



# *THE FLYFISHER NEWSLETTER*

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January - 2019

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## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

No report from Dave this month. He is having a well-earned holiday and is out fishing at Great Barrier.

## **FISHING REPORT**

### **Auckland / Waikato**

Two recent visits to the Waipa tributaries have given two very different reports. The first was several days after the recent big rains and the river was running high and green but very fishable. The technique that worked on this day was Czech Nymphing with heavy 'bombs' into the deeper pools. A week later and the river had dropped down to that 'perfect' summer height and was much clearer. The result being that while some still took the Czech set up most much preferred the Dry and Dropper rig.

Also, some cool news, the first Cicadas of the season were out and about down there so it shouldn't be long until the fish tune into them and start looking up in a big way.

So if you are heading down that way:

River up and coloured – go for a Big Hare & Copper (size 10 with a 4mm + bead)

River low and clear – small (size 16) Pheasant Tail variant nymph underneath a Cicada dry fly pattern.

### **Rotorua**

Lake Rotorua is hot and getting hotter. This means one thing, the Trout will head to the cold water flowing into the Lake at all the stream mouths. If you are heading down there then try sleeping in and doing some family stuff early then hit the stream mouths once the heat of the day takes hold.



*Also Russell has been hitting Lake Rotoiti with his jigging set up and as can be seen from this photo the proof is in the catching. The season started off a bit slow but it seems to be in full flow down there now. Photo courtesy of Russell Nelson.*

## **Taupo Region**

With the silly season over and done with for another year "the river" is slowly returning to normal as far as angler numbers is concerned.

Just before Christmas we had some pretty active thunderstorms and the resulting downpours must have affected some off the streams way up in the headwaters because up until yesterday morning the Tongariro was still running a little murky. The same thing happened around April last year and the fine sediment brought down then took ages to "drop out."

You can see it again along the margins and no matter how carefully you wade you'll kick up clouds of the stuff when you're fishing.

A little color in the water usually helps but the fish don't seem to like this stuff and at one time even wet-liners were finding it hard going.

Now that things have finally settled back the fishing has gradually improved again, particularly the last seven days.

That improvement in the fishing came just in time because one of my Christmas presents this year was a visit from one of my brothers.

Dave manages a window manufacturing company in Johannesburg and has been with them ever since he emigrated over twenty five years ago. I hadn't seen him for around 14 years so the few days we had together was a very special time for us both. Bro had never fly-fished in his life but he likes dressing up and at least looked the part in his Simms gear. We started off in Judges which has been a pretty safe bet lately if you can get in there first. And on the way down overtook a guide with his client who was also heading for the pool. We were just about to start fishing when they arrived and after a quick chat to sort out who was going where they jumped in at the head and we fished a little further down. Dave hooked up within ten minutes but lost the first couple and it wasn't until we returned there later that morning that we got the pic of him holding one in the net.

The river is chokka with parr, and juvenile trout making their way to the lake. And at times it's almost as if they're lining up to grab your flies.

But they're not the only ones lining up.

Shags can be seen resting in between hunting forays all along the river, seemingly keen to feed up on these smaller trout. They usually swallow these underwater but you'll occasionally see them surface holding larger fish in their bills.

They'll either take these back to shore or swallow them head first as they continue

downstream. Because of this most anglers have a built in dislike of shags. Yet studies suggest they don't have a significant impact on the trout population in the Taupo fishery, preferring instead other small fish and koura. But I doubt those findings will alter the views of the majority of Tongariro anglers.



It's a long time since we had a really good fresh and the rocks and stones are covered in slippery brown algae and weed.

This makes wading tricky and you have to be careful if you don't want to take an unplanned dip. Although with the hot weather we've enjoyed lately it doesn't seem such a bad idea in summer. On the plus side, as I mentioned a couple of posts ago, because the river-bed hasn't been "turned over" there's an abundance of insect life in the river at the moment.

Most days there's some sort of hatch going on and with insect activity right through the water column hanging a nymph or two under the dry can be really effective now. Especially if that dry also doubles as a cicada imitation.

Although we haven't had huge amounts of rain the combination of showers and warm temperatures we experienced for part of December encouraged the first of this year's cicadas to emerge.



