

ROTORUA ANGLERS ASSOCIATION

April 2023

NEWSLETTER



Gene's first trout

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The content and comments in this newsletter are those of the authors or by participating members and not necessarily those of other Association members

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Oi, I am looking for the guy who changed my website photo from a macho president with a 5lb brownie, to a president catching a fingerling! By the way, this was the third fingerling to take my fly in 23 years of fishing.

Thanks, Roy, for arranging the Whirinaki camp. It is good to include other clubs and individuals, as we had 6 from Auckland, 4 from Taupo and 2 from Rotorua. The midweek days are more available too. For April we plan to fish Rerewhakaaitu on the last weekend, Sat 29 and Sun 30. We get together at Ashpit Road, have lunch at 12 and BBQ on Sat from 5 pm. Those geared for an overnight stay are welcome to do so. I need to be in church on Sunday.

The rough sleepers on our clubhouse porch have been an irritation, as they could contaminate or cause damage there. David and Marie have taken down the front panel, so there is no more hiding away. Let's hope this works.

I gave a talk at Rotary about diving and also gave a short talk about fishing at the hatchery event with 4 organizations present, the Multicultural Council, Rotary, the Anglers Association and lastly, the Geyserland Foundation. There were about 70 visitors. Stuart demonstrated casting

and Rika, Gwen, Terry, Rod and Brendan were present to answer any questions. There was a lot of enthusiasm and some kids attended. We had to restrain them so as to let the fish grow a bit bigger till August (first Kids' Fish out).

We got an email from NSW CFA (Council of Freshwater Anglers). They mentioned a tragedy where a heatwave caused millions of fish to die, and a case where a sports club sprayed the riverbanks. They also picked up that F&G NZ plan to charge visitors a "Designated Waters" fee of \$35 to \$50 a day, and a season license of \$250. Waters mentioned seem mainly in the south. Have a look at the Fish and Game website and look for *designated waters license*.

Autumn is upon us. July will mean membership renewals. At the AGM I would like to take a rest as president, so give a thought to succession. Rika may also retire. John can do our website till July, so we need some help here please. He has laid the foundation and will give all the guidance needed. Colin would like to take a rest from convening the fly tying, Gwen has organized a trophy for best sea fish, with a tuna on top! Lately, we have had visitors from Australia, Wales and Spain. Happy fishing everyone!



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APRIL UPCOMING EVENTS and REMINDERS

Thurs 20: Committee meeting at 7 pm at the clubhouse

Fri 21: Snacks and raffle from 5 pm

Fri 28: BBQ and jumbo raffle from 5pm, eat at 6pm

SAT-Sun 29-30: Rerewhakaaitu

Mon 1 May: Fly tying, 5:30 pm

Sat 6 May: Stream Team

Thu 18 May: Committee

Fri 26 May: Potluck

FISH OF THE MONTH



Roger Bowden, with a 3.95 kg fish caught on Lake Tarawera during the Inter-clubs competition





1271 Fenton St, Rotorua, 07 348 3147

FLY TYING

Peter Corson

Tying the Kōtututuku koura pattern.

- Fix a size 6-10, 2x long shank hook in the vice, e.g., Black Magic C8.
- Starting 3 eye lengths back along the shank, lay down a thread base to the bend of the hook and return 2/3 the way back towards the eye.
- Take a good clump of squirrel tail and tie in firmly to the top of the shank, starting at the 2/3 point, with the hair overhanging the bend of the hook about 1 ½ times the length of the shank.
- Split the hair vertically in two equal parts and bind in a 'Y' shape using wraps around each arm/pincer and pulling back to the shank each time.
- Tie in bead eyes or plastic chain bead eyes using figure of 8 wraps.
- Tie in about 10cm of jewellery elastic, then tie in 3-4cm of scud-back so that they are over the eyes.

- Tie in ice straggle, about 15cm, then wrap back toward the eye, finishing and tying in at the 3 eye lengths point.
- Lay the scud-back over and fix in, followed by wrapping the elastic back with 3-4 even turns, and tie in.
- Cut another, smaller, clump of squirrel tail and tie on top of the shank and over the eye, just longer than the hook shank.
- Put thread wraps between the eye and squirrel tail.
- Tie in the last of the scud and then whip finish.
- Apply finishing varnish to the tread wraps and then plenty to each arm and the tail. Wait for a minute or two for the varnish to go tacky then form the pincer arms and flatten the tail.
- This style has been used successfully for jigging with minimal weight. It can easily be modified for fly fishing using lead wire or weighted beads.

Have fun.

As an aside, Kōtukutuku Bay is the Bay on Lake Tarawera in front of the Landing. Kōtukutuku is the name of the NZ tree fuchsia, the largest fuchsia in the world, which can still be found around the Bay.



POACHING ON THE WAINGAEHE STREAM



Poached fish taken off the 5 men. Photo: Gwen Inskeep

Gwen Inskeep

The Waingaehe Stream flows from the hills around Rotorua and drains into Holdens Bay. It has a length of 1.68 kilometres. It drains just over 11.2 km² of mainly agricultural land (forestry and livestock).

