



THE FLYFISHER NEWSLETTER

January - 2018

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dave is taking a well earned break for January and hopefully is away fishing.

FISHING REPORT

Auckland / Waikato

A New Years Eve visit to the Mangatutu saw a river at near historic low levels. Very slow in the big pools and very clear water. So clear that we could easily see several pods of Brown Trout. The biggest pod held around 15 fish ranging in size from 4-8pds. Significant fish for small water. These Browns will no doubt have run up from the Waikato and its excessively high temperatures and will be through all the Waipa tributaries. They had not yet adapted to the small water so hopefully the rain has lifted the river levels and helped distribute them through the fishery.

Also, a quick reconnaissance patrol out to Parkinsons Lake revealed Trout feeding off the surface in the most relaxed manner. Unfortunately no fishing could take place, but next time...



Barrie Barnes out at Thompsons Lake near Waiuku. The fish aren't big but they are fun, and it's only an hour away. Photo courtesy of Warren Derrick.

Rotorua

A pre Christmas visit to the Ngongotaha was probably the worst day I have ever had on the river. Fish numbers were very low, summer growth was so significant that it had made numerous pools unfishable, and major winter floods had destroyed a lot of good fishing water. Normally, after a flood you tend to find that for every pool lost a new one is created but this time the poor old Ngonga got the short straw.

However, the storm last week has sent another massive flood down the river, lasting for several days, so I imagine that a lot of that new summer growth will now be washed away and undoubtedly new pools will have formed. Also, as the river subsides it should bring a run of fresh fish into all the tributaries. I can feel a 'research' fishing trip coming on.

Speaking of fishing trips, the Club Trip to the Ngongotaha and Rotorua is the weekend of 24th – 25th of February. There are still 2 spots available so let me know as soon as possible if you are keen. This is a great fun Trip and don't worry if you feel that you might not have the 'experience', as other Club Members will help you out.

Taupo Region

Well, everything has just changed down in Taupo with the recent storm having produced a major flood in many of the rivers. The Tongariro topped 700 cumecs, and at that level many of the Trout that have been holding in the river and feeding hard to regain condition after the rigors of spawning will now have been washed back into the Lake. Also, all the rocks that were covered in slime, which is where the caddis and mayfly larvae love to live, will have been rolled over and washed clean, thus removing a major food source.

But it's not all doom and gloom, as what nature takes away it usually replaces in its own unique way. This flood will undoubtedly bring a major run of big Brown Trout up the river as the water levels drop. There will be changes to a number of pools and new 'secret' spots created, and before you know it the slime on the stones, a natural thing, will be back and with it a great source of Trout food.

After several days of pillaging the Lake Taupo Trout numbers Club Member John Cuthbertson took his boat up to Lake Otamangakau for an afternoon. He again did well, catching a number of fish with several going over 6pds and all in fantastic condition. Dave Symes will be leading another Club Trip to the Big O in March so give him a call and book your spot, the fish there are magnificent.

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.



Kerry Blank with a pre flood Tongariro Rainbow that fell to a dry and dropper rig. This last year has seen far and away the best quality and size fish in the Taupo area for over a decade. Fingers crossed for the year to come. Photo courtesy of Laurie Griffiths.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

A fish story needs no apology. And no affidavit or string of affidavits can add anything to its credibility.

David Starr Jordan

IAN STUART HUNT – 1955 – 2018

As some of you will know, Ian Hunt passed away last Thursday.

He had been diagnosed with inoperable cancer in May and given just weeks to live. A terrifying situation for anyone. But rather than despair he chose to prove his doctor wrong and made every possible effort to make the most out of his time.

Ian was instrumental in the creation of our Club and indeed without him it may never have gotten started. Over the years he retained interest in the Clubs progress and indeed any time that I would stop in to buy something he would always ask ‘how is the Club going?’ He was our Patron from the Club’s formation until last year and it was Ian’s great relationship with the Milford Cruising Club that enabled us to have our Club Nights there.

Indeed the word relationship is so applicable to Ian. He knew so many people in the fishing community and he was generous to them all.

All things fishing will never quite be the same with Ian’s passing but so many of us can count ourselves fortunate to have known him and will retain great memories of the man.

His departure from this life will leave such a very big hole for so many.

LAST CLUB NIGHT

Last month we had our Christmas function with good company, good food and a few quiet libations. An enjoyable night was had.

NEXT CLUB NIGHT – FEBRUARY 20th 7.30PM

There is no Club Meeting in January.

