



THE FLYFISHER NEWSLETTER

September 2022

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

HOW I GOT STARTED

From time to time, I get asked how I got into this highly addictive sport of fly fishing. I suppose my first introduction, like many of us, was through reading various books on the subject and then “having a go”. My very first real fishing attempts targeted rudd in

Parkinson's lake at Waiuku using a fiberglass "Robin Hood" 2 piece rod and a level floating line and I was lucky enough to actually catch a couple which really stirred my interest and got me thinking of bigger and better things – like trout!

My best mate at the time had recently married and it turned out that his father-in-law, a retired flight lieutenant from the air force, was a lifelong angler who had also taken up fly fishing in his late teens. Needless to say we got on famously and in June of 1973 John arranged a trip to his beloved Tongariro River. We stayed at the Rainbow Motel at Tokaanu and before heading to the river, John, in his military way gave us a rundown on the etiquette of angling, the way to handle trout, the dangers of wading and how to spot likely lies (fish that is, not anglers' stories!). My mate and I drove down Graces Road and fished the Log Pool with our sinking lines and good old "red setter" flies. Conditions were absolutely perfect with no wind, only one or two other fishermen and a clearing river after an overnight fresh.

This was before most anglers had even heard of upstream nymphing so in accordance with John's instructions and copying the guys on the river, we rather crudely cast our sinking lines out across the current, let them swing around to straighten and then "knitted" them back slowly. On about the third or fifth retrieve, I felt a solid weight come onto my line and then the line was being peeled out of my hand until the reel took over with a resoundingly loud ratchet which turned all the heads on the river. I was into my very first trout and with an audience to boot! The fish put up a great fight including some aerial acrobatics before I was able to carefully ease it onto the bank and with shaking hands, administer the last rites with my priest. A beautiful 6 pound maiden hen rainbow, fresh from the lake and looking like it had been dipped in a chrome bath. That moment was the true start of my addiction.

Within an hour or so I had an almost identical fish lying by its side on the bank and my mate, who up to that point hadn't had a touch, asked if he could try the spot where I had been standing. With my "brace" of two lovely fish, I was more than happy to give him a go, particularly since it was his father-in-law who had organised the whole trip! I sat and watched him cast and retrieve a few times and then suggested that he move downstream just a bit further so that his fly would swing closer to an old willow stump caught up on a shingle bank in the middle of the river. On his next cast, the line bellied and it looked like he had hooked a snag that is until it started to peel line and head off downstream! He managed to follow some distance without taking a swim and slowly but surely, began to get line back onto the reel. He disappeared behind a clump of trees and within a few minutes I heard a triumphant bellow. I picked up my fish and gear and ran down to where he had beached his fish. A huge, spotted brown trout of exactly ten pounds! What an absolutely unbelievable introduction to fly fishing!

We had agreed with John to meet back at the motel for lunch and we were there at 12 o'clock sharp. He was most impressed with our punctuality but even more impressed when we opened the car boot to display our catch. He was quite simply staggered that two total novices could have such incredible luck. Needless to say, that evening saw more than a few celebratory toasts the results of which essentially put paid to any fishing the next day. John took us on several more trips after that one and we learned one or two new things every time.

Sadly, John passed away about thirty years ago but I will never forget his kindness and generosity and "getting me started".

See you all on club night.

Dave Symes -Club President.

FISHING REPORT

Auckland / Waikato

A lot of water opens back up again on the 1st of October and, if the weather plays ball, a lot of fish will be keenly feeding and once again quite naïve about fisher people throwing small bits of fluff in front of them.

If you do make an opening weekend trip somewhere please feel free to send me through a report and or photos.

Rotorua

The Rotorua Lakes will likewise be opening up again and the boat fishing should be good. Just remember the tributaries to Lake Rotorua are still closed until December 1st.

Taupo

Timing. It's all about timing. A recent visit saw several Club Members down there just as the 600+ Cumec flood hit. The only fishable rivers were the Waitahanui and the Hatepe. Fun was had, as always, but it was a bit frustrating to see the entire population of Turangi anglers all on the same small river at the same time, and to be catching only stale fish in the middle of spawning. Another group of Club Members were there last week and caught the rivers at a near perfect flow and with some nice fresh run fish thrown into the mix.

Flies of choice are still the trusty old Glo Bug for the nymphers.

Saltwater

Some interesting reports filtering in on the Salt Water scene. Results seem to be extremely varied, with one angler reporting Kahawai everywhere and easy to catch and others really struggling to connect. Personally I have seen some nice work ups not far off Waiake / Browns Bay but definitely out of reach of the shore based angler.

Fishy Tales

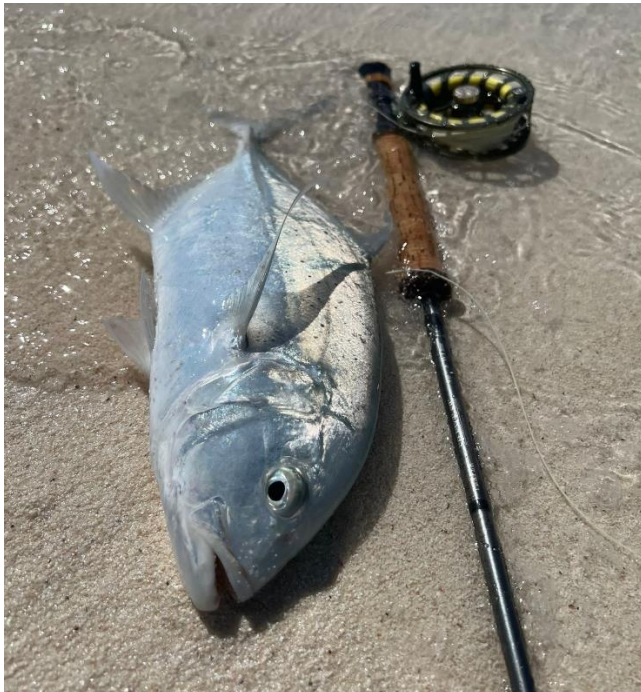
- If you do have a report, success story, or anecdote to share then just send it to iconpromote@gmail.com . Happy Fishing and Tight Lines – Freddy Da Fish.

LAST CLUB NIGHT

Last month we had Nigel Juby talking to us about a fishing road Trip. Thank you once again Nigel.

