



# *THE FLYFISHER NEWSLETTER*

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October 2024

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## **IN THIS ISSUE**

- Page 1 - Presidents Report
- Page 3 - Fishing Report
- Page 4 - What's Happening – Club Nights / Events
- Page 9- Club Trips
- Page 11 - Tips and Tricks
- Page 12 - Club Facebook Page
- Page 12 - Best Trout Fishing Opening In Decades
- Page 13 - Fish And Game Auckland / Waikato Reel Life September
- Page 15 - Feeding Kingfish
- Page 16 - How To Save Our Freshwater With Politics
- Page 19 - Reflections On The Water
- Page 23 - Trout Food
- Page 25 - General Club Information Plus Committee Members Contact Details

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

In my last article, I made reference to some North Island survey maps which I obtained from a friend and retired fishing guide and which highlighted various spots where he had enjoyed success over many years. This month, I am covering the map referred to as “Marokopa”, which broadly covers an area west of Otorohanga out to the west coast.

This is generally broken country of farmland and large areas of native bush with many streams and small rivers, the majority of which carry resident populations of both rainbow

and brown trout. It has more recently been brought to the public's attention as a result of the ongoing search for the fugitive Tom Philips and his three children.

My friend, George Moore, from whom I obtained the maps, noted a number of watercourses in the area where he and his clients regularly caught fish which I also note were always released after a quick photo.

The main road from Otorohanga, Te Anga Road, runs alongside the Mangapohue Stream before meeting the main stem of the Marokopa River about 3 km's east of the small settlement of Piripiri. George noted fish in both of these areas. Further downstream are the Marokopa Falls immediately below which areas are highlighted and extending up the Tawarau River via Speedies Road and then beyond on foot.

Further to the south and requiring a drive through the Marokopa settlement along Mangatua Road, is the Kiritehere Stream with good fishing indicated up to Moeatoa and the confluence of the Mangakokopu Stream.

These are just a few of the proven fishing spots but of course, the whole area is criss-crossed by a huge number of interconnected waterways meaning that barring waterfall barriers, fish are essentially "free to explore" just as any keen and adventurous angler would be. Why not "give it a go".

Changing the subject entirely, over the last few years, the Stillwater section of our club's "Rodd and Gunn" competition, has been run on Lake Rerewhakaaitu, south of Rotorua. However, it has generally occurred in November and this year the annual club trip to Lake Otamangakau is also in the same month, (28,29,30), so it has been decided to run the competition on Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at "the Big O" as part of the overall trip. One of the advantages of the location, is the close proximity of Tongariro Holiday Park, where the majority of members have always stayed and which is within a ten minute drive of the lake boat ramp.

The possible disadvantage of having to have a second licence if you already have a Fish and Game licence can be mitigated to some extent by the availability of a 24hour licence for \$23 or a one week licence for \$49. Lake Otamangakau is also principally a boat fishery but that can of course, include kayaks and float-tubes and there are many spots where fish can be caught from the shore. A number of us who use a boat and are very familiar with the lake are always available to drop off anglers to shore-based spots and also tow lesser craft if wind and surface conditions make passage difficult. Although reasonably isolated, cellphone coverage on the lake is quite good so communication between anglers is not a problem. In advance of the trip, I have booked a number of cabins at Tongariro Holiday Park but that number can be increased if necessary.

I will be talking about Lake Otamangakau at Wednesday's club meeting ( Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> ) and seek to answer any questions members might have.

Dave Symes  
President

## **FISHING REPORT**

### **Auckland / Waikato**

No reports yet from anyone for the start of the new season.

### **Rotorua**

Everything coming back from the Rotorua lakes is positive. Big fish and plenty of them. The Ohau Channel had lots of smelt running and plenty of fish, but, with the below exception, there weren't the usual number of BIG fish around.

Things are looking very good for down there for the summer fishing.



*Fikrit does it again! A real fatty of a Brown at 10pds, taken in the Ohau Channel just after Opening Day. Photo courtesy of Fikrit Chinassi.*

## Taupo

Continuing to fish well with some late season freshies still running the rivers and starting to see some daytime surface feeding. Roll on the dry and dropper!