The next Club Night will be February the 20th.

CASTING TUITION

This summer we are lucky enough to have a Certified Casting Instructor coming along to help us all out with our casting. He will be there from 6.30pm onwards on the grass outside the Milford Cruising Club. The best possible thing to do with casting tuition is to use your own fishing gear, but if you don’t have that with you never fear, we will have several Rods there for you to use.

The Casting instructor is Meinrad Rohrs, who some of you will know already. Below is some information he has sent through about himself:

“My name is Meinrad Röhrs and I'm originally from Germany where I had lived for 32 years. After a couple of unhappy tries in my childhood I started a serious attempt to learn to fish with the fly rod, in 2010. Even then, highly motivated, it was quite hard for me to tame the fly line. Regardless of what I was trying to do, it seemed that the line had its own will and the fly almost never arrived at the target of my choice. Sometime later, I took the decision to enroll in a fly casting class to learn the essential stuff of fly casting and finally to find a way to get the fly into the desired zone. I managed to tame the fly line and soon made some progress with my casting.

After further casting lessons to refine my casting I decided to start the venture to become a ‘Certified Casting Instructor’ myself. Countless trainings sessions later, I passed the exam for the fly casting instructor by the ‘Fly Fishers International’ at a fly fishing fair near Munich on the 28 March in 2014.

Since the beginning of 2016, I have been living in New Zealand now, teaching fly casting and exploring new waters. I hope, I will meet you one day while fly fishing one of these awesome waters or maybe at one of my casting lessons or your club meetings.”

WHY WE FISH

They say you forget your troubles on a trout stream, but that's not quite it. What happens is that you begin to see where your troubles fit into the grand scheme of things, and suddenly they're just not such a big deal anymore.

John Gierach

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 etc 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	021704373 john@st-classic.com

John Rust

but keen to learn more on the rivers

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 .



John C. at it again, this time it's 8pds of Lake Otamangakau Rainbow that provided the fun. Whilst up at the lake John ran into Leon Bathurst and his family who were having their annual Christmas Big O camping trip. A stunning part of the country.

CLUB TRIPS 2017

January – Mohaka River
February – Ngongotaha River and Rotorua Lakes
February – 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.

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).

NGONGOTAHA / ROTORUA CLUB TRIP

Last chance to sign up for this year's February Trip to fish the Ngongotaha River and the Rotorua region! It is on the weekend of Thursday 22nd, Friday 23rd, Saturday 24th and Sunday the 25th of February. 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 never 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



The Rotorua tributaries are small streams but they can hold some big fish. This one, when it eventually came to the net, was a 6.5pd Brownie. Photo courtesy of Andrew MacPherson.

KNOT OF THE MONTH

These Knots are from the website [http www.animatedknots.com](http://www.animatedknots.com) , check it out

Nail Knot Details

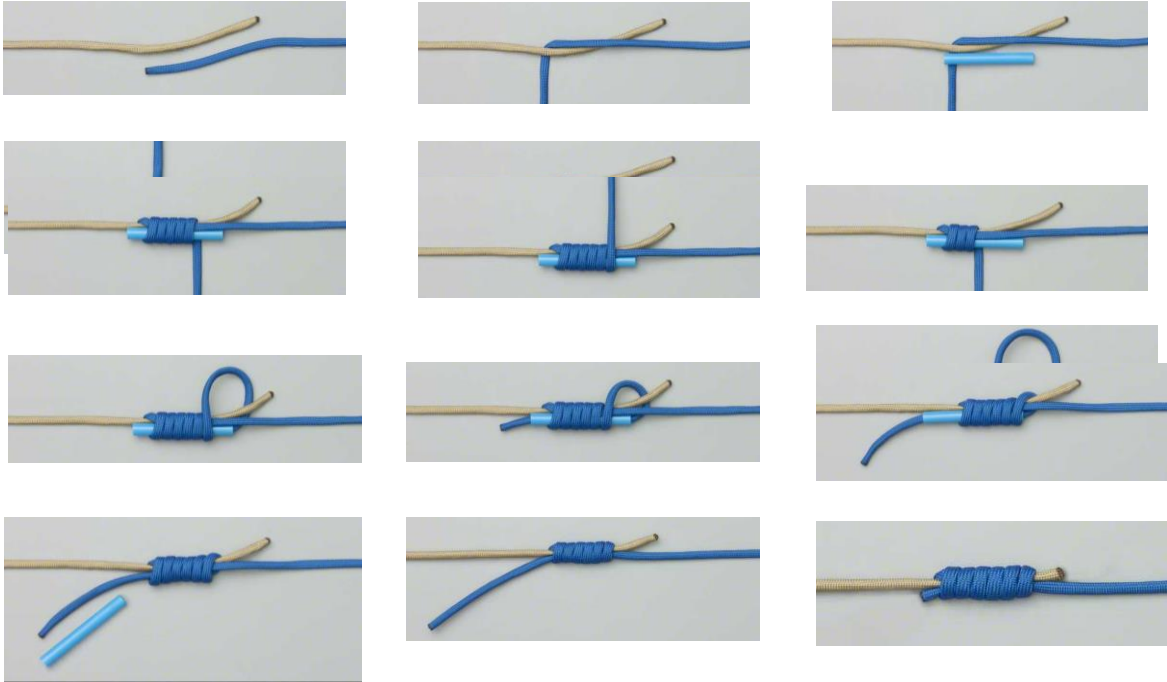
Uses: The Nail Knot was originally named because a nail was inserted as a guide when threading the line. Today, it is easier to use a small straw if you can.

