# THE FLYFISHER NEWSLETTER

**November 2026**

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As yet the end of another year draws closer, so does the first of the club's two annual trips to Lake Otamangakau. This trip is scheduled for the 10th, 11th and 12th of December with the second occurring in March next year with the actual dates to be decided. That second event will also include the 'still water tranche" of the club's Rodd and Gunn competition to be held on the Saturday.

Most of you will already have experienced, to one degree or another, the thrills and disappointments of fishing this beguiling alpine lake but it is the chance of hooking the "fish of a lifetime" which keeps drawing us back. In my case, I have been "throwing flies" into that water since the late 1970's with mixed results but on one memorable evening, I landed a magnificent, 6kg hen rainbow with other catch records and DOC research, confirming the presence of similar huge fish, both rainbows and browns.

Lake Otamangakau is primarily a fishery based on an abundance of insect life which, for the most part, is eaten by fish in the larval (nymph) form. However, whenever I have cleaned a fish, the predominant items in the gut are invariably the large aquatic snails which graze on the vast weed beds. Over the years, I have tied a number of snail "flies" but have yet to actually hook anything. Granted my offerings generally bear little resemblance to the actual animal but on the other hand, given that the population of snails in the lake is probably in the tens of millions, it would be an amazing fluke if my one was to be "chosen one"!

From my own experience and speaking to other anglers, there are probably only a few flies which catch fish consistently on the lake. These are my favourite "go to" flies:
**Damsel nymph.** Generally a green or brown body with large eyes and rubber legs providing an element of movement. Tied on a 10 or 12 hook.
**Blood worm**. A red or orange thread or small chenille body, a small bead head and tied on a 10 or 12 "caddis "hook.
**Pheasant tail**. A body tied entirely from fine copper wire with a few strands of actual pheasant feather tail. Tied on a 12 or 14 hook. A proven favourite of Louie di Nolfo (aka Louie the Fish).
**Woolly Bugger.** A bead head of gold or red, a soft green hackle body and a marabou tail. Generally tied on an 8 or 10 hook. A similar version is known as a "Yoshi Bugger".
Clearly, there are a huge number of other options with the range of materials and patterns available so I would always encourage fellow anglers to keep "experimenting".

The other equally important aspect is presentation. In my case, I would say that for at least 90% of the time, I use a floating line during both daylight and after dark. During the day, I generally drift my flies under an indicator choosing to target the "edges" where the shallow weed beds drop away into old, former creek beds. After dark, I still use the floating line but then a luminous fly if the water is reasonably clear or a large black fly if the water is discloured. In periods of annoying wind, I sometimes change over to an intermediate sinking line to avoid a large loop on the surface and retrieve slowly with the occasional "twitch" on the line.

In the last few years, DOC have introduced a number of new rules designed to protect the "trophy" status of the lake and to reduce, as much as possible, the mortality rate of fish which have been caught and then released. The "culprit" is the excessive surface temperature of the lake where the combination of much reduced aquatic oxygen levels and the exhaustion of the fighting fish have combined to sound the death knell! DOC maintains monitors within the lake at various depths which can be read remotely. Whereas recent years have seen the lake closed to angling during the month of February, traditionally regarded as our hottest summer month, the monitoring now allows for "real time" data collection and if the lake temperature shows 20 degrees or more consistently, any fishing can be stopped. That response would be sent to licence holders' phones, broadcast over radio and by signage at the lake. With ongoing climate change and a forecast "super el nino", it remains a distinct possibility.

However, with any luck, December will not be too hot for us and everyone will enjoy the challenge of the "BIG O".

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

Rain, rain, and then some more rain. It has been decidedly damp. The good thing about this is that it has freshened up all our 'local' water. Recent visits to the Coromandel had seen the rivers at extreme low levels, but fortunately still cool to wade and so not stressful for the fish. All this rain has put floods through the Coromandel and Waikato systems and with that rain it has dropped the water temperatures. The forecast for this weekend is good so Get Out There!



*Steve with an idea of what the back country may hold for you this summer…Photo courtesy of Stephen Charles.*

### Rotorua

The floods have all pumped cold water into Lake Rotorua so it will probably delay the Trout from coming to the river mouths just that little bit longer. But on the other side it will be pumping a lot of food, dislodged nymphs and eggs, into the lake edges.

Don't forget, the Lake Rotorua tributaries all open to fishing again on the 1st of December.



*20 sleeps and the Rotorua tributaries will be open again! Andrew with an example of what you can expect. Photo courtesy of Andrew Todd.*

**Taupo**

The Tongariro has been fishing well prior to this latest flood, albeit not always easy, with low and clear water requiring long leaders and accurate casting. This flood should be enough to freshen things up without being so big as to scour out all the insect life. Time to head down there!

**Saltwater**

Reports are saying that the Kings are starting to show up again around the harbour again. Also the Snapper are being caught regularly out at the end of Whangaparaoa, so it won't be long until they are back in close to shore again.

**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 Sam Bourne talking to us. Thank you again Sam.

## NEXT CLUB NIGHT – 18th NOVEMBER 7.30 PM

This month we are having Charlie Abrahams talking to us about his recent fly-fishing travels in Alaska and the Amazon.

Charlie is a premier competitive fly fisherman and the current President of the Hamilton Anglers Club. Originally from the United Kingdom. Charlie has the rare distinction of having represented both England and New Zealand on the international fly fishing stage. A dominant force on the national circuit, his recent accolades include winning the prestigious SFFNZ Manic Tackle Pairs Competition on Kuratau Lake, alongside consistent podium finishes at the National and Waikato Championships. Beyond his competitive success, Charlie serves as a committee member for Sports Fly Fishing New Zealand (SFFNZ) and is deeply dedicated to grassroots community coaching.

