



THE FLYFISHER NEWSLETTER

October 2026

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I've been away in Europe over the last month or so which means I haven't "wet" a line for a while. Sardinia and the Greek Islands do present a few spots where one could have a "flick" but the incredible clarity of the water together with the general lack of fish meant that a nice lunch and an Aperol spritz was a much better idea.

With my feet now firmly back on Aotearoa, I made a quick visit to the quarry lake next to Lake Pupuke today as there has recently been another scheduled release of 2 year-old rainbows from the Ngongataha hatchery. It was a bit breezy so I walked around the pathway

towards Shea Terrace and checked out the water in the corner. Visibility was only about 1 metre but while I stood there, a group of about 8 or 9 trout swam by within 4 metres of the edge. I know they are hardly “trophy” specimens but it is certainly very close to home and provided you are sensitive to pedestrians walking along behind you, a back cast would be no problem. Just make sure you are “licensed up” !

If you are not absolutely focussed on trout, I have another suggestion where you might consider having some fun. A couple of days ago, I was walking my dog around the Lake Pupuke foreshore near the Sylvan Park Avenue Reserve. About 300 metres from the carpark and heading towards the tennis courts at the end of Pierce Ave, I stopped at a point where there was a gap in the lakeside papyrus plants. To my surprise and in only about 30cm's of water, 3 huge carp emerged, just cruising along. I estimate that the biggest would have been a good 4kg's and the others close to 3kg's. I realise that they are not a “sports” fish but they are still powerful with a huge tail which can give them a good boost of speed. My thought is to use a “fly” which could imitate a piece of bread (like a soft brown and white marabou) and use a “bow and arrow” cast from a kneeling position. If you were lucky enough to hook up, I reckon you would have quite a fight on your hands! Like the quarry lake, this spot is also very handy and not going to mean using precious petrol/diesel to get there.

Turning my thoughts Southwards, most of our favourite waters are now open (with the exception of the Ngongotaha above the Victoria bridge) and while most have been affected to some extent by low and clear conditions, good numbers of rainbows and browns have been caught. The recent club trip to Kereru Lodge on the Tauranga Taupo River was very successful with most, if not all anglers “hooking up”.

I am looking forward to yet another annual club trip to Lake Otamangakau in early December. I have booked cabins at Tongariro Holiday Park for the 10th, 11th and 12th (Thursday, Friday and Saturday). Some members have already confirmed their participation but please let me know if you would like to come along as well. My email is: president@nsff.org.nz. Or mob: 021 673 045.

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.

HUGE FLYFISHING GEAR SALE

Occasionally one of our three local fly fishing Stores, (I Love Fly Fishing / North Shore Hunting & Fishing / Sporting Life Auckland), has a massive sale and when they do we try to let Club Members know. This time it is Johan at I love Fly Fishing.

The link to his sale is below, or just go straight to his website.

https://iloveflyfishing.kiwi/collections/traper-products?se_activity_id=181241610409&syclid=db7hjjeuml4s73apega0&utm_campaign=Traper+Clearance+%2B+Fresh+Gear+for+the+Season+181241610409&utm_medium=email&utm_source=shopify_email

FISHING REPORT

Auckland / Waikato

The Coromandel rivers are still producing good numbers of fish and the water temperatures are still nice and cool, meaning active and unstressed Trout. Also there is a lot more insect life with the swallows and fantails working all day catching the hatching mayfly and caddis.

The Waikato spring creeks have all been going really well for those able to get down there.



Allen with a lovely 3.25pd Coromandel Brownie.

Rotorua

Our Big Fish man Fikrit, was down at the Ohau Channel for opening day but for the first time in a very long time he caught no Browns. He managed to catch a number of Rainbows but they were skinny fish. It seems that the early season smelt runs out of Lake Rotoiti are a bit late this year.

But over at Tarawera Hans made a run down there yesterday afternoon / night, and landed 8 Rainbows with 4 of them 6pds through to 9pds. All those before dark were on a Brown Woolly Bugger and those after dark on a Yellow Doll Fly.

Taupo

There are still some excellent fresh fish being caught on a regular basis, along with large numbers of recovering fish. This is a great time of year to fish down there. You have large numbers of hungry fish, some great evening dry fly hatches, Lake Otamangakau is open again, and if you are lucky you might find some smelting fish on the edges of Lake Taupo.



Lake O on a stunning December day. Don't forget the Club Trip here is coming up in December. Contact Dave if you might be keen. Photo courtesy of Pete Schierhout.

Saltwater

No report this month. What's happening out there guys? Let us know at Club Night next week.