The hot sunny days this week have triggered even more of them to begin the final part of their life cycle. And along the tracks you'll see the papery husks left behind by the emerging adults. From an angling point of view we've had "the perfect storm" this week because the gusty winds sparked off by the heat of the day have caused many of these big insects to be knocked out of the trees or blown off course and a lot of them end up in the river.

So from now on it's well worth fishing a cicada pattern with or without a dropper below it.



But gusty winds not only affect cicadas. My other visitors this week were Derek and his wife Heather. I hadn't fished with him for a while and since then he'd introduced his poor wife to the sport as well. But his clever ploy backfired because not only did she out fish him but in his haste to catch more than her he got a bit sloppy with his back cast in the wind and hooked himself in the head!

We headed upriver because they hadn't fished there before. I expected the fishing to be a lot tougher there than it actually was but the TRB upriver hasn't had as much attention lately as the true left and we landed and lost some reasonable fish whenever the juveniles didn't spot our flies first.

Thinking about it some of the fish lower down have been pretty good for the time of year as well. Especially around town when fishing small nymphs on the lighter gear. But I'm still waiting for my first "proper" brown from here this year ... although we did spot a pig of a fish in "an impossible to get at lie" on the way upriver on Saturday.

Just about any small nymph you tie on will work. But it's a good idea to check them between casts because you may find they've acquired a weed tail when you're fishing near the bottom.

More hot days forecast for the foreseeable future with the odd shower here and there which should keep the cicadas coming until their numbers peak. The noise levels have increased significantly the last few days and there's an almost continuous wall of sound coming from the forest near our home most mornings. Once the wind picks up they tend to quieten down but it's shaping up to be a good year for them.

Tight lines guys, and a late Happy New Year – Mike - [www.tongariroffishingguide.co.nz](http://www.tongariroffishingguide.co.nz)  
7/01/2019

### **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.

### **2018/19 SUBS ARE NOW OVERDUE**

2018/19 subscriptions are now due. If you would like to continue your NSFF Club membership please make your payment to the Club ASAP. The following payment options are available:

- internet banking to the Club's bank account: North Shore Flyfishers Incorporated ASB A/c #: 12-3209-0190179-00 (please include your name or membership number 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
- payment in person to John Cuthbertson (Club Treasurer) at one of the next two Club nights.

You must be a paid up member of the Club to go on Club sponsored trips or participate in tuition activities. Please pay promptly to avoid disappointment.

The 2018/19 subscriptions are as follows: Adult membership \$60, Junior (under 18 years) \$30, and Family (up to 2 adults and 2 children) \$90.

### **QUOTABLE QUOTES**

*The perch swallows the grub-worm, the pickerel swallows the perch, and the fisherman swallows the pickerel; and so all the chinks in the scale of being are filled.*

*Henry David Thoreau 1817-1862, American Essayist, Poet, Naturalist*

### **LAST CLUB NIGHT**

Last month we had our Christmas function and Casting Competition. It was a very enjoyable evening and thank you to all.

Special thanks need to be given to the following:

**Fish City Albany** – Brendan very generously donated a \$75.00 Voucher as a prize for the Accuracy part of the Casting Comp. If you are looking for a new Sage or Scott Fly Rod, a new flyline, or some Simms Waders and Boots then drop in and ask Brendan. He will look after you.

Also if you are thinking about getting a new boat drop in and have a chat to Russell. He has a variety of options there for you to check out.  
(This was won by Dennis Smith)

**Hunting & Fishing North Shore** – Yoshi kindly donated 2 Fly Boxes for the Distance part of the Casting Comp. Again, Yoshi has a good range of Sage, Simms, Scott and Airflo gear. Drop in there and Yoshi will look after you.  
(This was won by Simon Hoole)

**I Love Flyfishing** – Barrie kindly donated a \$50.00 Voucher prize for the Skagit section of the Casting Comp. Barries website has a huge range of his own I Love Fly Fishing gear as well as other brands. Surf onto it and Barrie will look after you.  
(This was won by Mike Martindale)

Also, all the rods, reels, and lines used in the Competition were provided by I Love Flyfishing, and thanks to Barrie and Simon for their assistance with running the Competition and to Meinrad Rohrs for helping out with the Distance Comp.

