

# ROTORUA ANGLERS ASSOCIATION

*January – February 2022*

**NEWSLETTER**



Jean Cole with her Lake Rotoehu trout.

# EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patron	Joe Fleet	07 347 8861
President	Pete Otto	021 0261 6061
Secretary	Ian Ferguson	021 059 9347
Treasurer	Ian Fear	027 474 2772
Bar and Catering	Chris Wright	021 0200 8262
Trip Coordinators	Gavin Corbett	021 226 3978
	Larry Ware	021 645 544
Membership Secretary	Colin Cox	07 343 6282
Web coordinator	John Olds	027 330 7581
Fly Tying Convenor	Colin Cox	07 343 6282
Fly Tying Beginners	Richard Hendriksen	020 4100 3071
Trophy Coordinator	Ian Ferguson	021 059 9347
Kids' Fish Out	Brendan Davis	021 105 5039
A to Z School	Larry Ware	021 645 544
Almoner	Terry Wood	07 345 5587
Newsletter Editor:	Rika Otto	rikaotto8@gmail.com

***Contribution Deadline: 20<sup>th</sup> of each month***

***Club Postal Address: P.O. Box 1083, Rotorua 3040***

***Clubrooms: 33 Pererika Street, Rotorua***

***<http://rotoruaanglers.org.nz>***

***[rotoruaanglers@gmail.com](mailto:rotoruaanglers@gmail.com)***

*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

By the time you read this letter, the holidays will be over and schools will have begun. I hope you had an enjoyable and relaxing time. Our 12-page calendar is now for sale at the club. Usually, February is our dry month in New Zealand, but this has come forward to January as the rain has stayed away and the grass has become brown. This lessens our lawn mowing of course! Lake levels have dropped, and the beach areas have increased right up to the spawning holes along the shores. In January the trout started moving to the stream mouths, although enticing them to bite can be challenging.

The Fishing and Casting club started the year with an invitation to the RAA members, but again few made use of the occasion. I started my fishing in the sea, so I enjoy saltwater and fresh fishing equally. More of these outings have been put on our calendar, so please keep an eye open.

We also joined the "Stream Team" to help Gavin and other volunteers clear the Ngongotaha stream for easier fishing access, and this will be a monthly event on Saturday mornings. Branches are cut back along the banks and in the stream and then they are stacked among the trees as mulch and later compost. Anyone is welcome, and we usually end with a midday BBQ or shared lunch. As we work there are often trout at our feet. It can also get quite social when talking to neighbours over the fence, other anglers and people walking their dogs along the neatly raked paths.

Doug Bell, grandson of Jack Bell, expressed concern over his memorial seat at Tarawera after an ownership change there. I went to see the seat and it is fine. Maybe the 4 seat planks will need replacement with H4 treated timber in about 8 years. The Landing Restaurant has been bought by Jeff who operates the Air-stream take-away caravan at Blue Lake. He is a chef, and I have had many enjoyable snacks and chats with him. He will mention the seat to the Iwi representative, who is very cooperative. The Council are busy increasing the parking area for both cars and boats, changing the jetty and launching more to the left, and installing public art. Jeff reports that there is some very good fishing from the present jetty.

Larry and his intrepid RAA travellers have gone off to the South Island, and lo and behold, Westport residents near the Buller River were evacuated due to massive rains. We had rains last year and as a result, we switched from the west coast to the east coast to avoid the rain, so we hope everyone is still dry down there. Due to Red alert level, we have had to cancel the Kid's fish-out planned for January, and also postpone the Interclub fishing competition planned for end of February.

## FISH OF THE MONTH



Nobody entered this month

**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**

## FEBURARY UPCOMING EVENTS & REMINDERS

Tues 1 Dark moon

Sat 5 Stream Team at the Ngongotaha stream, 9:30 am

Sat 12 Fishing/Casting club

Mon 14 Fly tying , 7 pm at club

Wed 16 Beginner fly tying, 7 pm at club

Thurs 17 Committee meeting, 7 pm at club

Sat 19 Fish lake Rotorua and environs

Sun 20 Magazine article deadline

Fri 25 Club BBQ , bring a plate, from 5 pm



Ailsa Hawes on Lake Otamangakau with her 8lb rainbow hen.



