



THE FLYFISHER NEWSLETTER

August 2026

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Having reminisced a little in my previous article, I thought I would share my very first time fly fishing on the Tongariro River. I am going back to 1971 when at age 19, I was introduced to the “gentle art” by the future father-in law of my good mate, Adrian. John Moynihan, RNZAF Flight Lieutenant (Retired), was a very experienced and traditional fly fisherman who spoke enthusiastically of the many years he had spent fishing the world famous river. As luck would have it, John organised a trip at what was then, Queen's Birthday Weekend at the beginning of June and we stayed at the Paradise Motel at Tokaanu.

John had sufficient gear to get us going but unsurprisingly, most of it was very traditional, including rubber thigh waders and 2-piece cane rods. Lines were level/sinking and the flies included Mrs Simpson, Redsetters and Parson's Glory. It wasn't until some years later that the multitude of line types became more available and the concept of "nymphing" emerged and really "took off"!

Following John's direction, Adrian and I drove through Turangi to Grace's Road on the Eastern side of the river and walked down to the Reed pool where the river was quite low with clumps of previously covered willows and stumps now exposed and "sporting" decorative arrays of lost flies. There were a handful of other anglers at various intervals but still plenty of room so we both waded out carefully to around knee depth and deployed our flies. You will note that I didn't say "cast our flies". Despite John's best efforts on casting instructions back at home on the lawn, a heavy line, a soft and bendy cane rod and moving water, meant our best attempts were embarrassing to say the least, so we simply stripped line from the reel and let the current swing it away downstream.

John had also taught us to "knit" the line on retrieve and within the first couple of metres I had a solid tug and that was it. I and the fish were "hooked". With no net, I guided my first ever Tongariro Trout over to the bank and out of the water. A beautiful, 6lb, fresh run "silver bullet" on a well-used, Redsetter fly. A little while later, I had a repeat performance with an identical result by which time, it became clear that it should be Adrian's turn for success.

Although it was winter time, the river was running low so we continued to walk downstream where we found exposed sandbanks with various river channels and quite good wading. In some of the side channels, numbers of fish were lying quietly in the current and almost certainly waiting for rain and a "fresh" to encourage their onward journey. Adrian decided to prospect one of these channels by drifting his Mrs Simpson fly down the stream. We both watched his fly "swimming" away when a dark shape raced up from behind and "nailed" it. A mighty tussle ensued which ended thankfully, with a successful landing. A massive Brown Trout with beautiful gold and red spots.

That fish tipped the scales at 10lb's exactly and on our arrival back at the Paradise Motel, John was ecstatic that his 2 "apprentices" had done so well but tempered his enthusiasm with a very wise comment based on his many years spent on the river.

“It won’t always be this good boys!” My subsequent 55 angling years have proven that to be the case but we should never stop trying!

Dave Symes
President.

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.

FISHING REPORT

Auckland / Waikato

The winter fishing on the open Coromandel and Waikato waters has been great fun, possibly a little harder than past years, but still some fun fish to be caught, and some of them still coming up for the dry! A recent visit saw a lot more insect life with caddis and mayfly flying about on a warmer than usual day.



It may be mid-winter and bloody cold, but there is still some fun small stream fishing to be had as this photo from a recent day on the Waihou shows. Photo courtesy of Alan McNatty.

Rotorua

Hans and his friends have been hitting the Rotorua shore based spots again and having success with some absolutely stunning fish coming to the net. If you are heading down there take your rod!



Hans at it again with 8pds and 9.5pds Rainbows caught from the shore in Lake Tarawera. Photo courtesy of Hans Sabrowski.



Taupo

The lads have just completed a Club Trip to Turangi and can report that the fishing in the Tongariro is very hard...unless you are in the right pool. Most of the guys struggled but one found a pod of silver nuggets in one pool and caught a dozen or more. So keep moving until you find them.

The Hatepe is continuing to give up good numbers of fresh fish. Ryan and Spencer were down there last week and did very well in a relatively uncrowded river. Slushies and Soft Eggs were the recipe for success.

Saltwater

No report from the salt this month.

