fly off to safety. Most terrestrials, caddis and mayfly remain on the surface as they get stuck in the film, and ride low until they either free themselves, get eaten or drown.

Many times on wary fish, in flat water or after the refusal of my upright hackled dry I will simply clip the underside of the hackle so that my fly rides within, rather than upon the surface. This presents a much more realistic footprint to the fish. Try also clipping / thinning out the wing on that dry as the situation dictates, removing the tail for a different positioning in the surface or even clip down and streamline that Rabbit or Mrs Simpson. A pair of scissors on the riverbank can give you endless options.

## **Sunken Dries**

From adding split shot to sink your beetle in summer and drowning ants anytime, to fishing your CDC spent spinner subsurface around the base of an autumn riffle, its important to remember that surface food will often waterlog, or get sucked under by the currents. These often provide the fish with a super easy meal and can offer a very productive alternative to your standard nymph pattern, especially when fish lock on to an abundant food supply.

## **Getting Lighter Flies Down**

Simply weighing down smaller, lighter nymphs with Loon Deep Soft Weight or Black Drops instead of reaching for a larger, heavier pattern can be the key to success on spookier rivers, spring creeks and stillwaters where a larger pattern can raise suspicion. Simply add the shot directly to the leader or if using finer, softer nylon consider a shorter, split tippet of several inches with the tag end of your blood knot left unclipped. Tie a simple overhand knot in the end of your tag to stop them slipping free and attach your tin shot to this. Where regulations allow, maybe just slide a tungsten bead onto your trace between your point fly and dropper for a little extra depth.

## **Modifying Streamers**

Try replacing the stinger hook on swingers with a hothead / beadhead nymph or egg pattern. Similarly a tungsten, or coloured plastic bead can turn your standard woolly bugger into a deadly egg sucking leech when needed.

Just as a fly tier should never marry themselves to an exact recipe, you should play around with your store bought flies and see what works. Giving the fish something different can often be the day maker, and a bit of creativity will give you many more options from your fly box.

## **FIXING A TWISTED FLY LINE IN SECONDS**

[www.ginkandgasoline.com](http://www.ginkandgasoline.com) / Posted on March 29, 2020 / by Louis Cahill



Every fly angler has experienced a wicked twist in their fly line causing it to tangle and knot at their feet.

It may be caused by a flawed casting stroke, a big fly twisting in the wind or it may be God punishing you for masturbating. Regardless of why it occurs, it's frustrating at the least and heartbreaking at the worst. There's nothing worse than taking a shot at the fish of a lifetime, only to have your cast cut short by a knot in your guides.

Fortunately, a twisted fly line is easy to fix. You don't have to lose valuable fishing time, while stripping the entire line off the reel and towing it behind the boat or letting it hang in the current. You can fix that twist in seconds.

In this video, our good friend Zack Dalton from RIO Products shows you how.

<https://www.ginkandgasoline.com/fly-fishing-tips-technique/fixing-a-twisted-fly-line-in-seconds/>



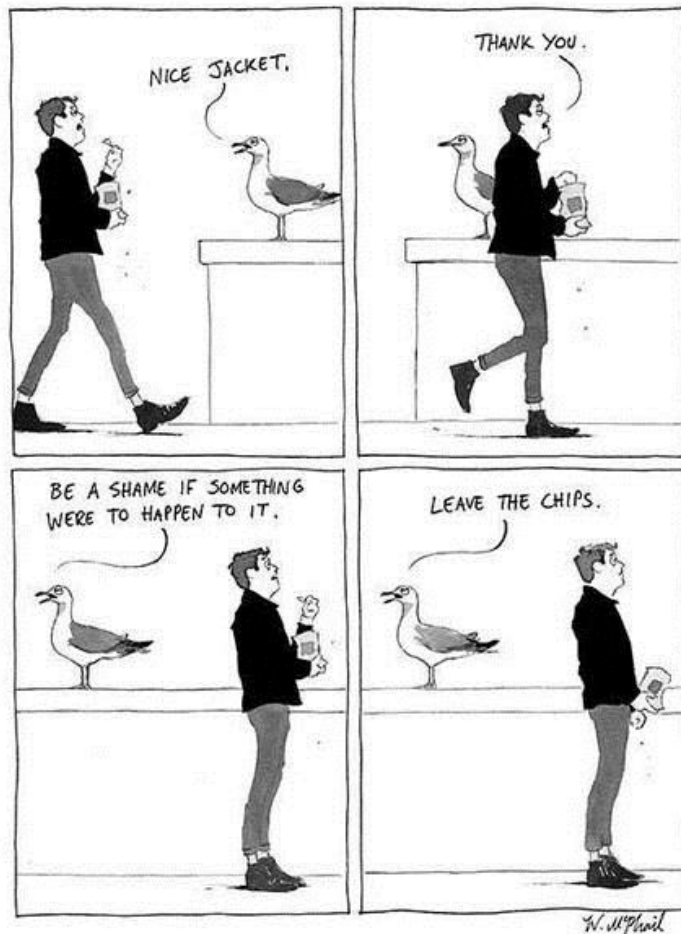
## EDITORS NOTE

If you are like me then you will be feeling the non-fishing blues. It's not so much that I haven't been fishing but more that I can't go fishing. With all this time on my hands, looking out the window at good fishing day after good fishing day going by unused, it feels almost criminal. Then a quick glance at the News and I give myself a figurative uppercut.

This isolation and restriction sucks but it beats the hell out of the alternative. God willing we will all be able to go fishing again to our hearts content. I, for one, will appreciate the joys of the outdoors even more.

Stay Safe  
Duncan

## 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

**President** - Dave Symes      486-6257   Takapuna      [dssymes@xtra.co.nz](mailto:dssymes@xtra.co.nz)

**Secretary** -

**Treasurer** - John Cuthbertson      413-6993   Greenhithe      [john.cuthbe@gmail.com](mailto:john.cuthbe@gmail.com)

**Magazine** - Duncan Frew      021 648 956   Torbay      [iconpromote@gmail.com](mailto:iconpromote@gmail.com)

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