As a spawning stream, the Waingaehe is not normally considered as being very important because it is mostly a pumice-based stream. Sometime in the early 1990s, the Rotorua Lakes Council diverted the stream down a new flood way for a day. As a result, Fish and Game made the decision to electric fish the lower part of the stream. (A machine is used to send an electric current into the water which only stuns the fish. The stunned fish rise to the surface so that the population can be counted.) Only a few mature fish were found but the number of juveniles found was a surprise because there were sizes from fry to fingerlings in abundance. As there was still a small flow coming through, it was enough to

support the smaller fish that were in the reduced size pools. It was then that I made a note to put the top end of the stream onto my winter patrol itinerary. The patrol would often yield poachers with 4 to 8 fish.

It was a warm Wednesday afternoon in August when I made my way along the raceway to the top of the farm and found a car parked in a shallow dip at the end of the paddock. There was no one in sight. After half an hour or so I heard voices from down in the gorge. Some five minutes later a group of 5 men carrying fish made their way back up the path to their car. I let them put their fish into the boot and then approached, identified myself as a ranger and asked about the trout. I was told that they had not taken the trout from the stream. I asked, "Then how did you get hold of the fish?" They proceeded to tell me their story. It seems that they were just playing around beside the stream when two other fishermen came down the stream with all the fish. The group stopped them and demanded the fish and the net. When the two fishermen refused to hand over their catch, they just beat them up and took the fish. Therefore, the group did not poach them.

I asked, "So none of you were in the stream?"

They all agreed.

Well guys," I said, "there are only a few things that bother me. You are all wet to the top of your legs, your shoes are full of both water and sand. I believe you have been in the stream, and you took all those trout."

It was then that I called the police for backup because I recognised them as members of one of the local gangs. I did the paperwork while waiting for the police to arrive. The men gave false details and only told the truth when told that they were going to have their car seized. I had almost finished when I saw the red and blue lights on the police cars going up and down Te Ngae Rd. Unfortunately, the police were unable to find their way up through the farm to assist. Luckily, I was in radio contact with the police, so the poachers' threats remained verbal.

The charges were: Disturbing a spawning stream; possession of a net in the vicinity of a spawning stream; obstruction and fishing without a licence.

At the time of this story the fines were a maximum of \$10,000 fine and /or 1 year in prison for each breach of the Act. Fishing without a licence was a

Maximum of \$5000. (These penalties have doubled in 2023.)

I had them remove their socks and shoes because they were full of sand. In court that helped to prove that they were in the stream. The men complained to the judge that they had been made to walk home barefoot. The judge contended that the sandy socks were one of the main pieces of evidence that placed them in the stream. He also confiscated the car and awarded it to Fish and Game. Fish and Game can then legally sell the car and keep the funds. along with the fines in excess of \$1 000 for each of the 5 people. The fines also go to Fish and Game.

A TIKITAPU HAUL



Photo: Alf Hoyle

GENE'S FIRST TROUT

Gavin Corbett

Tap. Tap. They'll come back.

This is the mantra every novice fisherman learns, when they first try to master the technique of soft baiting. Gene was a quick learner. Despite having never fished for trout before, Gene was able to bring three excellent fish to the net. This was due in no small part to the patient tuition offered by Roger Bowden. Roger's knowledge of the lake and the likely 'hot spots,' coupled with a thorough understanding of fishing with soft baits, meant that as long as Gene listened carefully and followed instructions, he had a pretty good chance of catching trout.

"What we are looking for," Roger explained, "is a trout that is both hungry and curious. Hunger will ensure that the trout will inspect any offering that might be food. Curiosity will be its downfall. The twitching, swimming movement that the angler can imitate with the presentation of the soft bait is enough to entice the hungry trout. But the only way a curious trout can determine whether it is food or not, is to take the soft bait into their mouth, and this they do with great caution."

The slightest tap of the rod is the first signal felt by the alert angler, but the urge to immediately strike must be avoided at all costs.

Tap. Tap. They'll come back.

Often, a trout will tap, tap, three or four times before making that fatal commitment. The soft-bait fisherman must resist the urge to strike on those first few inquisitive taps and wait until the weight of the fish is felt. Only then can he lift the rod to tighten up on the fish and begin the patient retrieval of the fish to the net.

Judging by the photo, Gene obviously took the lessons on board.

TRUST!

Alf Hoyle

At the bottom of Tarawera Rd in the 1950s there was a small hut where the clubs are now situated in the present Neil Hunt Park. It housed a small department of fisheries office where Jeff Fish (yes, that's the name) and an understudy worked. It was the sweetest job in the country.

Their job was to set nets in various lakes in the evening and collect the fish in the morning. They then measured the height and depth of the fish caught, then came weights, length, condition factor and stomach contents. The object was to find data about the population and quality of fish in any particular lake. On one occasion I asked Jeff if he had any complaints about the job. I am not joking. He said, "The Department won't give us any petty cash."



Gwen Inskeep presents Roger Bowden with a trophy and voucher for his winning fish during the Inter-clubs. Photo: Piet Otto

THE HATCHERY VISIT



Chats and tea in the Octagon. Photo: Piet Otto



An interested crowd at the fingerling tanks. Photo: Piet Otto



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Piet Otto and Richard Price spent a productive day on Lake Tarawera recently.

Photo: Piet Otto



Fly tying night with Peter Corson. Left to right: Phil Trautmann, Jo Taylor, Colin Cox, Peter Corson, Ron Cole. Photo: Piet Otto



Fish caught by Chris and Jenny Taylor was generously donated to club members.
Photo: Chris Taylor