## **NEXT CLUB NIGHT – NO MEETING IN JANUARY**

### **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...

<b>Name</b>	<b>Availability</b>	<b>Contact Details</b>
Ron Blair	Anytime, has a 14.4 Marco with 60hp etc Evenrude for serious fishing Salt or Fresh	home 09 834 8841 mobile 0275 006 336 <a href="mailto:ron.blair@xtra.co.nz">ron.blair@xtra.co.nz</a>
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 <a href="mailto:email-lloyd@skysupply.co.nz">email-lloyd@skysupply.co.nz</a>
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 <a href="mailto:john@st-classic.com">john@st-classic.com</a>
John Rust	Anytime. Keen to give it a crack.	021 648 991



Barry Schultz

[joan10@live.com](mailto:joan10@live.com)

09 415 4919

Has a 551 MacLay with a 90hp  
merc used mostly for SW fishing.

09 4159692

e-mail [bardot@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bardot@xtra.co.nz)

Also a 6.5 mtr motorhome that  
provides transport, accommodation  
& meals etc. whilst camped riverside  
or beach front, plus is currently  
being fitted out to carry a three person  
inflatable with a 4 hp motor.

Prefer weekdays or multi day trips away in the motorhome.

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](mailto:iconp@ihug.co.nz)

### **CASTING TUITION**

This summer we are once again having Casting Tuition / Practice on the grass area outside the Milford Cruising Club. It will run from 6.30pm onwards. The best possible thing to do with casting tuition / practice 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.

### **WHY WE FISH**

*Fly-fishing is a magic way to recapture the rapture of solitude without the pangs of loneliness.*

*John Voelker (Supreme Court Judge) aka Robert Travers*

### **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](http://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.

## **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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:john.cuthbe@gmail.com) .

## **ROD & GUNN TROPHY**

This Club Competition takes place over two legs, the **Stillwater Comp.** and the **River Comp.**

The Stillwater part of the Competition was held in the Rotorua district at the end of November and the fishing was very hard! But for one dedicated man determined perseverance paid off and Warren Derick took out the day and so won the I Love Flyfishing Stillwater Trophy.



Warren is making a habit of this and is the current holder of the Clubs Saltwater title as well!

*Club President  
Dave Symes  
awarding the I  
Love Flyfishing  
Stillwater Trophy  
to Warren Derrick.  
Photo courtesy of  
Andrew  
MacPherson.*

## **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.

## **NGONGOTAHA / ROTORUA CLUB TRIP**

Next year's February Trip to fish the Ngongotaha River and the Rotorua region is 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 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 weather wizards are predicting a hot summer and that bodes well for this Trip. When Lake Rotorua heats up all the fish in the lake gather at the stream mouths where the cold river water of the streams hits the warm water of the lake. When this happens the fishing can be absolutely dynamic. Also, when the lake heats up a certain proportion of the fish will move up the cold water tributaries themselves and as the Ngongotaha River is a 2 minute walk out the back of our lodge accommodation we are well placed for some great fishing.

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

- payment in person to John Cuthbertson (Club Treasurer) at one of the next two Club nights.

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



*Theres gold in them thar waters. 9pds of beautiful Brown Trout taken in the Ngongotaha.  
Why don't you come on the Trip and see for yourself.*

### **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](mailto:dssymes@xtra.co.nz)).



## **JOKE OF THE MONTH**

A doctor that had been seeing an 80-year-old woman for most of her life finally retired. At her next check-up, the new doctor told her to bring a list of all the medicines that had been prescribed for her. As the doctor was looking through these his eyes grew wide as he realized Grandma had a prescription for birth control pills.

"Mrs. Smith, do you realize these are birth control pills?"

"Yes, they help me sleep at night."

"Mrs. Smith, I assure you there is absolutely nothing in these that could possibly help you sleep!"

She reached out and patted the young doctor's knee and said, "Yes, dear, I know that. But every morning, I grind one up and mix it in the glass of orange juice that my 16-year-old Granddaughter drinks. And believe me it definitely helps me sleep at night."

You gotta love Grandmas!