The Nail Knot is an important fishing knot used to join two lines of different diameters and allows for line diameters to diminish down to the fly, i.e., it is useful for attaching your backing to the fly line, and your fly line to the leader, or tippet.

Tying it: There are several ways of tying this knot. The animation shows the smaller line being threaded through the loops using a straw.

Alternative: Alternatively, the line can be threaded beside a nail (hence its name) or pulled through with a needle.

Advantages: The Nail Knot makes a smooth compact knot that will readily pass through the guides.



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:

Another flight attendant's comment on a less than perfect landing: "We ask you to please remain seated as Captain Kangaroo bounces us to the terminal."

An airline pilot wrote that on this particular flight he had hammered his ship into the runway really hard. The airline had a policy which required the first officer to stand at the door while the passengers exited, smile, and give them a "Thanks for flying our airline." He said that, in light of his bad landing, he had a hard time looking the passengers in the eye, thinking that someone would have a smart comment. Finally everyone had gotten off except for a little old lady walking with a cane. She said, "Sir, do you mind if I ask you a question?" "Why, no, Ma'am," said the pilot. "What is it?" The little old lady said, "Did we land, or were we shot down?"

AUCKLAND/WAIKATO REEL LIFE DECEMBER 2017



Above: A rainbow trout caught on a t-tail soft bait.

Local Rivers Full Of ‘Hungry Trout’

Staff members David Klee and Adam Daniel recently took a trip to a local stream to find relatively warm water and lots of hungry trout.

The unusually warm weather has heated some of our mountain streams up dramatically, forcing early migrations for fish from lowland waters to cool mountain streams.

The good news is that due to the cool weather last summer, there are lots of trout around and they are hungry.

“The fishing was exceptional we had up to three large rainbows competing to take the hook,” Adam recalled.

With the Waikato and Waipa Rivers reaching the magic 19°C, Pirongia streams are also full of fish.

Dr Daniel stopped for a quick look at a Pirongia tributary and was pleased to find half a dozen fish at the mouth of the stream.

In terms of early summer strategies, nymphing is highly productive until the green beetles appear. If you enjoy spin fishing throwing a t-tail soft bait is also deadly for both rainbow and brown trout.

Stay Safe On Auckland/Waikato Rivers

Mercury has some useful reminders for anglers:

- Don't take anything for granted. Rivers are changeable and unpredictable. The bank, river bed and water flow you were familiar with might be different from how you remember, or may change quickly, and there can be hidden dangers such as submerged objects.
- Keep away from dams and other structures. A hydro scheme with eight dams operates down the Waikato River. The river near the dams has additional hazards including strong currents with suction effects and deep water. Water levels and flows can change significantly throughout the day and massive flows may be released at any time.
- Don't fish in the "no fishing" signed areas. There are agreed fishing locations around the hydro structures on the Waikato River. It's illegal to operate boats or swim within 200m of any hydro structure.

There are more drownings in rivers than any other environment. Enjoy yourself on the water but keep in mind that New Zealand's rivers are powerful and require your respect.

Trees Come Down Ahead Of Plan Change

One unfortunate consequence of Plan Change 1 has been a rush to convert from pine to pasture.

Unfortunately, the fear that farmers will be locked into a particular land use to reduce the impact of intensive farming on our rivers, has prompted large tracts of timber to be converted to pasture over the past year.



