

ROTORUA ANGLERS ASSOCIATION

March 2022

NEWSLETTER



Yulia Corson with her 4.1kg trout caught at Lake Tarawera

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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

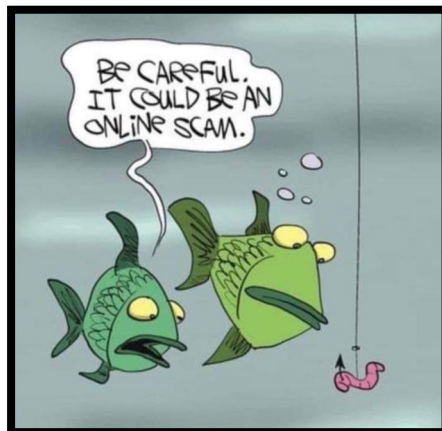
This week Rika and I moved out of our house for some renovations. The bathroom will be gutted for a complete make-over plus added toilet. The open fireplaces in the lounge and dining room will be covered over, and passages and inner walls have had wallpaper removed for skimming and painting. The lounge/dining room outer walls will be insulated. We are staying in an apartment below our friends' house in Matipo Ave.

Thanks so much for everyone who sent in editorial and photos for the magazine. We want to publish what members get up to, and just be patient, your story will go in. Note with Chris away, we need a bar coordinator; give Ian Fear a break.

Brian and Gavin were first to return from the South Island, where heavy rain certainly dampened the fishing. Thanks also to Owen for your version of the trip. Once the rivers come down, the trip becomes a social one. But remember, any trip is a holiday, it is not just about dead fish. I just love the ferry trip over, and see it as an overseas cruise.

Colin has continued with his internet sales of donated equipment, and has sold the Hardy cane rod. Many thanks Colin, you are doing the club a great service. Also see his Rainbow Warrior fly story. Richard had a small attendance and will probably postpone his beginner's classes till numbers or requests increase again.

Phil has discovered the lodge we use for Otamangakau has been booked by another group for the end of March, and the water temperature is too high, so we may target something else for the weekend after. Rob Greenway Consulting has contacted me about the Wheao and Kaimai hydro schemes consenting, and there are Zoom meetings planned for 14 and 17 March. We can work on this.



FISH OF THE MONTH



Brendon Davis

The 2.79 kg, 59 cm brown trout was caught in the Ngongotaha Stream, fly fishing with a nymph and an 8lb trace.

The winner of the Fish of the Month Award will receive a \$10 voucher redeemable from Hamills Rotorua



1271 Fenton St, Rotorua

07 348 3147



Brendon's fish

MARCH UPCOMING EVENTS & REMINDERS

Thurs 3	Dark moon
Sat 5	Stream Team. Meet at the Ngongotaha Stream bridge at 9:30 am. Lunch BBQ
Mon 7	Fly tying. 7pm at the clubhouse
Sat 12	Fishing/Casting club. Stay overnight or go for the day for sea fishing
Thurs 17	Committee meeting. 7pm at the clubhouse
Sat 19	Club beach day
Sun 20	Magazine article deadline
Fri 25	Club BBQ. Club provides the meat. Bring a salad or dessert to share
Sat/Sun 26-7	Otamangakau trip. Aim to stay at Tongariro River Lodge, Turangi

FLY TYING, FEBUARY 2022



Tied by Colin Cox

Rainbow Warrior fly

The fly was developed by Lance Egon, a competitive fisherman from Utah. as an attractor pattern, size 12 down to 22, usually with red thread.

Place a bead on the hook, silver or gold.

Lay a base of thread to the bend of the hook

Tie in a tail of Pheasant tail well down the rear of the hook.

Bring the thread back to behind the bead making a base.

Tie in mylar on the top of the hook back down to the tail.

Wind the mylar in touching turns along the hook to the midpoint and secure.

Dub in a collar of light colour, make it full

Pull over the mylar to form the wing case and secure it.

Build up a head of thread behind the bead, whip finish and cement.

A couple of days after demoing this fly I was fishing the Awahou. After one hour and three changes of fly, I put on the Rainbow Warrior and guess what, first cast and fish on!

CICADAS IN A TROUT'S STOMACH

Pierre Vuilleumier caught some trout recently in a stream. When he cut one open, he was surprised by the number of cicadas in its stomach. He counted 17.

It seems that the cicada season is dragging much longer than usual. He has read that the warm weather we have been having this year and the low water levels in the streams has resulted in the fish being quite stressed. Therefore, it is recommended that fishers should not hold the fish too long (about 20 seconds max) before it is released, to make sure of its survival.

At the time of writing there was great fishing at Hamurana, Awahou, Waiteti and the Ngongotaha streams, and there were plenty of fish of a good size.



Cicadas from a trout's stomach.