Fishy Tales

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

LAST CLUB NIGHT

Last month we had our fishing related quiz night. Thank you again to Allen for organising it.

NEXT CLUB NIGHT – 19th AUGUST 7.30 PM

This month we are having another Tips and discussion night.

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

WHY WE FISH

*"The fish and I were both stunned and disbelieving to find ourselves connected
by a line."*

William Humphrey

CLUB TROPHIES

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

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

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 – 1st April to 31st 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 **Konrad Dorfling**. *This has not had a trophy in the past but our own artistic craftsman, Allen, is making one for us.*

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

"Do not tell fish stories where the people know you. Particularly, don't tell them where they know the fish."

Mark Twain.

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



Another jumping Rainbow caught in mid leap. Photo courtesy of Andrew Todd.

CLUB TRIPS 2025 - 2026

February –Ngongotaha River and Rotorua Lakes –FEB 2027

March – Lake Otamangakau – MAR 2027

May – Ngongotaha River and Rotorua Lakes – MAY 2027

July – Tongariro and Tauranga Taupo – JUL 2027

August – Tongariro – Club River Fishing Competition – AUG 2027

September – Tauranga Taupo – SEP 3rd 4th 5th 6th 2026

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

December – Lake Otamangakau – DEC 10th 11th 12th 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.

JOKE OF THE MONTH

BOAT RAMP RULES

- When driving onto a ramp or backing down to the water at night , always leave your headlights on, preferably on high beam . this will effectively blind any other person trying to use the ramp.
- Always back your boat onto the ramp in a manner that takes up as much room as possible. This will prevent anyone else from using the ramp the same time as you.
- Always wait you have backed down to the water's edge before preparing your boat for launch. ie. Undo tie downs, transfer fishing,eskys,skis, etc, from the car to the boat.
- After you have launched your boat, under no circumstances should you move it out of the way to allow other people to use the ramp while you are parking your car and trailer. Don't hurry back,it is even acceptable to stop and have a chat to take up more time.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

Dead fish indicate that trouble for people is not far behind.

Tim Palmer

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 .

- 1) Move. If you are fishing a pool and nothing is happening, despite changing flies, fishing depth, leaders, etc, then it is time to move to another pool.



Mitch was understandably wrapped when he landed this large fat Rainbow on a recent Coromandel expedition. Photo courtesy of Mitchell Blackburn.

LAKE ROTOMĀ TIGER TROUT TOURNAMENT: FISHING TIMES AND RULES

Rotorua Daily Post – 10/08/2026

The Lake Rotomā Tiger Trout Tournament will return next month, drawing anglers from across the country to celebrate one of New Zealand’s most distinctive sport fish.

The popular event centres on the pursuit of tiger trout, a hybrid of brook and brown trout bred at the Ngongotahā Trout Hatchery and released exclusively into Lake Rotomā.

Known for their elusive nature, the fish have become the focus of a competition that combines fishing, community spirit and conservation awareness, a media release on behalf of the event said.

The tournament was established by former Rotomā Store owner Jeanette Greaney, who created an annual “tiger hunt” that quickly became a highlight on the local calendar.

Since 2018, wooden trophies for divisional winners have been displayed at the Lake Rotomā Old Trout Cafe alongside lake-themed murals by local artist Marc Spijkerbosch.

The tournament took a two-year hiatus because of high lake levels and Covid-19 restrictions.

This year’s event, on September 26 and 27, is expected to attract strong support from local and visiting anglers.

Organisers said competition categories included the Small Fry division for children aged 7 and under, the Junior Division for anglers aged 8 to 17, and adult sections.

The Small Fry category reflected the tournament’s “take a kid fishing” philosophy. It has produced memorable moments over the years, including the first tiger trout landed by a young angler.

Prizes will be awarded in the tournament’s signature Tiger Trout division, with categories for Best Rainbow Trout, Best Condition Fish and the popular Blooper Award.

Past tiger trout winners include Josh Cook, Dan Leota, Pat Swift and Cory Scott. Organisers note that one of Leota’s victories was achieved from a small inflatable boat.

