



# *THE FLYFISHER NEWSLETTER*

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April 2025

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## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 2024**

The past year has once again been a busy and enjoyable one for our club with a number of anglers joining and many members participating in the various trips both near and far.

Largely as a result of political decisions emanating from Washington D.C., the world is currently experiencing unprecedented levels of uncertainty and worry so there is probably no better time to enjoy the simple, contemplative pastime of casting a fly to an unsuspecting fish and waiting for the line to “tighten”!

As I have said many times before, the smooth functioning of our club is a reflection of the work done on your behalf by our committee, all of whom undertake and complete their assigned tasks diligently and competently. I thank them all. In particular, I would like to offer a very big THANK YOU to Barrie Barnes, club treasurer and Duncan Frew, our vice president and newsletter compiler/editor. Both of these individuals have given years of service to North Shore Fly Fishers Club which remains one of the pre-eminent clubs of its type in the country.

Mike Martindale of our committee has recently put together a 2 page document called North Shore Fly Fishers Club Trip Summary Safety Protocols. This will be sent to all club members. Whether or not you are going on a club trip, it contains excellent recommendations on how to stay safe when fishing.

Over the last few months, I have brought to the attention of members, the impending need to reregister our club in accordance with a new Government Statute, The Incorporated Societies Act 2022. This Act replaces the old 1908 Act under which thousands of clubs like ours were originally constituted. That process is approaching finality and I am confident that our new club constitution will be endorsed and passed by votes at the club Annual General Meeting on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

Under our existing constitution, any motion for changes (replacement) of those rules must be supported by at least 15 members. That threshold has now been met, thank you everyone.

I now look forward to another active year in the life of our club and continuing angling adventures in what is arguably, one of the most beautiful little countries in the world.

Dave Symes - President.

### **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.

## **FISHING REPORT**

### **Auckland / Waikato**

Coromandel rivers are very low and very clear, but they are starting to cool down again after the heat of summer. And, the Trout are still looking up and very prepared to take a dry fly.

The back country fish are in great condition, as this one caught by Simon earlier this summer will attest to, but they are starting to get a little wary of anglers after a long summer.

*Photo: Simon and another back country fatty. Photo courtesy of Simon Hoole.*



### **Rotorua**

The super hot river mouth fishing of summer has gone now, but there are still some very nice fish being taken, just more so after dark or in the twilight rather than the heat of the day. Before you know it the big spawning runs of winter will be in full flow!

## **Taupo**

Some really good reports coming out of Taupo now that they have had a little rain to freshen things up. The Tongariro still seems to be the most consistent producer for the rivers, and the Jiggers continue to do well around the 40m mark.

Lake Otamangakau has been very hard with no rain, and all the water coming through the Whakapapa intake being siphoned straight back out so as to keep the Whakapapa at minimum flow levels. Any consistent rain here will be greatly appreciated. Still, there are some great fish being caught.



*Hans land some crackers on the Club Big O Trip, including this one. Photo courtesy of Neil Smit.*

## **Saltwater**

LOTS of workups along the Bays and some very close in. This can only mean one thing, the Anchovy run has fully kicked off. Get out there with small silver flies, even the old Trout flies like Grey Ghost or Silver Dorothy will work well.

## **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 Adam Daniel from Auckland / Waikato Fish and Game talking to us. It was an informative evening and thank you once again Adam.

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

This month we have our AGM and our new Constitution and then we have Hamish Murray talking to us about fishing Christmas Island and all the helpful tips for how to get there and who to talk to. Hamish is an exceptional fly fisher, he was in the New Zealand Team as a young man, and has fished all over the country as well as the Islands.

This is sure to be an enjoyable night and we look forward to seeing you there.