## **AUCKLAND/WAIKATO REEL LIFE NOVEMBER 2018**

### **Best Way To Catch Trout Over The Holidays?**

This question normally provokes an "it depends" response from experienced anglers.

The first rule during the holiday period is to avoid warm water or fish the white water.

When our rivers heat up, fish will move to oxygenated water or move to cooler streams altogether so the best way to avoid frustration is to carry a thermometer.

Once you have a location in mind choosing the method depends heavily on the type of water.

When it comes to clear streams a skilled fly angler can be deadly on trout even compared to a soft bait angler.

The ability to match what the fish are feeding on and present it in a natural drift gives fly anglers the advantage in clear water hands down.



But when it comes to our larger streams it is hard to outperform softbaits in large slow pools where it's difficult to present a fly.

The Waikato hydro lakes are another excellent spot to catch trout over the holidays, and thanks to the diligent work of the Te Awamutu Fish & Game Club during the past 16 years, we can tell you exactly how to catch trout in Lake Arapuni.

The club holds an annual fishing contest and has records on catch rates dating back to 2002.

You can catch fish using just about any legal method you can think of in Lake Arapuni including: bait, fly, jigging, spin fishing or trolling from a boat.

The two standouts in terms of catch rates are shallow trolling (Tasmanian devil or Kilwell toby) and spin fishing (soft baits). Both methods are extremely effective but if you're lucky enough to have a boat try both.

### **Lakes Water Quality Hits New Low**

Lake Ngaroto just north of Te Awamutu was once a popular sailing, duck shooting and fishing lake for the local community.



*Lake Ngaroto - Photo NZ Landcare Trust*

Unfortunately, water quality in the lake has been declining and the District Health Board has issued a cyanobacterial health warning.

Like Lake Waikare, the water is so toxic that it's recommended that lake users shower and change their clothing as soon as possible after contacting the water.

Lake Ngaroto has a dairy-dominated catchment that will be covered by Waikato Regional Council's Plan Change 1 that aims to improve water quality by limiting pollution from land use.

## **EASTERN REEL LIFE NOVEMBER 2018**

### **Browns In 'Top Shape' Gathering At Lake Rotorua Stream Mouths**

Changeable conditions over the last month, including some heavy rains and cooler periods, have slowed the lakes' natural summer warming.

*Right: Anglers enjoying some fine sunny weather on Lake Tarawera.*

Surface temperatures hit 20C late in November but have generally been cooler.

However deeper water temperatures are on a par with last season, so we should see the formation of a thermocline over the next month.

Currently trout are well spread through the water column and are being seen actively smelting on the surface early in the morning and late afternoon or evening.

Some large pods of smelt can be seen at various depths on most of the Rotorua lakes and trout are actively feeding upon them.

Anglers harling smelt patterns early and late in the day, and fishing with deeper methods in between should be successful.

Waikaremoana shoreline angling has been productive recently. The lake level is low but brown trout are cruising in pursuit of food items.

Rainbows, from deeper water are also being caught but aren't in great condition currently.

Lake Rotorua's stream mouths are attracting the annual run of brown trout including some impressively-conditioned fish in excess of 3kg.

The Ngongotaha and Waiteti streams mouths, which are open to both fly and spin methods, are a great place to chase one of these lunkers.

### **Eastern News Tippets:**

- Do you keep a diary of your angling trips? We'd love to hear how you're getting on. Click <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QRSD7D3> to enter your Eastern Fish



& Game fishing diary info and you could win a \$100 voucher to spend at the Kilwell web site.

- A reminder on soft baits. Scented soft baits, including any that include “attractant,” are not permitted except waters where ‘bait fishing is allowed’. So, on the Rotorua lakes only unscented soft baits are allowed.
- In December the Ngongotaha hatchery released “jumbo” fish from one of its display ponds to Lake Rotorua to allow routine cleaning and maintenance. Many of the 200 brown and rainbow trout released were in excess of 5kg, and some more than 10kg!



*Mark Sherburn with one of the hefty fish from the display pond.*

### **Respect The River – Know The Risks**

With holidays ahead, it's well worth a look at Mercury Energy's timely reminder on water safety:

With summer here, we're thinking about long days boating, fishing, or cooling off in New Zealand's beautiful rivers and lakes.