This is sure to be an enjoyable night and we hope to see you all there. **ALERT: Our normal room downstairs is not available this month so we will be meeting in the Committee Room. This is accessed by going up the stairs immediately on your right after entering the RSA front doors.**

## WHY WE FISH

*"Fishing, with me, has always been an excuse to drink in the daytime."*

*Jimmy Cannon*

## 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

*"Fishing is a delusion entirely surrounded by liars in old clothes."*

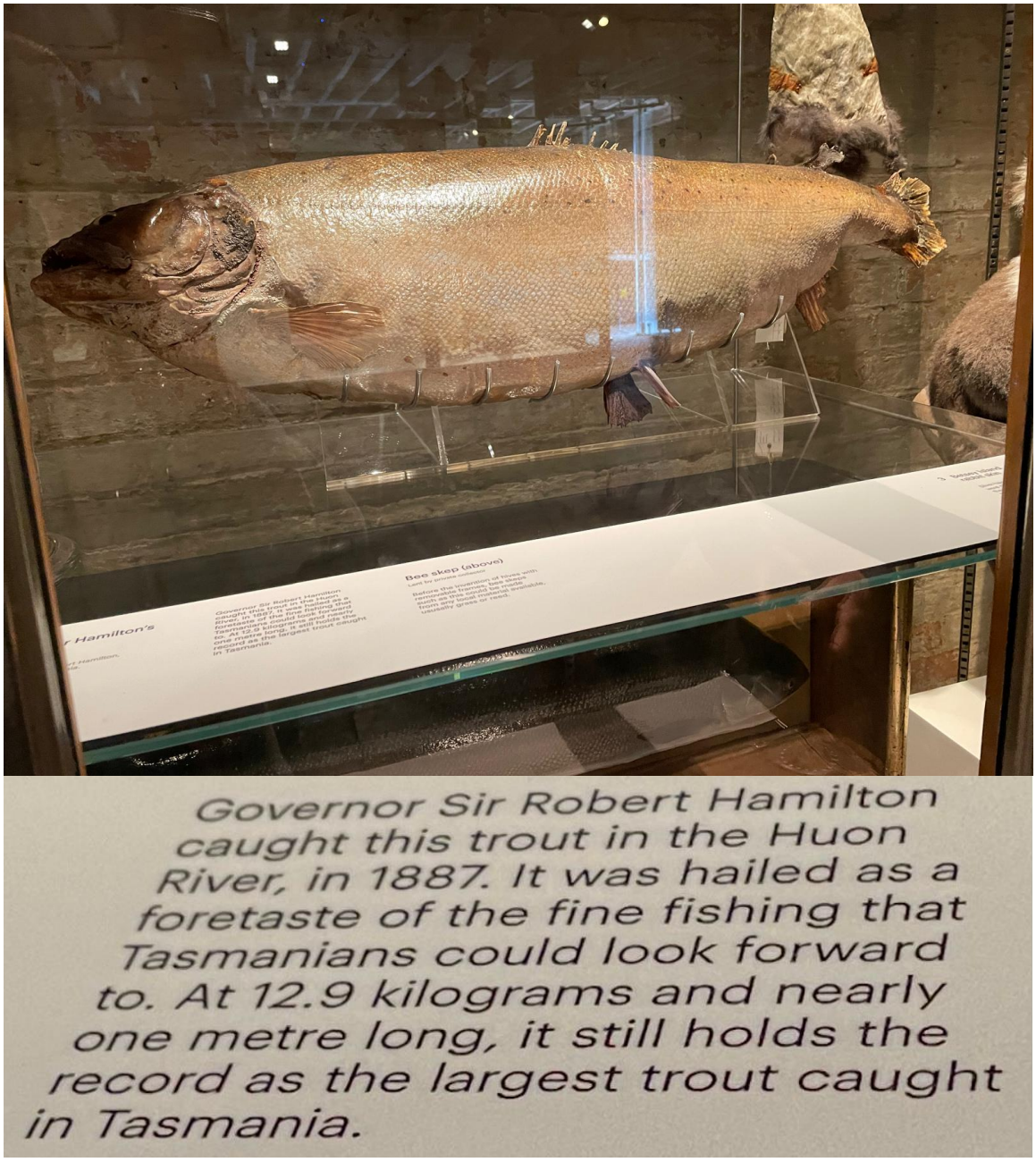
*Don Marquis*

## NORTH SHORE FLYFISHERS DVD LIBRARY

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

### Club Videos

Flyfishing with Dave McLellan June 2015 (15 DVD's)
New Zealand FlyTying (with John Giacon) A Tight Lines Ltd Presentation (2 DVD's)
Tie A Fly with John Morton The Master Fly Tier
Blue Water Fishing Techniques (ITM Fishing Show) Matt Watson
New Zealand Trophy Waters (Volume 6) Bruce Masson A Deep Stream Production
New Zealand Trophy Waters (Volume 7) Bruce Masson A Deep Stream Production
Running Down The Man A Felt Soul Media Production
Advanced Fly Casting Doug Swisher Essence of Fly Casting
Chasing Silver (Tarpon fishing in Florida) Howard Films. Com
How to Succeed on Reservoirs Part 1 Boat Tackle, Tactics and Flies
How to Succeed on Reservoirs Part 2 Boat Tackle, Tactics and Flies
How to Succeed on Small Stillwaters Part 2 Stalking Patterns and Techniques
NZ Fly Fishing Adventures Going Remote Mike Kirkpatrick
NZ Fly Fishing Adventures Going Remote Volume I Nelson District-Mike Kirkpatrick
NZ Fly Fishing Adventures Going Remote Volume 2 West Coast-Mike Kirkpatrick
NZ Fly Fishing Adventures The Distant Browns of Emerald-Mike Kirkpatrick
The Manic Guide to Fly Casting Rene Vaz
Fly Fishing in NZ
Stealth with a Fly-NZ Wilderness waters Dean Bell Fly Fishing
SoulFish 2 Global fly fishing Adventures with April Vokey and others
Gulf Harbour Outdoors with Geoff Thomas NZ fly fishing for Trout and Salmon
Salt Water Fly Fishing Game Fishing
Bugs of the Underworld Lisa Cutter
NZ Fly Fishing MP4s Youtube Video's (4 discs)
Snapper Secrets (vol 2)
Fly Fishing in NZ (fishing Clips from Mobil Sport on TV3)
How to Fish Rapala Lures
Essential Patterns with Oliver Edwards Vol 1
Fly Fishing For Reservoir Trout (at Pitsford) Bob Church
Trout Secrets with Geoff Thomas
Fishing in Fiordland
Wee Wets and Small Drys




*A limited number of Trout combined with a plentiful food source results in 'Monsters'! Photo courtesy of Raewyn Barnes.*

## CLUB TRIPS 2026 - 2027

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 Whaiau (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.*

