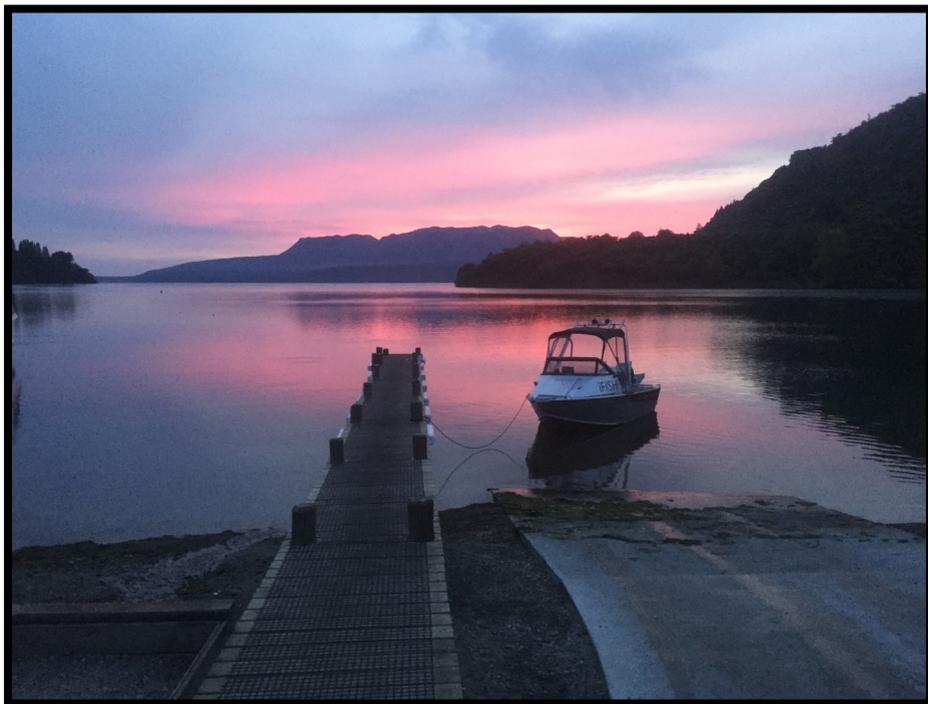


ROTORUA ANGLERS ASSOCIATION

June 2022

NEWSLETTER



The Tarawera Landing, taken just before the it closed for renovation.

Photo: Jenny Taylor

EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Treasurer	Ian Fear	027 474 2772
Bar and Catering	Vacant	
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
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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

First a big thank you to Rika for all her efforts with the newsletter. It keeps members informed and we like to keep it interesting and show what we have been up to. Thanks Peter Corsen for teaching us good skills in fly tying the Cased Caddis (and singing it with a lighter in the end!) and the Pheasant Tail. I hope we will see more. John has been working steadily in the background on our website, and has made it up to date and very informative, as can be seen in the interesting figures in his article. Maurice and Sherryl are in Sweden visiting their daughter; and Steve and Helen are in Singapore visiting their daughter and ours, Louise. Well done Richard Pryce with your first good fish after the A-Z course. I hope we can do better in future on Rotoiti. (This is a sad story). Thanks Rod for sharing your homebrew keg with us.

As you know, all anglers are concerned about water quality. Councils and industry organisations have legislated fencing of permanent waterways and drains wider than a metre and deeper than 30 cm. Farmers have voluntarily fenced 27,000 km of waterways. However, it seems 70% of the pollution comes from smaller streams feeding the waterways. I was recently fascinated by an agricultural article by Shaun Forgie who did a PhD on dung beetles in Pretoria. These little fellows dig tunnels under the cow pat, carry the dung down underground and lay eggs in it. The emerging larvae feed on the dung, emerge as beetles and continue their work. You may have seen in paddocks that there are lovely green tufts of grass growing from the pats, but the animals don't eat this or anything in an area 5x the cow pat around it because it is repugnant, thus losing pasture area. By burying the dung, the beetles improve soil rain retention and the feeding of grass roots and so worms increase. Beetles thus reduce runoff of nitrates and fertilisers into streams and reduce greenhouse gases, flies and parasites.

