



# ROTORUA ANGLERS ASSOCIATION

*MAY 2024*

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I would like to welcome you all to this, our first club newsletter in some time. I would like to extend my thanks to Gavin for stepping forward to make this possible. He is trying a new "on-line" format which is a change for us, but one which I hope adds a new dimension to our club communication.

There have been a number of successful activities over the last months, from club trips and BBQs to a successful inter club contest which saw us retain the trophy. Friday nights have seen good turn outs, which along with the successful outings above show that our membership is enjoying what we are able to offer. This has also been reflected in new members joining (or in some cases rejoining) our ranks. I would like to welcome you all and encourage you to participate in our club activities.

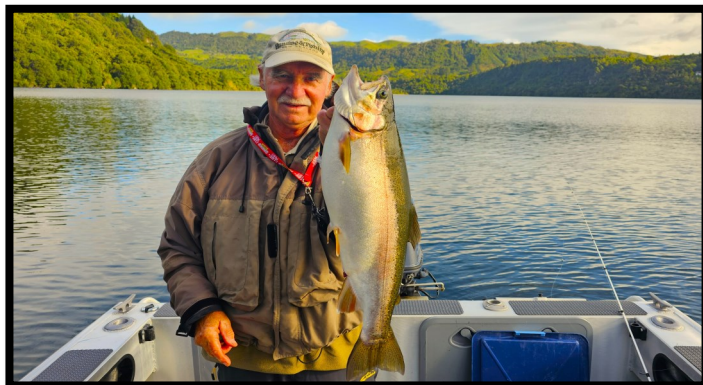
Coming up is the Ray White Auction. We are very grateful to Ray White for their support to the club, and if you have items to donate to the auction, they will be gratefully received. Details of dates to have these in will be detailed later in the newsletter.

Looking further forward we have a some major undertakings later this year. The club rooms are in need of some TLC, and we are planning to repaint the building. Later in the year we will also have the Kids Fish Out at the Rotorua Hatchery. While this is a major fund raiser for us, it is also a chance for us to share the love of fishing with the next generation.

### Help me make it work!

This online newsletter represents a new direction for your club as we seek to develop a more efficient means of communicating with members.

Send your contributions to Gavin Corbett  
corbettgavin@gmail.com



The fish at Lake Tarawera have been improving over recent years due to Fish and Game reducing the release numbers. In the last few months we have caught some stunning fish getting up over 3kg and giving great battles. This fish was 3.1 kg and had a condition factor of 67.3. It was caught on the first drop of the day using a soft bait just around the corner from the landing ramp. A great start to what turned out to be a good days fishing with quite a few more tipping the scales at over 5lb.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

1. **3 May.** Club meeting from 5pm.
2. **4th May.** Stream Team .A working bee to help make the Lower Ngongotaha Stream more angler friendly
3. **6th May** .Fly tying at the clubrooms. 7pm.
4. **10 May.** Club meeting from 5pm
5. **15th May.** Deadline for goods to be donated for the Ray White charity auction.
6. **17 May.** Club meeting from 5pm
7. **17th May.** Committee meeting immediately following the weekly club night.
8. **18th May.** Club fishing anywhere on Lake Rotorua and its tributaries. BBQ at the clubrooms from 3pm. Meat provided.
9. **22nd May** 5pm, Ray White charity auction. Held at the Ray White office, 1239 Amohia Street. All welcome.
10. **24 May.** Club meeting from 5pm
11. **31st May.** Pot luck dinner at the clubrooms. Bring a main course or dessert. Super draw.

## RAY WHITE CHARITY AUCTION

Ray White Real Estate Ltd. Rotorua host a number of charity auctions throughout the year with the stated purpose of raising funds for nominated groups. The Rotorua Anglers Association will be the beneficiaries of the auction to be held on 22nd of May. This is a wonderful opportunity to raise funds for the club, but its success depends on the effort that individual members contribute.

**How it Works.** Good quality items are donated for the auction. It need not be limited to fishing gear. Any quality item that you no longer have a use for, can be auctioned on the night. There will be no reserve, and each lot will be sold on the night to the highest bidder. If you have items suitable for auction, they must be dropped off at the Ray White office, 1239 Amohia Street before May 15th for photography and cataloguing. Invitations to the auction will be emailed out on the Ray White and the Rotorua Anglers data bases.

## STREAM TEAM



A big thank you to the anglers who volunteer their time to help maintain the Ngongotaha Stream Walkway. The overall goal for this exercise is to improve stream access and the anglers experience. It's an on going initiative with the team meeting on the first Saturday of each month at 9am for 3 hours and light lunch. Contact Gavin for the address.



# HAMILLS

— TRUSTED SINCE 1955 —

## URBAN FISHING

Gavin Corbett

The strident sound of urban living was filtered by the overhanging bush, but still at odds with the tranquil flow of the trout stream. Her voice was shrill, screeching abuse at her partner. His reply was angry, demeaning and accompanied by the insistent sound of a child crying for attention. Rumbling in the background, the sound of traffic passed through the township, underlining the fact that I was far from the wilderness rivers I had fished in the South Island.

I dragged my attention back to the stream. I was looking for a bit of open water and a visible fish. I had no doubt that the undercut banks, the dark patches of weed and the deeper pools could all be potential targets for blind fishing, but today's challenge was to sight a fish, and cast to it.