## **WHY WE FISH**

*“There are always new places to go fishing. For any fisherman, there’s always a new place, always a new horizon.”*

*Jack Nicklaus*

## **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 etc Evenrude for serious fishing Salt or Fresh | home 09 834 8841<br>mobile 0275 006 336<br><a href="mailto:ron.blair@xtra.co.nz">ron.blair@xtra.co.nz</a> |
| Les Rose      | Retired and is happy to take another person fishing during the week.               | home 09 4183634   |
| Graham Carter | Lives in Hamilton, keen on   | 021 026 00437   |

|                |   |   |
|----------------|---|---|
| Lloyd Altham   | weekday / mid-week trips.<br>Has 12' Pontoon boat /15 HP Honda.<br>Available most time, but prefer<br>weekdays.   | 07 855 1833<br>Mob. 021 0295 9167<br>Home 09 420 3120<br><a href="mailto:email-lloyd@skysupply.co.nz">email-lloyd@skysupply.co.nz</a> |
| Gary Bolstad   | Keen to get out Stream, Lake or even<br>Saltwater fly-fishing. Has both Fish &<br>Game and Taupo season licences so keen<br>to go almost anywhere. Retired so free to<br>go most of the time. | Mobile 022 379 3070<br><a href="mailto:gd.bolstad@gmail.com">gd.bolstad@gmail.com</a>   |
| Derek Robinson | Retired available most times keen to do<br>Waikato streams and most other things.   | Ph 4437311<br>Mob: 0212 595 371<br><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 **Russell Nelson**.

**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 **Duncan Frew**.

The Lake part of the competition has its own Trophy, the **I Love Flyfishing Stillwater Trophy**. The winner of this year’s event is **Duncan Frew**.

The winner of this year’s River section is **Duncan Frew**.

## QUOTABLE QUOTES

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

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



*Hans in action on the Big O.  
Photo courtesy of Neil Smit.*

## **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 Drys

### **CLUB TRIPS 2025 - 2026**

February –Ngongotaha River and Rotorua Lakes –FEB 2026  
March – Lake Otamangakau – MAR 2026  
May – Ngongotaha River and Rotorua Lakes –MAY 16<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> 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 2025  
December / January – Tuition weekend (Held if enough 'novice' anglers are interested)  
December – Lake Otamangakau – NOV 2025

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.

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

This February Trip to fish the Ngongotaha River and the Rotorua region is on the weekend of Friday 16<sup>th</sup> , Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> , Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February. We will again be staying at the Paradise Valley Lodge. Costs will be \$125.00 each, which will cover 2 nights'

accommodation in the lodge and a BBQ on Saturday evening. If you want to come down on the Thursday, as many of us do, then simply add \$55 to make it \$180.00.

Also, a variety of private rooms are available as well.

If you are keen just let me know which nights you can make ASAP and then pay your money to the Club in any of the normal ways.

- internet banking to the Club's bank account: North Shore Flyfishers Incorporated ASB A/c #: 12-3209-0190179-00 (please include your name and the word Ngonga as a reference);
- Or by Cash on the November, December or February Club Nights

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

*This Trip is currently full so we can only put you on a cancellation list if you are keen to go.*

## **JOKE OF THE MONTH**

### WORST FIRST DATE STORY EVER

If you didn't see this on the Tonight show, I hope you're sitting down when you read it. This is probably the funniest date story ever, first date or not!!! We have all had bad dates but this takes the cake.

Jay Leno went into the audience to find the most embarrassing first date that a woman ever had. The winner described her worst first date experience.

There was absolutely no question as to why her tale took the prize!

She said it was midwinter...Snowing and quite cold... and the guy had taken her skiing in the mountains outside Salt Lake City , Utah .

It was a day trip (no overnight). They were strangers, after all, and had never met before. The outing was fun but relatively uneventful until they were headed home late that afternoon.

They were driving back down the mountain, when she gradually began to realize that she should not have had that extra latte. They were about an hour away from anywhere with a rest room and in the middle of nowhere! Her companion suggested she try to hold it, which she did for a while.

Unfortunately, because of the heavy snow and slow going, there came a point here she told him that he had better stop and let her go beside the road, or it would be the front seat of his car .

They stopped and she quickly crawled out beside the car, yanked her pants down and started. In the deep snow she didn't have good footing, so she let her butt rest against the rear fender to steady herself. Her companion stood on the side of the car watching for traffic and indeed was a real gentleman and refrained from peeking. All she could think about was the relief she felt despite the rather embarrassing nature of the situation.

