



# *THE FLYFISHER NEWSLETTER*

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May 2026

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## IN THIS ISSUE

- Page 1 - Presidents Report  
Page 3 - Club Facebook Page  
Page 4 - Subs Are Now Due  
Page 4 - Fishing Report  
Page 6 - What's Happening – Club Nights / Events  
Page 9 - Club Trips  
Page 12- Tips and Tricks  
Page 12 - Recipe Of The Month  
Page 13 - Club Day Trips, Fly-tying, And Casting Practice  
Page 14 - Reel Life April 2026 - Auckland Waikato  
Page 18 - Reel Life April 2026 – Eastern  
Page 21 - Taupō Fishery Focus.  
Page 23 - Fish & Game Divers Take The Plunge To Keep Tabs On Trout And Waterway Health  
Page 25 - Matching The Hatch?  
Page 27 - **General** Club Information Plus Committee Members Contact Details

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

While the onset of winter is normally associated with trout spawning activity and travel to the Taupo/Tongariro area, the current high price of fuel will probably give “pause for thought” to many of us or at least limit the number of times we might “head south”.

Notwithstanding the undoubted attraction of rivers and streams to flyfishers, this time of the year also provides an alternative activity much closer to home. As marine water temperatures cool down, good numbers of another target species move inshore including such areas as the inner Hauraki Gulf and more particularly, the Waitemata Harbour. Trevally (*Pseudocaranx dentex*) or araara in Maori, become available to anglers from both boats and numerous shoreline places. Trevally are a powerful species related to Kingfish which are renowned for their fighting ability, in addition to which they are delicious to eat; Fresh, smoked or more often as sashimi.

They can grow to impressive sizes with the Hauraki Gulf record from 1991 weighing 9.5kg's! They often move in large schools and the legal minimum size to keep is 25cm. In my experience, the best place to find trevally is in an area of tidal current which from a flyfishing standpoint, can greatly assist in the best fly "presentation". One of my favourite and productive places is the western side of Devonport wharf during an outgoing tide. Throughout April, May and June, schools of immature anchovies, running against the tide, attract predators including Jack Mackerel, Trevally and Kingfish although hooking up to the latter inevitably ends badly with the rough concrete piles playing their part! However, although also a strong fish, it is possible to contain the run and lead trevally to the net which raises another issue. I use a landing net with an extendable handle which I then attach to a telescopic "painter's pole" with 2 jubilee clips. As the tide falls and the surface of the water gets lower, a simple adjustment to the pole length, still allows for a successful capture.