Fishing begins at 10am on Saturday, September 26. Under Fish & Game regulations, fishing is prohibited between midnight on Saturday and 5am on Sunday. Competition fishing resumes from 5am to 10am on Sunday, with all fish required to be weighed and logged by 11am.

The prize giving will be held on Sunday at Lake Rotomā School on Manawahe Rd, near the Waitangi Soda Hot Springs.

Alongside the competition, organisers are promoting safe boating practices and encouraging anglers to help prevent the spread of golden clam and invasive aquatic weeds. Entry criteria include holding a current fishing licence.

Catch-and-release anglers will also be encouraged to receive priority at weigh-ins to allow fish to be returned to the water quickly, improving their chances of survival.

Spectators can watch the action from around the lake shore, as anglers try their luck against one of the country's most sought-after trout species.

For entry forms and more information, email rotomatigerhunt@gmail.com

CHILDREN'S FISH-OUT DAYS, NGONGOTAHA TROUT HATCHERY, ROTORUA

- *Eastern Events - 14/07/2026*



Check here for our 2026 events calendar

Next fishing event - 6th September 2026

Please [select here](#) to book.

Children aged from 6 to 14 years-old will be able to catch a rainbow trout at the hatchery's specially designed fish-out pond.

For many children, this will be their first trout fishing experience and with expert tuition from members of the Rotorua Anglers Association, they're guaranteed to catch a trout that can be taken home for dinner!

A sausage sizzle and drinks are available. Fish filleting for a gold coin donation is also available.

Catch a tagged trout from the pond win a spin rod and reel combo kindly supplied by sponsor Kilwell.

Important information:

- Bookings essential.
- The event is strictly for children aged between 6 and 14 years.
- A \$10 donation is requested to help run this event. Please bring cash as EFTPOS is not available.
- All fishing equipment is provided. Do not bring fishing equipment.
- Expert tuition and one-on-one help is provided for each child. Everyone catches a fish.

These popular events are only possible thanks to our sponsors. Please support these sponsors. [Agrodome](#) and [Kilwell Sports](#).

And we couldn't do it without the assistance of the good people at the [Rotorua Anglers Association](#).

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 courtesy of Shane French when he ran the Waitahanui Lodge, right on the edge of Lake Taupo, and once again looks delicious.

Lime Marmalade Smoked Trout

Smoked Trout with a Lime Marmalade and Honey Glace.

Split trout and remove back bone.

Sprinkle liberally with salt and a little brown sugar, leave overnight.

Buy a good quality lime marmalade and to your own taste add liquid honey, this will make a glaze on top of the flesh.

Spread evenly over the flesh of the trout and smoke. For best results smoke slowly.



Bon Appetite!

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

BIOSECURITY ISN'T JUST ABOUT BIRDS

NZFFA Commentary - <https://nzffa.com/>

When most New Zealanders hear the word *biosecurity*, they probably think of foot-and-mouth disease or, more recently, H5N1 avian influenza. Yet some of the greatest biosecurity threats facing our freshwater fisheries receive very little public attention. While anglers focus on river conditions, spawning runs and fish numbers, there are viral diseases overseas capable of devastating trout and salmon populations if they were ever to reach New Zealand.

Fortunately, New Zealand remains free of several of the world's most serious salmonid diseases, including Viral Haemorrhagic Septicaemia (VHS), Infectious Haematopoietic Necrosis (IHN) and Infectious Salmon Anaemia (ISA). These viruses have caused severe losses in overseas fisheries and aquaculture, sometimes resulting in the destruction of entire fish stocks and long-term movement restrictions.

The encouraging news is that these diseases are not spread by casual contact alone. Strong border controls, careful management of imported fish products, surveillance and strict hatchery biosecurity have helped keep New Zealand free of these pathogens. This is one area where prevention is unquestionably better than cure.

For anglers, the implications are significant. A major disease outbreak could affect much more than commercial salmon farming. Wild trout fisheries, hatcheries, fish transfers and spawning programmes could all be disrupted. Rivers might remain open, but stocking programmes, fish movements and even organised angling events could face restrictions while authorities attempted to contain an outbreak.