It's also time to remind ourselves and our friends and family of some of the simple rules to keep us river-safe. Sadly, more people drown in rivers than in any other aquatic environment in New Zealand. Too many lives have been lost.

Rivers are changeable and contain hidden dangers

- Don't take anything for granted. The bank, riverbed and water flow might have changed, and there could be hidden dangers such as submerged objects.
- Keep away from dams and other structures – apart from the agreed sign-posted fishing spots. It is illegal to operate boats or swim within 200m of any hydro structure. There are strong currents and suction effects. Water levels and flows can change significantly throughout the day and massive flows may be released at any time.



- New Zealand's rivers are powerful, and swimmers often overestimate their abilities. Even if the river looks slow moving and calm, the pressure of moving water is constant and can be powerful.

Never enter a river alone. If in doubt stay out. Tell someone when you are going and when you expect to return.

*Happy fishing and stay safe!*



*Roy with a fantastic fat Big O Brownie taken sight fishing in the shallows. It tipped the scales at 9pds and must have given a hell of a fight in that shallow water! Photo courtesy of Roy Richardson.*



## **KIDNEY FAILURE-CAUSING PATHOGEN FOUND IN THREE CANTERBURY RIVERS**

*From the tvnz.co.nz website 19/12/2018, but originally by **By Kate Gudsell** - rnz.co.nz*

Scientific testing of three rivers in Canterbury has revealed strains of a severe pathogen which can cause kidney failure and, possibly for the first time, antibiotic resistant E. coli.

The independent testing commissioned by Fish and Game has raised red flags for public health officials who say that it needs more investigation. Samples were collected from above and below the biggest farms - all dairy - on the Ashley, Selwyn and Rangitata rivers in May and September and independently tested by Massey University's Institute of Agriculture and Environment.

Fish and Game commissioned the testing after anglers started questioning whether they could get infected from the river pollution and large numbers of dairy cows in Canterbury.

The findings showed the presence of an antibiotic-resistant E. coli and another dangerous strain of the bacteria called Shiga toxin-producing E. coli (STEC).

The two most common E. coli found in the testing come only from ruminants such as cows.

Fish and Game chief executive Martin Taylor said the first tests were so alarming it commissioned a second round to confirm the findings. It showed the contamination of Canterbury waterways was primarily due to intensive dairy farming, he said. "The results indicate swimming in these rivers could be like playing Russian roulette with the health of you and your family," he said.

University of Otago professor of public health Michael Baker said STEC produced a toxin which could make you ill even if you swallowed only a few organisms.

The bacteria was almost absent from New Zealand 25 years ago, but the number of cases had risen rapidly in the last three years. In the last 12 months around 750 people had become sick around the country, and Dr Baker said it was particularly common in young children living in rural areas.

"This is one of the most severe forms of diarrhoeal disease you can get in New Zealand."

He said the bacteria was a serious worry for New Zealand.

Dr Baker said about a quarter of people who got infected were hospitalised and about 10 percent would get haemolytic uraemic syndrome which damaged kidneys, particularly in children.

"Some of these children infected will need renal dialysis and it can have long-term effects," he said.

He is recommending people to take precautions if they go swimming, such as not putting their heads under water.

Canterbury District Health Board clinical microbiologist Josh Freeman said the tests raised some red flags. "We know that these bacteria can cause infections in humans and the fact that they appear, on the face of it, to be so common in these waterways certainly raises concerns that people may obviously be exposed to these organisms and become sick."

He said to his knowledge, it was the first time antibiotic resistant genes had been found in water in New Zealand and this needed to be investigated further because they could spread and make their way into hospitals.

Mr Taylor said the proper authorities urgently needed to undertake more testing to establish the extent of the problem, along with action to ensure people were kept safe.

Canterbury Regional Council said it was committed to working with other organisations, including Fish and Game, to protect and improve water quality.

It said its weekly recreational water quality monitoring, which included sites on the Ashley and Selwyn rivers, showed they were safe to swim.

Environment Minister, David Parker, told Morning Report since last year's Havelock North Water Inquiry, the government has worked on upgrading the testing of drinking water.

But he said dairy and beef cattle remain a significant part of the problem.