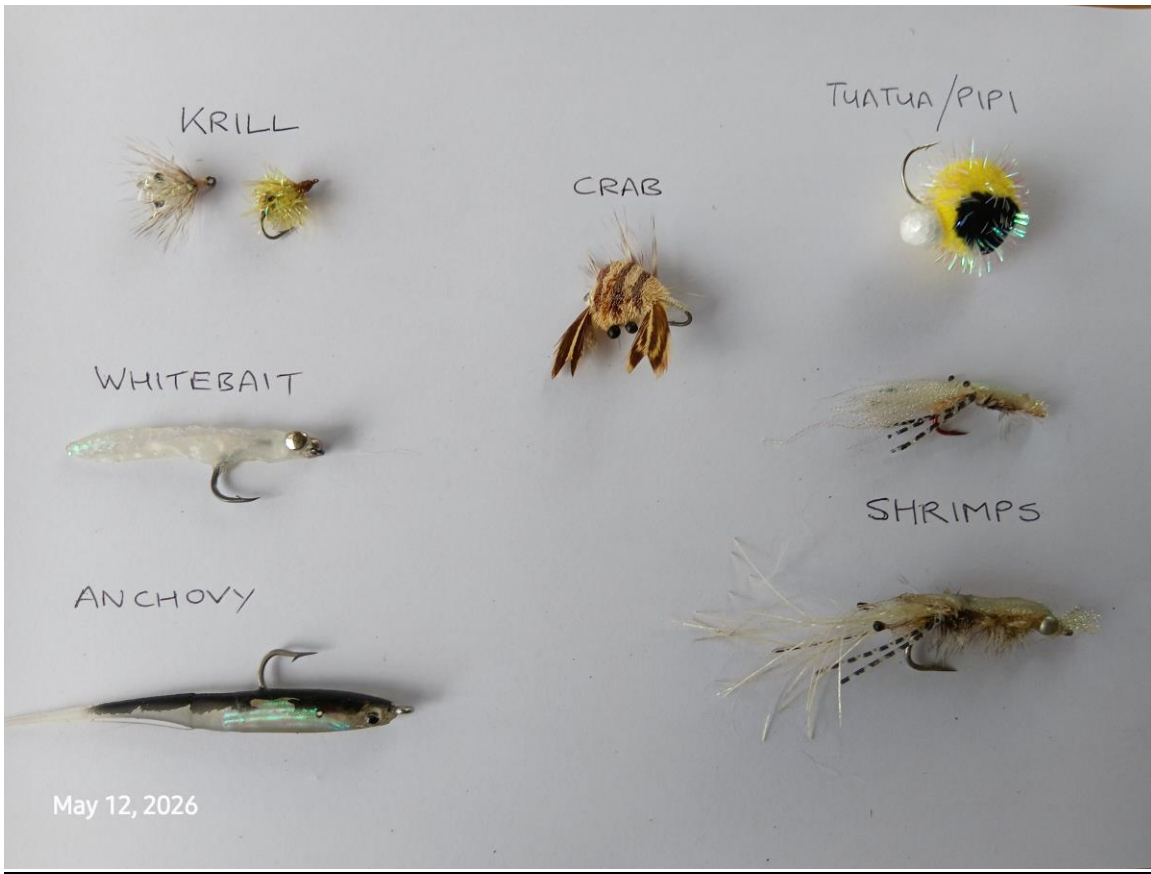
For those with access to a boat, other spots within the harbour and where I have had much success over years, are the Rough Rock marker buoy off Cheltenham Beach and the pole marking the position of what was once the Compass Dolphin off Mechanic's Bay. In contrast to the Devonport Wharf outgoing tide requirement, both of these spots fish best on a rising tide.

In terms of rigs, flies, etc, I would recommend a rod of 9 or 10 weight and either a fast sinking line or a floating line but with a fast sink tip addition. The tippet should be at least 10kg and I prefer fluorocarbon.

Trevally eat a range of food from smaller baitfish through to minute krill, shrimps, crabs and some smaller shellfish. The diagram shows some of the flies I use. The Anchovy is a small but very realistic softbait and the pipi/tuatua represents the "innards" of the animal with a brown "gut" spot.

I would love to hear from any members who "give it a go".

Dave Symes - President.



*Dave's Trev Flies.*

## **SCAMS**

With the plethora of ever more sophisticated Scams out there these days we felt it a good time to remind everyone that the **Club Will Never Send You An Invoice** for Subs or Club Trips. If you receive an invoice saying it is from the Club then it is a Scam. Do not open it, do not pay it.

## **NEW CLUB FACEBOOK PAGE**

The Club now has a **NEW Facebook Page**. The old one has been underutilized for a while and this new one is open to anybody, Club Member or not. The only restriction is that posts will be approved before they are posted so as to protect from the random idiots that can lurk on the net. The link is below, and also on the Clubs Website

<https://www.facebook.com/share/1ArtnBvMAW/>

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.

### **SUBS ARE NOW DUE**

The Club Membership Subs will remain unchanged for this new Club Year – 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2027.

They are:

\$80 with a \$20 discount to \$60 **if paid by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2026 – ADULT**

\$90 with a \$20 discount to \$70 **if paid by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2026 – FAMILY**

*Family membership includes partner or spouse and any family 17yrs or under at time of joining.*

\$30 - **JUNIOR**

*Junior membership is 17yrs or under as at time of joining.*

<p><b>Please pay to: North Shore Flyfishers Inc A/c 12-3209-0190179-00</b> <b>Make sure you add your name in payment details.</b></p>
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### **FISHING REPORT**

#### **Auckland / Waikato**

My last visit to the Coromandel saw the rivers running high but clear. There were lots of smaller fish about but not that many of the bigger specimens. Also, the recent big floods have made some significant changes to pools with fallen trees and scoured out lies. Despite the extra flow and the changes it was, as always, great fun, and finding the new ‘prime lies’ is a rewarding challenge. Small Pheasant Tails and Royal Wulf like dries ‘got the eats’.

## **Rotorua**

There are plenty of fish in the Rotorua tributaries, including some BIG Brownies, and as can be seen below, there are some fantastic Rainbows being caught at the Lake edges and river mouths.