Shaun has obtained permission to breed beetles in New Zealand, and a farm supply will cost about \$6,000. He has also supplied USA, Brazil and Australia. The beetles work on dung from cows, sheep, horses, goats and alpacas. Farmers should use compatible drenches that do not kill off the beetles. The government has declared that they would like to have all waterways swimmable again by 2040, so let's keep an eye on these little fellows and see what they can do.



Heather Fargher's 4.1kg Rainbow Hen. Photo: Heather Fargher



1271 Fenton St, Rotorua, 07 348 3147

FISH OF THE MONTH



Heather Fargher

Rainbow Hen, 4.1kg, Caught at Ruato,

Flyfishing. Condition factor - 47.1.

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

JUNE UPCOMING EVENTS and REMINDERS

- 4-6th Mohaka trip has been cancelled due to weather
- Sat 11th Fishing/Casting club
- Mon 13th Fly tying
- Thurs 16th Committee meeting
- Sat 18th Stream Team
- Mon 20th Magazine article deadline
- Fri 24th Club potluck dinner at the clubhouse 5pm for 6pm dinner
- Sar 25-26th Lake Aniwhenua trip
- Wed 29th Dark moon

FLY TYING, MAY 2022



Photo: Peter Corson

Singed Zelandopsyche (cased) caddis.

Peter Corson

This is a very quick and easy nymph pattern to tie. Although this pattern most correctly resembles Zelandopsyche, a larger cased caddis that makes cases from sand or debris, mainly in forested catchments, it is also a good imitation of other common cased caddis. It is easiest to tie in size 10 or 12 in a straight shank 1x long hook and best fished on a dead drift.

- Start your thread behind the eye and wrap the shank of the hook, slightly into the bend of the hook, then back up 3-4mm.
- Strip fibres to create a tie in point from the end of an 8-10cm piece of sparkly chenille. Tie in, take the thread forward, then wind the chenille forward to a hook eye length behind the eye. Tie in, whip finish and cut the

thread.

- Take the hook out of the vice and hold with hackle pliers or forceps. Gently singe the chenille with a lighter. It can burn quickly, so go lightly. Rotate the hook and blow out immediately if it starts to burn.
- Place the singed caddis back in the vice and using a thread colour of your choice, rusty brown or black are good options, start forming a head. Optionally, you can tie in legs that face forward using a 'V' of hen hackle. The legs should be 2-3 times the length of the eye. Finish the head with your thread, whip finish and varnish. Enjoy.

Simple Pheasant tail nymph

This is a variation from Davie McPhail of Sawyer's classic pheasant tail. Both are tied with extra fine wire, rather than a thread. The variation makes tying faster and makes tying size 10s and 12s easier.

- Start with the wire just behind the eye, making sure you have about 8-10cm of tag end that will become the rib, and wind back to the start of the bend.
- Take 8-10 pheasant tail fibres and tie them in with one or two wraps of wire. Keep the tail relatively short. I tie it in with one wrap behind the tag



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end.

- Then wrap the wire with open wraps back up the hook to an eye length behind the eye. Carefully wrap the pheasant tail fibres forward and catch off just behind the eye.
- Start building the thorax with the wire then counter-wrap the tag end forward with about four wraps then catch off. Continue building the thorax so that it is about 1/3 the length of the hook.
- With the wire at the rear of the thorax bring the pheasant tail fibres rearward and gently flatten them out with your thumb nail.
- Place one wrap of wire to hold, then a 2-3 turn whip finish and then gently break off the wire.
- Trim the pheasant tail fibres 2-3mm back from the whip finish to give the appearance of wing buds.
- Varnish the wire thorax, whip finish and you're done.