*The boys, and their trusty Fish Dog, in the picturesque Cliff Pool just up from Kereru Lodge on the Tauranga Taupo River. Photo courtesy of John Cuthbertson.*

## Saltwater

No reports for this month.

## Fishy Tales

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

## LAST CLUB NIGHT

Last month we had Simon and Leon talking to us about targeting Snapper and Kingfish. Thank you once again guys.

## **NEXT CLUB NIGHT – 16<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 7.30 PM**

This month we have Dave Symes talking to us about fishing Lake Otamangakau. Dave has been successfully fishing this Lake since Noah was a small boy and has a wealth of experience and knowledge to share, much of which can be transposed to fishing other Lakes.

This is sure to be an enjoyable evening and we hope to see you all there.

**Also, don't forget, we have changed the Club Nights to the third Wednesday night of the month from now on.**

## **WHY WE FISH**

*Go softly by that river side  
Or when you would depart,  
You'll find its every winding tied;  
And knotted round your heart.*

*Rudyard Kipling*

## **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](mailto: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...

<b>Name</b>	<b>Availability</b>	<b>Contact Details</b>
Ron Blair	Anytime, has a 14.4 Marco with 60hp etec Evenrude	home 09 834 8841 mobile 0275 006 336

Les Rose	for serious fishing Salt or Fresh Retired and is happy to take another person fishing during the week.	<a href="mailto:ron.blair@xtra.co.nz">ron.blair@xtra.co.nz</a> 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>
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 go most of the time.	Mobile 022 379 3070 <a href="mailto:gd.bolstad@gmail.com">gd.bolstad@gmail.com</a>
Derek Robinson	Retired available most times keen to do Waikato streams and most other things.	Ph 4437311 Mob: 0212 595 371 <a href="mailto:pamanddek@outlook.com">pamanddek@outlook.com</a>

## **CLUB TROPHIES**

**Brown Trout Trophy** – This is awarded to The Heaviest Brown Trout caught by a Club Member during the year – 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> 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 **Tim Ross!**

**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. Current holder is **Lucas Bathurst**.

**I Love Flyfishing Trophy** – Awarded to the Club Member who has caught the most species of Saltwater fish fly-fishing over the year – 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> 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. The Winner this year is **Johan Kok**.

The Lake part of the competition has its own Trophy, the **I Love Flyfishing Stillwater Trophy**. The winner of this years event is **Johan Kok**.

The winner of this years River section is **Duncan Frew**.

### **QUOTABLE QUOTES**

*The savage in man is never quite eradicated.*

*Henry David Thoreau*

### **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 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup> . 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 1<sup>st</sup> April in one year to 31<sup>st</sup> March in the next year with the trophy awarded at the following AGM. For the full rules please refer to the Club Website [www.nssf.org.nz](http://www.nssf.org.nz)

### **NORTH SHORE FLYFISHERS DVD LIBRARY**

*Over the years the Club has purchased some videos and been very fortunate in having a number more donated for Club Members use. There is almost certainly something there that will appeal to you. So if you would like to borrow one just let any Committee Member know (contact details are on the back page of this Newsletter).*

#### **Club Videos**

Flyfishing with Dave McLellan June 2015 (15 DVD’s)

New Zealand FlyTying (with John Giacon) A Tight Lines Ltd Presentation (2 DVD’s)