"In parts of New Zealand the level of intensity of farming in close proximity to waterways has gone too far and has caused these adverse effects.

"I was visiting a catchment where a group of farmers were coming together to try and help fix the problem, but I was told by the regional council that 90 percent of the farmers in the area were fully in compliance with their resource consents and plan rules, and despite that there were problems, which shows that tightening the rules is part of the answer."

Dr Parker said the ministry's Essential Freshwater Taskforce is working towards making a 'noticeable difference' in waterways.

"There'll be an updated national policy statement, plus a national environment standard which will have rules around some of the riskier practices.

"Part of the problems are some pretty aggressive farming practices in some parts of the country. Most farmers are up for improving these things, but there are some who are laggards and those laggards have to effectively be forced to comply with the law.

"[Just] changing the law doesn't fix the problem, you've actually got to have a change in land use practice on the land, which is causing the problem. On that I thought that the Fish and Game's (response) was of a different tone than it was a year ago, reflecting the fact that, a lot of the farm leaders, not all of the farm leaders, but a lot of the farm leaders have actually recognised that this problem has got too bad and they are up for the land use change."

Dr Parker said over time, he believes the type of land use near waterways will change.

"One of the ways we want to encourage that is to go to higher value land uses rather than cause the economy to tank, whilst meeting the environmental bottom line.

"In some parts of South Canterbury for example ... you will see, I think over time, movement back into mixed farming, including cropping, in some areas horticulture, which per hectare of land farmed are actually higher returning."

**- By Kate Gudsell - [rnz.co.nz](http://rnz.co.nz)**



*Leon Bathurst into another great fish on Lake Otamangakau. This one is straight off the shore of his campsite. Photo courtesy of Simon Hoole.*

## **CATFISH HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED IN LAKE ROTORUA IN THE LEAD UP TO CHRISTMAS**

Media Release – Fish And Game – 20/12/2018

*Right: The pest fish (photo Glen MacLean)*

This is particularly bad timing but confirms what we have considered ‘only a matter of time’ since they were discovered in Lake Rotoiti 18 months ago.



In the relatively short space of time since a weed harvester working in Te Weta Bay (Lake Rotoiti) revealed several catfish in its payload of aquatic weed, catfish have spread their range through Okere Arm and into the Ohau Channel connecting Lake Rotoiti to Rotorua.

Fyke netting surveys by a Bay of Plenty Regional Council contractor caught six catfish by Mokoia Island within Lake Rotorua on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December.

Catfish are likely to thrive within the shallow, weed bed-rich environment of Lake Rotorua and compete with trout and other species for a rich food source of bullies, koura and invertebrates.

Fish & Game advises any anglers, boaties and general public to be acutely aware of the need to Check, Clean and Dry fishing gear and boats between waterways to ensure these pests are not spread from one to another.

If people are looking to get involved in the ‘Catfish Control Programme’ please contact William Anaru at Te Arawa Lakes Trust in Rotorua.

The success of these programmes requires a coordinated approach and will provide advice and information to ensure that other pests and catfish are not further spread through poor control practices.

Fyke nets are extremely hard to clean of weed fragments that may also contain catfish eggs.

## **COUNCILS WORK TOGETHER TO REGENERATE LOCAL WATERWAYS**

Media Release – Environment Bay Of Plenty – 19/12/2018

High priority works to improve stream health and repair erosion damage are progressing on several streams in the Rotorua area.

Bay of Plenty Regional Council has been stabilising stream banks with rock armouring, re-establishing trout habitats and has planted more than 700 native plants to help regenerate the Ngongotaha Stream after a severe weather event caused significant erosion along its banks last April.

“We expect to complete repairs at five separate erosion sites on the Ngongotahā Stream before Christmas,” said Bay of Plenty Regional Council Area Engineer Kerry Smith.

Mr. Smith said that his team has also just finished repairs on the Utuhina and Puarenga streambanks with the placement of 700 tonnes of rock armouring.

It is expected they would use 600 tonnes regenerate the Ngongotahā Stream too, he said.

Rock armouring will strengthen and stabilise the local stream banks which can be fragile due to the light pumice and soft soils that are present naturally. Grass and native plants will be added once the rock armouring sites have settled.