Simple Pheasant tail nymph. Photo: Peter Corson

SNAPPER FISHING NEAR MUSSEL BARGES

Gavin Corbett

I was regaling my audience with tales of my fishing success when I was challenged by an astute listener. “But that’s not fishing, he said, you're simply harvesting.” I think his description was apt.

Roger and I had been fishing for snapper in the Firth of Thames. Or to be more precise, within easy casting distance of the barge tending the mussel farm. The technique was simplicity itself. First, find a barge that is busy harvesting mussels. The giveaway signs to look for were a barge that appeared to be stationary alongside a line of buoys, a cluster of large white sacks on its deck, and most important of all, a dirty brown slick cascading into the ocean. The slick was full of debris created by the lifting and harvesting of the mussel lines. This burley trail was the virtual smorgasbord that the snapper and other species were feasting on. The barge would be surrounded by small craft crewed by amateur fisherman all anxious to catch their limit bag of snapper before the barge moved off.

A strong tidal rip, and a blustery southerly made it essential to anchor, in order to maintain position alongside the barge. For the most part, this was accomplished by simply tying off on to one of the buoys. This is a hazardous choice. The skipper had to be constantly aware of the position of the barge and be ready to cast off and get out of the way of the manoeuvring vessel -a set of circumstances that does not induce relaxed fishing. Thankfully, Roger's boat was equipped with a “Minn Kota” which negated the need for conventional anchoring. Essentially, a small electric motor connected to a GPS location device which when engaged, kept the boat in exactly the same position. The motor executed constant corrections to combat the wind and current.

All we had to do, was harvest our catch. There was no messy bait, no lead sinkers, just a spin rod, braid line, and soft bait. With the boat positioned within meters of the slick, it was simply a matter of tossing the soft bait into the churning mass. The take was almost instantaneous. It was rare indeed not to

hook up on the first cast and the limit bag of seven snapper each was achieved in a under an hour.

For me, the whole experience underlined the saying, “the next best thing to owning a boat, is having a friend who owns one”. Even better, when that friend is an experienced skipper and accomplished fisherman, who is prepared to share his knowledge.



The mussel barge. Photo: Bryce Campbell.

IT'S NOT ALWAYS ABOUT THE FISHING

Oleria Paniculata

Gavin Corbet

The Rotorua Anglers Club has had a long association with the “New Forest” that Joe Fleet has been creating just a few kilometres south of Rotorua, and a much more recent association with the Ngongotaha Stream restoration project.

Joe has generously offered his advice and expertise to the “stream team” and has donated cuttings and seedlings of native plants that he had nurtured, for planting on the Ngongotaha walkway.

Gavin wanted to express the gratitude of the Ngongotaha stream team by

presenting Joe with an *Oleria Paniculata* that had been cultivated by John Conway, the team leader of the Ngongotaha project. This tree, found only in New Zealand, can grow up to six metres high and produces clusters of daisy-like flowers in the late autumn.



Joe presenting Gavin (L) with the *Oleria Paniculata*

Joe's Place

John Olds

The Association's mission statement is: *To enjoy fishing first, to promote the development of all anglers to reach their full potential and to respect and protect the environment.*

The commitment to respecting and protecting the environment saw Association members become involved in the restoration of an area around the Kauaka Stream a few years ago. This is a project that was started by long-time Rotorua Angler's Association member and past patron, Joe Fleet, in 1995 (27 years ago). Joe extended an invitation to members to visit the site, which is part of the Peka Block

and known as Te Ngahere Hou (The New Forest). I took up Joe's invitation recently and we spent a couple of hours wandering the tracks that have been formed in the area. To say I was impressed is an understatement. This is a wonderful area full of birdlife and home to some magnificent native species. It is a credit to Joe who has spent many hours on what is a labour of love. Joe also gave me a lot of information covering the history of the project.

Sadly, much of the assistance from various groups who have been involved has fallen away and there will of course be reasons for this, one being COVID over the last couple of years. However, this project deserves all the help it can get and if we as members of the Association want to uphold our commitment to respect and protect the environment, I would like to think that we could commit to assisting Joe with track formation and maintenance, trap clearing and planting.