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 Andrea Mattioli talking to us. Thank you again Andrea.

NEXT CLUB NIGHT – 21st OCTOBER 7.30 PM

This month we are having Sam Bourne talking to us.

Sam is an extremely good fly fisher, having represented New Zealand in the NZ Fly Fishing Team numerous times. He is not just a great angler but one of those that is able, (and willing), to pass on his knowledge in a way that is practical and easy to understand.

Also, as you know, we pay our visiting Speakers a fee for their presentations to us. Sam has asked for his fee to be given to two charities that he supports, Reel Recovery and Casting For Recovery. If you don't know about these groups please look them up. They do great work.

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

WHY WE FISH

"Scholars have long known that fishing eventually turns men into philosophers. Unfortunately, it is almost impossible to buy decent tackle on a philosopher's salary."

Patrick McManus

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

"I fish better with a lit cigar; some people fish better with talent."

Nick Lyons

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



Johan with an Opening Day special. Photo courtesy of Johan Kok.

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 2027

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.

DECEMBER CLUB TRIP TO LAKE OTAMANGAKAU

I am proposing the weekend of 11th 12th 13th December (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) with a number of us arriving on Thursday the 10th.

While it is predominately a boat fishery, the Te Whaiu (inlet) canal which can be fished from the shore, and particularly the “holding” area immediately above the road bridge, offers a big range of casting positions. Plus of course, there are the numerous easily accessed little bays on the western side of the lake.

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

By December, the Trout are in ‘eating’ mode, with lots of insect activity, providing some fantastic fishing activity. The fish are in fantastic condition, big, fat and powerful!
Costs will be \$60 per person per night.

The Accommodation is your own little room with 2 beds, 1 for sleeping and the other for your gear. There are shared cooking facilities. I have “penciled in” 8 cabins at Tongariro Holiday Park so if anyone is interested, please let me know ASAP.

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



*Simon with a shore based Brown taken on a previous Lake Otamangakau Club Trip.
Photo courtesy of Leon Bathurst.*



Some pics from the Kereru Lodge Trip. As can be seen from the smiles, a lot of fun was had! Clockwise from top left: John C. with a chunky Rainbow. Stephen, Jaco and Tristan discussing the proper way to cook meat! Konrad, Stephen, Andrew, Pete, and Nigel, deciding that drinking and watching other people fish the pool below was the plan!



Stephen C and Andrew T, double trouble.

JOKE OF THE MONTH

A new young monk arrives at the monastery and as with all new monks he is assigned to help the other monks in copying the old canons and laws of the church by hand. He notices, however, that all of the monks are copying from copies, not from the original manuscript.

So, the new monk goes to the head abbot to question this, pointing out that if someone made even a small error in the first copy, it would never be picked up. In fact, that error would be continued in all of the subsequent copies. The head monk, says, "We have been copying from the copies for centuries, but you make a good point, my son." So, he goes down into the dark caves underneath the monastery where the original manuscript is held as archives in a locked vault that hasn't been opened for hundreds of years. Hours go by and nobody sees the old abbot.

So, the young monk gets worried and goes downstairs to look for him.

He sees him banging his head against the wall, and wailing, "We forgot the "R"! "We forgot the "R"! "We forgot the "R"! "We forgot the "R"! "We forgot the "R"!"

His forehead is all bloody and bruised and he is crying uncontrollably. The young monk asks the old abbot, "What's wrong, father?"

With a choking voice, the old abbot replies, "The word is celebrate!"

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) Slow Down! Too often we race down to the river, put a few casts into a pool, don't catch anything and race onto the next spot. Take your time over a pool, approach it slowly, look carefully for any rises, fish movement, insect life, and then carefully and methodically fish all the likely lies within the pool. Then move on. You will catch a lot more fish.

REEL LIFE SEPTEMBER 2026 - AUCKLAND/WAIKATO



Opening Day Is Nearly Here!

The new fishing season kicks off on 1st October, so don't forget to purchase your new season fishing licence!

The days are starting to lengthen as we approach the opening. Stream temperatures will remain cool until the true ambient summer heat starts to kick in and fish will be spread out early in the season, so cover the water to find where the fish are holding. Remember, the trout have just gone through spawning so expect the older fish to be in poorer condition and recovering.

Due to the unpredictable weather that normally accompanies spring time, it is always a good idea to have a backup stream option such as one of our great [spring creeks](#).

Check out the [Fishing Access Maps](#) for some ideas of areas and access points to visit this season. [Select here](#) to go to instructions how to install as a app on your phone.