**JOKE OF THE MONTH**

Proudly showing off his new apartment to a couple of his friends late one night the drunk led the way to his bedroom where there was a big brass gong.

"What's that big brass gong for?" one of the guests asked. "It's not a gong. It's a talking clock" the drunk replied. A talking clock? Seriously?" asked his astonished friend.

"Yup" replied the drunk. "How's it work?" the second guest asked, squinting at it.

"Watch" the man said. He picked up a hammer, gave it an ear shattering pound and stepped back.

The three stood looking at one another for a moment.

Suddenly, someone on the other side of the wall screamed " You f___ ing asshole....it's ten past three in the morning!"

## 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) The only way to catch more fish is to Go Fishing! Go this weekend!



*Mitch with another great backcountry catch. This is from last summer. The best time to go fishing is now! Photo courtesy of Mitchell Blackburn.*

**TRACING THE GRID LINES**

**Sam Bourne**

*(The following is from Sam's talk to us last month)*

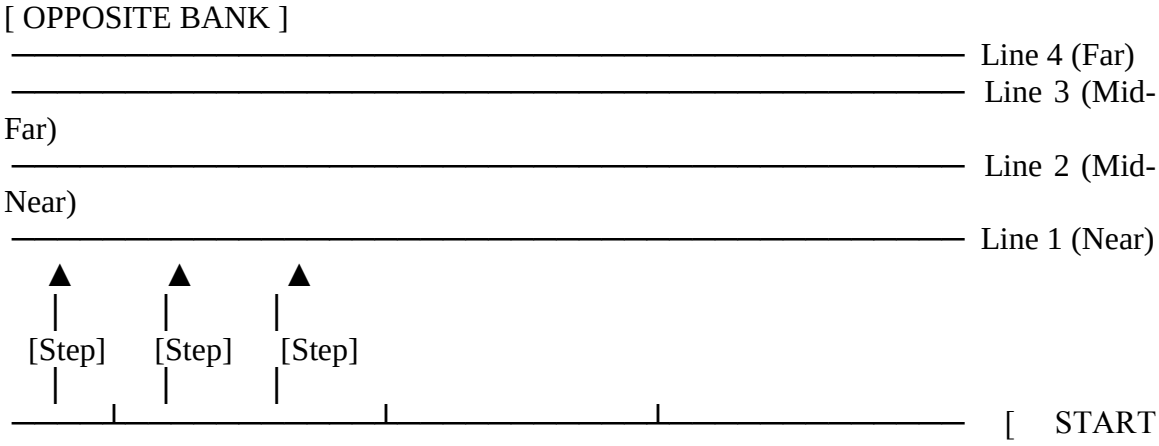
**The Concept:** Your mental grid consists of parallel longitudinal lines running straight downstream, perfectly aligned with the river's current vectors.

**The Drift:** Each cast places your fly precisely on one of these specific lines. Your goal is to track that exact line down the water column, ensuring zero cross-current drag. Should me drifts may be short some long (you be the judge)

**The Execution:** You pick apart the river 'grid it up' then line by line, mapping the exact seams of the water column to fish.

**The "Out-and-Back, Upstream" Wade Pattern** (Line-by-Line)

When you apply the out-and-back wading pattern to linear grid lines, you systematically dissect the water column from the near bank to the far bank before moving up:




**Line 1 (Near):** Cast directly onto the closest current line. Let the fly track perfectly along this seam.

**Line 2 & 3 (Out):** Lengthen your cast to reach the next parallel lines moving toward the center of the river, tracking each drift straight down its respective current lane. Waste as you need to to keep your flies tracking down the line.

**Line 4 (Far):** Cast to the furthest precise line… wade and reach/ high stick so you can manage without your fly line and leader and flies (if fishing multiple nymphs for example) crossing conflicting currents.

**Work it Back (In):** Bring your casts progressively back toward you, wade re-checking the inner lines or hitting the subtle seam boundaries between them.

**Step Upstream:** Once that entire cross-section of lines is fished, head back to the shore and take steps upstream to fish the next grid.