This commitment also applies to our monthly Stream Team days on the Ngongotaha Stream, and it would be good if we could attract more than the 3 or 4 members we have had over the last few months.

You'll hear more about Joe's project in the next month or so. It would be great if you can become a part of it.

WHIRINAKI RIVER TRIP 29 APRIL – 1 MAY 2022

John Olds

As a relative newbie to the Association, I was looking forward to this trip. I had fished the Whirinaki only twice before as part of trips to Lake Aniwhenua with the Hutt Valley Angling Club in 2004 and 2007. That fishing was confined to the area around Whirinaki Road near Murupara, one visit being cut short by the river colouring up even though there had been no rain. On rounding a corner, I found that the colouring had been caused by our bovine friends, so that was that for the day.

As usual we stayed at the DOC Recreation camp on this trip. It's about an hour and a quarter leisurely drive from Rotorua. We book a cabin that sleeps 10 at a very reasonable rate of \$33 a night. The camp has two more 10-berth cabins, flush toilets, a wood heater in all cabins and a large separate open-

sided cooking shelter with a wood BBQ – fuel is provided. There is no power so you need to take your own candle/other lighting.

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/east-coast/places/whirinaki-te-pua-a-tane-conservation-park/things-to-do/whirinaki-recreation-camp/>

We got a good turnout on this trip with seven more association members joining in and we were to meet up at the camp from 2 p.m. on the Friday. I went a bit earlier as I wanted to check out the two new access points that Eastern Fish and Game had recently opened up as well as the waterfall area. I found one access point but not the other. Subsequent enquiries to Fish and Game resulted in them telling me the second point had not been marked.

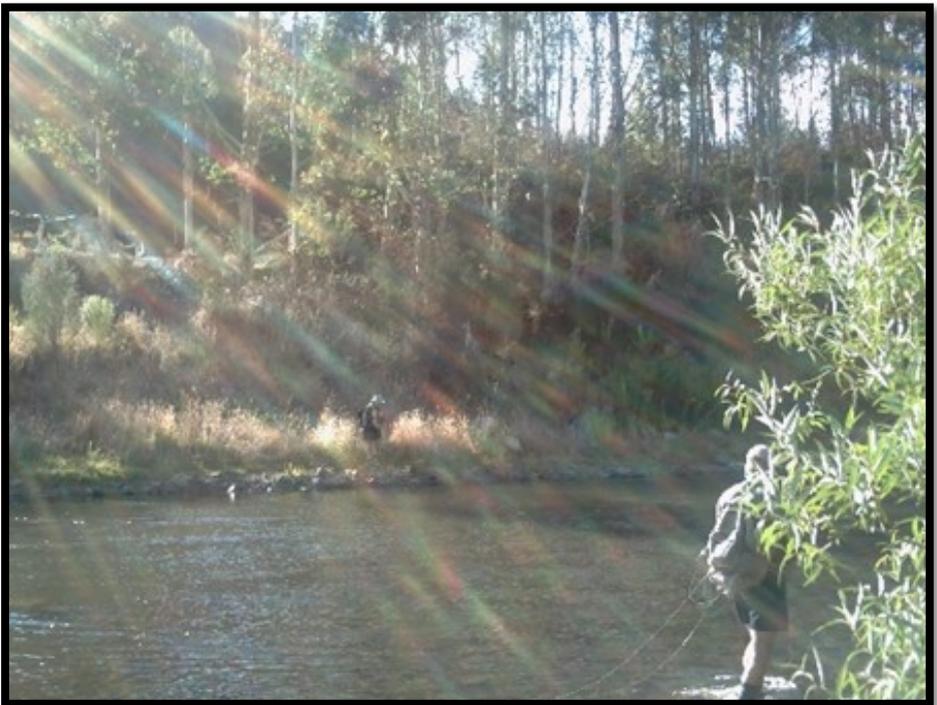
On Friday evening we had a quick scout of the river and a flick that yielded nothing. Still, the water looked good for the foray to come. On Saturday morning I headed upstream from the camp to the Mangamate waterfall. The only other river where I have found boulders as slippery was the Manganui o te Ao. Apart from one spectacular fall (it's always good to have a locator beacon), putting a hook up to the barb in my finger (the old loop of nylon trick works well but you don't generally get the fly back – it was one of my favourites, the Polish nymph) and losing my net (found again) while trying to land a feisty (about) 1.8 kg rainbow jack, everything went swimmingly. I had two 1.4 kg rainbows and quite a few subways (all a foot long) and lost a couple more good fish. I also found some track markers that Fish and Game confirmed is the second new track so this gives access to some really good water. I mainly fished using a dry/dropper rig and had several subways take the dry. There were a couple of pools that needed a longer leader and weight but a light rig was generally the go.