NEXT CLUB NIGHT – 20th SEPTEMBER 7.30 PM

This month we have our own Simon Hoole talking about his winter Trip to fish for Bonefish, Permit and Giant Trevally on Aitutaki in tropical sunshine. This is sure to be an interesting night and we look forward to seeing you there.



Just one of Simons Aitutaki stunners. Photo courtesy of Simon Hoole.

WHY WE FISH

In the name of sense, man, if God made fish to be eaten, what difference does it make if I enjoy the killing of them before I eat them? You would have none but a fisherman by trade do it, and then you would have him utter a sigh, a prayer, and a pious ejaculation at each cod or haddock that he killed.

W C Prime - I Go a-Fishing - 1873

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 Barrie Barnes by email, his email address is barrie@flyfishinginxs.kiwi .

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, has a 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.	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
Gary Bolstad	Keen to get out Stream, Lake or even Saltwater fly-fishing. Has both Fish & Game and Taupo season licences so keen to go almost anywhere. Retired so free to	Mobile 022 379 3070 gd.bolstad@gmail.com

Derek Robinson go most of the time.
Retired available most times keen to do Ph 4437311
Waikato streams and most other things. Mob: 0212 595 371
pamanddek@outlook.com

CLUB TROPHIES

Brown Trout Trophy – This is awarded to The Heaviest Brown Trout caught by a Club Member during the year – 1st April to 31st March. Current holder is **Fikrit Chinassi**.

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

Ian Hunt Memorial Trophy – Heaviest Trout caught fly-fishing by a Club Member during the Pupuke Challenge Competition. A competition run every year to promote the Lake Pupuke fishery. This was not held this year due to Covid lock down. Current holder is **Lucas Bathurst**.

I Love Flyfishing Trophy – Awarded to the Club Member who has caught the most species of Saltwater fish fly-fishing over the year – 1st April to 31st March. Current holder is **Johan Kok**.

Rodd And Gunn Trophy – This is the Club Competition which takes place over two days. One Day on a Lake and one day on a River. Current holder is **Johan Kok**.

The Lake part of the competition has its own Trophy, the **I Love Flyfishing Stillwater Trophy**. Current holder is **Meinrad Roehrs**.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

The fly angler who says they have never, ever fallen while wading, is either a pathogenic liar, or has never been fly-fishing.

Jimmy Moore

“BROWN TROUT TROPHY” COMPETITION RULES

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 April 1st to March 31st . Prize awarded at AGM in April.

Winner’s name and weight of fish to be published in May club newsletter.

NSFF 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 April in one year to 31st March 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

CLUB TRIPS 2022 – 2023

February –Ngongotaha River and Rotorua Lakes - 2023

March – Lake Otamangakau - 2023

May – Ngongotaha River and Rotorua Lakes – 2023

June – Tongariro – Club River Fishing Competition - 2023

July – Tongariro and Tauranga Taupo - 2023

November – Lake based Club Competition Trip – NOV 2022

December / January – Tuition weekend (Held if enough ‘novice’ anglers are interested)

December – Lake Otamangakau – DEC 2022

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.

DECEMBER CLUB TRIP TO LAKE OTAMANGAKAU

I am proposing the weekend of 2nd 3rd 4th December (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) with a number of us arriving on Thursday the 1st .

While it is predominately a boat fishery, the Te Whaiiau (inlet) canal which can be fished from the shore, and particularly the “holding” area immediately above the road bridge, offers a big range of casting positions.

Just be aware that with an altitude of some 2,000 feet above sea level, the conditions can go from warm and pleasant to bleak very quickly!

By December, the Trout are in ‘eating’ mode, with lots of insect activity, providing some fantastic fishing activity. The fish are in fantastic condition, big, fat and powerful!

Costs will be \$50 per person per night.

The Accommodation is your own little room with 2 beds, 1 for sleeping and the other for your gear.

There are shared cooking facilities.

I have “penciled in” 8 cabins at Tongariro Holiday Park so if anyone is interested, please let me know ASAP.

Dave Symes - Ph: 09 486-6257 - Email: dssymes@xtra.co.nz

JOKE OF THE MONTH

Student Who Obtained 0% On An Exam

Q and A time. Each answer is absolutely technically correct, and funny too. The teacher had no sense of humour!

Q1. In which battle did Napoleon die?
*His last battle

Q2.. Where was the Declaration of Independence signed?
*At the bottom of the page

Q3.. River Ravi flows in which state?
*Liquid

Q4.. What is the main reason for divorce?
*Marriage

Q5.. What is the main reason for failure?
*Exams

Q6.. What can you never eat for breakfast?
*Lunch & dinner

Q7.. What looks like half an apple?
*The other half

Q8.. If you throw a red stone into the blue sea, what will it become?
*Wet

Q9.. How can a man go eight days without sleeping?
*No problem, he sleeps at night.

Q10. How can you lift an elephant with one hand?
*You will never find an elephant that has one hand.

Q11. If you had three apples and four oranges in one hand and four apples and three oranges in the other hand, what would you have?
*Very large hands

Q12. If it took eight men ten hours to build a wall, how long would it take four men to build it?
*No time at all, the wall is already built.

Q13. How can you drop a raw egg onto a concrete floor without cracking it?
*Any way you want, concrete floors are very hard to crack.

*Spread some laughter, share the cheer. Let's be happy,
while we're here!*

ORGANISING YOUR FLY BOX

By Geoge Daniel - Taken from an article on the www.flyfisherman.com website.

1. In the off season make a written list of all the flies you'll need through the year. Go back through it several times to winnow down the flies to only the ones that are truly essential.

2. While you're making the list, break down how you normally spend your fishing time, and make separate lists of nymphs, streamers, and dry flies.
3. Carry fewer streamers. With heavy tippet, you'll lose far fewer of them, and they take up valuable space.
4. "Make your bed." After each day on the water make sure that you replace missing flies, dry and replace used flies, and prepare your boxes so they are ready for the next day on the water.
5. Leave empty spaces in your boxes for flies you buy on road trips, or for those experimental patterns you've been tying.
6. Once a year, do some spring cleaning to get rid of the chewed, mashed flies. Even more important, if you have fly styles you haven't used in a year or more, get rid of that unwarranted clutter.
7. Use imitative rather than species-specific fly patterns. A Pheasant-tail Nymph is a serviceable imitation of many mayfly nymphs.
8. Use a working fly box for the patterns you plan to use that day.
9. Make sure your flies are dry before you replace them. After rainy days or surprise swims, open all your boxes and dry the contents.
10. Choose your pack or vest first, then buy boxes that are appropriately sized.