*How's the fishing? Hans reckons it's pretty good! 10pds of Rainbow caught from the shore. Photo courtesy of Hans Sabrowski.*

A number of Club Members have been down to the Rotorua tributaries in the last few weeks and all have got amongst the fish, with soft egg glow bugs and hot spot pheasant tails getting the best results.

## **Taupo**

Barrie, Lloyd, and Mike were down the Tongariro recently and while the fishing wasn't easy there were still some nice fish caught.



*The lower Tongariro has got some seriously Big Browns loitering about at the moment. Barrie spotting for Lloyd. Photo courtesy of Mike Martindale.*

Ryan headed down to Taupo during and after the long weekend and he had some good success on the Czech nymph rig, landing some very nice fresh fish in 4 different rivers.

### **Saltwater**

See Dave's article above.

### **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 or AGM followed by a Bring and Buy session. Thank you to everyone.

## NEXT CLUB NIGHT – 20<sup>th</sup> MAY 7.30 PM

This month we have our own Johan Kok talking to us about Lake Fishing and what he has learned from being involved in the Competition scene.

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

## WHY WE FISH

*"To paraphrase a deceased patriot, I regret that I have only one life to give to my fly-fishing."*

*Robert Traver*

## 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 **Faith Moon!**

**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. No entries were made this year. 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 current holder is **Duncan Frew**.

The Lake part of the competition has its own Trophy, the **I Love Flyfishing Stillwater Trophy**. This could not be held this year. The current holder is **Duncan Frew**.

The winner of this year's River section is **Johan Kok**.

*Unfortunately, due to the Lake Otamangakau Trip (and the Lake Competition being cancelled) we can not award the I love Flyfishing Stillwater Trophy or the Rodd and Gunn Trophy this year. Also, despite lots of Club Members catching fish Saltwater Flyfishing, nobody entered their catch, so we are unable to award the I love Flyfishing Saltwater Trophy either.*

### **QUOTABLE QUOTES**

*"Everyone should believe in something. I believe I'll go fishing."*

*Henry David Thoreau*

### **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

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

February –Ngongotaha River and Rotorua Lakes –FEB 2027  
March – Lake Otamangakau – MAR 2027  
May – Ngongotaha River and Rotorua Lakes –MAY 21<sup>st</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> 2026  
July – Tongariro and Tauranga Taupo – JUL 24<sup>th</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> 2026  
August – Tongariro – Club River Fishing Competition – AUG 2026  
September – Tauranga Taupo – SEP 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 2026  
December / January – Tuition weekend (Held if enough ‘novice’ anglers are interested)  
December – Lake Otamangakau – DEC 10<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> 2026

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.



*Jaco with a fat Rotorua Rainbow Jack. Photo courtesy of Andrew Todd.*

## **JULY CLUB TRIP TO TURANGI**

This year's Turangi Club Trip is again being organized by Maurice Parlane and will take place on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> , Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July and return on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July.

The Club has booked out several units at Tongariro River Motel and costs will probably, (this is yet to be 100% confirmed), be \$115 per person. This will include 2 nights accommodation on a shared unit basis and a slap up BBQ dinner on the Saturday night. There are fish cleaning facilities, an electric overnight smoker, multiple BBQ's and a quick hot smoker.

Also, a number of people choose to come down on the Thursday night (23<sup>rd</sup> July) as well. If you do this just add \$50 to the cost.

If you are interested in knowing more about the Trip please contact Maurice ASAP as this is always a popular weekend. Maurice's contact details are as follows: mobile 021 650 692, or e-mail to: [maurice.p@newwayz.co.nz](mailto:maurice.p@newwayz.co.nz)

If you are a definite starter just let Maurice know which nights you can make ASAP and then pay your money to the Club.

- 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 Turangi as a reference);

## **JOKE OF THE MONTH**

A man walked into a cafe, went to the bar and ordered a beer.

'Certainly, Sir, that'll be one cent.'

'One Cent?' the man exclaimed.

He glanced at the menu and asked 'How much for a nice juicy steak and a bottle of wine?'

'Ten cents,' the barman replied.

'Ten cents?' exclaimed the man.

'Where's the guy who owns this place?'

The bartender replied 'Upstairs, with my wife.'