Clear-felling trees releases a hefty amount of sediment into waterways unless large buffers are left along streams to act as a filter.

Left: Clear-felling of pine next to a Waikato Stream.

Once converted to pasture, nutrient and sediment loss is far higher than pine plantations. We can only hope that the council settles on a sensible regional plan to reduce contaminants from entering rivers, as the current lack of regulation has led to significant degradation of our communities' waterways.

Right: A recent pine-to-pasture conversion in the Waikato.



EASTERN REEL LIFE DECEMBER 2017



The fish shown left was one of 16 hooked on a nymph and anglers have reported some dry fly activity on the increase.

Heat Wave Sends Trout Into Stream & River Mouths

It's amazing how much difference a month can make to conditions, and the effects on the trout fishing here at the Rotorua lakes.

The country's early summer heat wave has seen water temperatures rise rapidly, and this has changed the current approach for lake and stream fishers alike.

Lake Rotorua's surface temperatures rocketed to around 23C early in December which created opportunities at the streams and stream mouths much earlier than normal.

Anglers were fortunate that this fishing came on so early in summer as the action doesn't often occur until well after the New Year.

It's possible that temperatures will rise and fall over summer if we get significant rain and windy conditions, and this in turn will affect the fishing so keep an eye on the Regional Council's monitoring buoy [page](#) to check water temps.

The stream mouth fishing improves considerably when temperatures exceed 20 degrees.

Although we're aware that some Eastern Region streams have taken a beating over the stormy winter, we've also recently received promising reports of fishing at various stream and river locations including good catch rates and condition, but smaller overall size.

Right: Chasing a big brown on the Ngongotaha Stream.



Eastern News Tippets:

- We're pleased to advise that issues with access to some of the tracks to the Waioeka River, blocked with rock piles, have now been resolved.
- We've been carrying out annual angler access track maintenance at the Waikaretaheke River, Ngongotaha Stream, Waiteti Stream, Kaituna River at Okere Falls, the Waioeka River. The walking track to the Pueto Stream mouth at the Waikato River has been cleared by scrub bar. Maintenance is also underway on the Rangitaiki system in

Kaingaroa Forest with tracks being sprayed and cleared. Remember the Ngahuinga public access easement to the Rangitikei River is still open for use, no permit required.

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

6) POSITIONING

Cast from the side of the fish. Position yourself so that when you make your cast it is from the side of the fish, ideally at about a 45 degree angle. That way your fly line or your leader doesn't go over the top of the fish.

Set yourself up so that you can cast without hooking surround trees. It sounds obvious but so often we are focused so intently on where we want the cast to go that we forget to look at our surroundings. So before your cast look above you, look behind you, look at where you want the flies to land. If you do all these things then you can make that first cast count and keep your flies out of the bushes!

Set yourself up so you can control your drift. This is much harder to get right. If you want your flies to drift naturally through the pool at the same pace as the main current then you need to think about where you are casting from. If you are casting from slow water into fast water your flies will race downstream faster than your flyline, thus creating a big belly in the flyline upstream of the flies and slowing them down, thus making for an unnaturally slow drift. If you are casting from fast water into slow water your flies will go downstream slower than your flyline, thus creating a big belly in the flyline downstream of the flies and speeding them up, thus making for an unnatural drift.

THE UNKNOWN IMPACTS OF CATCH & RELEASE

It seems that catch and release has become the norm for most trout anglers in NZ. Many people are highly critical of those who like to take fish for the table - one guide told me he would refuse to take any client who wanted to do the same. Most of my fellow fishers adhere to the mantra of "catch and release, not catch and decease." We seem to unquestioningly accept that catch and release is a good thing in maintaining a healthy fishery. There is plenty of advice out there on how to play, land, handle and release a fish to maximise its chance of survival, including on the Fish & Game web site.



similarly, there are plenty of research papers on catch and release survival rates, mainly American, such as '*Fish Stress from Catch and Release Fishing*' (Dan Dauwalter, 2014) undertaken for Trout Unlimited in the USA; the '*Effect of catch-and-release angling on growth and survival of rainbow trout, *Oncorhynchus mykiss**' (K. L. Pope, G. R. Wilde, D. W. Knabe 2007) and the '*Review of literature on catch-and-release mortality rates of trout*' (Emily Giles, undated), the latter reviewing eight earlier research papers.