Upon finishing however, she soon became aware of another sensation. As she bent to pull up her pants, the young lady discovered her buttocks were firmly glued against the car's fender. Thoughts of tongues frozen to poles immediately came to mind as she attempted to disengage her flesh from the icy metal. It was quickly apparent that she had a brand new problem, due to the extreme cold.

Horrified by her plight and yet aware of the humor of the moment, she answered her date's concerns about ' what is taking so long' with a reply that indeed, she was 'freezing her butt off' and in need of some assistance!

He came around the car as she tried to cover herself with her sweater and then, as she looked imploringly into his eyes, he burst out laughing. She too, got the giggles and when they finally managed to compose themselves, they assessed her dilemma. Obviously, as hysterical as the situation was, they also were faced with a real problem.

Both agreed it would take something hot to free her chilly cheeks from the grip of the icy metal! Thinking about what had gotten her into the predicament in the first place, both quickly realized that there was only one way to get her free. So, as she looked the other way, her first time date proceeded to unzip his pants and pee her butt off the fender.

*\*As the audience screamed in laughter, she took the Tonight Show prize hands down. Or perhaps that should be 'pants down'. And you thought your first date was embarrassing. Jay Leno's comment...'This gives a whole new meaning to being pissed off.'\**

*\*Oh and how did the first date turn out? He became her husband and was sitting next to her on the Leno show.*



*Tim Ross with a lovely Rotorua Rainbow taken on the February Club Trip. Photo courtesy of Andrew Todd.*

## **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).

## **FISH AND GAME LINKS**

### **Fishing access maps**

If you are travelling around the country or even if you are staying close to home, Fish & Game has updated our online access maps.

You can check out the links on this [page](#) for where you intend to fish this season. We have loads of locations for anglers around the country for you to get in a bit of fishing. Have a look; you might be surprised to find a spot close to you that you never knew existed.

### **Trout fishing made easy**

Our [YouTube channel](#) has heaps of helpful videos that will help you catch fish.

We have everything from [Five Quick Tips for River Fishing](#) to [Lake Fishing](#) and our popular [boat fishing video](#). There are also many other videos on lures, soft baits and fishing locations that can provide tips and tricks for anglers of all skill levels.

## **AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME CATCH AND RELEASE FACT SHEET.**

**The science behind releasing trout that will survive.**

- 1. Trout released in water temperatures above 19°C have reduced survival.**
  - a. The Lake Otamangakau catch and release survival study conducted by DOC revealed that 30% of released fish died when water was above 21°C.
  - b. DOC now recommends not fishing when water approaches 20°C and has closed Lake Otamangakau in February.
  - c. Fish & Game research has revealed that fish tagged in the summer are half as likely to be recaptured indicating elevated mortality.

- d. International literature backs up the NZ findings, fish released in warmer water are far less likely to survive.
  - e. Most rivers on the North Island breach the 19°C for long periods during the summer.
- 2. The more time trout are kept out of water the more likely they are to die.**
- a. Holding fish out the water for 30 seconds decreases their survival by 38% under good conditions (water temperature of 15°C).
  - b. The average time trout are held out of the water for hook removal during catch and release fishing is 30 seconds.
  - c. Removing a fish from water above 19°C for more than 30 seconds causes extreme stress and is likely a death sentence.
  - d. Barbless hooks do not significantly improve survival but can reduce handling time during release.
- 3. Landing nets remove scales and slime increasing the likelihood of fish infection and death.**
- a. The best way to release fish is to be ready with forceps and release them in the water with wet hands.
  - b. Any net increases damage to fish but knotless rubber nets are the best option.
  - c. Fine mesh nylon nets are better than traditional knotted nets but are associated with longer handling times due to hooks getting caught in the mesh.