Joe Fleet showed how dry fly is done with a first cast hook up that yielded a very nice 2.69 kg rainbow. There is a video of this under "What's New" on the website. Owen Poad and his guest Mark Goodwin had a very successful trip with a number of fish (photos on the website Gallery page). We enjoyed the fruits of their and Joe's labours in the evening.

These trips are about more than fishing and in the evenings we spent a few hours gathered around the open cooking area to have a quiet one or two and recount the day's adventures. Being in the bush in the area is also special. There are

magnificent old native trees and lots of birdlife with little piwakawaka following in your footsteps looking for morsels.

I headed home on the Sunday morning, negotiating a group of wild horses at one point that had decided that the middle of the road was a good place to have a yarn. It's a normal sight for the area. I had been feeling a bit ropey when I got up so took a RAT when I got home. The dreaded solid line confined me to quarters for the next week. Everyone else on the trip was advised and I am just thankful no-one else got it. I'm also thankful for a mild case. Headache, bit of a cough, tiredness but pretty much like a heavy cold.



Two of my Hutt Valley fishing companions, John Millar & Ian Lawson scouting the lower Whirinaki 2007.

Christo Wolfaard took his drone during the weekend. The video is here:

<https://youtu.be/Mb2ErhZjf08>

WEBPAGE STATISTICS

From the Webmaster, John Olds

I thought members may be interested in some stats since we launched the new website in February last year. These stats are for new visitors to the site for the periods.

	Site Sessions	Page Views	Period
Feb-Dec 2021	1,003	3,857	10 months
Jan-mid May 2022	273	746	4.5 months

Over the ten-month period you can see that the visits were much higher but this is to be expected as people become aware of the site. It has reduced over the last period comparatively which is also to be expected. Site sessions averaged 60 per month and page views 166. Most visitors are from New Zealand although we have had a small number from USA, UK & Australia.

Over the last 30 days there were 78 site sessions, up 13% on the previous month.

The pages most visited over the last 12 months were:

Homepage 884; Events 177; Newsletter 171; Membership 171;
Contact Us 143.

Visitors came from: New Zealand - 1,002. USA – 29. UK – 7. Australia – 7. Plus small numbers from Canada, the Philippines and South Africa.

It is encouraging to get good numbers looking at our newsletter & membership pages in particular. There are many more stats available and it will be good to see how numbers trend over time. If you visit the website you will see that I have added a “What’s New” page to the menu. This takes the form of a Blog and will be updated regularly.

Please let me know if you would like to see something extra on the site or if you see something that you think should be improved. johnhigsonolds@gmail.com



Left: Richard Pryce with his first fish caught fly fishing after the A to Z course. The fish was caught in the Waititi stream.

The end of May BBQ:

Below: back L to R: Harvey Clark, Ian Fear, Ian Ferguson, Ronan (sitting), Piet Otto

Front: Steve Kinsley, Rika Otto, Colin Cox, Joe Fleet, Heather Fargher, Phil Trautmann, Dave and Lynette