A trout with a belly full of cicada

A GOOD DAY'S FISHING

By Peter Corson

Sometimes kids need just a nudge to get them out there and fishing. Teenagers possibly more so. Getting them there and engaged is absolutely worth the grumbles. Not renowned as a morning child, and less so as a teen, Yulia's grumbles were audible enough but not heeded, which was just enough for dad Pete to get the family onto Lake Tarawera fishing from kayaks. The first hour was uneventful and only dad was left on the water. Yulia's Achilles heel though was the packet of bacon chips which she wasn't allowed until she had her jigging flies in the water again. With the mouthful of salty bacon crunch the rod bent and a realisation that a good fish was now towing the small kayak around Kōtukutuku Bay. Ten minutes later the tell-tale flash of pink and silver indicated Yulia had hooked a great fish. On landing the monster, Yulia spared no time to get back to shore to show off her trophy and gloat in front of her brother, then eat more chips. It's fair to say the bacon chips hooked two and left another with a chip on the shoulder.

The fish weighed 4.1kg and was caught on a kōura pattern that I tie.

(Yulia's fish is on the front cover!)



The magic ingredient



Lucas Corsen with his 2.49 kg on Lake Tarawera on 26 February 2022. Lucas said, "There's nothing better than fighting a good fish"



Lucas Corsen with a rainbow trout from Lake Okereka earlier



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USE YOUR FLY ROD TO STABILIZE YOUR WADING

When there is a surface chop on the lake, or you are wading in fast-moving water in the river or there is a rocky or irregular bottom or you are knee-deep or more,

Hold your rod in surface film, downwind or downstream

Press it down FIRMLY/BRIEFLY—

Feel the welcome stability

Like holding a handrail—

Middle part goes deepest

Tip doesn't touch.

From Joe Brooks

To Phil Trautmann

To You

OUR SOUTH ISLAND ODYSSEY

By Owen Poad

It is day nine of our SI trip, a combination of business, other commitments and fishing but the weather is making the fishing a challenge. On our way to the ferry, we stopped in the Hutt Valley overnight and I thought an amble along the banks of the Hutt River would be in order. I only saw one fish but it was feeding enthusiastically and took my dry fly without hesitation. It was around five pounds and a lovely brown the river is known for.

In the South Island on our way to Christchurch, we crossed rivers that looked like there would be wonderful fishing and I planned to visit them one day. We were impressed at the rebuilding of the city because there are simply amazing new buildings interspersed with restoration work on others. Blank sections with car parking indicate they still have a long way to go.

On another visit I had fished the River Cam, an historical river north of the city and caught a couple of fish. But on this trip the rains had come (ask Larry) and it was the only river even slightly fishable. I sat for a while on a bend and a trout rose a short distance upstream. It didn't want my dry but took a nymph in

seconds. Another followed it but those were the only fish visible in the swollen water.

We travelled up towards Nelson and on the way called into the “Anglers Arms” hotel on the banks of the very high Ashley River. Age and finances have changed its direction as a fishing hotel except for the very large stuffed trout over the door. The clientèle looked as if they were semi-permanent resident drinkers and our lunch was an interesting one with fishing in the river out of the question.

And then on to the Lewis Pass. The only clear river was the Lewis. I walked a few hundred yards to the river and accompanied by around 3000 sandflies, fished up about a $\frac{3}{4}$ kilometre of river. It looked great, quite cold but I didn't see a single fish. Perhaps the recent flood has sent them into the deep pools but I simply couldn't find them. Then we travelled the over the saddle to the Maruia River. It had been in very high flood and was settling down a bit. I tried a pool close to the road and landed a very silver brown of around a kilo. I didn't know what a salmon would look like but I imagine it would be something like that fish.

That night we tented at the Owen River doc camp site. People were driving away because the sandflies were so bad but my desire to fish the famous Owen River overruled my wife's common sense to find a motel. The sandflies were black on the outside of our tent as they queued up try to suck our blood. The Owen River was a disappointment. I had caught fish on a previous trip but this time I walked a lot of river without seeing a single fish until rain drove me away. It looked the fabulous brown trout stream it is reputed to be but whether floods, didymo or



overfishing have reduced fish numbers, I simply don't know. And now the rains have come again and every river I had planned to fish is bank to bank, most up a metre or so and the Buller three metres. We are sick of rain and muddy rivers!

Lewis River



Owen Poad fishing in the South Island

GENERATIONS OF FISHERS



Cameron Eckersley is a very young member. His mother, Lizzie has sent in these photos to show that Cameron comes from generations of fishers.

Great grandfather Reverend Canon Ryley Eckersley and Grandpa Dr Anthony Eckersley and great uncle in the middle,



Grandpa Dr Anthony Eckersley in his belly boat



Lizzy Eckersley flyfishing as a younger woman.



Cameron's dad Richard fly fishing. He is Cameron's inspiration.



This year Cameron was thrilled to catch a 4lb rainbow trout on the Tongairiro River near Turangi on his 1st cast. He used a hare and copper fly (not one that he made in fly fishing class). He christened his new waders which he got for his birthday.



Cameron's 4th birthday cake.

Thanks mom, you have wonderful skills