And of course we have the 1999 Cawthron Institute's '*Catch and Release: a review of overseas research and implications for New Zealand*' (Roger Young 1999). This, along with some observations undertaken by Cawthron's Dr John Hayes in the Crow River, Kahurangi, is one of the few pieces of work on the subject of catch and release that touches on the effects over and beyond the physiological impacts and survivability. I have reproduced a paragraph of this review paper below:

In New Zealand, Jellyman & Graynoth (1994) reported on the results of a questionnaire sent to experienced guides and anglers. Of 35 replies, 23 respondents had noticed a change in the behaviour of trout during the years they had been fishing. Some anglers considered that trout occupied traditional feeding spots less often and mainly at times when feeding was most profitable (Jellyman & Graynoth 1994).

Decreases in the susceptibility of trout to anglers over the duration of the fishing season were also reported although it was not possible to remove the effects of temperature from the effects of angling pressure. Ten of the anglers considered that the settling down period for trout after being disturbed had increased, while 18 anglers thought that there had been no change. A recent experiment that we conducted on brown trout behaviour in a remote river in Kahurangi National Park showed that trout responded to fishing pressure by hiding more and becoming more difficult to catch (Young & Hayes unpublished data).

The paper concludes that a lot more study is needed in this area if we are to have effective fishery management in NZ. There are numerous anecdotal observations, particularly for large brown trout, of fish being increasingly harder to catch as the season progresses but little scientific analysis as to how much is the result of fish being repeatedly caught, handled and released. After all, it has taken over ten years for Fish & Game to finally introduce some sensible additions to the regulations on fishing etiquette. They include suggesting that, if practicing catch and release, to limit yourself to catching no more than six fish per day (chance would be a fine thing in most South Island back country fisheries these days).

Survivability and fish behaviour are two important issues for anglers, the latter being more researched than the former. Another element of catch and release that has had even less attention than fish behaviour is the impact on genetic vigour of the stock. Large jack (male) trout tend to dominate the headwaters of most fisheries, presumably so they spend the least effort encountering the most hens (females) come spawning season and these are the fish

that if caught, will invariably be released on the basis of them being trophy quality and hence too precious to kill.

But, as with all animals, as they grow old their fecundity (reproductive capacity) decreases. So, might we unwittingly be assisting sub-optimal breeding jacks maintain the principle spawning positions by releasing them back to their lair and so denying the younger, more vigorous jacks from taking up the prime spawning positions? A bit like giving only grandfathers access to a dating agency.

The Cawthron review also touched on ‘density dependent populations’ – where the biomass of a species is limited by its environment in terms of food, space, competition, shelter, for example. Generally, in such a system there is either a higher number of smaller animals or a smaller number of larger animals. Catch and release in a reproducing stock of fish can, all things being equal, increase the overall fish population but at a cost of the average size fish being smaller – the antithesis of why many anglers go fishing in back country fisheries in the first place!

The whole issue of catch and release would benefit from more scientific evaluation of the impacts and less from the current assumption that it is a “good thing”.

Have a happy Christmas, tight lines and see you all in the New Year

Ka Kite,

David Haynes

Nelson/Marlborough Fish & Game Councillor - Executive Member NZ Federation of Freshwater Anglers - Co-Leader NZ Outdoors Party

HEALTH WARNING LIFTED FOR LAKE TAUPŌ

Media Release - Environment Waikato – 15/12/2017

The health warning issued last week for parts of Lake Taupō has now been lifted by the Medical Officer of Health.

Observation and water testing by Waikato Regional Council and Taupō District Council confirm that the algal bloom has dispersed in the affected areas of the lake for the time being. Gene testing of samples collected last Friday indicates the algae was not producing toxin then.

The Medical Officer of Health, Dr Jim Miller, advises caution when enjoying any lake or river this summer. “The current warm conditions may encourage algae growth, so it is

always safest to check the water before you get in. Look before you leap; if the water looks discoloured, smells unusual, if there is scum on the surface, or the water has green or brown particles suspended in it – then it is best to avoid contact with the water and swim or play somewhere else.”

Waikato Regional Council senior water scientist, Bill Vant, says staff will be collecting samples from 12 of the lake’s bathing beaches weekly, and conducting visual inspections for signs of algal bloom, as part of a wider monitoring programme.

“With hot, calm conditions and the presence of plant nutrients, phosphorus and nitrogen in water, the conditions are right for blooms to occur in our region’s waterways over summer. They can develop rapidly and unpredictably and in some cases can produce toxins that are harmful for people as well as animals.