**Repeat:** Reset your position and begin tracing the lines again from the new vantage point. As you find the prime spots and drops, you can tailor your technique and presentation

## REEL LIFE OCTOBER 2026 - AUCKLAND/WAIKATO



## The Season Opening

Thursday the 1st of October signalled the start of the new trout fishing season, and the weather played its part in providing terrific fishing conditions. Many anglers happily took a day of annual leave to hit the rivers, but even more waited till the Friday and made a long weekend of the event.

Auckland Waikato staff and rangers were out chatting to anglers and checking licences and didn't come across any licencing issues over the opening period. It was great to see several anglers completely new to freshwater fishing out giving it a go. Our rangers are always happy to give tips and lend a hand getting the business end of the tackle correct and show the spots in the river where the trout are most likely to be sitting.

If you have any cool photos from your early season adventures, we'd love to see them!



## Stream Monitoring Continues

Auckland/ Waikato Fish & Game staff joined up with Waikato Regional Council Staff in a collaborative effort to survey the Mangauika fish population Stream on the eastern side of Mt Pirongia. This stream took some major damage from the February and April storms. Despite the evident damage to the stream banks and stream bed, now a braided channel, we picked up trout fry, which is a clear indicator of some successful spawning taking place upstream. Invertebrates were low in number and likely a result of the amount of sediment in and around the rocks. Plenty more flushing is required. It's quite probable with the wider channel of water and shallower level combined with removal of riparian cover that the stream temperature will creep up this summer placing extra stress on the system.



## Tagged Fish Reporting

Just a reminder that there is a wild trout tagging programme in place within Auckland/ Waikato rivers to monitor the growth and survival of trout in our waters. Over the past 3 years trout have been tagged in the Mangatutu, Waipa, Puniu, Mangaohae, Ongarue and Whakapapa rivers. If you do happen to catch a trout with a tag from the Auckland/ Waikato Region, please take note of the tag number (very carefully, or take a photo) and the length of the fish from nose to fork of tail, contact the Auckland/ Waikato Office or email mosborne@fishandgame.org.nz to report the capture date, details and location.



## Lake Karapiro Family Fishing Day

Auckland/ Waikato Fish & Game are holding a family fishing day at Lake Karapiro on Saturday the 21st Of November. Our staff will be based around the Karapiro Domain boat ramp (near the Don Rowlands Centre) from 9am to provide helpful tips to anyone that needs some pointers. The comp is free to enter but contestants must enter by 12pm Friday 20th November.

Sign up to the Karapiro Family Fishing Day here.

The main intention of the day is to target perch which are a recent incursion into the lake and will impact other species including trout through direct predation and through consuming prey species. Anglers are encouraged to spread around the lake (from boat or shore) and fish around structures, weed beds and deep drop offs. The weigh in will be at the Domain by the boat ramp area from 2 pm to 3:30 pm and we have some prizes kindly sponsored by Hunting & Fishing, spot giveaways and are putting on a sausage sizzle with Hamilton Anglers Club. Remember to follow the Check, Clean, Dry principles and the CAN orders in place around Golden clams.

Keep an eye out for updates on our Facebook page.

**Leaving Intentions Forms**

We have received several queries from anglers regarding 'angling intention' forms to leave on their vehicle dash to let other anglers know which way up or down river they have gone. This would provide the 'second' party the knowledge that if the 'upstream intention notice' has been left then they won't necessarily be fishing recently disturbed water when heading downstream. Conversely, the initial angler having gone upstream hopefully won't have another angler appear on top of them and push further upstream.

If you would like a form such as 'Angler gone Upstream' or 'Angler gone downstream' you can download them here or pick them up from our office.

Hunting & Fishing NEW ZEALAND

Fish & Game NEW ZEALAND

# LAKE KARAPIRO FAMILY FISHING DAY



## 21ST NOVEMBER 2026

All anglers are 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.

## PRIZE CATEGORIES

- **Most perch caught, kept and weighed by an individual.**
- Heaviest perch
- Heaviest trout

Adult/junior/child prize categories.

Over $700 in prizes to be won including spin rod combos and spot prizes.

## DETAILS

**When and where:** Fishing can begin anytime on the 21st, with weigh-in starting at 2pm at Karapiro Domain. The competition area includes all of Lake Karapiro, with Karapiro Domain serving as the event hub and weigh-in location. We strongly encourage participants to explore different parts of the lake, as fishing opportunities around Karapiro Domain itself are limited.

**Fishing licence and gear:** A valid 2026/27 Fish & Game fishing licence is required to fish for trout or perch. All you need is a simple spin-fishing setup. Fish & Game staff will have a tent at Karapiro Domain from 9am to help participants set up their rods. For advice on suitable fishing gear, contact us, or visit your local Hunting & Fishing store.