**If you want to release fish that will survive to be caught another day:**

- 1. Don't fish for trout in water temperatures above 19°C.
- 2. Carry a thermometer, BBQ thermometers are \$10.
- 3. If you don't have a thermometer stop fishing mid-day if it's hot and sunny.
- 4. Don't remove your fish from the water and don't use a landing net unless you need to. Releasing fish with wet hands and forceps if possible.
- 5. If you want to take a photo don't take the fish completely out of the water, consider taking a video and clipping a photo out of the video.

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



*Image above: Paul Fuller with a tagged Mangatutu Stream Rainbow.*

### **Please Help Us By Reporting Tagged Fish**

Staff have been amazed with the number fish counted during the 2025 drift dives. Three of the five rivers surveyed had extremely high fish counts due to high water temperatures and low flows. A new reach of the Whakapapa was surveyed in March that had one of highest densities of large rainbows ever recorded in the river. We highly recommend getting out for fish during the tail end of the summer as seasons like this are not to be missed.

With fish so concentrated we expect some tagged fish to be caught on the Whanganui, Whakapapa and the Mangatutu during the next month. If you do get out for a fish, please be ready to record fish tag numbers (you can take a picture) and the fish length (from the nose to the fork in the tail). Accuracy is important as fish are measured to the millimetre, so if you don't have a tape measure in your fishing gear use a piece of electrical tape on your rod as a maker and measure the fish length when you get home.

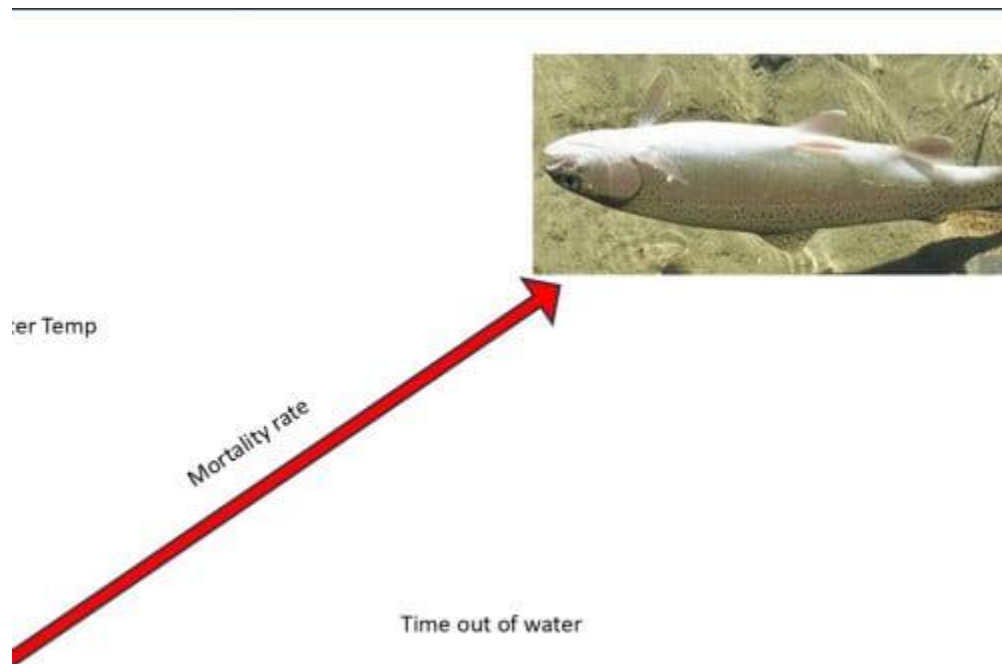
### **Keep Your Released Fish Alive By Treating Them Well**

Many of the trout that are killed by anglers in the Auckland/Waikato Region don't end up in the smoker. It is not uncommon for trout to die from the impacts of stress after being

released. Imagine if you were forced to exercise in 40° heat to the point of complete exhaustion and then were immediately suffocated for 30 seconds. Odds are not all of us would survive.