Simon in warmer weather and smaller water, roll on summer! Photo courtesy of Simon Hoole.

REPEAT OFFENDING ANGLER FINED FOR EXCEEDING THE BAG LIMIT

Source: Fish and Game NZ

Southland angler Christopher Wood was fined nearly \$1500 in the Timaru District Court last week.

Wood plead guilty in the Timaru District Court on Thursday for exceeding the daily bag limit whilst fishing in the McKenzie Country Hydro Canals.

The hydro canal fishery is the most popular freshwater fishery in New Zealand.

He was convicted and ordered to pay fines and costs to Central South Island Fish and Game totaling \$1,437.60.

Wood was at the McKenzie Country Hydro Canals in February 2022 and found to have exceeded his daily bag limit of two sports fish by a Fish and Game Ranger.

Wood had previously completed a diversion program for a Fish and Game regulation offence at the canals in 2020 and in addition had other relevant convictions for Ministry of Fisheries offences.

In the determining the penalty, the Court took into consideration Wood's previous history of offending and commented on the need for anglers to adhere to fishing regulations.

Daily bag limits are put in place by Fish and Game to ensure the sustainability of the fishing resource for future generations; anglers who exceed bag limits put sustainability at risk.

Central South Island Compliance Coordinator, Hamish Stevens said, "This result sends a clear message to those who flout the rules that breaches of this nature will be taken seriously".

"Angling at the canals is heavily policed by Fish & Game Rangers. Anglers who are tempted to break the rules need to know they are risking a criminal conviction by not following the regulations."

STREAM TO SALT V: TIMING THE STRIP SET

Written by: Evan Jones From the www.news.orvis.com website.

The Stream to Salt series is designed to help anglers of all abilities identify and overcome specific challenges arising from subconsciously applying "trout brain" to saltwater fly

fishing. The goal is not simply to provide a list of new habits to memorize, but also to foster a deeper understanding of why some of the habits and assumptions developed while trout fishing can be detrimental in the salt, and how to adjust.

The single most frequently repeated advice for fly anglers new to saltwater is, “Remember to strip set, and not to trout set.” Fly-fishers spend years perfecting their trout sets, honing their reflexes until they can lift the rod the instant a trout touches the fly, and old habits are hard to break, which is probably why this one gets so much traction.

Avoiding the dreaded trout set involves more than simply resisting the urge to lift the rod, however. You must also resist the urge to set the hook right away. Quick reaction time isn’t just unnecessary for an effective strip set, and it’s often counterproductive, since too much tension on the line too soon can easily pull the fly right back out of the fish’s mouth.

You don’t have to worry too much about a saltwater fish spitting out your fly once they’ve eaten it, as a finicky trout might. Saltwater fish are used to their food biting or pinching or poking back, and they’ve developed very bony mouths with few nerve endings in response. Many don’t even realize they’ve been hooked until the line begins to turn their heads unexpectedly, so there’s no rush to set the hook like there is for trout.

The best reaction to seeing a saltwater fish eat your fly is to just continue stripping, and wait until you actually feel tension on the line before performing a strip-set. While this is admittedly a lot easier said than done, it gives the hook more time and opportunity to find a sticking point, making it more likely to hold when you do begin to apply pressure. There are few moments more frustrating than watching a fish eat your fly, only to see it slip right back out of their mouth after a failed strip-set, so remember to leave your trout brain at home and keep your reactions slow to maximize your chances for success.

A YESTERYEAR VIEW ON ANGLER PATIENCE

NZFFA –Newsletter - *By Arthur Ransome*

Arthur Ransome was an English author and journalist. He is best known for writing and illustrating the Swallows and Amazons series of children's books about the school-holiday adventures of children, mostly in the Lake District and the Norfolk Broads.

Here - abridged - from a New Zealand Fishing and Shooting Gazette magazine, April 1941, is his view on “Fishermen’s Patience”.

Nothing is more trying to the patience of fishermen than the remark so often made to them by the profane, “I have not patience enough for fishing.”

It is not so much the remark itself (showing a compete and forgivable ignorance of angling as it does) that is as annoying as the manner in which it is said, the kindly condescending manner in which Ulysses might tell Penelope that he has not the patience for needlework.

What are they, these dashing, impatient sparks? Are they the rough-riders, playboys of a Western world, wild, desperate fellows who looks for a spice of danger in their pleasures?

Not a bit of it. They hit the ball backwards and forwards over a net or submit to the patient drudgery of golf, a laborious form of open-air patience in which you hit the ball, walk earnestly after it and hit it again.

These devotees of monotonous artificial pleasures who say that fishing is too slow a game for them seem to imagine that fishing is a sedentary occupation. Let them put on waders and fish up a full river and then walk down it, on a hot summer day.

Let them combine for an afternoon, the arts of the Red Indian and the mountaineer and in the intervals of crawling through brambles and clambering over boulders, keep cool enough to fill a basket of fish.

Let them discover that they have to take their coats off when salmon fishing on a day when the line freezes in the rings. They will find they get exercise enough. Some forms of fishing are sedentary in the purely physical sense in that a man who has anchored a boat for perch, he keeps still. But he has not attained a sort of Nirvana, like a crystal gazer isolating himself from Nature by concentrating on a miserable ball.

What other people mistake for patience in anglers is really nothing of the sort, but a capacity for prolonged eagerness, an unquenchable gusto in relishing an infinite series of exciting and promising moments, any one which may yield a sudden crisis with its climax of triumph or disaster.

Arthur Ransome



Fishing, properly so called, is conducted under continuous tension. The mere putting of fly or lure in or on the water is an action needing skill, an action that can be done well or ill and consequently a source of pleasure.

Many an angler returns with an empty basket after a day made delightful by the knowledge that he was putting his fly exactly where he wanted it, casting a little better than usual or dropping his spinner with less splash at great distances. The mere athletics of casting give the fishermen all the golfer's pleasure in good driving or putting.

But here is the point, there is no red flag to show the angler in what direction he should aim, to take from him all initiative, to put him as it were, in blinkers.