**Weigh-in and BBQ:** Weigh-in will begin at 2 pm at Karapiro Domain, followed by a complimentary BBQ in the afternoon.

Questions? Contact aucklandwaikato@fishandgame.org.nz

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

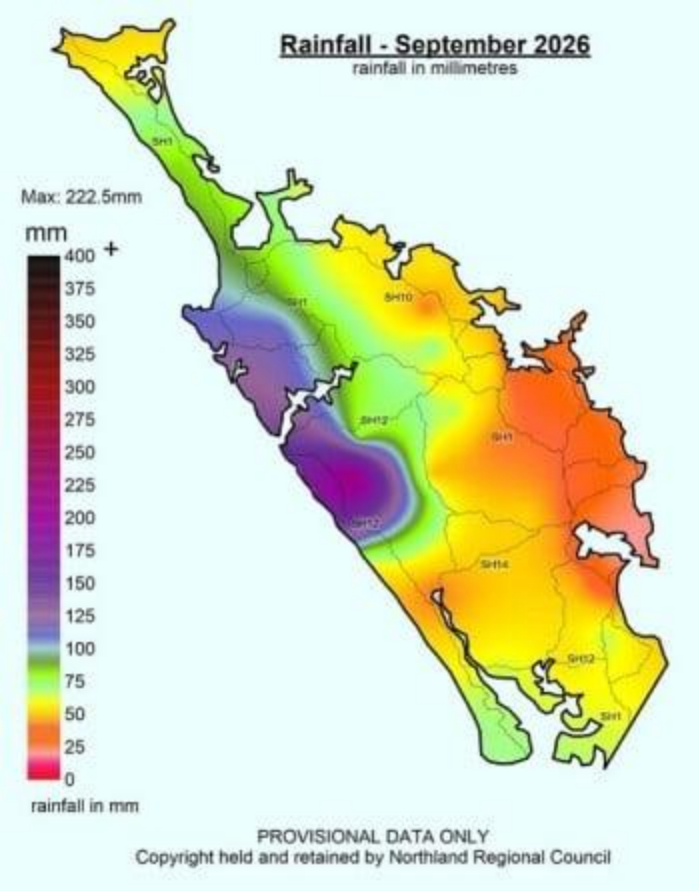
## REEL LIFE OCTOBER 2026 – NORTHLAND



*Image above: Trout caught in the Whau Valley Dam.*

**Season Update**

Whau Valley Dam is starting to fish well as the temperatures get warmer. The trout are back in close along the margins patrolling for prey. Both rainbows and browns are being caught, and are being taken on dark nymphs, small bully imitations and dragonfly larva imitations. There has been a mix of wild fish and tagged hatchery fish which indicates that previous winters have had some successful spawning in the feeder streams. Trout were noted spawning in the feeder streams in the most recent winter as well, so the prevalence of wild fish in the system is expected to continue. The fish being caught are in great condition for eating, with deep orange flesh. They should continue to put on condition over the next few months as insect life increases around the dam margins.




The rivers have been mostly clear and fishable and fish are to be found throughout the systems. The usual lures such as veltics and T-Tail softbaits are catching fish. Rainfall over September has been low, allowing the rivers and streams to clear up and fish well.