## DECEMBER CHRISTMAS PARTY

### December Christmas Party

The Christmas Party was again held at the Octagon at the Trout Hatchery. Pete, Laurie, Helen and Paul cleaned and decorated the Octagon the day before. About 20 people came, bringing delicious salads and puddings. Pierre excelled with his perfectly cooked legs of lamb. Paul did his bit at the sausage BBQ. We all ate a hearty meal and there was lots of table hopping and chat. Luckily the tables under the veranda roof and the shade cloth provided protection from the intermittent rain. After lunch, Pete took Christo and Laurie on their first tour of the hatchery. There were plenty of helping hands to load Pete's van with all the equipment borrowed from the clubhouse and give the room a tidy up. Thank you to everybody who came and contributed to make this occasion a success.

Rika Otto

## HAMURANA PICNIC IN JANUARY



Owen, Woody and Gavin lining up at the Hamurana Stream mouth. The colder water from the stream was full of fish.

# FLY TYING, DECEMBER 2021

## Clouser Minnow by Bob Clouser

Choose a hook size to suit where fishing is to take place

- Tie in thread one third from the hook eye, make wraps and apply super glue
- Place dumbbell eyes and secure with figure-eight wraps
- Bring the thread behind the eyes and tie in a few strands of flash material
- Bring thread forward over the eyes. Select a sparse amount of bucktail and tie in, bring back over the eyes and secure about to the bend of the hook, keeping the material on top of the hook.
- Bring the thread forward in front of the eyes.
- Turn the fly or the vice upside down and tie in more bucktail same as on the top. You can make this slightly more. Do not take your thread back past the eyes.
- Whip finish the head and coat with head cement or UV.

This pattern should be tied sparsely. Do not be afraid to use plenty of glue to secure your eyes onto the hook.



# NGONGOTAHA STREAM TEAM

There can be nothing more frustrating for a fly fisherman than one or two good fish, actively feeding in a small stream, and then the realization that getting a fly to them is going to be a challenge.

The Ngongotaha Stream Team volunteer group has an existing plan for stream maintenance and to maintain and enhance the walkway. The Rotorua Angler's Association has committed themselves to this plan. Over the last twenty years, volunteers have planted thousands of native trees, grasses, flaxes and hebes which have created a natural bushland walk. The focus of the Stream Team volunteers has been on developing and maintaining a walkway that enhances the experience of a relaxing bush walk alongside the meandering Ngongotaha stream. This experience is currently enjoyed by walking groups, dog walkers, family groups, children, and of course, fishers. Natural regeneration is now being observed, and the variety of native bird life increases each year as the food sources, which have been specifically planted, begin to mature.

However, above the Ngongotaha Stream the willow with its graceful fronds touching the surface, the toi toi in full flower reaching out over half of the stream, the thorny problem of the blackberry infesting the lower bank, stream-side trees with their lower branches at just the right height are there to frustrate an overhead cast, and of course there are all manner of obstructions and snags on the stream bed itself. Therefore, the RAA's focus will be the stream itself, using an "anglers eye" to improve the fishing experience.

The Ngongotaha is a challenging stream that rewards the thoughtful angler. With over four kilometres of walkway, there are numerous pools and runs that would benefit from a regular pruning. Rather than a "slash and burn" exercise that deprives the existing fish population of their cover and security, the Stream Team envisages just a few gentle tweaks that will even the odds a little. In addition to removing existing snags and obstructions, some thought will be given to improving angler access both in and out of the stream.

The early history of the Rotorua Anglers Association portrays an active club busily engaged in all manner of activity to enhance the Rotorua fishery. Fishing huts were built, boat ramps and jetties constructed, lakeside tracks developed, and of course the existing clubrooms were built. This commitment by the Rotorua Anglers Association to the Ngongotaha Stream fishery will be another chapter in a proud tradition.





Ian Fear clearing trees from the bank



Piet and Ron removing casting obstacles



Ron Cole pruning willow

## MULTI-GENERATIONAL FISHING EXPERIENCES

Ron Cole successfully fished with his family and friend Gavin on Lake Rotoehu during the holidays.. Week 1: Ron looks happy with his catch!







Week 2.

Ron picked his daughter up at Rotorua Airport. He had the boat on the back and they headed out to Lake Rotoehu. What a good way to begin a holiday!