His free will is limited only by his skill in execution.

The ultimate test is one of time. Patience is a virtue required when time goes slowly. Fishermen's wives are unanimous in deploring the hopeless unpunctuality of their husbands when out fishing. If on occasion they do eat in leisure at the waterside, it is with the peculiar relish that accompanies stolen fruit. They run a race with the sun and are always finding that it has beaten them and is casting their shadow on the water.

The only time that seems to the fishermen longer than it is, is that in which he is paying a big fish. Then indeed his drawn out anxiety makes him apt to think he spent an hour landing a salmon which was actually on the bank in 15 minutes.

But no one will suggest that those minutes were so dull that they needed to be patiently borne.

HUNTERS OR GATHERERS?

By Rex N. Gibson – NZFFA –Newsletter

I wrote the original draft of this story a few years ago. I had just returned from a mid-winter trip to Twizel. The canals do not excite me, or even attract me, in summer. In winter it is a different story. Many clubs are now organising winter canal trips; institutionalised masochism perhaps.

Canal fishing has always had its fans, but Malcolm Bell of the Complete Angler has developed a cult following for it by organising canal fishing clinics and posting fascinating video clips on his website and You Tube. Even if you are a fair weather fisherperson they

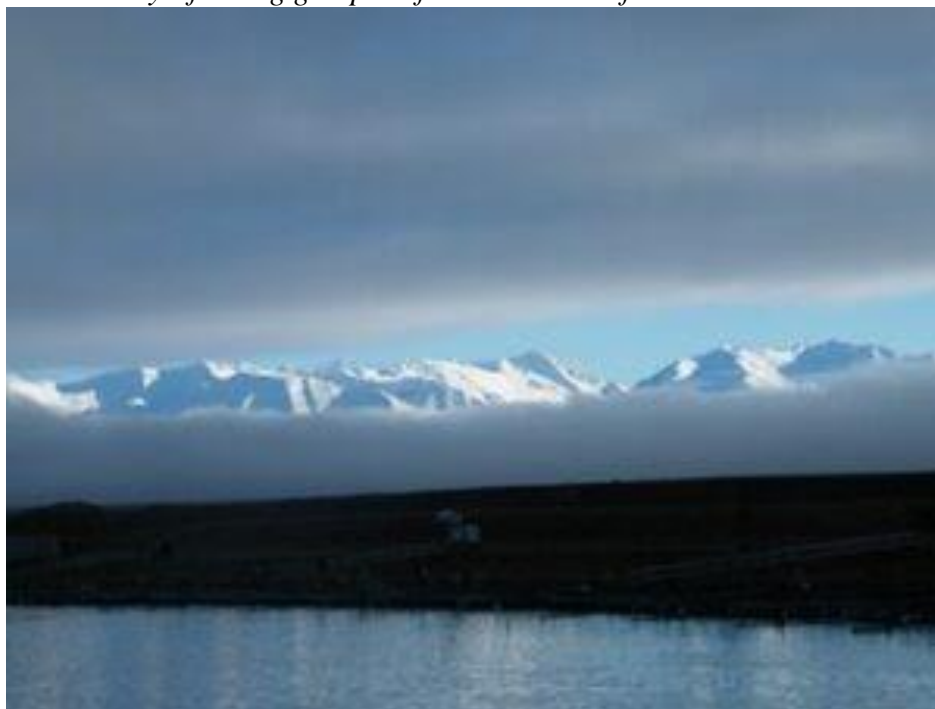
are worth checking out as you snuggle up next to the cat on the couch. The videos may even convert you?

I did a trip was with some old “fishing mates”. I arrived down at Twizel with my better half, the only non-fisher, on Friday evening. The others had spent most of the day up on the Tekapo canal with some success.

Saturday began with breakfast at 7 a.m., and topping up the flask. As usual I probably ate it far too quickly for my health. The lure of a big one seems to do that to most anglers. The night's light dusting of snow was scraped of the car windows with a strip of cardboard. Five layers of clothes went on, gloves pulled on, and the journey to the Tekapo canal followed. That day's temperature never reached 5 degrees; thank goodness for thermal singlets.

The fish there seemed to have a built in GPS style angler detection system. Wherever we went they ended up against the opposite bank. The clear water in that canal that day probably had something to do with that.

Sunday's fleeting glimpse of the mountains from below Ohau B.



Throughout the weekend we observed numerous others braving the temperatures to try and entice the canal fish into their nets. A large net is essential; something like the rock-perching inhabitants of Macintoshes' hole on the Waimakariri use to land their sea-run salmon. The usual squads were positioned just below the salmon cages and there were scattered groups along the canal as far as the dam above Pukaki. Here another fishing army lined many of the vantage points around the pool above the dam. This is where this article's heading comes in. I saw each group of those intrepid fishers as either hunters or gatherers.

The “gatherers” were planted in their deck chairs, cars, caravans, or campervans, gazing zombie-like into the distance, telling lies to their mates, having a smoke or vape, or just snoozing. A forlorn fish wife sat on the steps of a campervan quietly knitting. The temperatures certainly favoured knitted woolen socks. These anglers often had an ingenious system of a bell hooked to the rod tip to alert them to underwater activity on their terminal bait. A few had floats, but most were using rigs involving a sinker. The bulk of the gatherers use shrimps as their terminal bait, but worms, glo-bugs, and huhu grubs are not unknown. On a weekend like the one we experienced (maximum temperature about 4 degrees), the gatherers were definitely dedicated to “chilling out”.

A recent gaggle of “gatherers”



I define the “hunters” are those who cast, retrieve and cast again and, if you are hyperactive like me, move around from spot to spot searching for prey. Largely thanks to Malcolm Bell there has emerged a new breed of hunter; the egg rollers. They cover several kilometres as they fish down their chosen stretch, walk back up, and repeat it over and over again with the blind hope of a gambler who spends the whole night on the same pokey machine. Check egg-rolling out on You-Tube. During our weekend, there was room to move along the banks, but sometimes the key locations on the canals have a “picket fence” line-up of anglers.

Some hunters cannot help themselves. If fish are rising 100 metres away, and they are not currently catching anything, then they will move to where they predict those fish will be. If their terminal tackle does not bring results the hunter will try plan B, or even plans C, D, E, and F.