**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

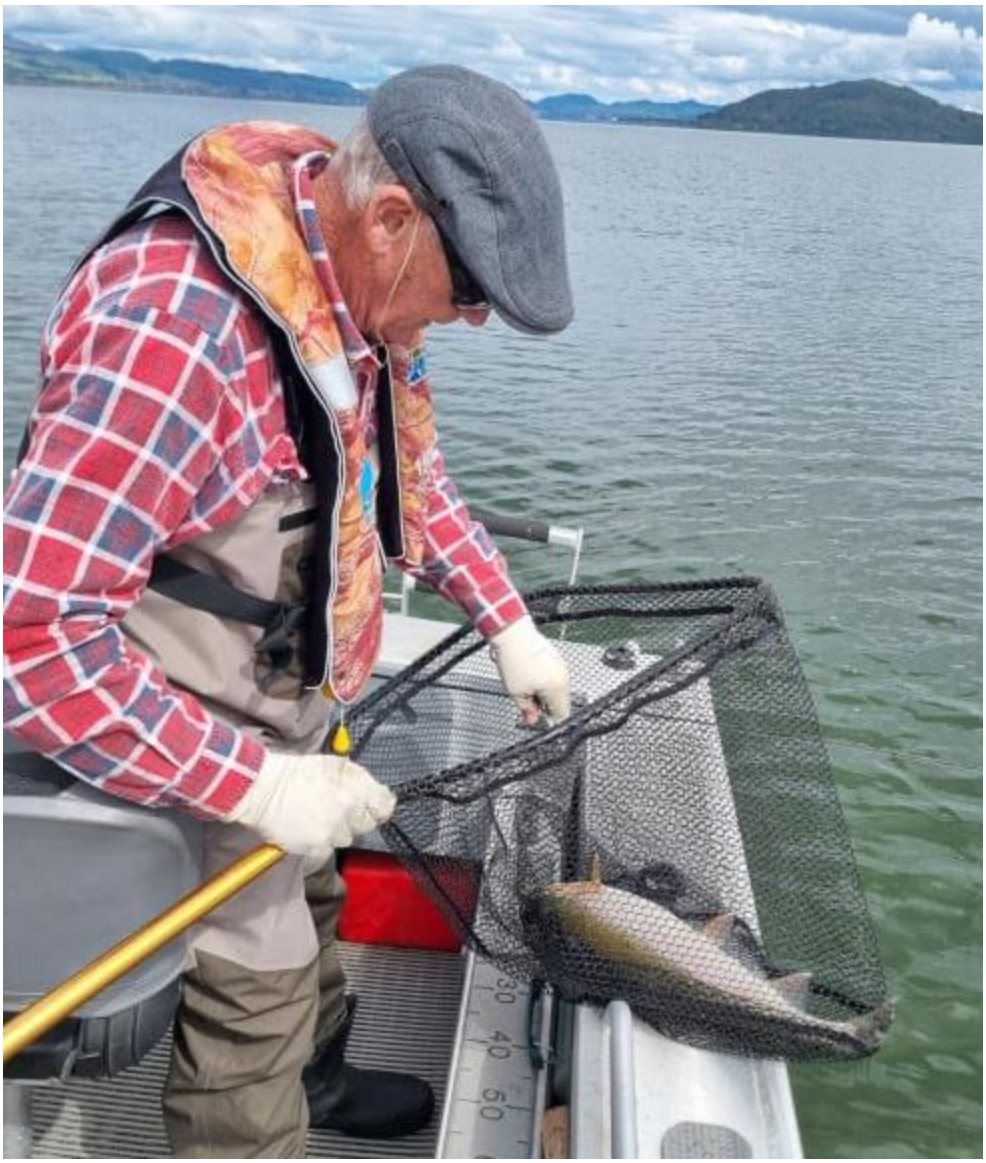
## REEL LIFE OCTOBER 2026 – EASTERN



**New Season Off To A Cracking Start**

The new trout fishing season got off to an absolutely cracking start at Rotorua with many anglers saying it was the best opening they could remember.

Blessed with perfect weather the whole day, many boaties on Rotoiti, Tarawera and Okataina made the most of the conditions and stayed the whole weekend.



The fishing was spectacular also, with both size and catch rate living up to the usual high Rotorua Lakes standard, and Tarawera excelling with exceptional size and condition.

First light was around 5.20am, however many reported the fishing was slow until sunrise just before 7.00am.

Jigging and softbaiting were popular but shallow trolling always catches fish early on the lakes with trout hunting smelt in shallow water for several hours before they go to depth. Downrigging, Jigging and softbaiting all provided high catch rates on opening.

Tarawera fish averaged 2.28kg, Rotoiti 1.65kg and Okataina 1.91kg. An impressive 4.2kg fish was weighed on Tarawera, it was a 2.5 year old hatchery liberated fish.

Reports from river and streams around the region were also good, again, with the weather playing a major role in a successful opening. Most catchments of the region are low and clear and still, warm weather during the first half of October has water temperatures rising steadily.

**Regulation Changes For The Eastern Fish & Game Region**

Streams in the Rangitaiki catchment have had their lower reaches opened to year-round fishing. The Whirinaki River, Horomanga Stream, Mangamako Stream, Waikokopu Stream, and Waihua Stream below their respective Troutbeck Road and/or Galatea Road bridges are now open all year. Upstream of the respective bridges, the fishing season remains 1 October to 30 June.

A new **Winter Shoreline Fishing Area** has been established on Lake Rotoiti, adjacent to the Okere Falls Store. The 130 m section from the Okere Falls control gates to the public jetty opposite the store is now open year-round to fly and spin fishing.

Soft-bait lures have been more clearly defined. A 'soft-bait' is now a soft-plastic, silicone-style lure that imitates a baitfish, invertebrate, or kōura. Mouldable putty-style baits are now prohibited, except in bait-fishing waters. Anglers are also prohibited from applying aftermarket scent or chemical additives to soft-baits, except in bait-fishing waters.

Click here to view the new regulations
Or Click Here to view regulations for all NZ regions

**Cleaning Fish**

We are sometimes asked about cleaning fish on the lake or river. The Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983 state, *'No person shall leave any fish, or any cleanings or offal from fish, lying unburied on the bank or margin of any waters'.*

It's worth considering the 'littering' aspect of leaving fish offal at popular locations, so just let common sense prevail and make sure anything you leave isn't visible to the next party to that location.

**New Rules Around Lifejackets**

Be aware this summer, Maritime NZ rules have changed. If you are aboard a recreational craft 6 metres or under, you need a lifejacket on the whole time you are underway. It doesn't matter what you are in – small motorboats, sailboats, yacht tenders, dinghies, kayaks, paddleboards and jet skis are all covered if they are under this size.

**Get Your 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.

## SUMMER AT LAKE OTAMANGAKAU

*Taupo Fishery Focus*

This summer will see changes to how we protect trout from dangerous warm water conditions at Lake Otamangakau. The blanket February closure will be replaced with a more responsive approach to protecting the fishery while maximising fishing opportunities for anglers.



The February closure system was operated for four consecutive summers. When it was introduced, we committed to reviewing its effectiveness after five years. A series of cooler summers has prompted us to act early.

The revised approach will see Lake Otamangakau closed to fishing only when water temperatures consistently exceed 20°C, the threshold above which trout welfare becomes a significant concern. If water temperatures remain below this level, anglers can continue to fish the lake throughout the summer.

A responsive approach to closure allows us to react to actual environmental conditions rather than fixed calendar dates, enabling the lake to be closed whenever temperatures pose a risk to trout. This could result in the lake being closed for periods longer than the

traditional four-week February closure, but only if dangerous warm water conditions persist. With a strong El Nino forecast, we could see longer closures in place this summer. Trout welfare and the long-term protection of this iconic fishery must remain our highest priority. The findings of the catch-and-release study continue to support the need to avoid fishing during periods of elevated water temperature.

Lake closures will be clearly communicated to anglers, using our online channels, and on the ground via signage and newly designed metal marker poles.

Specially engineered, distinctive red-and-black striped 'Closure poles' will be installed at both Lake Otamangakau boat ramps and near the entrance to the anger track along the northern arm. The Closure poles will indicate whether the lake is open or closed to fishing, with their purpose and legal effect described within the Anglers Notice (No 2) 2026.

Live water temperature data will continue to be available on our website, and anglers will be notified of any closures or reopenings through our communications channels, particularly social media. Dissolved oxygen loggers will also be introduced to provide managers with additional information.