There has been a lot of research on the survival of released trout and some more commonly discussed factors like treble hooks play a relatively minor role in fish survival. The big killers are exhaustion, heat and suffocation (time out of water). Trout that are caught in water temperatures above 19°C have a 20-30% mortality rate and fish that are held out of the water for 30 seconds to take photos or to remove the hook die about 30% of the time even in relatively cool water temperatures. The combination of exhaustion, warm water and time exposed to air is likely to be lethal. Most Waikato streams breach 19°C during the summer and the Mangatutu Stream has ranged from 16-20°C during the last month so if you release trout and want them to survive, please:

1. Move upstream to avoid fishing in areas where water temperatures are >19°C.
2. Fish in the morning to avoid peak temperatures.
3. Don't remove fish from the water if possible.
4. If you do take a photo, consider leaving the fish partially submerged.



*Theoretical impact of time out of water and warm water temperature on trout.*

## **FISH AND GAME EASTERN REEL LIFE MARCH**



### **Seasonal Change**

Autumn is officially upon us, and while weather patterns don't always follow the calendar there are signs that the trout are preparing for the winter ahead. Anglers are reporting jacks (male trout) starting to colour-up and develop a kype (hooked jaw) which is a sure sign that spawning action is imminent. A few fish have also been sighted cruising at the release locations such as The Landing, Ruato and the Pipe.

Traditionally April signifies the start of spawning runs on the stoked Rotorua lakes. We noted an early run last year after a cold snap in March. Overnight temperatures have cooled recently but most of the north island has been dry and river systems are looking bony. We still need rain.

The big Rotorua lakes are still producing some superbly conditioned fish up to 4kg although it can sometimes be frustrating to see refusals from picky fish on the sounder at this time of year. Successful methods include softbaits, jigging and trolling. The fish are beginning to sit higher in the water column and some can be seen smelting on the surface so shallow trolling, especially at dawn will be a successful method also. Try a smelt fly and Tassie combination either on straight mono or with a short section of LED type line or

a single colour of lead line for results. Overnight surface temperatures are dipping down below 19C and we can expect them to get even lower in April.



*Roger Bowden shows off a prime Okataina rainbow*

Lake Rotorua's stream mouth action has come to an end as a result of cooling conditions. Most of the browns have migrated upstream to commence spawning but there are still good browns and rainbows to be caught in the lake, especially after dark. Floating lines and night flies such as Craig's and Lumo dolls are the go-to from now on. If you intend to fish the Okataina, Rotoiti or Tarawera shoreline this winter we suggest the use of stout leaders as we are expecting some big, strong fish.



*Traditional patterns such as Craig's will work well over winter*

### **Okataina Update**

Technical issues have delayed the full operation of the Lake Okataina access gate but it should be fully operational by the time Reel Life comes out. Access to the lake is still available even if the automated gate isn't working.

[This link](#) will take you to FAQ for the gate operation.

The purpose of the automated gate is to streamline access to Lake Okataina.

## **Datawatch Tagged Trout**

Tagged trout can now be entered online. Entries go into the draw to win one of 10 free whole-season fishing licences: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QCH5ZR6>

## **Eastern Region Fishing Diaries – All Lakes And Streams**

Fill in your fishing diaries here to help us manage the Eastern Fish & Game region. Participants go in the draw to win a \$100 voucher from Kilwell: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QRSD7D3>

## **CLUB DAY TRIPS, FLYTYING, AND CASTING PACTICE**

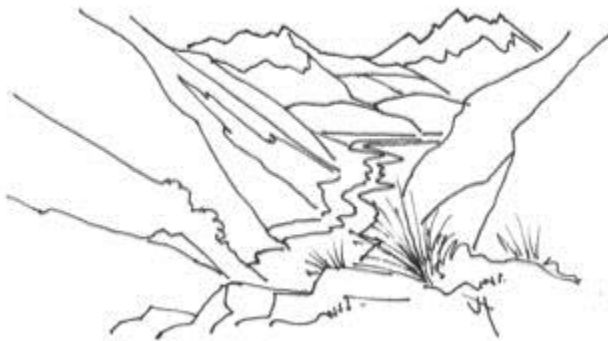
Back in early January we sent out an email asking for a show of interest in these activities and we had a great response resulting in them all going ahead. So far we have had 1 Day Trip out to an Auckland Saltwater spot, 2 Day Trips to fish a Waikato Stream, 2 Fly-tying sessions and 3 Fly Casting Practices at Onepoto Park in Northcote.