These hunters leave their “chilling out” until they are supping their mulled wine in front of a log fire back at the Inn or huddled over a heater back at the camp ground.

I guess that I am a compulsive hunter. On my annual winter trips to the canals, I have swapped between a fly rod and spinning gear; sinking and floating lines, veltec-style lures soft baits and even a Colorado. The amazing thing is that most methods have worked, even the Colorado (at least once anyway). I have to admit though, that soft baits have been the most successful for me. Their action in the water is hard to beat for realism; especially since the paddle tails came in.

The hope is that they imitate small salmon that have escaped from the canal cages. Salmon see nothing wrong with cannibalism. Rainbow and brown trout share our human craving for fresh salmon also. The soft baits hopefully fool their fingernail sized brains.

On this trip I was surprised by the large numbers of drink bottles littering the canal banks. There was little other rubbish. Beer bottles, energy drinks, alcopops, fruit juice, water bottles, numerous cans, and even a milk shake container, were nestled amongst the rocks and grass. The next question is “Who is to blame?” Is it the hunters or the gatherers; the sedentary or the mobile? In the absence of real evidence I’ll leave it to you to decide. Either way it is poor image for anglers.

Discarded sunken bottles and cans are common in the shallows of lakes populated by boats. I once even cast with great stealth, several times, to a submerged beer bottle near the top of Lake Sheppard, but that is another topic! For several years I joined the annual clean-up of the canals organised by the locals but the message is sadly still widely ignored.

Enough gripes; we fished the whole range of local canal sites. Almost everywhere there were very few successful anglers though on that weekend. The biggest catch observed was just north of the bridge upstream of the Tekapo canal cages. Another friend had arrived and he experienced some small fish 'action' near the Ruataniwha outlet fish farm. Fortunately the evening was “kinder” to me. A ten pound salmon below Ohau B, on a soft bait, made my weekend. Like Skinner's rats we fishermen only need intermittent reinforcement to maintain an interest.

It took softly, fought well and then conveniently turned on its side within netting range. My autopsy revealed a stomach full of insects and snails. Not a fish pellet or fry to be seen! Good info for another series of theories on what will work best in the Mackenzie hydro canals.

The Hunter and his Prey



FLY FISHING AT THE LAKE PUPUKE QUARRY FOLLOWING THE TROUT RELEASE

By Daniel Carter - 1/9/2022 - (Estimated reading time 6 and a ½ minutes)

Recently, several hundred Rainbow trout were released into the Lake Pupuke quarry by Fish and Game, to whom we are very grateful, as the fishing has been fantastic! If you are looking for some easy Trout fishing not too far away from home whilst many fisheries elsewhere are closed for the wintertime, going down to the quarry is certainly worth a cast. In this article you'll learn everything you need to know from our experience fishing there, most importantly what flies to use, the methods you'd be using to present them both properly and attractively to the fish, and what structure to look for and where.

Some General Information On Fish As A Whole In Lake Pupuke

It would be worth knowing when you're fishing in the lake what has been going on under the water's surface, regarding other worthy competitors of taking your fly, and the effects the recent Trout release has had on the rest of the things that live there. At times several months before the annual release, we had a few goes fishing in the quarry, and on one occasion we did catch a Rainbow of about a pound, which most of these fish are. There wasn't much wrong with it, it was just an average fish in terms of condition, yet that was the only occasion we caught a Trout quite some time before the Trout release.

Most of the time you'll be catching Perch, which are the most dominant fish species in the lake, and many are caught at times when the Trout are not around. The other fish that is relatively common in the wider lake is Rudd, though we are yet to catch one in the quarry. I have caught numerous Rudd on small size 16 white winged dry flies, and they sometimes take a wet fly.

Now that you have a general idea of the types of things that are swimming around in the lake, onto the most interesting piece of information. Contradicting my original statement above about Perch and Rudd being the most common fish species, as soon as the Trout were released, they started being caught almost exclusively, indicating that there are likely less Perch and Rudd in the quarry than the number of Trout that were released. It is rare that you'd catch any of the other species at times following the release, as we have only caught 1 Perch for about 20 Trout in the quarry up to roughly 2 weeks after the release, the same flies, tactics, and structural features have been proven to work for all of the above fish species, so others apart from Trout would've been caught, yet haven't. So as is likely due to the fact that you're reading this article, if you want to target Trout, you sure have a very good chance of catching one in the lake Pupuke quarry.

What Structure To Look For And Where In The Quarry When Fly Fishing For Trout

Though Trout are now very common, it always pays to look for them first. The structure that you'll want to look for when fishing for Trout in the quarry would primarily be drop offs.

The reason drop offs are such a great place to look is due to the fact that you essentially have the whole water column to choose from, Trout will move up and down the water column with the season, light, time of day, and weather, so you'll need to take all of this into consideration when deciding what depth to fish.

You should always test out differing depths by allowing your flies to sink for varying times, as this will give you a better idea of where they are when you get a hit or hook one. If this is to happen, you'd be best to let the fly sink for the same amount of time on the next cast. The general rule of thumb is that with less light, (Overcast or dusk/dawn) the fish are higher up, and with warmer temperatures, (Summer) they are down, if it's cooler, they'll come up, more cover, meaning wind and ripples as well as insects being blown onto the water, they'll come up, etc.

A large percentage of the shore line drops off, as the quarry is very deep. The water is clear enough that you can see a reasonable distance, so by walking around the edges you should be able to identify where these spots are. Some include just out from the carpark where there are a couple of short concrete jetties that you can stand on where it goes quite deep, though be aware of the buoys. I believe that there are some sort of nets that are in between them under the water's surface, we have gotten caught on them before, so do not cast near them or in between the colored groups of buoys unless the sole purpose is to get snagged. This area is the most popular place to fish as it's so close to the car park, and if there are people on the concrete you do not have to worry as you can walk along the grass on the rest of the bank there and have good fishing into the deep water. The other place that is known to produce well is the floating pontoon further down the boardwalk by the canoe club. (The one in the quarry, not the larger one in the main lake made out of concrete.) This is shallower water, and only drops off further out, so you may want a cast of good distance.