**Look Out For Fin Clips On Lake Otamangakau Trout.**

Anglers can help improve knowledge of this iconic fishery by reporting details of any large trout they catch, with metal fin clips attached to dorsal fins.

The technical study is designed to increase our understanding of recapture rates within the population of large trout within Lake Otamangakau.

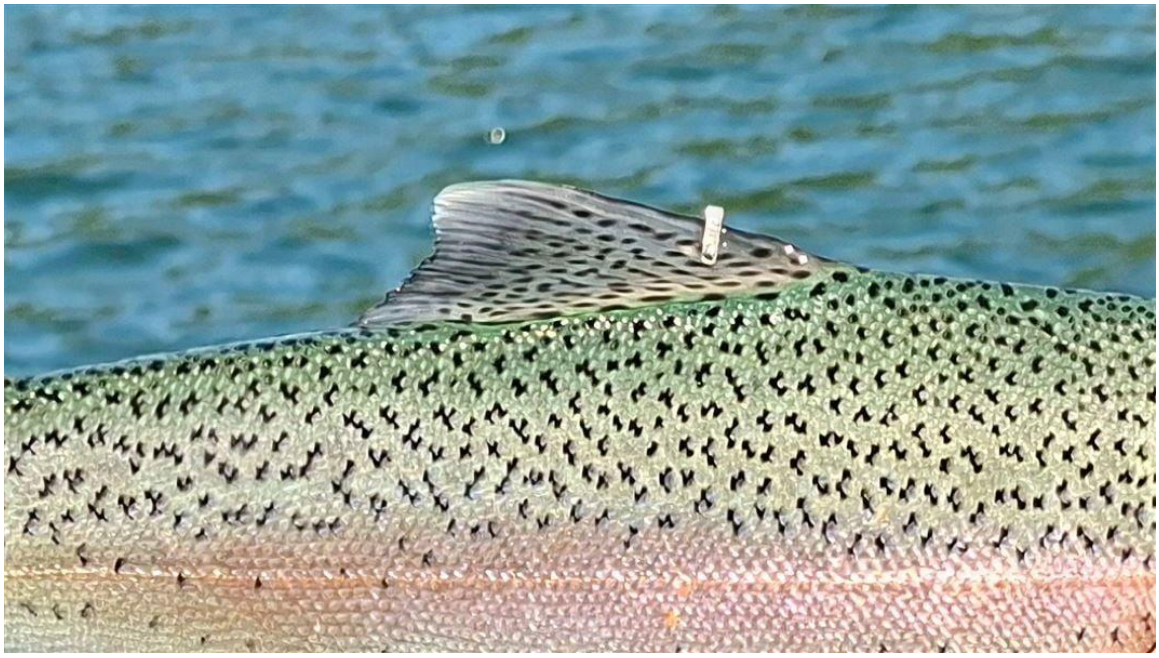
We know trout in this famous lake fishery continue to grow throughout their lives and take several years to reach trophy size. This is quite different to Lake Taupō fish.

As Lake Otamangakau trout get larger, so their potential exposure to anglers increases. We hope this study will provide valuable information about how many times a large trout is caught and released.

Approximately 300 large rainbow and brown trout (150 of each) have a small discreet metal tag secured at the base of their dorsal fin. Only trout larger than 55 cm were tagged, so, in accordance with the Lake Otamangakau regulations, they must be released following capture.

Please contribute by letting us know if you catch a tagged trout. Head to our website for details on how to submit information:

Lake Otamangakau trout recapture study: Lake Otamangakau data





*The 'crew' on a Ngongotaha Club Trip. There is another one coming up in February!*

## 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.

### Asian Trout Salad

1 Cup Good white wine
Juice of 1 large Orange
2.5 TBL Spoons Mirin Japanese Wine
2.5 TBL Spoons Sweet Chilli Sauce
1 Whole trout Filleted and boned
1 Lemon
Toasted Sesame Seeds
Vermicelli Noodles plus Your choice of Salad ingredients

Add the white wine, Orange Juice, Japanese Wine, and Sweet Chilli Sauce together, heat and reduce by three quarters, or thickened, set aside to cool.

Arrange your salad on the plate.

Add boiling water to the Vermicelli and set aside.

Using an oven proof fry pan heat some olive oil and a small amount of butter, just enough to cover the base. This must be very hot but not smoking. Add the trout fillets that have been cut into large chunks. Season with rock salt and good ground pepper. A squeeze of lemon juice at this stage can be added. Turn after a few minutes then place the pan into a pre heated oven at 200 C.

Drain Vermicelli and place on plate.

When Trout is done, (5 minutes) break into pieces, sprinkle with toasted Sesame seeds and place on top of salad. Drizzle with Asian sauce and serve.

Bon Appetite!
If you have a recipe you would like to share please send it to iconpromote@gmail.com

## BROOK TROUT

*Dave McLellan*

Although New Zealand has an abundance of both rainbow and brown trout, some bright spark in the Department of conservation in Rotorua thought that they should try introducing American brook trout. By the time the fingerlings arrived from America, they had decided that perhaps it was not such a good idea after all. They did not want to kill the trout deciding that one day they may be required. So they were released into a tiny stream that eventually flows into Lake Rotorua. Before the stream reaches the lake it flows through Whakarewarewa thermal area, which discharges hot acidic water into the stream. So any trout in the stream would be prevented from entering the Lake.