The sun was almost directly overhead, providing that window of about an hour when the light slanted directly on to the stream bed. Any other time of the day, and much of this stretch of the stream was in shade, making the task of sighting fish even more difficult. My polaroid glasses filtered



out the reflected light, and thus the stream bed could be clearly seen, so I hunched down and began to study the water in front of me. I was looking for shape and movement.

The waving tendrils of weed caught my attention first, which reminded me of my beginners' attempt years ago when I had spent half an hour or more casting to three "weed fish" lined up at the mouth of a stream. I wouldn't be the last angler to make that mistake, I thought with a smile.

I quickly discounted the clear, sandy bottom in the middle of the stream and began to examine the far bank. It was overhung by a large willow, its weeping foliage hiding at least a third of the pool. I made a mental note to fish this pool when the willow grubs would begin to fall in late summer, and I continued to scan the water beneath the far bank.

Nothing. My eyes strayed back to the willow, wishing I could lift the curtain, and see into the hidden water. Almost directly under the trailing fronds, a dark, elongated shape wove with tantalising ease. Could it be ...? I focussed on the shape, trying to decipher what I was seeing. There was a slight increase in the light filtering through the moving window of the stream, and the shape was casting a shadow on the stream bed beneath it. I had found my fish. It was considerably larger than most of the fish I had seen in this stream. It was a textbook lie. The overhanging willow provided cover. The large boulder the trout was positioned behind offered relief from the relentless push of the stream. It wasn't feeding with any urgency, but every few minutes it would drift out from cover to claim some food, and then return to its lie.

I weighed up my options. Casting space was very tight, and I knew I would have a limited opportunity to present a fly to this fish. I slipped the indicator down to shorten the depth of my hare and copper. I slipped into the water, with no more than five rod lengths behind the lie.

I allowed a few metres of line to be carried downstream and behind me. Then, using the tension the stream flow provided, I flicked a cast a metre or so ahead of the fish. A poor cast. My fly caught in the willow above the fish. Hardly daring to breathe, I tugged the fly free, and it plopped into the water behind the fish. As the line drifted back toward me, I instinctively executed a roll cast, firing the nymph back up stream. But my judgement was poor. The fly line dropped down on top of the fish and the fish drifted back and sideways to the safety of the willow. Opportunity lost.

I sat on the bank thinking of what might have been, and normality returned. Again, I could hear village life on the road above me, and the stream flowed on as if my encounter with the fish had been but a dream.

## FLY OF THE MONTH

### The Adams Dry Fly

**Instructor: Wayne Woodward**

This fly is considered a general imitation of an adult mayfly, flying caddis or midge. It was designed by Leonard Halliday from Mayfield, Michigan in 1922, at the request of his friend Charles Adams. The Adams has been considered one of the most popular, versatile, effective and best-selling dry flies since its creation.



Dry Fly Hook: #10-20 (Black Magic F12 used tonight)  
Wing: Grizzly hackle wing tips (opposed)  
Body: Grey dubbing  
Tail: Grizzly and Red Furnace hackle fibres combined  
Hackle/s: Grizzly and Red Furnace Hackle to match hook size.

1. Tie in the wings facing forward and wrap thread to hold wings upright.
2. Use a figure 8 tie to separate wings. Make the wings equal in height to the length of the hook shank. Leave enough distance in front of the wings to finish the fly.
3. Wrap thread to tie in the tail fibres, ensuring they are equal to the hook length.
4. Dub forward to create a carrot-shaped body stopping behind the wings leaving enough room to tie in the hackles.
5. Tie in one grizzly hackle first, then two red furnace hackles, with dull sides facing you.
6. Wind the red hackles 2-3 times behind the wings, then forward in front of the wings.
7. Wrap a couple of turns in front of the wings and then tie off.
8. Then wind the grizzly hackle forward in the same manner and tie off.
9. Whip finish using the Matarellui whip finisher, or half hitch tool if you've been to Phil's fly-tying class.
10. Cement the thread head ensuring the eye of the hook is clear.

## SEA FISHING TRIP



For Monday, 29 April, Rod arranged a sea trip with Josh from Whakatane. Anglers who went were Clyde, Harvey, Pete, David, Errol and Steve. Due to the tides, Josh left early at 6 am. He has recently installed a combination radar and fish finder. He set the boat on auto and after a nice coffee, we first went beyond the Opotiki mussel farm towards Te Kaha, where we drifted a while. Quite a few kahawai were caught, with a few snapper. Then Josh moved to a line of drums where we tied up. Toward midday the weather calmed down, and we were getting some good snapper, kahawai and terakihi. One gurnard was caught. Rod hooked something pretty heavy, and once we could see colour it turned out to be a young bronze whaler shark. Various anglers felt the weight, but Murphy intervened: the line broke out. The shearwater birds arrived and started diving for everything. Then the gulls started chasing them. Rat kingfish followed the fish up, and grabbed scraps. White Island spewed steam from time to time. One mussel barge was working, but no other fishing boats. It is a great service from Josh to fillet and skin the fish on the way back, and fill bags equally for each angler. Frames go to a mate who distributes them all the way to Kawerau. It was another great day at sea.