The reason this area is so good is because it is shallow enough for weeds to grow up until it drops off, so you have a mix of two good pieces of structure where a trout would be cruising to attack something coming by. We have had success here, on one occasion hooking a fish and then having another fish leap clear out of the water that had no fly in its mouth, as soon as it landed one that did proceeded to jump as well, evidently this one was the fish we'd hooked and we managed to catch it. This indicates that there may be a few fish hanging around there. When fishing from the pontoon, you should know that the canoe club runs a rowing session from around 4:30pm to 5:30pm on Tuesday nights in the quarry,

so it is best not to fish there at that time as they use the pontoon to launch and retrieve the boats. They may have other after school sessions through the week that I am unaware of, but just know that it certainly does not affect the fishing elsewhere, and we caught 2 fish whilst they were doing that on Tuesday night.



2 nice fish caught from the pontoon.

Which Fly Fishing Methods Work Best When Fishing For Trout In The Quarry

Many people reading this mightn't be familiar with Fly Fishing in lakes. You may only have a standard 9 foot 5 weight floating line outfit for rivers and streams. And you'll be pleased to know that that'll actually work like a piece of cake.

When fishing in the quarry, the primary methods would be floating lines with streamers, sinking lines with streamers, and occasionally dry flies. To start off with, when fishing with a floating line, your fly will need to have some weight to sink to where the fish are at. As I have stated in the above paragraph, Trout will vary in depth due to several contributing factors, and this will have an effect on how long you should allow your fly to sink or methods you should be using.

Once you have your floating fly line through the rod rings, you will want a leader of 9 to 12 feet in length, whatever you are most comfortable to cast with. Obviously you should

then tie on a fly. The idea with a floating line and streamer set up is that in lakes, at change of light fish tend to come up to the surface and rise. As a result, they are looking up. Many will be cruising only a metre or two below the surface in the clear, waiting for a tasty looking morsel with lots of action to swim by, and attack it. So at this time, if you were to cast your fly out and let it sink only for a short period, and retrieve it by doing short and sharp strips, it would likely be seen and subsequently eaten. When this is happening, you should also be casting directly at the fish that are rising.

The other thing you can do with your floating line set up is fish in your leader length of water where it's shallower by leaving it to sink depending on how much weight is in your fly, and retrieving. This would work particularly well at the pontoon I mentioned earlier, this is by far the best and most productive place for using floating lines.

The other thing you could do when the fish are rising is obviously use a dry fly. Make sure they are small, no larger than size 16, as many of the local insects that hatch at night are small, and are shades of white to brown. You'll likely have more success with the first method mentioned though, as more fish will be able to see your fly under the surface, and it is more noticeable.

The last method which works best for more general scenarios, is using a sinking line and streamer. If you were to have this gear, you'd likely know how to use it, but if you don't and are looking to, I'll point you in the right direction to start off with. You'll probably just need a fairly standard 9 foot leader, and a fly. Weighted or unweighted, with sinking lines it doesn't really matter. Depending on where around the quarry you are fishing and how deep it is, you will determine the time you allow the line and fly to sink. Drop offs are great places to fish for sinking lines, with this method like the last, it is also important you remember that varying your depth and sink times depending on the conditions is crucial to finding a fish. We have had fish caught at the same drop off anywhere from 5 to 30 seconds drop.

If you get to your fishing spot just before the change of light at dawn, you should start by letting your flies sink for short amounts of time, as at this time in the morning when it is darker, fish will be near the surface or generally higher up. As the sun comes up, with more light on the water the fish will head down, so allow your fly to sink further down or to the bottom, The whole process applies the other way around for dusk to night fishing.

Fly Patterns That Catch Trout In The Lake Pupuke Quarry

In this section we'll go into the specific patterns, colours, and aspects of the fly that work well when Fly Fishing in the quarry. When fishing with streamer and wet fly patterns, very bright colours will do the trick when it is lighter, meaning at or just before the change of

light at dusk and after the light has changed in the morning. Noticeable and ‘in your face’ type flies really get the attention of these young and feisty fish. Some patterns that will work well that have very bright and noticeable colours include the Red Setter, the Lime Green Parsons, or the Yellow Rabbit.

In terms of night time or low light flies, you will want darker coloured patterns, something that is Black or Olive Green. At night, early morning or in low light, you can fish these closer to the surface or mid-way down to the bottom, as this is where the fish will be at this time. Some flies for night fishing include a Craigs Night time, Black Marabou, and Wooly Bugger patterns.

One of the main aspects that has been thought about in the above patterns is action. For these generally smaller fish in a new environment, anything that moves is going to get attacked, they are very hungry. A noticeable fly moves in a way that is enticing, and fly patterns that consist of Marabou feathers or Rabbit do this quite spectacularly, as it puffs up in the water. These are some of the best fly materials you should look for in a fly, and the fish will prove to you exactly why.

The other crucial thing that must be executed when it comes to action is nothing to do with the fly, but the angler. We have found that short and sharp strips are what entices these fish enough to eat the fly, and that anything that’s too slow does not get their attention. This is an extremely important part of your repertoire in order to catch a fish, so make sure this is how you are stripping in line.

Finally, dry flies. The technique here is to simply cast out and allow the ripple and wind on the water to move the fly around naturally, until a fish rises to it. If the water is too glassy and the wind too calm, other flies won’t be blown onto the water, the fish won’t be near the surface, you won’t be seeing many fish rising, hence your dry fly looks unnatural, and it is a waste of time using them. Fly patterns that imitate the local insects include a Parachute Adams, or an Elk Hair Caddis.

Conclusion

To conclude, I’m now confident you have all learnt something from this article, and hope that you now have some encouragement to get out there and do it! The quarry is an utterly brilliant place to have a really good time Fly Fishing whilst not having to drive several hours out of Auckland. And if you are reading this at a later date, don’t worry, keep this information with you until the next release, and make sure to also try different methods apart from the ones mentioned in this article to see if they work. I’m sure everyone can join me in thanking Fish and Game for releasing the Trout and driving all the way from Rotorua, as it is much appreciated for the hours of enjoyment provided. If you have any questions,

I have put in a section about questions you may be asking below. Thanks for reading, tight lines and wishing you lots of caught Trout.

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Questions And Answers

- ***How large are the Trout in the quarry?***

A: ½ a pound to a pound.



A fat, well conditioned silver bullet Rainbow caught 5 Days after the Release.