If you are heading out to fish the Mangatutu, Whakapapa or Whanganui please carry a measuring tape as there are tagged fish present. These are part of a long-term sports fish tagging programme. If you should catch a tagged fish from Auckland/Waikato waters please contact mosborne@fishandgame.org.nz to report the tag number along with the length (to the fork in the tail) of any tagged fish, and where you were fishing and the date.

Effects Of Flooding Over Autumn 2026

Last autumn our region suffered significant flooding through the Pirongia and Waitomo areas. Our staff have been out undertaking access work and monitoring. The stream beds and banks of the Kaniwhaniwha and Ngakoaohia in particular have been altered particularly in lower stream sections. Trout are still present, though populations have been reduced in these waters. The invertebrate supply (instream insects) have bounced back quickly which is a great sign and given the connectivity with the greater Waipa River system, trout will migrate from the main Waipa River over the summer as temperatures rise to bolster the numbers.

There was also major flooding to the Awakino River back in December 2025. Given the scale of this flood, there were some concerns for how the trout population had fared. However, pre and post flood monitoring showed that the trout population came through very well.

The winter period has been fairly settled with occasional relatively moderate rainfall events, so trout spawning should have been successful across the majority of the region's rivers.



Auckland/Waikato staff monitoring the Kaniwhaniwha Stream in September 2026

Lower Waikato River Fishing Competition

You don't have to wait for opening day to enjoy great fishing. The Waikato River has been fishing well, and the Waikato River Fishing Competition starts October 8th to 11th (Thursday to Sunday). The competition provides a great opportunity to get the family into an outdoor activity over the second week of school holidays. The contest is held in the lower Waikato River from Karapiro Dam to Port Waikato. For official contest information and entry forms [please go to the contest website](#). **Please note a cut-off time for entries is the 7th of October.**

Perch Fishing Opportunities

European Perch are an under-utilised sportfish in the Waikato region. Not only will they readily monster a lure they are also damn fine eating. Numerous populations of perch can be found in the Waikato region including Hamilton Lake, Lake Puketerini and the mainstem Waikato River. In early 2025 an angler confirmed their suspected presence in Lake Karapiro and a follow up netting survey by F&G staff in November 2025 in association with further angler reports indicates that an established perch population now exists.

The generally large size of the perch captured and reported suggests the fish are growing rapidly. In many other waterbodies in NZ also containing trout, the establishment of perch has resulted in a negative impact on trout growth (such as occurred in Lake Rototoa (Ototoa) and Lake Pupuke). Interestingly in Europe the ability to maintain fish condition of other predatory fish and predator-prey balance in lakes, involves specific management of perch whereby large perch (>32cm FL) are protected and where harvest pressure is encouraged particularly on medium sized fish (22-32cm TL). In addition, the protection of other large predatory fish in the system is also encouraged.

In part this rationale stems from knowledge that removing large perch from the population (which are typically females) results in other female perch attaining maturity and reproducing at a much smaller size. Ultimately following the early rapid growth establishment phase, removal of large individuals can cause the population to become very abundant and stunted. Invariably this then has flow-on effects for other predators in the system where competition for food ramps up. So, a potential argument could be made to implement slot limits for this new incursion and to encourage focus on angler harvest on medium sized perch to maintain population balance.



Five perch and one adult rudd captured at Lake Karapiro by F&G staff in November 2025. Size range 250-336mmFL

Lake Karapiro Fishing Competition

Keep your eye out for the Karapiro Fishing Competition, due to be held at Lake Karapiro on Saturday the 21st of November with weigh in at the Karapiro Domain at 2pm. Fish & Game are hosting this primarily to target perch but will have a prize category for trout and spot prizes.

LAKE KARAPIRO

FISHING COMPETITION



**21ST NOVEMBER
2026**

All anglers responsible for their own safety
around water hazards
Remember to Check, Clean and Dry to stop the
spread of pest species . CAN orders in place to
prevent the spread of golden clam.

MAIN PRIZE CATEGORY

Most perch caught, kept and
weighed an by an individual.
Child, junior and adult
categories.
Other prize category: Best
condition trout

DETAILS

All of Lake Karapiro, with Karapiro Domain as the
hub/weigh in area.

Times: Start fishing any time on the 21st; competition
finishes at 2pm. Weigh-in from 2pm at Karapiro
Domain. Look for Fish and Game tent.
BBQ in the afternoon at weigh in venue.



REGISTER: Via the QR code by Friday 20th November - 12pm.