The man asked 'What's he doing upstairs with your wife?'

The bartender replied, 'The same thing I'm doing to his business down here.'

## **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) Re-tie knots / rigs regularly**

Nothing will succeed in losing a good fish like using yesterday's knots. Knots put the line under tension, and mono under tension tries to recover its shape placing the line under more tension. The longer a knot is left the more the tension builds up, the weaker the knot becomes, the closer to failure it is.

Always un-rig a rod after a days fishing and re-tie your terminal rigs on the next day out.

## **RECIPE OF THE MONTH**

I was thinking it would be nice to have some Trout recipes in the Newsletter again so I have gone all the way back to recipes we had in the Newsletter over 16 years ago. Hopefully they are helpful and will encourage some 'adventurous' cooking.

This recipe is by Shane French from when he ran the Waitahanui Lodge.

### **Crumbed Trout, shallow fried with Tartar sauce**

Take one good fresh Trout, bone and fillet it.

Dip the fillet pieces into beaten egg, then press firmly into good quality bread crumbs.

Heat one inch of good quality cooking oil in a fry pan or Wok and place crumbed Trout fillets into oil, (they should instantly fizzle).

Leave for 1.5 minutes then turn and cook for a further 1.5 minutes.  
Take out and drain on handy towel.

Serve with chips and salad.

Cheap Fish and chips!!



Bon Appetite!

If you have a recipe you would like to share please send it in

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

We have set up 4 Whats Ap Groups for Freshwater Day Trips / Salt Water Day Trips / Casting Practice / and Flytying. We have had several Day Trips, Fly Casting sessions and Flytying sessions already.

If you are keen to join these groups just let us know.

Contact Mike [secretary@nsff.org.nz](mailto:secretary@nsff.org.nz) or Duncan [iconpromote@gmail.com](mailto:iconpromote@gmail.com)



*Our Roving Reporter Faith, getting in some late season fishing in the absolutely stunning scenery of the South Island. Photo courtesy of Faith Moon.*

## **REEL LIFE APRIL 2026 - AUCKLAND WAIKATO**

### **Late-Season Fishing**

The NZ River National Champs was carried out on the Waimakariri Stream after a last minute venue change due to warm water temperature elsewhere! The spring-fed stream showed that there is some great fishing to be had and plenty of fish out there still.

Te Awamutu F&G Club's annual Arapuni fishing competition was also held late March with 81 anglers weighing in a total of 18 brown trout and 44 rainbow trout, along with a number of eels, rudd and goldfish. The winner on the day was junior fisherman Brayden Holmes with a 2.71 kg brown, showing there are still some good fish around if you put in the effort!



The competitions and other reports show good fish numbers in both our hydro lake fisheries and for late-season stream fishing. The beginning of winter fishing conditions does mean fish will be starting to spread out in the cooler water before they migrate into spawning streams however.

After all the rain over the past couple of weeks, it's important to keep an eye on the river flow when you're planning to go fishing. Live river flow data is now available for the Waikato on our fishing access maps (for example, [the Kaniwhaniwha Stream monitoring site](#)). This data is sourced live from the Waikato Regional Council.



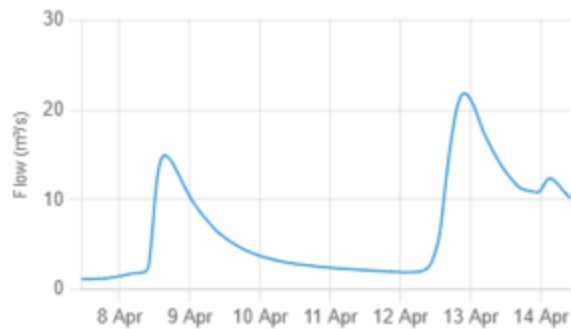
## LIVE RIVER FLOW

### Kaniwhaniwha Stm

Wright Rd | [Source](#)