- ***What should I do if I catch coarse fish species?***

A: Lake Pupuke is primarily a Coarse fishery, and the Coarse fisherman value their fish. It is a lake that is Designated to coarse fishing by Fish and Game, (See regulations for information on Coarse designated fisheries) as many enjoy this type of fishing too. There are a few lakes that have the same title in the Auckland / Waikato region. This is where Coarse fish are kept. As a fishing resource, there is no limit on these fish, though consumer discretion is advised.

(Everything else apart from Tench, being 5, have no limit, Trout are also 5.)

- ***Will the Trout spawn?***

A: It is highly unlikely. Trout need running water to spawn though can spawn on gravelly parts of Shoreline, which there is none of in the quarry and if they were to run out to the main lake, it is just about the same situation as it is very weedy.

- ***What should I do with the Trout I catch?***

A: You should release the fish. Many are not of legal size to keep, (300mm or 30cm) and may taste a bit muddy. It'd be nice to have good Trout fishing at the quarry for as prolonged as possible.

- ***How many Trout should I expect to catch in one session?***

A: In one dawn or dusk session, for a duration of roughly 2 hours, you can expect to catch anything from 1 to 5 Trout.

SATELLITE IMAGE SHOWS POTENTIALLY 'TOXIC' ALGAE ON LAKE ROTORUA

2/09/2022 Source: 1News – <https://www.1news.co.nz/latest/>

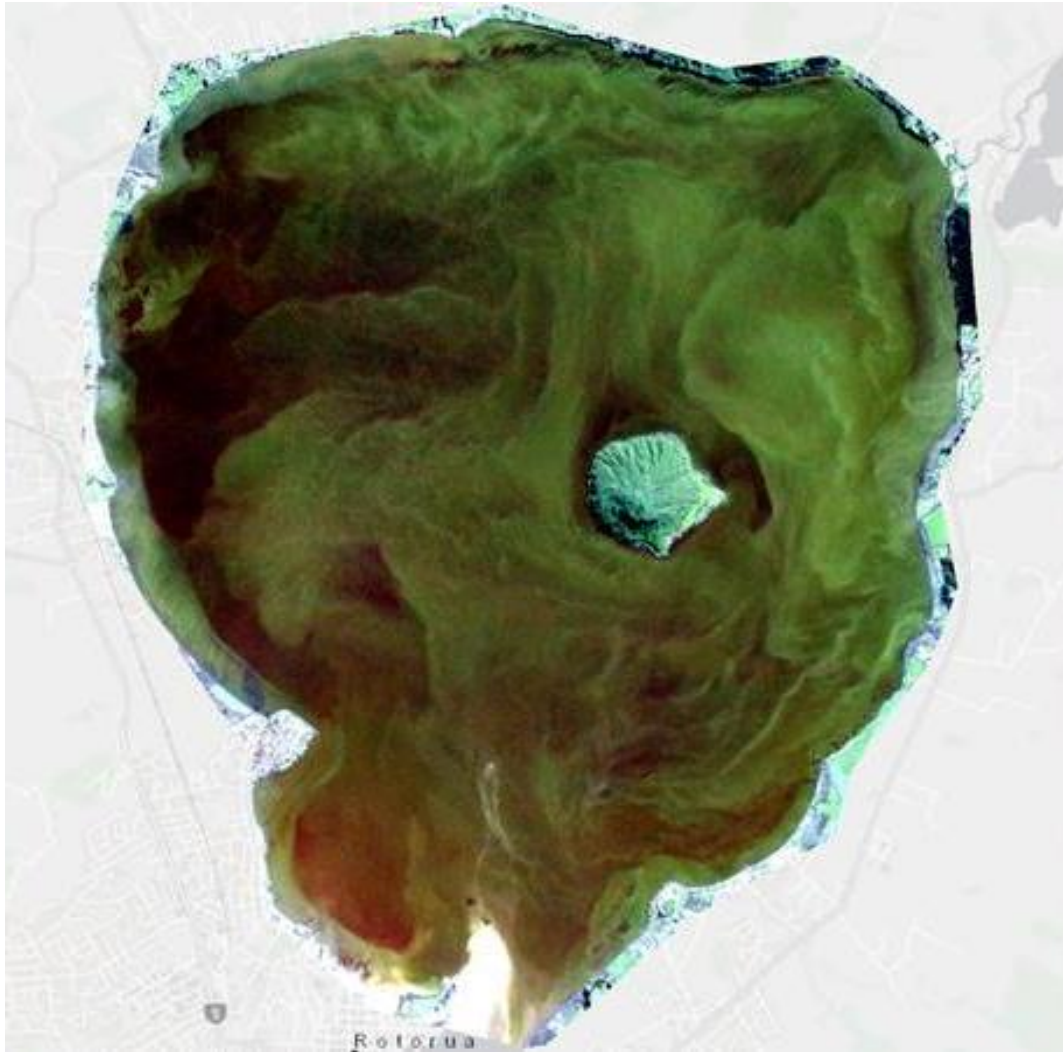
An extensive buildup of algal bloom in and around Lake Rotorua has caused a health warning to be issued by Toi Te Ora Public Health.

The warning covers Lake Rotorua, Ohau Channel (the channel that links Lake Rotorua and Lake Rotoiti) and the Okere Arm of Lake Rotoiti.

"The health warning is based on visual assessments and satellite imagery provided by the Bay of Plenty Regional Council which indicate an extensive algal bloom throughout much of these areas," a statement from Toi Te Ora Public Health reads.

Dr Neil de Wet, Medical Officer of Health for Toi Te Ora Public Health explained some of the risks associated with the algae.

"The bloom on Lake Rotorua, the Ohau Channel and Okere Arm of Lake Rotoiti is likely to be of blue-green algae which can be toxic and so it is important to avoid any activity which results in contact with the lake water," he said.



Satellite imagery provided by the Bay of Plenty Regional Council of algal bloom in Lake Rotorua and surrounding regions. (Source: Supplied)

The algae could trigger asthma and hay fever in some, as well as rashes, headaches and visual problems.

"Dogs are particularly at risk and should also be kept away from the shorelines. Elsewhere in New Zealand there have been reported deaths of dogs that have eaten algae on shorelines."

Parents were also asked to make sure children avoid algal mats and scum on the shoreline.

THEY WON'T COME TO PLAY

By Brian Willson – Taken from the <https://iloveflyfishing.kiwi/> website.