Tie A Fly with John Morton The Master Fly Tier

Blue Water Fishing Techniques (ITM Fishing Show) Matt Watson

New Zealand Trophy Waters (Volume 6) Bruce Masson A Deep Stream Production  
New Zealand Trophy Waters (Volume 7) Bruce Masson A Deep Stream Production  
Running Down The Man A Felt Soul Media Production  
Advanced Fly Casting Doug Swisher Essence of Fly Casting  
Chasing Silver (Tarpon fishing in Florida) Howard Films. Com  
How to Succeed on Reservoirs Part 1 Boat Tackle, Tactics and Flies  
How to Succeed on Reservoirs Part 2 Boat Tackle, Tactics and Flies  
How to Succeed on Small Stillwaters Part 2 Stalking Patterns and Techniques  
NZ Fly Fishing Adventures Going Remote Mike Kirkpatrick  
NZ Fly Fishing Adventures Going Remote Volume I Nelson District-Mike Kirkpatrick  
NZ Fly Fishing Adventures Going Remote Volume 2 West Coast-Mike Kirkpatrick  
NZ Fly Fishing Adventures The Distant Browns of Emerald-Mike Kirkpatrick  
The Manic Guide to Fly Casting Rene Vaz  
Fly Fishing in NZ  
Stealth with a Fly-NZ Wilderness waters Dean Bell Fly Fishing  
SoulFish 2 Global fly fishing Adventures with April Vokey and others  
Gulf Harbour Outdoors with Geoff Thomas NZ fly fishing for Trout and Salmon  
Salt Water Fly Fishing Game Fishing  
Bugs of the Underworld Lisa Cutter  
NZ Fly Fishing MP4s Youtube Video's (4 discs)  
Snapper Secrets (vol 2)  
Fly Fishing in NZ (fishing Clips from Mobil Sport on TV3)  
How to Fish Rapala Lures  
Essential Patterns with Oliver Edwards Vol 1  
Fly Fishing For Reservoir Trout (at Pitsford) Bob Church  
Trout Secrets with Geoff Thomas  
Fishing in Fiordland  
Wee Wets and Small Dries





*Allen and his new best friend Taxi. She is an incredibly enthusiastic but well trained Fish Dog. Paddling out, once the fish are brought in closer and out of the fast water, and ready to pounce should the Trout slip from the anglers hands. Photo courtesy of Allen French.*

### **CLUB TRIPS 2024 – 2025**

February – Ngongotaha River and Rotorua Lakes – FEB 2025

March – Lake Otamangakau – MAR 2025

May – Ngongotaha River and Rotorua Lakes – MAY 2025

July – Tongariro and Tauranga Taupo – JUL 2025

August – Tongariro – Club River Fishing Competition – AUG 2025

September – Tauranga Taupo – SEP 2025

November – Lake based Club Competition Trip – NOV 2024

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

December – Lake Otamangakau – NOV 29<sup>th</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> 2024

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.

## NOVEMBER CLUB TRIP TO LAKE OTAMANGAKAU

I am proposing the weekend of 29<sup>th</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> November 1<sup>st</sup> December (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) with a number of us arriving on Thursday the 28<sup>th</sup>.

While it is predominately a boat fishery, the Te Whaiiu (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 \$55 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](mailto:dssymes@xtra.co.nz)



*Two Club Members on a previous Club Trip fishing into a stunning evening. Photo courtesy of Simon Hoole.*

## **JOKE OF THE MONTH**

Four married guys go fishing. After an hour, the following conversation took place:

First guy: "You have no idea what I had to do to be able to come out fishing this weekend. I had to promise my wife that I will paint every room in the house next weekend."

Second guy: "That's nothing, I had to promise my wife that I will build her a new deck for the pool."

Third guy: "Man, you both have it easy! I had to promise my wife that I will remodel the kitchen for her."

They continue to fish when they realized that the fourth guy has not said a word.

So they asked him. "You haven't said anything about what you had to do to be able to come fishing this weekend. What's the deal?"

Fourth guy: "I just set my alarm for 5:30 am. When it went off, I shut off my alarm, gave the wife a nudge and said, "Fishing or Sex" and she said, "Wear a jumper."

## **TIPS AND TRICKS**

At an earlier Club Meeting we had a session all about Tips and Tricks that we might choose to use with our fishing. With that in mind we will use this section for any helpful little Tips that anyone may have that can benefit us all. So, if you have a quick Tip that you are happy to share just let me know on [iconpromote@gmail.com](mailto:iconpromote@gmail.com) .

1 ) If you are not catching fish but you are sure that you have the right fly pattern then change the size. Sometimes it can be as simple as changing from a size 14 Pheasant Tail to a size 16 to induce the Trout to bite. The same can even go for Glo Bugs, if using a size 10 and getting no bites then switch to a size 14.

## **CLUB FACEBOOK PAGE**

Some of you will already know that the Club has a Facebook Page. It has been underutilized for a while and this is just a reminder to those who already know and information for those

who didn't know until now. The link is below, and also on the Clubs Website <https://nsff.org.nz/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/217979378948826/members>

Please do join the page and post away, it really is a case of every post will encourage others to post and before we know it the Club will have a thriving online presence.