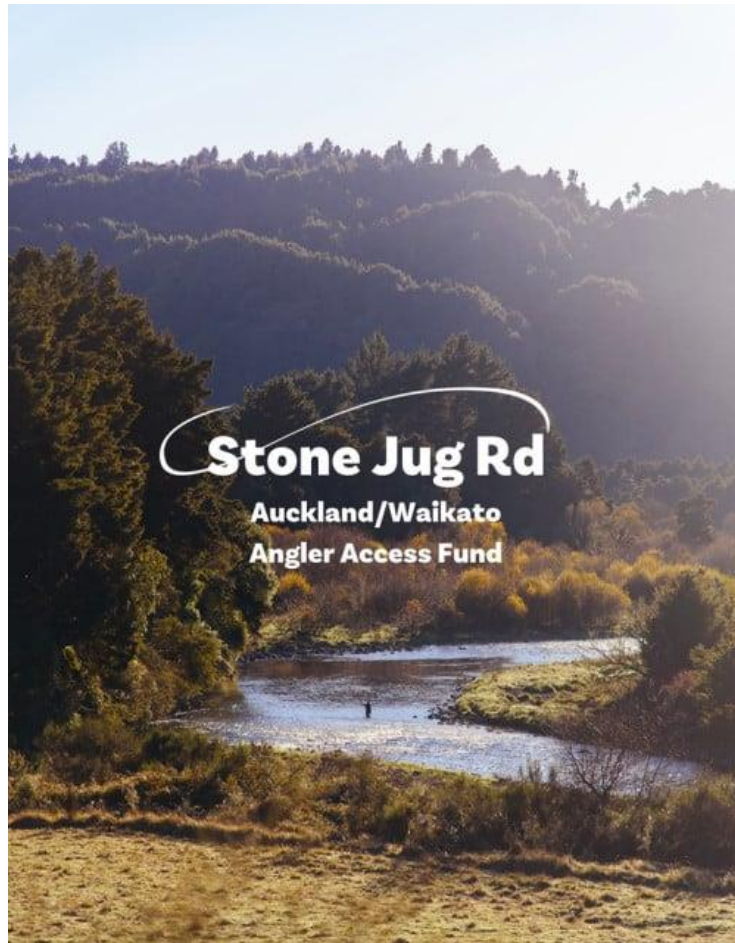
10.2 m<sup>3</sup>/s as of 10:10 am 14 Apr

#### Recent time series



### Stone Jug Road / Whakapapa Access

After several years of work, the Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game initiative has secured access to a river previously tied up in private ownership. The Angler Access Fund is a first-of-its-kind initiative focused on one thing: improving fishing access for current and future generations. The initiative involves purchasing land with valuable angler access (using external funding), adding easements to the property title, ensuring public access in perpetuity, and selling the property (now with enduring public access) before returning the money to the fund.



The first success of this was a property on Stone Jug Road, opening up over 3km of fishing on the Whakapapa River. The property is just wrapping up the final stage of surveying and will soon be sold, with proceeds going straight back into the fund to do it all again.

To listen to David Klee talking about it on RNZ, and also to learn how you can contribute here: <https://www.fishandgame.org.nz/.../aucklandwaikato.../>

### **Staff Update**

Long-time fisheries officer Adam Daniel has made the move from Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game after 13 years, to take up a new role with NZ Fish and Game Council, where he will continue his great work on biosecurity and its impact on freshwater fishing in New Zealand.

We are excited to have Matt Osborne make the move across from the Easter Fish and Game team to take up the newly vacant position of Senior Fish and Game Officer. After 20 years as the Fisheries Manager for Eastern F&G, Matt will add additional value to our fisheries management.

We are equally as excited to have Bruno David join the team. Bruno brings a wealth of local knowledge and experience in freshwater ecosystems.

### **Trout Release**

Two-year-old rainbow trout have just been released into Quarry Lake (near Lake Pupuke) on Auckland's North Shore in time for the school holidays. Kids under 12 can get a free licence online, and catch rates are usually pretty good!

Access and regulation information for Quarry Lake is available on our Fishing Access Map: <https://fishandgameaccessmap.org/#15.63/-36.78281/174.75962>

### **REEL LIFE APRIL 2026 – EASTERN**



April and May mark the start of the true winter spawning runs around the Rotorua district, with the big rainbows of Tarawera, Okataina and Rotoiti heading into the shoreline areas. We are already seeing an impressive number of solid fish in our spawning traps and should expect this to continue for several months into July or even August.

The on-going wet weather is perfect to stimulate spawning activity, so don't be shy when it comes to pulling on a raincoat and getting out there. As we always advise, dark, wet nights with a little wind are the best for fishing the Rotorua lake shorelines. Boobies and lumo doll patterns or simple black marabou flies with a touch of colour should be your starting options at night. A good selection of streamers (wet flies) during the day will see your options well covered for the shorelines.