Have you ever been fishing at a river and see a lot of fish in the water but try as you might you just can't seem to get one of them to accept your offerings. Here are a few tips that may bring a few more fish to your net. There are no hard and fast rules in fishing, and everybody has their own theories on the best way to catch trout. Some anglers believe there is a right way and a wrong way for example, "This is the only fly for this water" or "At stream mouths you will only catch slabs with a floating line".

Neither of these statements are true of course although in the case of a fly type there are times when a specific fly or nymph will be much more successful than another type. But there is more to it than that. If the fish are around and are almost kissing your boots or poking their tongues out at you when you are presenting them with what you think is the perfect drift, you may have to rethink your tactics.



Shallow water – a great place to target trout.

Somebody once told me that trout basically have an IQ of about 2 but I give them a bit more credit than that. They have that great gift that nature has bestowed on them and that is they have learned survival techniques that they will utilise throughout their lifetimes. Have you ever wondered why a trout bolts if you approach it and may be get too close or cast a shadow over it. How does it know that we are a danger to them especially if they have never been near a human before. It is called instinct and it serves them very well much of the time.

However, they are not that smart that they cannot be fooled.

A few ideas that you may want to consider on the wariest of trout to even the odds are as follows.

1: If you can see a lot of trout in a certain section of river and they show no interest, it would be fair to assume there are a number of trout that you can't see where vision is

impeded by broken or rough water. By targeting this section of water, if you can't see the fish but it looks likely, chances are, they can't see you too well either. I like fast shallow water. This is often, surprisingly, overlooked by anglers wrongly thinking that fish wouldn't be in this type of water. It may look undesirable to us, but a fish is very comfortable in the quickest of water and knows where to station itself to use the current to its advantage.

2: If nymphing for trout you have to perfect two planes in your cast. I.e., direction and depth whereas for dry fly it's only one plane which is direction as the dry fly is always on or near the surface. This is also a good reason to consider shallow water when nymphing because once the weight of the nymph(s) is worked out (if any added weight is needed at all), you know that your offerings will be at the same level (or near enough) to the trout. I have seen it before when anglers have been throwing a nymph at a trout in a channel and the trout has shown no interest. Chances are the nymph may be drifting 100 mm above the Trout's head and if he (or she) is getting adequate food at the level he/she is at then your offerings are likely to go unaccepted. Trout are lazy creatures and will not move more than they have too.



More shallow water.

3: If you want to persist with these stubborn trout that you can see but will not bite, consider Czech nymphing for them. This is not everybody's cup of tea and indeed is frowned upon by some. Both methods have their time and place but Czech nymphing basically eliminates drag, need for an indicator, noise on the water when casting and fly line on the water. In short, presentation of a nymph to a trout whilst using this method, is superior to conventional nymphing in my opinion. It has its drawbacks if there is wind about or an accurate long cast say under a tree is required. Even so, with practice, you can get very accurate with the Czech nymph method and as it is more of a lob than a cast, emphasis should be put into trying to bring the nymph down from the sky vertically so that the only disturbance to the water is similar to a raindrop. Can be achieved with practice.

4: Consider changing your fly line to a colour that contrasts to the background if it doesn't already. If the trout are spooky this will help.

5: Stating the obvious, change your nymphs and leader but go smaller with the nymphs and light as you dare with the leader.

6: Make sure you are not coming into the Trout's window. Crouch if necessary or if there is a bush close by see if you can use it as a shield and even cast around. Ensure no shadows are on the water.



The result, a prime fresh rainbow.

7: Don't wear bright colours. Neutral colours that contrast with the background are what is required.

8: Move quietly. Sound transmits very easily and fast through water.

9: Don't overfish the area. If time allows and you are not hogging the spot, rest the water, (have a cuppa), then try again.

I hope these tips help and are useful.

Cheers – Brian Willson – NZPFGA member (021667867)

**CONSERVATION WEEK IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO APPLAUD THE
"MASSIVE" ENVIRONMENTAL EFFORT BY ANGLERS AND HUNTERS**

Media Release - Fish and Game NZ

Conservation Week (September 5-11) is an opportunity to applaud the "massive" environmental effort invested by anglers and hunters throughout the country, says Fish & Game NZ.

Chief executive Corina Jordan says the conservation gains achieved by the 150,000 freshwater anglers and game bird hunters often goes unrecognised.

"The public probably thinks these Kiwis just go out to catch fish and harvest ducks, but they're actually the unsung heroes of environmental protection in Aotearoa.

"Whether it's through their licence purchase, which helps fund Fish & Game's advocacy work, or directly via their own on-the-ground efforts creating wetlands or trapping predators, game bird hunters make the single biggest contribution to wetland protection and enhancement of any group."

This, Jordan says, has significant benefits not just for the game they hunt but also for protected native fauna which have suffered gravely from the loss of wetland habitat nationally.

"And our 100,000-plus strong angling community plays an amazing custodian role over our rivers, streams and lakes. Collectively they spend a significant amount of time on the water, are mindful of what's going on, and acutely aware of any detrimental changes that need addressing."

Jordan points out that trout, although introduced, have the highest requirements for freshwater health of any fish species in New Zealand. The scientific understanding of the water quality and quantity standards required by trout therefore means that Fish & Game is able to push for freshwater outcomes which protects not only the habitat of trout and salmon but also native species.

"So the conservation ethos of our anglers - and Fish & Game's advocacy for trout and salmon - benefits native fish and supports the values of the vast majority of Kiwis who want waterways that are safe for recreation and food gathering."

Conservation Week is a fitting time to celebrate the "massive environmental contribution made by anglers and hunters", says Jordan.

CONTACT:

Fish & Game Chief Executive, Corina Jordan - 021 426 350

WHAT IS FISH & GAME?

Fish & Game manage trout, salmon and game birds to provide healthy recreation for Kiwis. We work to protect the environment that anglers and hunters have enjoyed as a tradition for over 150 years.

EDITORS NOTE

Just 17 sleeps and all the Coromandel and Waikato waterways open up again, sight fishing and Dry and Dropper time again at last!

Don't forget to hop onto the Fish and Game website and look up the regulations for the water you are going to fish as they may have changed from last year, and even if they haven't it is a good chance to refresh your knowledge of them.

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.

Meetings held the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm:
Birkenhead RSA, Recreation Drive, Birkenhead, North Shore City

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