### **BEST TROUT FISHING OPENING IN DECADES**

*Sun Media – 5/10/24*

**Lake Tarawera has come up trumps producing its best two-year-old fish in over two decades, and whilst Tarawera was the star performer, Lakes Rotoiti, Okataina and the Ohau Channel all profited from remarkable trout growth over the past year.**

**October 1 marked the start of the 2024-25 trout fishing season and Eastern Region Fish & Game were out talking to hundreds of anglers from all around the country that descended upon the district to celebrate the occasion, and catch a trout in the process.**

Rangers from Fish & Game Eastern Region were stationed at boat ramps and out on the lakes in boats to check on the days fishing.

“Boat ramp surveys let us weight and measure catches, talk with anglers about their day and check that everyone has a current fishing licence and is fishing to the rules” said Fish & Game’s Matt Osborne.

Fish & Game reported the two-year-old trout from Lake Tarawera were absolutely remarkable with hatchery fish released during autumn 2023 coming in at 583mm and 2.45kg.



*Successful anglers at a weigh station on opening morning. Photo: Supplied.*

This is a whopping 600g per fish heavier than last opening, sad Osborne. Lakes Rotoiti and Okataina were looking in great shape too with fish size also improved from the last couple of years.

"Two very wet seasons which weren't pleasant for us land dwellers have

really pumped good forest catchment nutrients into the lakes and boosted the food chain," said Osborne.

"Anglers were very happy to be out on the region's lakes, and the weather really turned it on. I think lots of fishers were stoked to be out there fishing with friends and families, relieving stress and being able to catch great fish was the cherry on top."

The days biggest recorded fish was an impressive brown trout weighing 10 pounds caught in the Ohau Channel by Rotorua local angler Cary Coker.

Lake Rotoiti produced a rainbow tipping the scales at 4kg and Lake Tarawera a rainbow of 3.4kg.

"With the real boom time in the food chain coming following smelt spawning, this season has the potential to produce some truly magnificent trout as we head through the season toward the autumn and early winter," said Osborne.

The boat fishing season on lakes Rotoiti, Tarawera and Okataina extends until the end of June 2025.

Rotorua has thirteen trout fishing lakes, many of which are open all year.

## **FISH AND GAME AUCKLAND / WAIKATO REEL LIFE SEPTEMBER**

### **Season Update**

It is time to start planning for the new season and we have not seen any major storms this winter that would disrupt spawning or put a damper on the opener. Staff have been monitoring river conditions and the region has had prime weather for trout survival. Reports from the Ohinemuri have been great and the Whakapapa will be in prime shape for the opener.

### **Ohinemuri River Mine discharge**

There have been some spectacular photos of the orange Ohinemuri River, the orange colour is likely from iron deposits exposed in a mine shaft that have seeped into the river. Although the iron does not pose a health risks, water from mines are notorious for causing acid mine drainage that can contain toxic heavy metals. Pyrite in the mine can create sulfuric acid that dissolves iron making the brilliant colour in the water but can also dissolve heavy metals that are toxic like copper, lead, and mercury so the council has issued a precautionary health warning. The trout population seems to be unimpacted but until test results indicate it is safe to eat fish it would be wise to only take fish from above the

Karangahake Gorge Car Park. Updates on the situation will be posted on the Waikato Regional Council Facebook page.



*Map of area impacted by the orange discharge.*



*Ohinemuri River stained by a mine discharge.*

## **FEEDING KINGFISH**

*By Graham Little*

I had been chasing kingfish world records on fly, with some success. I had landed several within grams of records, on 2, 4, 6 kg tippet. 2 and 4 okay, but 6 was getting to be a quite big, upward 20 kg fish. Okay once one found them not so easy to find and have them strike fly. We were off out again a beautiful late summer day in Bay of Islands. Sea flat calm, hard to imagine it calmer. Flat seabed essential, sand/mud, pebbles, since immediate inclination is to head for cover of rocks and turning a fish that big and strong on 6 g tippet ... yea right.