How To Install The Fishing Access Map On Your Phone



Apple – iPhone / iPad	Android
1. Open the map full screen in Safari.	1. Open the map full screen in Google Chrome.
2. Tap the Share button.	2. Tap the : menu in the top-right corner.
3. Scroll down and tap Add to Home Screen.	3. Tap Install app.
4. Make sure Open as Web App is turned on.	4. Tap Install to confirm.
5. Select Add.	5. The map will appear on your Home Screen or in your app list.



Fish Release To Quarry Lake

Two-year-old rainbow trout are being released into Quarry Lake, adjacent to Lake Pupuke in the lead up to the school holidays. A reminder that kids under 12 can get a free licence online.

Access and regulation information for Quarry Lake is available on our [Fishing Access Map](#)

Stop Aquatic Intruders

A reminder for everybody (all users of our waterways) how hugely important it is to keep to the Check/ Clean/ Dry standards. The Golden Clam isn't going anywhere (at least not without human assistance) so let's do everything possible to stop it in its tracks.

Controlled Area Notices are still in force for the Waikato River from below Whakamaru Dam to Port Waikato and for the Rotorua lakes and Lake Okataina. These documents dictate how vessels and gear that have been in contact with waterways in the controlled areas may move, launch and require specific cleaning protocols before redeployment in other areas.

The MPI 'CAN' orders can be found here;

[Rules to stop the spread of Corbicula | NZ Government](#)

If we all do everything we can to follow the MPI Controlled Area Notice (CAN order) and Check Clean, Dry guidelines, we can stop other aquatic pest weeds and noxious fish from spreading too. Protect your waterways and protect your sport.



Golden Clam's

Report Poaching Activities

If you see any set nets/ fish barriers/ or other activity that doesn't look right - please contact the Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Office on 07 849 1666. Every report we receive even after the fact helps us to paint a picture of where things are happening and when so that we may take action.

REEL LIFE SEPTEMBER 2026 – NORTHLAND



Whau Valley Trout Fishing Day

The Whau valley trout fishing day is on 17 October. Come meet the team and potentially catch a Northland trout. The Whau valley dam is our most accessible trout fishery being right in the middle of Whangārei. The dam carpark is within a couple of steps of the best fishing spot on the grassy area. The dam is stocked annually with rainbows and is considered a put-take fishery. Brown trout we stocked earlier last year and should be of legal size.

Regulation Changes

No changes to the regulations this season. All our waters are open year round to all permitted methods.

All river and streams, methods - FSB, Limit - 2 fish

Stocked reservoirs, methods - FSB, Limit - 3 fish

We Need Your Help!!

If you catch a trout in Northland can you please weigh and measure the fish. Then email that information along with the location and fin clips (if any) to northland@fishandgame.org.nz This will give us useful information on the health of the fishery. Don't worry we will keep your prized spot secret. Any fish catch data submitted will go into the draw for a whole season licence for the 2027-2028 season.

Take The Family Fishing

The new season commenced on Saturday 1st October 2026. The family licence is by far the best value for money licence on offer. A family licence can be made up of two parents or grandparents and up to four of their children or grandchildren under the age of 18. This licence can also be used anywhere in NZ, except the Lake Taupo fishery.

For more information about the new seasons licences check out our website: www.fishandgame.org.nz



One of our own Northland explorers, Mitch, landed this fun Rainbow at the dam near Whangarei. Photo courtesy of Mitchell Blackburn.

REEL LIFE SEPTEMBER 2026 – EASTERN



New Trout Season About To Kick-Off

For most of us, Opening Day of the new trout season is like Christmas and Birthday all rolled into one! No other days in the calendar of a keen trout angler excite like the first of October. No matter what you have planned for the new season, we hope you truly enjoy it, manage a little quality time with friends and family, feel relaxed, refreshed and recharged, and finally lean into a few rewarding fish in the Eastern Fish & Game Region.

Firstly, a quick look at the weather. The forecast for Opening day looks like light northerly or nor westerly winds in the 6-10km/hr range and reasonably warm weather up to 17 degrees Celsius – both of which will be perfect for a day trout fishing somewhere!

Although El Niño conditions are looming for the Bay of Plenty, October and December wind should be moderate, and the lakes are almost always very fishable early in the mornings, with the breeze only getting up in the afternoon. Even then, with thirteen lakes at your disposal, shelter isn't hard to find.

We suggest you check the [MetService forecast](#) for up to date weather before heading out.

The good news is lakes have been doing well, with fish condition and size at the end of last season some of the best we have ever seen.

Tarawera and Rotoiti are the most popular for opening, followed closely by Okataina. Lake Tarawera is coming off a high from last season, and we expect the fish to be every bit as good this year.