None of this should cause alarm. Rather, it serves as a reminder that protecting our fisheries involves far more than managing fish numbers or regulating harvest. Healthy fisheries depend upon healthy ecosystems, responsible anglers and effective biosecurity.

There are practical steps every angler can support. Clean and dry boats, nets and waders before moving between waterways. Never transfer live fish between catchments. Respect hatchery biosecurity requirements. Report unusual fish deaths or signs of disease to the appropriate authorities. These simple measures reduce the risk of spreading both exotic diseases and established aquatic pests.

New Zealand enjoys some of the finest trout and salmon fisheries in the world. That reputation has not occurred by accident. It has been built through careful management, healthy waterways and an enviable disease-free status. Protecting that status is in the interests of every angler.

Most of the time, the greatest success of biosecurity is invisible. We continue to enjoy healthy fisheries because many of the world's most damaging fish diseases have never reached our shores. Keeping it that way is one of the best investments we can make in the future of recreational fishing.



CLUB RIVER & INTERCLUB COMPETITION TRIP – A TALE OF TWO POOLS

This weekend has seen the Club Trip to Turangi for the Interclub Competition with the Auckland Fly Fishing Club, and it was also the Club River Fishing Competition.

The fishing was generally very hard with most anglers from either Club managing only 1 or 2 fish for the Competition day on Saturday. But for 2 anglers in the Auckland Club, and 1 from ours, it was a great days fishing with each of them landing 10 or more. Their secret? Well, apart from fishing very well, they all managed to get onto pools that held pods of fresh run Trout. Fish that were ready and willing to take the fly. Unfortunately the Auckland Club won the Interclub Comp, but a great time was had by all and a great night of Whiskey tasting, BBQ-ing, and general humour ensued.

For our own Club River Competition congratulations must go to Konrad who cleaned up with around a dozen fish to the net. Well done Konrad! Just finding a pool that held good numbers of fish this weekend was quite an achievement but then to pull a dozen fish out of it is an excellent effort.



Jaco with a fantastic small stream Rainbow. Photo courtesy of Andrew Todd.



*You guys all take some great pictures! Thank you for sharing them. Photo courtesy of
Jaco Du Preez.*

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 .

FISHING BUDDIES SOUGHT

The intention is to display a list of names of Club Members that are keen on finding a 'buddy' to go fishing with, either on a regular basis or just for a day. In essence it's a fly-fishing dating service...

Name	Availability	Contact Details
Ron Blair	Anytime, has a 14.4 Marco with 60hp etec Evenrude for serious fishing Salt or Fresh	home 09 834 8841 mobile 0275 006 336 ron.blair@xtra.co.nz
Graham Carter	Lives in Hamilton, keen on weekday / mid-week trips.	021 026 00437 07 855 1833
Lloyd Altham	Has 12' Pontoon boat /15 HP Honda. Available most time, but prefer weekdays.	Mob. 021 0295 9167 Home 09 420 3120 email-lloyd@skysupply.co.nz
Gary Bolstad	Keen to get out Stream, Lake or even Saltwater fly-fishing. Has both Fish & Game and Taupo season licences so keen to go almost anywhere. Retired so free to go most of the time.	Mobile 022 379 3070 gd.bolstad@gmail.com
Derek Robinson	Retired available most times keen to do Waikato streams and most other things.	Ph 4437311 Mob: 0212 595 371 pamanddek@outlook.com

BROWN TROUT TROPHY" COMPETITION RULES

Winning fish will be determined by weight.

Verification by partner where possible and/or by photograph.

Details to be provided to any committee member.

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

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

NSFF CLUB SALT WATER FLY FISHING COMPETITION RULES

The "essence" of the competition is to encourage club member participation and in the process, to award a winner's trophy to the individual who catches the greatest number of salt water species. It will run from 1st April in one year to 31st March in the next year with the trophy awarded at the following AGM. For the full rules please refer to the Club Website www.nsff.org.nz

(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.

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

NORTH SHORE FLYFISHERS EXECUTIVE

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