Second was plenty of backing, since the only thing one can do is tighten drag to maximum and wait. I would go to 5 kg shade over, so it was essential to know exact drag settings on reel. I always used a reel with numbered settings and had carefully tested the drag at each setting. So I knew exactly what my gear was set to.

It was not too early, we had decided night before, kings were there or not, time of day not all that significant. Anyway, I trusted the skipper, he knew where, how large, and best time of day. In many ways bit pedantic, but this resulted in him keeping meticulous records of his charter trips over 22 years in his diary/notebook. Where they went, who he was with, sea, temperature, wind, sea conditions, bait, type of fishing, and what they caught and how many. 22 years, 2-3 trips a week, 52 weeks a year. When he said we go here, we will find these fish in first 30 feet of water, then underneath these fish, and on bottom say 120 feet, these. I would nod and believe him.

Fly fishing I could get down comfortably to about 80 or so feet. Then it was technique, making the fish judge a wounded fish and/or the desirable species, hence inclined to strike. 40 feet from the bottom to my lure was likely less than two beats of the tail. Their eyesight was plenty good enough. And when they did hit, there was no doubt about the take. A good sounder also essential. No point fishing if you do not know there are fish down there.

My partner was already in her cockpit corner, bikini, relaxed, stretched out, chattering away, book dropped on deck beside her. Laughing at another hard day's fishing.

We had gone north a spot bit of a rise well out beyond rocky point. Bit deep, and not much of a rise, but one the skipper had found held large to medium sized kings. At least that is what his records told him. We figured the kings there due baitfish hanging about the rise.

Twenty minutes out from Paihia Wharf, in about as glorious a spot one can imagine.

We anchored up and I checked my gear. The evening before we had chatted over the problem of getting kings to hang about the boat while I cast at them. The skipper came up with the plan of using a fish ladder, a heavy dropper, with leads holding fish on small hooks or other attachment devices. Across his lounge table, sounded fine to me.

He prepared the ladder with bait fish we had caught the day before and held over in his bait tanks.

We were all excited as he dropped the ladder behind the boat and we waited, with me at ready with the rod. A couple of minutes drifted by then ... boom ... and the rig dipped, we knew a fish had gone. We did not see a thing and there were no fish behind the boat. Then ... boom, boom. And two more fish had gone. Still nothing to cast at.

Then a real commotion ... boom, boom, boom, boom, boom. Then still. We knew all the baitfish gone. We did not see a thing, and I never cast to a fish. I looked at my skipper, my partner said ... *well, at least they are not hungry*. Skipper and I looked at her and we all burst out laughing. Anybody who thinks they will outsmart a good-sized king fish is ... well... they dreaming.

We upped anchor and motored 10 minutes to Rocky Point, where again a school of rat kings at 30 feet. Nothing over 9 kg nothing less than 4 kg. We laughed, fished and had coffee for about 3 hours, and I landed and released six rats. And kept a bigger one for steaks on BBQ.

Any day above ground a good day. A day gently moving on a flat ocean, with a delightful view all around, fly fishing and catching small kings, with fun company, that is way beyond good.

## **HOW TO SAVE OUR FRESHWATER WITH POLITICS**

Opinion by Paul Revere

Fresh water is a precious natural resource that belongs to all the people. It is also a valuable “commodity” that some people would like to own and control for their own economic benefit.

The only effective way to avoid the privatization of our communal resources is for more people that want to retain their communal ownership to be more active and influential in the major political parties.

Legislation that is said to be for the “common good” is imposed on us by the minority of people that have political authority and power to achieve what is good for them.



The majority of people do not pay much attention to politics (except during election campaigns) or what is being done for or to them by the political and economic elites that make the decisions for the rest of us.

## **Game Of Politics**

Politics is a game that few people learn to play but like to believe is for their benefit rather than the benefit of the more successful players.

Most people are apolitical because the elite players of the game want them to be spectators that have no understanding of or influence in the game.

The aim of the game of politics is to gain authority and power over the rest of the people and govern them “for their own good” but the people with the authority and power assume that they know what is “good” and the rest of the people do not. If we really want to protect our communal ownership and preserve our natural resources we will have to join and play the game and encourage other like minded people to do the same.