Your early season catch will normally consist of hatchery liberated 2-year olds which will be fat, silvery and have deep orange flesh – perfect for the smoker. There will be a number of longer, thinner 3-year old fish that are recovering after spawning this winter. Give them a few months, and they will be back in good nick.

You might also see some smaller, fat 1+ year old fish at opening, and these demonstrate just how exceptional the growth is in the Rotorua lakes, often being well over the minimum 35cm length, despite only having been in the lake a few months.



Opening Day Tips

If you do plan to head to Tarawera, Rotoiti or Okataina, then making a pre-trip plan is a good idea. An early start is advisable, but not absolutely critical if you've got family on board that perhaps don't quite share your enthusiasm for the dawn chorus! Often the bite doesn't actually come on until you have some good sun on the water.

Being prepared to fish a variety of methods is also recommended. Shallow trolling is a good way to start by using straight mono rigs and a Tassie or smelt fly and Tassie attractor. As the sun gets up, and boat traffic increases, you may want to move to deeper methods such as a lead line trolling, down rigging, jigging or soft baiting.

Either way, keep changing your method of attack until you hit success. Keep an eye on neighbouring boats and see what methods they are using.

If the crowds of Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina boat fishing aren't your thing, then don't worry, there are still another six or seven lakes to fish in the Rotorua region – and you might be surprised to know how good the fishing can be. Lake Rotorua for instance, produces a very high catch rate and recently excellent size and condition. The sighted brown trout shore-based fishery is now well underway and will continue to improve as the lake warms.

Opening Day Surveys And Licence Checks

Fish & Game staff will be on the lakes and at ramps carrying out surveys. They will want to view, weigh and measure your catch and ask you questions about how long you have fished and with what methods. This information is vital to the management of the fishery, so we appreciate your cooperation with this. They will also want to see your fishing licence, so please have it handy.

Okataina Gate Access

Biosecurity conditions imposed by MPI around Lake Okataina mean boaties are required to wash their vessel and trailer before entering the lake. This can be completed at The Wash Place, 338 Te Ngae Rd, Rotorua. It only takes a few minutes. Once complete, you will receive a txt notification with two 4-digit pin codes, one to enter the lake, and one to exit.

Get You New Season Licence!

New season licence are [available here](#). We have a multitude of options available. By purchasing the right licence you'll be able to get something that suits your specific needs at the best possible price. Purchase the Whole Season Adult Licence now and the cost per day, for example works out at well under 50c per day. Senior or Local Area licences also save you!

New Mapping – Get The Spot Easier!

Our new mapping system has been updated. [Click here](#) for access mapping

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.



*Mitch caught this beautiful fresh Rainbow in the Tauranga Taupo last October. Just a reminder that there are still fresh fish moving into the Taupo rivers at this time of year.
Photo courtesy of Mitchell Blackburn.*

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.

Bacon Wrapped Trout With A Sundried Tomato And Caper Sauce

Fillet and bone your Trout then cut into thick strips about 10 cm long. Wrap one or two strands of streaky bacon around each piece and secure with a tooth pick. Heat a good frying pan with a little olive oil and fry the bacon wrapped Trout on one side for two minutes or until brown, turn over and repeat.

Place these into a pre heated oven at 190C. Add 1/2 a cup of unsalted Chicken Stock to the fry pan and De Glaze the pan, (this means get all the good tasty bits of Bacon off the bottom, by stirring the liquid around). Add 1 Tbl spoon of honey, 7 or 8 chopped up Sundried Tomatoes, and about 12 whole capers. The final ingredient is Balsamic Vinegar. Just 1 Tsp of this. Stir and reduce down until it is of runny honey consistency. Take off heat.

Drizzle the Bacon wrapped Trout with the sauce and serve with your favourite fresh Veges.



Bon Appetite!

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

2026-27 FISH & GAME FISHING LICENCES AVAILABLE NOW!

The new season is almost here. Grab your licence, dive into our brand-new 'Fishing Knowledge Hub', and get set for some awesome angling adventures.

The 2026-27 freshwater fishing season opens on October 1 and licences are available to purchase now.

Get in early so you can spend the run-up to Opening Day on the good stuff, sorting your gear, lining up trips with mates, and learning how to be more successful.

The Full Season Licence offers the best bang for buck. At just \$158, allowing you to fish throughout the country (except Taupo) right through to the end of September next year!

[**Buy your licence now**](#)

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

Club Patron – Dave McLellan

President - Dave Symes 486-6257 Takapuna

president@nsff.org.nz

Secretary - Mike Martindale 020 445 4337 Takapuna

secretary@nsff.org.nz

Treasurer - Barrie Barnes 021 925 006 Glenfield

treasurer@nsff.org.nz

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