As a part of this work, Regional Council has been collaborating with Rotorua Lakes Council on stream erosion repairs. This includes identifying opportunities to repair significant erosion sites on stream banks that impact properties, reserves, walk and cycle ways.

Mr. Smith said that other work underway by Regional Council includes gathering cross-section survey data on the Ngongotahā Stream which began in the last few weeks.

Outcomes of the survey, which is due to be completed in January, will inform future flood modelling work and the development of options for engineered flood control mitigation.

“The cross-sectional survey involves measuring stream capacity and recording width, depth and bank height at 70 sites along the stream. That information can be used to model the impacts of different sized rainfall events on the catchment and help identify any places that stream banks are vulnerable to overtopping under different scenarios.

“It will provide information that councils and communities can use to explore options for mitigating flood risk from the Ngongotahā Stream,” he said.



Mr. Smith is asking locals who use the Ngongotahā Stream over summer to take care to avoid tripping on survey pegs and please leave any they find in place.

Rotorua Lakes Council Sports, Recreation and Environment Manager Rob Pitkethley said it had been really positive working with Regional Council to deliver a more coordinated and streamlined approach to stream bank damage besides waterways in the district.

“During this year our Open Spaces team has helped to identify issues like erosion and by working with the team at Regional Council we have had more of an opportunity to enhance our natural environment, improve the adjoining recreational spaces and connect with the neighbouring communities,” he said.

"Erosion control, tree removal and plant management or restorative planting is something that both Councils can work on together to proactively improve the outcomes for our community." Councils work together to regenerate local waterways.



*Ron with a nice Rainbow that followed him home for dinner. Lake Otamangakau can be cold and daunting but it can also be absolutely beautiful and full of promise. Photo courtesy of Ron Blair.*

## **WATER POLLUTION IS NOW NEW ZEALANDERS' NUMBER ONE CONCERN**

Media Release – Fish & Game NZ – 2/01/2019

Pollution of our rivers and lakes is worrying New Zealanders more than any other issue, according to just-released public opinion poll results.

The findings are revealed in a nation-wide Colmar Brunton poll conducted for Fish & Game New Zealand in December.

People were asked how concerned they were about a range of issues, including the cost of living, health system, child poverty and water pollution.

Pollution of rivers and lakes was the top concern, with 82 percent saying they are extremely or very concerned about the issue. Only four percent said they were not that concerned.

The cost of living is New Zealanders' number two concern, with 80 percent saying they are extremely or very concerned.

The health system was third with 78 percent, followed by child poverty 72 percent, education and climate change both on 70 percent and housing 67 percent.

Fish & Game New Zealand chief executive Martin Taylor says the survey's findings show the depth of feeling New Zealanders have about their rivers, lakes and streams.

"Kiwis are extremely worried that they are losing their ability to swim, fish and gather food from their rivers, lakes and streams," Mr. Taylor says.

"People see those activities as their birth right but over the last 20 years, that right is being lost because the level of pollution in waterways has increased as farming intensifies.

This is the second year Colmar Brunton has conducted the survey for Fish and Game. Last year, water pollution was in second place with 75 percent of people expressing concern.

Martin Taylor says big agriculture and local government should take note of the fact that the issue is now Kiwi's top concern.

"While many farmers do understand the need for action and are making the necessary changes to how they use their land, there are still significant numbers who are refusing to follow their example," he says.

"These laggards are letting down the responsible farmers, undermining farming's reputation and exhausting the public's patience.

“They have to be made to change. This means regional and district councils have to toughen the rules, enforce them and stop making excuses for the environmentally destructive and irresponsible farmers in their areas,” Mr. Taylor says.

“More Kiwis than ever are now worried about their rivers and lakes.

“This opinion poll result shows they are fed up and want action on this issue.”

Note: The poll was conducted for Fish & Game New Zealand by Colmar Brunton from 5-12 December 2018. A thousand New Zealanders were surveyed and the results are nationally representative for age, gender and region. It has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.1 percent.