That is the only way to gain the political influence, authority and power to impose our ideas of what is “good” on the rest of the people.

What can one or a few of us achieve is a realistic question but also an excuse for avoiding the game in which we might gain some influence and encourage others to do so as well.

## **Influence**

The strategy for gaining influence in the game of politics is to infiltrate a political party, learn more about it and the influential people in it, find ways to disrupt the ambitions of the party authorities, persuade other people to join and help reform the agendas and policies and eventually take over.

There are very few party members that are actively involved or have any real influence. That provides people with different agendas with an opportunity they are not aware of. While providing people with more information about what is happening to their fresh water and other resources and communal assets is valid, we should also be encouraging them to become politically responsible, active and influential to do something about it.



*Konrad in action on the Kereru Lodge Club Trip. Photo courtesy of Hugo McGrath.*

### **A CLASSIC TROUT-FISHING QUOTE**

*I fish because I love to; because I love the environs where trout are found, which are invariably beautiful and hate the environs where crowds of people are found, which are invariably ugly; because of all the television commercials, cocktail parties and assorted social posturing I thus escape; because in a world where most men seem to spend their lives doing things they hate, my fishing is at once an endless source of delight, and an act of small rebellion.....*

*Because fish do not lie or cheat and cannot be bought or bribed or impressed by power but respond only to quietude, humility and patience; because I suspect that men are going along this way for the last time and I for one, don't want to waste the trip; because mercifully there are no telephones on trout waters; because only in the woods can I find solitude without loneliness, because bourbon out of an old tin cup always tastes better*

*out there; because one day I will catch a mermaid; and finally not because I regard fishing as being so terribly important but because I suspect that so many of the other concerns of men are equally unimportant — and not nearly so much fun.*

*by Robert Traver “Trout Magic” (US) 1974*

## **REFLECTIONS ON THE WATER**



*Fish and Game New Zealand CEO – Corina Jordan*

I often find myself deep in thought when I’m on the river

Probably not all that conducive to catching fish, as it’s cost me a few missed takes through delayed strikes... I know, I should have been paying more attention.

I guess that’s the great thing about time spent fishing though – being in beautiful surrounds, the sounds of nature and running water, can all lull you into a sort of meditative state. For many anglers it’s the same.

Little wonder, then, that research is showing time and again how beneficial angling is for our mental health and wellbeing. Indeed, a new joint study between Otago University and Fish & Game reinforces that very point (read more on page 36).

My mind is sometimes drawn to work when I'm fishing. This may seem contrary to what I've raised above, but despite many challenges that come with this job my reflections on the water are invariably positive about Fish & Game, where we're at and where we're heading.

For instance, our ReWild campaign (see page 11) has been a success worth celebrating – the outreach has been beyond what we considered possible when we started planning this project and then ultimately launched it in November 2023.

The purpose of the campaign was to increase our social licence for the pursuits and species we manage at a time when their relevance in society were being increasingly contested and often marginalised.

We wanted to highlight to the New Zealand public what this organisation does, what it stands for and the significant gains we've made for freshwater quality and habitat conservation. Without doubt we've achieved that and managed to showcase the benefits of the organisation to not only our anglers but also all Kiwis and the wider environment.

This will be an ongoing body of work to meet what are likely to be continuing challenges.

ReWild also aimed to increase participation in angling and hunting as a means of normalising the pursuits as part of Kiwi culture. This is an important tranche of the campaign because, as I've previously voiced, our survival and ability to continue enjoying the best freshwater fishing on the planet relies on our strength in numbers.

Put simply, it is much more difficult to sideline – or even attack – freshwater fishing and anglers when we make up a significant chunk of society.

To that end I urge you to play a part and introduce someone new to angling this season. Take a friend, family member, spouse, partner or neighbour; open their eyes to the enjoyment you get out from this amazing pursuit.

Another aspect of the organisation I often reflect on when fishing is how tight the freshwater angling community is and how fortunate Fish & Game is to have such strong support. The volunteer effort put into both the pursuit and organisation is enormous.

Take, for example, the governors who sit on the 12 regional Fish & Game councils and the national body. These people are all volunteers; they dedicate their time to represent you and ensure your chosen pastime is in the best possible stead.