“So we have staff on standby over the Christmas-New Year period to respond to any reports from the public of algal blooms in our region’s waterways. People who see what they think are algal blooms can report sightings to 0800 800 401,” says Mr Vant.

“We’ll also be continuing to work closely with our colleagues at Toi Te Ora Public Health, Taupō District Council and Tūwharetoa,” he says.

Topia Rameka, Tūwharetoa Māori Trust Board chief executive, says he is very pleased with the latest results. “It is good things can now return to normal and our whānau and community can continue to enjoy our moana.” He adds, “It is also a timely reminder that Lake Taupō is a dynamic environment. The quality of our wai is paramount and we need to continue to look at ways to enhance and safeguard this precious resource.”

Taupō District Council will continue monitoring its water supply intakes as part of its annual summer testing programme. Private water supplies can also be reinstated now the warning has been lifted.

Up-to-date information on health warnings for the Bay of Plenty and Lakes districts is available through these channels:

- Phone: 0800 221 555
- Website: www.toiteora.govt.nz/health_warnings
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/toiteora
- Twitter: www.twitter.com/toiteora
- Email alerts for subscribers: www.toiteora.govt.nz/alert



*Andrew MacPherson in action on a small stream, laying out his cast to sighted fish.
Photo courtesy of Carl Kettlewell.*

SHUT THE GATE ON POLLUTERS, FONTERRA URGED

Media Release – Fish & Game NZ

Corporate dairy giant Fonterra is being urged to “shut the gate” on its environmentally damaging suppliers instead of trying to charm the public with expensive public relations spin.

The call from Fish & Game comes after Fonterra showcased its best dairy farms in its Open Gates promotion last weekend.

Fonterra opened the gates on 40 of its farms to show people what it is doing to protect waterways.

Fish & Game Chief Executive Martin Taylor says the event is just the latest move in Fonterra’s expensive corporate charm offensive.

“There’s no doubt the 40 farms Fonterra selected were the best of the best.

“The farmers who own them should be proud of what they have achieved and Fish & Game congratulates them for their efforts.

“These Top 40 farms are setting the benchmark for the rest of the dairy industry and Fonterra now needs to apply that standard to all its suppliers.

"It can start by focusing on its 40 worst suppliers and make them lift their standards or get out," Mr. Taylor says.

"It needs to say what deadline its set for these dairy farms to get to Top 40 standard."

Martin Taylor warns that if Fonterra doesn't act, it will continue losing public support because people are angry at corporate farming's impact on the environment.

"That anger boiled over this year and made water quality one of the election's defining issues. Kiwis are fed up they are losing clean water and swimmable rivers," he says.

Martin Taylor says Fonterra's social licence to operate is now gone and it must act quickly if it wants to regain it.

"Getting rid of the dairy industry's poor performers is a good place to start. There are some farmers who refuse to accept our rivers, lakes and streams are being fouled by bad farming practices and insensitive corporate farming," Mr. Taylor says.

"Fonterra must do more to turn things around and make hard decisions for the future. The bottom line is there are too many cows and herd numbers need to be cut until they are in balance with the environment.

"Other equally aggressive measures also need to be taken, including protecting small streams and reducing the volume of nutrients being dumped on our soils."

Martin Taylor says every New Zealander is now watching how Fonterra will clean up dairying.

"The simple truth is that there's no room in this economically important industry for environmentally damaging farms. There never was, yet Fonterra has continued to take their milk," Mr. Taylor says.

"It's time to shut the gate on them."

FONTERRA CONFIRMS INDUSTRIAL DAIRYING NOW UNSUSTAINABLE **Media Release – Fish And Game NZ**

Fish & Game is welcoming Fonterra's first ever sustainability report in 16 years on its environmental performance, saying it shows the corporate dairy giant is scrambling to respond to public demand for better water quality.

Fonterra says its just-released report demonstrates a “new level of openness” and recognises people are concerned about the impact it is having on the environment.

But Fish & Game’s chief executive Martin Taylor says it just reinforces the status quo and is too little, too late.

“Fonterra’s sudden acknowledgement that it needs to operate sustainably and environmentally is long overdue,” Mr. Taylor says.

“This company has been around for 16 years and in that time we have seen cow numbers soar, irrigation explode and water quality plummet. Fonterra’s failure to address these issues sooner means dairying as it exists at the moment is unsustainable.”

Martin Taylor says Fonterra needs to take hard decisions, now.

“Single handedly, Fonterra has badly hurt New Zealand’s clean, green image. Only recently we have seen this country described by leading British environmentalist Sir Tim Smit as being like a beautiful person with cancer,” Mr. Taylor says.