*A variety of streamers covers the options at this time of year.*

During the day, use of a nymph suspended a relatively short distance under an indicator has traditionally been very productive at this time of year also. A small glowbug, flashback pheasant tail, hare and copper or copper John will all do the trick.

Boat fishers have found the going tough on our deeper lakes these last couple of weeks as the lakes cool and the thermocline move higher in the water column. Fish are being found between the surface and 20m, with the deeper sections of Rotoiti (more than 25m) being depleted of oxygen which has pushed fish higher.

Lake Rotorua has been performing well to shallow trolling and harling methods. Tassie and smelt fly combos fished around the 3m drop off around Hamurana, Mokoia or the airport are proving to be popular and successful.

The Rotorua tributary streams, especially the Ngongotaha receive a good run of spawning brown trout from April onward. These can be targeted at the river mouth, or further upstream, although the latter can prove to be more challenging, with river resident fish becoming picky and difficult to land.

### **Carry Your Licence**

Please don't forget to carry your current season licence. Our ranging staff will be out and about across the region checking licences, bags and having a friendly chat in the process. Having your licence on you will make this process much quicker for you – so you can get back to catching fish!

Insert Image: A routine compliance check made easier because the angler was carrying his licence

### **Winter Licences**

The winter fishing licence is available from the beginning of April at a much-reduced rate. April marks the beginning of spawning and there's still lots of boat fishing to be had with some lakes and waters staying open until the end of the season on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Get your chance to enjoy some great fishing at a much reduced licence rate for the remainder of the season.

See [here for licence options](#) and to make a purchase.

### **Don't Forget To CCD!**

The new season is a good time to remind everyone of our need to Check, Clean and Dry gear between waterways. Pest organisms are sadly on the increase and the precious

resource we all love is at risk. Please remember to CCD between your fishing trips, follow the instructions of the Regional Councils and MPI.

### **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>

Disclaimer:

The information presented in these news items is based on the context and regulations in place at the time of publication. Please note that some articles may include reference to laws and regulatory standards that have since changed. For the most current and accurate information please check our [Fishing Licences & Regulations pages](#) or our [Hunting Licences & Regulations pages](#).

## **TAUPŌ FISHERY FOCUS.**

### **By Trout Anglers For Trout Anglers.**

Issue 46 - April 2026.

Autumn is a favourite time of year for many anglers visiting the Taupō Fishing District due to the varied trout fishing opportunities on offer. Angler numbers are relatively low and maiden rainbow trout will be in good condition having spent the summer feeding on smelt. Boat anglers and fly anglers at river-mouths, will have a good chance of catching prime, chrome fish. River anglers will also shortly experience the first early season migrations of fresh rainbows, which will join the larger browns. Brown trout spawn earlier than rainbows so enter rivers in significant numbers around this time of year.

There is still another month before the 'winter limits' kick in, meaning anglers can still explore more remote areas of the fishery. The very popular Lake Otamangakau fishery is also open for another month, offering anglers a genuine chance to connect with a trophy trout.

If you've not done so already, you might like to enter our annual photo competition and be in-to-win a free season licence for next season, which starts 1 July 2026. See details in the story below.

The summer survey results from Lake Taupō provide a useful insight into current trends amongst anglers fishing the great lake. The results also underline the importance of harvesting trout to maintain a healthy stock of good-conditioned fish.

If you use Facebook, you might want to 'like' our page, so you get the latest announcements and news - see stories below.

Finally, please ensure you have purchased and are carrying a Taupō fishing licence before you start fishing. You can pick up a licence 24 hours a day, 7 days a week from our online licence store: [www.doc.govt.nz/fishinglicence](http://www.doc.govt.nz/fishinglicence)

Tight lines. James Barnett, Editor.



### **Major Jones Bridge Replacement: DOC Media Release.**

The DOC Taupō Fishery Management team has previously provided anglers with information about the upcoming replacement of the aging suspension bridges over the Tongariro River. A full DOC media release was recently generated, marking significant progress with this project.

Progress is coming to the Tongariro River Trail, with construction of a new suspension bridge - right next to the existing Major Jones bridge - due to begin on Monday 20 April.