Elections for these important positions will be held next month (September). If you have governance experience and want to give back to the freshwater angling and game bird hunting, please consider standing. If you're interested, you can find out more on page 6.

As well as our governors, our network of rangers also give their time for free. Without their voluntary effort we simply wouldn't have enough staff or time to achieve the compliance outreach we currently attain. Theirs is not a simple job either, but it is a vital one to ensure everyone plays by the same rules and that there is sustainable management of the fish and game resource.

Of course, I can't overlook the fantastic support we receive from the network of angling clubs around the country. They keep the fire burning for many anglers and do great work encouraging and nurturing the next generation into the pursuit too.

One of the great highlights for me since I started this job has been watching the women angling initiative, which started from the club scene, go from strength to strength to being the unstoppable movement it now is. It has been humbling to speak at several Women on The Fly events and see the enthusiasm, passion and dedication of both the participants and the leaders – a special shout out to Leigh Johnson and Rachel McNae.

When you're out on the water this season, I encourage you too to reflect on how lucky we are to have such devoted people helping drive and protect the pursuit. Never take the amazing recreational resource for granted – do your bit to help safeguard it for future generations. I hope you have fantastic season.



*Hugo, alias the Lone Angler, and a great Tauranga Taupo Rainbow. Photo courtesy of Hugo McGrath.*

## TROUT FOOD

The following image is about when Trout Food is available in N Z. Mike Martindale had the image but neither of us can remember what book it originally came from. If someone does know please let us know so we can put an acknowledgement in the next Newsletter.

	<u>WINTER</u>			<u>SPRING</u>			<u>SUMMER</u>			<u>AUTUMN</u>			
		EARLY	MID	LATE	EARLY	MID	LATE	EARLY	MID	LATE			
<u>MAYFLIES</u>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
<u>CADDIS</u>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
<u>DRAGON FLIES</u>				✓	✓	✓	✓						
<u>MIDGES</u>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<u>WATER BOATMAN</u>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<u>NYMPHS</u>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<u>CICADAS</u>						✓	✓						
<u>GOLDFISH</u>					✓	✓							
<u>SNAILS</u>				✓	✓	✓	✓						

NOTE. In N.Z. mayflies in Spring are usually blue or grey colour and tend to be in the smaller sizes. As Summer approaches they get larger and usually brownish in colour. In Autumn they go back to being small and greyish.

AS A GENERAL RULE

The smaller the fly, the lighter the leader.

The clearer the conditions the lighter the line, and the longer the leader.

The deeper you fish the shorter the leader.

The fact is that only a relatively small percentage of trout will strike at a lure which they do not recognise as their normal food. Yet trout must eat almost continuously or they will simply die of starvation. So the angler who can offer an imitation of their normal food in a manner that is acceptable to them has the opportunity to catch every fish.

## 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 place an order at Club Nights.

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**Meetings held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm:**  
Birkenhead RSA, Recreation Drive, Birkenhead, North Shore City

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## **NORTH SHORE FLYFISHERS EXECUTIVE**

**Club Patron** – Dave McLellan

**President** - Dave Symes           486-6257   Takapuna

[president@nsff.org.nz](mailto:president@nsff.org.nz)

**Secretary** - Mike Martindale   020 445 4337   Takapuna

[secretary@nsff.org.nz](mailto:secretary@nsff.org.nz)

**Treasurer** - Barrie Barnes   021 925 006   Glenfield

[treasurer@nsff.org.nz](mailto:treasurer@nsff.org.nz)

**Magazine** - Duncan Frew   021 648 956   Torbay

[iconpromote@gmail.com](mailto:iconpromote@gmail.com)

**Committee** – Allen French   021 1018 838   Birkdale

[a\\_bfrench@hotmail.com](mailto:a_bfrench@hotmail.com)

**Members**   Maurice Parlane 021 650 692   Northcote

[maurice.p@newwayz.co.nz](mailto:maurice.p@newwayz.co.nz)

Neil Smit   021 274 5625   West Harbour

[neil.smit@sew-eurodrive.co.nz](mailto:neil.smit@sew-eurodrive.co.nz)

**North Shore Flyfishers Incorporated**