“The environmental damage caused by industrial farming will harm marketing opportunities for billion dollar industries like tourism, beef and lamb farmers, apple growers, kiwi fruit orchardists and vineyards. Why should these people be paying the cost of the environmental damage caused by a few thousand dairy farmers?”

“Make no mistake, the present dire situation has been caused by Fonterra’s single minded focus on increased production at all costs, aided and abetted by weak regional councils.”

Martin Taylor says Fonterra is now confronting a major change in direction.

“If Fonterra is sincere about reversing dairy’s environmental impact, it must accept its present farming model is unsustainable and that dairying must pay for the cost of cleaning up its pollution. The only way forward is fewer cows, less water use and less environmental harm,” he says.

Martin Taylor says Fonterra’s sudden scramble to acknowledge New Zealanders’ concerns over the state of their rivers and lakes shows people power at work.

“New Zealanders are fed up with the fall in water quality and that’s why it became one of this election’s defining issues. Public anger is now at a level where Fonterra’s social licence to operate was under serious threat

“Public patience has run out and the corporate dairy industry is now trying to catch up and rescue its credibility.”

RIVER RESTORATION PROJECT NEAR PRISON SUPPORTED BY WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Media Release – Environment Waikato – 20/12/2017

Prisoners will be growing and planting eco-sourced trees for a project given \$126,750 by Waikato Regional Council's Natural Heritage Fund.

Project Tongariro will be given the money over three years for restoration planting along the Waiootaka River, which flows mainly across Department of Corrections land.

The Waiootaka River Restoration Project aims to restore ecologically appropriate vegetation – alluvial kahikatea, mataī, tōtara and ribbonwood forest, and small areas of wetland vegetation – within the Waiootaka River riparian corridor. Currently the river margins are infested with crack willow, blackberry and other weeds.

Project Tongariro plans to work with Rongomai Marae and Tongariro Prison, with the prison producing eco-sourced trees for the project and the labour to plant most of the trees.

The weed control will be done by the Department of Corrections and professional contractors, and Project Tongariro will also coordinate community planting days with Ngati Rongomai.

The restoration will help improve the water quality of the Waiootaka River and Lake Taupō by creating a wide indigenous vegetation buffer, and ensure access to the river for the public.

The project complements historic willow control works undertaken by the council 8-10 years ago.

The grant is one of three Natural Heritage Fund applications approved by the finance committee at its December meeting. Mahakirau Forest Estate Society Inc was given \$154,990 over four years for predator control work and Waikato Raupatu River Trust/Nikau Whanau Trust was given \$84,000 towards the purchase of 13 hectares of the Matahuru Wetland at Lake Waikare.

Finance committee chairperson Jane Hennebry said Project Tongariro is a large, well-supported community group with an excellent track record of managing significant natural areas in the Tongariro-Taupō region.

“They have strong conservation ethics, and they inspire New Zealanders and visitors to connect with the land,” Cr Hennebry said.

The Natural Heritage Fund has been in place since 2005 and is derived from the natural heritage targeted rate of \$5.80 per property. The total amount allocated per year to the fund varies but is usually around \$730,000.



A prime Lake Aniwhenua Brown Trout. Spotted, stalked, and caught in less than 2 feet of water. Photo courtesy of Phil Gates.

CREASY'S COLUMN - BY HUGH CREASY

At nightfall the buzz begins. Hunger and the need to find mates drives the noisy horde. They come to the surface of the soil, wing cases open and they take flight. Brown beetles, the adult form of grass grub, are on their mating flights. The pasture near the river is riven with chewed out patches along a narrow strip where poisons dropped to control their numbers have not reached. There is a new moon, a thin crescent of light throwing a reflection on the water, and it is this reflected light that draws the beetles to the river. They come in their thousands and the river boils with rising fish. It is a feast for the fish, many of them regaining condition after a hard winter over the redds. Near dawn the beetles fly to a nearby orchard where they chew on leaf and developing fruit and absorb poisons recently sprayed to protect the fruit. The damage they do is minimal before they fall to the ground, dead.

In the river, trout are bloated, bellies bulging from a few hours feasting. An early morning hatch of caddis fails to tempt them, and an angler's fly, cast to tempt a rise, is ignored. By late morning the trout are hungry once more. In stark contrast to the night's feasting, a flight of ants chasing a queen draws fish to the surface, each tiny morsel barely enough to compensate for the energy required to capture it. The angler casts a Black Gnat dry, and though its body size is twice that of an ant, the fly is taken with a hungry lunge.