The new bridge, built by the Department of Conservation (DOC) in partnership with Ngāti Tūrangitukua and Tūwharetoa Māori Trust Board, will replace the 70-year-old Major Jones bridge, which is no longer fit-for-purpose. Major Jones Bridge is one of the prominent structures on the Tongariro River Trail, located short distance from the Koura Street entrance in Tūrangi.

DOC Taupō Operations Manager Dave Conley says the new bridge will honour the look of the existing bridge, with steel cable supports and a timber deck.

"The new bridge will be about 15cm wider than its predecessor, allowing easier use for cyclists, anglers, walkers, and other recreational users alike."

Construction is set to occur between 20 April and 30 September 2026, with progress depending on weather conditions.

## **FISH & GAME DIVERS TAKE THE PLUNGE TO KEEP TABS ON TROUT AND WATERWAY HEALTH**

- 23/04/2026 - Maggie Tait

Fish & Game New Zealand has wrapped up another season of drift-diving surveys, with staff kitting up in wetsuits and snorkels to glide down more than 100 rivers nationwide in a bid to understand the health of the country's trout populations and freshwater.

The surveys are a cornerstone of Fish & Game's monitoring programme, providing data on trout abundance that directly informs catch limits for anglers but also an opportunity to check the health of New Zealand's rivers.

"Our staff are in the water assessing water clarity, habitat quality, aquatic insect populations and the abundance of indigenous fish," said Fish & Game New Zealand Chief Operating Officer Richie Cosgrove. "Together, that gives us a broad and reliable picture of overall river health."



### *Fish & Game staff drift diving on the Rangitikei River*

Each year, Fish & Game staff drift and glide down hundreds of kilometres of rivers throughout the country, compiling data that feeds into the management of sports fish populations on behalf of New Zealand's 140,000 fishing licence holders. There are very few organisations who do this and none more extensively.

"Trout require the cleanest water of any freshwater species in the country, which makes them an excellent indicator of river health," Cosgrove said. "When trout are thriving, it tells us the waterway is in good shape. When they're struggling, it's often a sign that something is wrong upstream.

"This work is what underpins our ability to advocate effectively for healthy rivers and lakes," Cosgrove said.

Drift diving is one of several monitoring methods used by Fish & Game, alongside electric fishing, spawning surveys, acoustic surveys, eDNA testing, and angler surveys.

## MATCHING THE HATCH?

As Fly Fishers we can go on about this or that Fly pattern, convinced that our secret ties are the “magic bullet” that will insure limitless catches. However, the choice of Fly is often only half the battle. Sometimes what you throw at them matters considerably less than **how** you throw it. New Zealand Trout are, by and large, opportunistic feeders. That is, whilst they may be feeding heavily on one type of food source, say Beetles, they will still happily eat a Cicada if it happens to drift past them.

Just as important as the “Right Fly” is the Presentation of the fly. For example, who is going to catch the most fish? The guy wading waist deep into a crystal clear pool in full view of the Trout, wearing his lucky Yellow cap and casting his perfectly matched fly on a 6ft leader to well spooked fish? Or the angler that is dressed in natural Green or Brown colours, has made a stealthy approach to the pool from below, and has cast the “wrong” fly on a 12ft leader to a completely unsuspecting Trout? A good drag free drift of the wrong fly past an unsuspecting fish will win every time.

Also, in New Zealand, often enough all that is needed is one aspect of a food source, say colour, to release a feeding instinct in the Trout. As can be seen in the picture below, this fish had been gorging itself on Green Beetles and naturally you would assume that the **only** pattern that would work would be a classic Green Beetle dry. This is simply not the case.

I have taken Beetle feeding fish on a Green Caddis pattern, fished underneath a Green bodied Mayfly pattern. Neither of these represented a beetle in any way, but they were both the **right colour**. This “releaser” was enough to trigger the fish into taking my presentation.

Having said that, the only reason I didn't tie on a Green Beetle is that I had left both of mine in the possession of riverside trees. Nasty, evil, Fisherman hating riverside trees!

Of course, if you can combine good presentation with the “right” fly then you really do start to stack the odds more in your favour.



**FISHING FUNNIES**



## **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 mobile 0275 006 336 <a href="mailto:ron.blair@xtra.co.nz">ron.blair@xtra.co.nz</a>
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>

## **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.nsff.org.nz](http://www.nsff.org.nz)

(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

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**North Shore Flyfishers Incorporated**