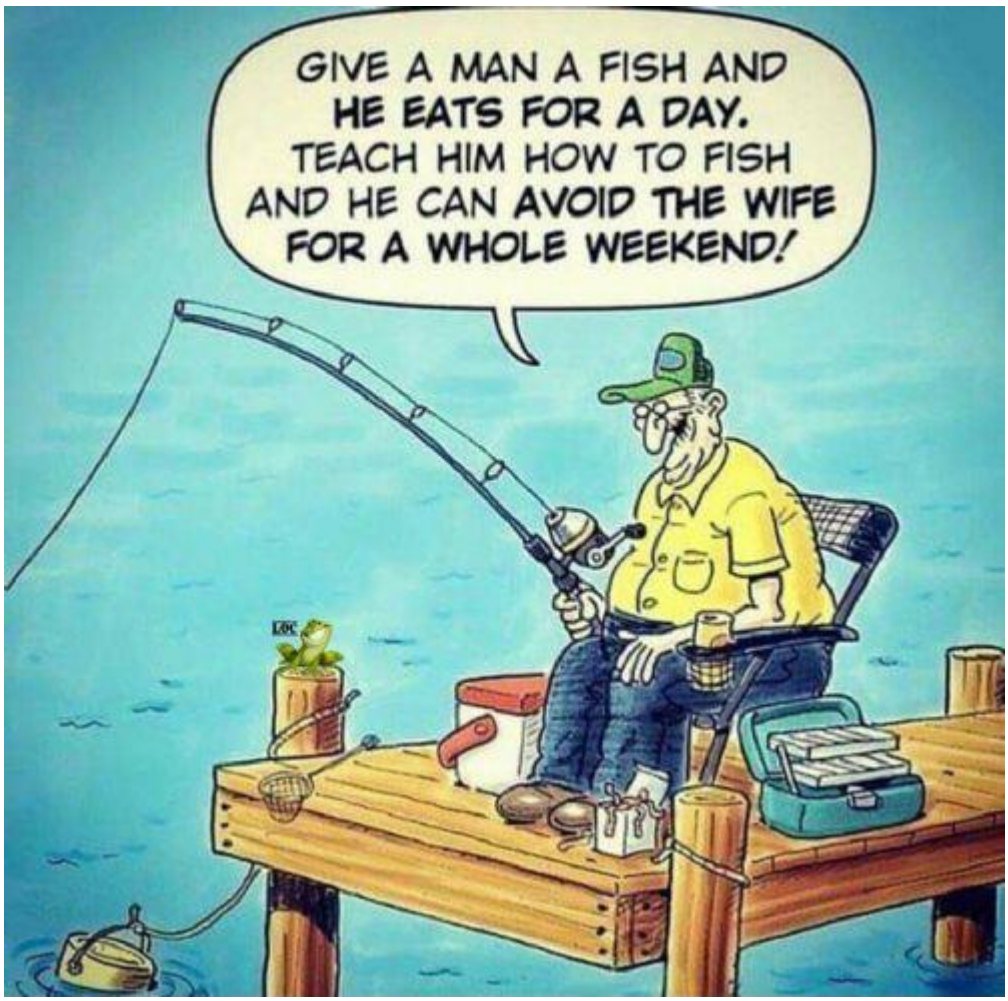
In those days we lived in the town of Rotorua, so having never seen a brook trout, I decided to try my luck. Also the fact that stream was so small about 18 inches wide, or if the reader is under 40, 46 cm, that casting my dry fly would be good practice. Some parts of the stream were unfishable, as blackberry bushes and long wild grass almost hid the water from view. Every now and then there was just enough space to get a fly on the water, although it often took four or five casts to do so.

After an hours frustrating, not to mention fruitless fishing. I was rewarded when the water came gargling out from beneath the undergrowth to form an actual pool. Not large, perhaps 5 feet long and about 18 inches wide and relatively free of obstructions.

After a few wayward casts, my fly was cast towards the top of the pool, but it did not land on the water as expected but stopped in midair about 8 inches above the water. What the xxxx was my first reaction, followed by disbelief as I stared at the fly just sitting in midair. Just then the water exploded, as a trout flung itself at my fly returning to the water with my fly in its mouth.

Alas it was not a brook trout, but a rainbow about half pound which was landed and returned to the pool. A close examination of the spot where the fly had floated in midair revealed an almost invisible cobweb stretched across the stream, with a small spider already repairing the damage. This symbiotic relationship seems strange to me, I can see how it works for the trout but what does a spider get from it. Perhaps like the reader it just enjoys seeing a trout rise.

## 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<br>mobile 0275 006 336<br>ron.blair@xtra.co.nz |
| Graham Carter | Lives in Hamilton, keen on weekday / mid-week trips. | 021 026 00437<br>07 855 1833 |
| Lloyd Altham | Has 12' Pontoon boat /15 HP Honda. Available most time, but prefer weekdays. | Mob. 021 0295 9167<br>Home 09 420 3120<br>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<br>gd.bolstad@gmail.com |
| Derek Robinson | Retired available most times keen to do Waikato streams and most other things. | Ph 4437311<br>Mob: 0212 595 371<br>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 neccessarillary 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 |
| **Magazine** - Duncan Frew | | 021 648 956 | Torbay | iconpromote@gmail.com |
| **Committee –** Allen French | | 021 1018 838 | Birkdale | a_bfrench@hotmail.com |
| **Members** | Maurice Parlane | 021 650 692 | Northcote | maurice.p@newwayz.co.nz |
| | Tristan Davies | 021 049 7298 | Auckland | trisvetnz@gmail.com |
| | Andrew Todd – | 021 124 8004 | Takapuna | andrewbtodd@hotmail.com |