Week 3. Ron's mother, Jean. The fish's colour is exaggerated due to the boat having a red canopy.





Rod Hinit's trevally served as a captive breakfast for a passing shark. He was definitely not amused



**DIGITAL | OFFSET | WIDE FORMAT**

Business Cards, Letterhead, Envelopes, NCR Books, Compliment Slips, Pens, Labels, Flyers, Posters, Rack Cards, Brochures, Banners, Tags and more

**LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED  
FOR OVER 40 YEARS**

**PHONE 07-347-8822**

248 Fenton Street, Rotorua | [info@advocateprint.co.nz](mailto:info@advocateprint.co.nz)



[advocateprint.co.nz](http://advocateprint.co.nz)



**PRINT&  
DESIGN**



## FISHING IN THE HAURAKI GULF



In December a group of anglers went out from Thames to fish near the mussel barges.. Pete Otto, Graham Fraser, Ziggy, Neville Robinson, Christo Wolfaard and Peter Teague fished for only one and a half hours to catch their quota of 7 snapper per angler. The sea was flat as a duck pond, and Eric brought his boat right into the chum stream washing off the mussel barge. This was Christo's first sea trip and skipper Eric looked after him by casting right into the fish's mouth for him! The average size was bigger than usual due to fishing in the chum. Many snapper were near the surface rather than on the bottom as we are accustomed to. Only one Kahawai was caught but no Dory or Gurnard. There were Kingfish all over, but this time Peter left them alone, as they can wind up everybody's lines in a pretty short time, and we end up putting them back because they know they are one cm shorter than the limit.





As a club group, we have developed a fair way to divide up the fish. The person with the biggest fish takes it. Then fish are set out as big, medium and smaller. Big fish go to each chilly bin till done, then the medium fish go to each bin, followed by the smaller fellows. In that way each gets an equal share.

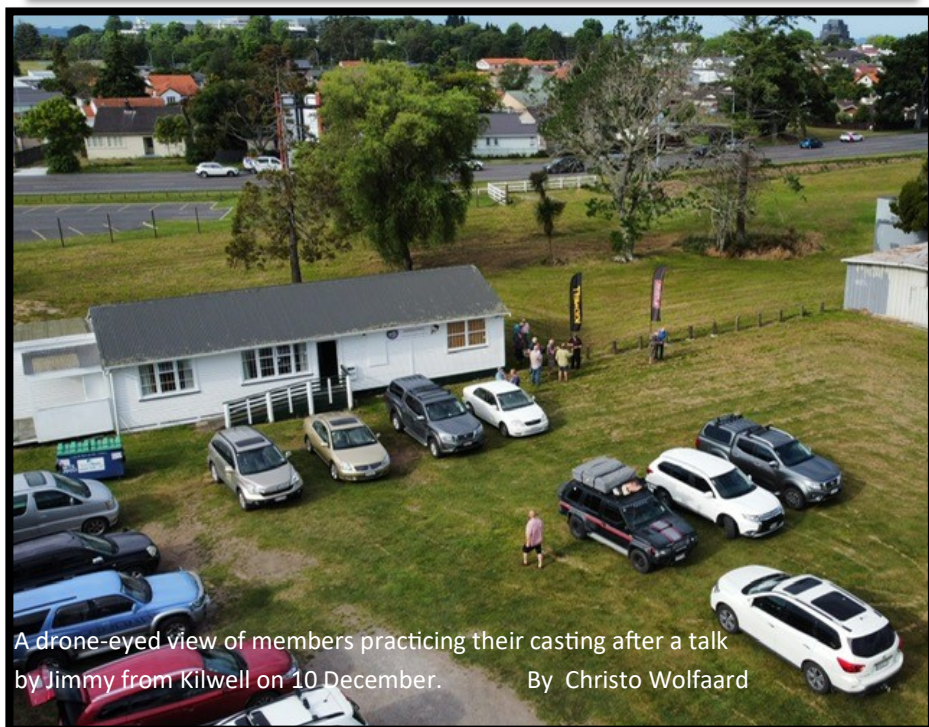


Christo with two nice fish, what an experience!

Pete Otto



Peter , Christo and the Skipper, Eric, with a good catch in the Gulf.



A drone-eyed view of members practicing their casting after a talk by Jimmy from Kilwell on 10 December. By Christo Wolfaard