## **CREASY'S COLUMN**

*By Hugh Creasy*

Heat has gone from the day. Last rays of sunlight throw a golden glow over the water and a light chop pushes wavelets to the shore. Tori curses quietly. She's only wearing thigh waders and the chop is high enough to slop water onto her trousers. She's fishing a 6-weight, fast-sinking line with a 2-metre leader. A #8 dragonfly nymph imitation completes her outfit.

Earlier in the day, when the sun was on the water, she had spotted a channel in the weed beds that led to a drop-off about 20 metres from the shore. The whole shoreline looked fishy and insects were rising – dragonflies and damselflies darted in search of prey and mates. Gnats and midges clouded the surface and sandflies came out to feed.



Tori's cheeks and hands were spotted with their bites and she rubbed the back of her hand against the rough surface of her waders. The channel looked to be a strip of papa a few centimetres deep, and its light grey colour would contrast nicely with the dark green colouring of the nymph she would use.

Now it is time to see if her observations and planning are going to pay off. She lines up the channel with a tree outlined against the skyline on the opposite shore. When it grows dark she knows that if she casts towards that tree, her nymph will land in the channel. As darkness draws in she begins to cast and retrieve, only a short distance, and uses an overhand twist retrieve in short, jerky movements, imparting a realistic action to the nymph, and causing its hackle feathers to splay and flatten with every stroke of her fingers on the line.

Her hands are small, and after half a dozen coils of line are recovered she drops them to the water and continues her retrieve. Full darkness comes, and she lengthens her casts. As the nymph is now over deeper water she waits for her line to sink, a good half minute to

start, and after a few casts and retrieves, she gives it a full minute to sink, then begins the patient slow, jerky retrieve. On her longest cast there are only a few coils of line left on the reel as the line snakes out, and she knows her nymph is sinking over the drop-off. Patience is the key. With the rod tip held low, the line will drag through the channel, staying low and keeping the nymph low and outlined on the grey papa.

The weed beds are the food producers for trout and all the other creatures living in the lake. It is where phytoplankton populations use photosynthesis to regenerate and where crayfish, eels, trout, bullies and water boatmen feed on each other in the summer heat. While trout may retreat to cooler, deeper water to avoid the heat during the day, at night they hunt the shallows. From the deeper water they come, rising to hatching caddis and splashing on the surface. There are moths and beetles in the air, and midges in clouds that make breathing difficult. In low light, swallows swoop over the water and in darkness moreporks glide from tree to tree but rarely over the water.

Tori has been practising for this moment. She began under the tutelage of her father a couple of seasons ago. They practised casting at a local park, using the try line to the 22 metre mark to judge the length of their casts. They built power in their casts using the flex of their rods to achieve distance and accuracy. It took a lot of courage for a young woman to fly cast over grass with an audience of unsympathetic youths whose taunts turned to admiration when, after half a dozen false casts, she put a full flyline through the rings and dropped a fly on a target well past the 22 metre mark.

Casting in daylight was mastered, and she took small browns from the local rivers and streams with ease. Casting in darkness was a different matter.

“Keep your back cast high,” her father told her. “You might lose some distance, but that’s better than having a heavy nymph hit you on the back of the head when you cast forward.”

By stopping the back cast at 12 o’clock, she had the line going almost vertical before feeling the pull of the line and casting forward. She found she could cast from willow-covered banks using the same techniques, and she experimented with side-casts and roll-casts to get a fly into awkward spots. Timing was everything, just as it is with a tennis or golf stroke.

But this was her first time over big water, and it required restraint to cast to her feet before casting big distances. She learned to go slow. Lake fishing requires a wariness that is more acute than on a river. Trout in lakes cruise their feeding grounds and can come at you from any angle. By standing stock still you may have them passing you and you can drop a fly ahead of them. Patience can turn to boredom and carelessness. Discipline is required.

Tori has it all. It is fully dark. An hour passes. She casts once more and waits. Then, with fingers, plucking line she begins her retrieve. A sudden thump, the rod tip drops, the line tightens and she lifts to strike. In the distance white water breaks the darkness, a rainbow leaps and dances on the surface. The reward has come and with adrenaline streaming Tori fights her fish to the net.

## **EDITORS NOTE**

Happy New Year to everyone. Let's all make a joint New Year's resolution, go fishing more than last year!

## **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**

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