During the afternoon there are midge hatches in the shallows and in the biggest pools, and in backwaters. In a rapid where patches of still water formed behind the largest boulders, bloodworms twist in the mud. These haemoglobin-filled larvae of midges are an energy boost to trout – a protein jolt in a small package.

In spring and early summer Dobson-fly larvae are maturing, and these voracious giants of the insect world are eagerly taken in the evening. Where clean water flows, mayflies survive, perhaps remnant populations surviving near springs bubbling through gravels on the river bed. On some of the most fouled rivers there are still hatches of mayflies – much reduced but surviving. Where water runs clean and clear, the hatches are huge, with flotillas of tiny insects riding the river and taking off on their mating flights.

Here the trout are selective and the angler has to match the hatch. Flies as small as #18 are cast to rising fish, and when the mayflies have mated and their bodies litter the water, a parachute-hackled fly imitates the drifting spinners. The evening hours drift by and the angler is lost in a quest to imitate nature. In the deep south, where daylight lasts till near midnight, it is fatigue that drives him from the river. But he will return again and again, never sated by fish caught. Fish on the bank mean little, the hunt becomes the motive, and the adrenalin rush of success.



Night falls, and the heat of the day gives way to cooler air. In the paddocks beside the river, there is movement. Porina grubs have transitioned into moths and they join the brown beetles in flight. The moon rises and its reflection draws the insects to the water. Some are faulty fliers and they fall to water, others hit the water while seeking light. The huge moths make tempting targets, and trout leap from the water to take them in mid-air.

Under the surface of the riffles and runs, caddis are stirring. Hard cased, net-building and free-swimming, they come in all varieties, and the river becomes a veritable soup of moving insect life. In the air a morepork glides in silent flight, its crop stuffed with moths.

When daylight comes an angler approaches the river. Ignorant of the night-time activities on the river he casts a hopeful nymph to shadowy shapes lying on the bottom of a promising run. His nymph is ignored. He casts again and again, to no avail.

A change of fly may work. A weighty nymph, with glittery bits and a gold bead-head should tempt any self-respecting fish into a strike. It doesn't but the fish quivers with suspicion. Another cast and the fish will be put down. The angler moves on. He casts to

more fish, with no result. As the sun moves higher the fish move to cover, and the angler gives up in disgust and puzzlement at his lack of success. It's a blank day.

Over a few drinks with his mates that afternoon, the angler bemoans his lack of success. Many theories are put forward as to why the fish would not take a fly. Phases of the moon were possible reasons, barometric pressure another. Lack of skill was teased out and proffered to much protestation.

A Woolly Bugger on a sinking line would have provoked a strike, said one. And he was probably closer to the truth than any of them.

But the simple reason was that the fish had had a gutsful.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Thank you.

Thank you to everyone who has sent in photos, articles, fishing reports, and feedback. Without your help the job of producing this Newsletter would be so much harder.

And a very special thank you to Ian Hunt and his Father Stu. Thank you for all those years ago treating a shy little 7 year old as a genuine customer, giving freely of your time and your knowledge and so helping to instill a love of fishing that has helped shape my life.

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.

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

NORTH SHORE FLYFISHERS EXECUTIVE

Club Patron – Dave McLellan

President - Dave Symes	486-6257	Takapuna	dssymes@xtra.co.nz	
Secretary - Dennis Smith	376-3375	Herne Bay	de.smith@xtra.co.nz	
Treasurer - John Cuthbertson	413-6993	Greenhithe	john.cuthbe@gmail.com	
Magazine - Duncan Frew	021 648 956	Torbay	iconpromote@gmail.com	
Committee - Leon Bathurst	0272 588 824	Takapuna	borntobuild@hotmail.co.nz	
Members Ron Blair	09 834 8841	Te Atatu	ron.blair@xtra.co.nz	
	John Dernie	0272 288 616	Glenfield	dernie@xtra.co.nz
	Trevor Jones	09 817 1026	Titirangi	tfjones.family@gmail.com
	Mike Martindale	489 1082	Takapuna	miketmartindale@gmail.com
	Faith Moon	027 538 1040	Parnell	faith.moon@xtra.co.nz
	Maurice Parlane	021 650 692	Northcote	maurice.p@newwayz.co.nz

North Shore Flyfishers Incorporated: P.O. Box 31-387, Milford, North Shore City