A massive thank you to Club Members who volunteered to help with these. Lewis Peart ran the Saltwater Day Trip and is already planning another. Johan Kok ran the Freshwater Day Trip on Saturday and he is also planning another for early next month. Warren Derrick and Mike Martindale have both been helping out with the Casting Practice. And Mike has also been helping out with the Fly Tying as well.

Everyone involved is extremely appreciative of your efforts and your free sharing of your fishing knowledge.

## **NEW HEALTH AND SAFETY LAWS ON PUBLIC ACCESS WIN FOR COMMON-SENSE**

*Special Report – NZFFA Website*



New Health and Safety rules around public access to the countryside – and public lands – announced recently by Workplace Relations and Safety Minister and ACT MP Brooke van Velden have erased a long standing problem, that has at times, frustrated both land owners and outdoor recreationalists, among the latter, trout anglers.

“Landowners will not be responsible if someone is injured on their land while doing recreational activities,” said Brooke van Velden. “This reform refocuses the work health and safety system by getting rid of over compliance, making sure there’s less paperwork and giving businesses, employers and workers clarity on their health and safety responsibilities.”

She said for many New Zealanders, outdoor recreational activities are a way of life that has been enjoyed for generations. Unfortunately, New Zealand’s work health and safety settings had impaired these activities, inadvertently creating a culture of fear amongst landowners who are now worried about their legal liability if someone gets hurt.

“I want Kiwis to be able to hunt, fish, hike, climb, mountain bike, kayak and so much more without being caught up in health and safety red tape,” added Brooke van Velden.

### **Move Welcomed**

Outdoor recreation groups welcomed the government moves to cut red tape around access to the outdoors.

President of the New Zealand Federation of Freshwater Anglers Casey Cravens of Dunedin said Minister Brooke van Velden should be congratulated on reforming a problem created by bureaucratic red tape.

“Access is a vital part of the egalitarian nature of the outdoors and the public ownership of fish and game,” he said. “Nevertheless anglers should still endeavour to seek permission.” Laurie Collins of Westport, convener of the Sporting Hunters’ Outdoor Trust, said farmers had genuine concern over the potential for liability under the previous “red tape”.

“The move by government is a blow for commonsense,” he said. “Of course permission must be sought by any member of the public to go onto private farm land. In the case of hunters not getting permission, that makes them poachers and poachers should be dealt with severely by courts.”

He said the move restores the fundamental of self-responsibility by outdoor users. The New Zealand Deerstalkers Association (NZDA) said the significant change announcement is a significant change signaling a win for hunters, conservationists, and outdoor enthusiasts across New Zealand.

### **Shut Gates**

“For too long, vague rules and landowner fears have shut gates. NZDA sees this as a return to practical, common-sense law-making that supports positive outcomes for all New

Zealanders. For too long, overly cautious health and safety settings have stifled access to recreational land. The announcement lifts that burden and restores balance.” Gwyn Thurlow CEO of NZDA said landowners should not “cop flak” for natural hazards or hunting risks.

“This reform puts responsibility back on us—where it belongs—and frees up farmers, forestry blocks, and land managers to say yes to access. That’s the Kiwi way,” he said.

Council of Outdoor Recreation Associations of New Zealand Andi Cockroft also welcomed the reform.

“It’s a win for commonsense, a practical approach and for the public’s outdoor estate and traditions,” he said.

The change will apply to both public and private land, from farms and forestry to school grounds, local council land and regional and national parks.

The change will not impact private property rights and it will still be up to the landowner to grant access to their land if they wish said Brooke van Velden.



## **QUOTABLE QUOTES**

*"It has always been my private conviction that any man who pits his intelligence against a fish and loses has it coming."*

*John Steinbeck*

FISHING FUNNIES

# THE NIGHT BEFORE A FISHING TRIP



@BZSTACKLE

(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**

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**North Shore Flyfishers Incorporated**