

ROTORUA ANGLERS ASSOCIATION

April 2022

NEWSLETTER



Gavin Corbett at the entrance to Lake Selfe in the South Island. Photo: Larry Ware

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	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
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: 20th of each month

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

Clubrooms: 33 Pererika Street, Rotorua

<http://rotoruaanglers.org.nz>

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

This month has been a bit of a challenge for Rika and I because we had builders in the house and had to move everything out of the lounge, dining room, bathroom, passages and laundry. Before this we took off wallpaper. While staying the month with friends, the builders covered two open fire places, had insulation put into outer walls of lounge and dining room, a plasterer skimmed the walls for painting, and the toilet was replaced. The main job was insulating the bathroom and installing new shower, toilet and vanity, plus heated towel rail and heater. Vinyl floors were replaced in toilet, laundry and bathroom. Now we are back home again and after floor sanding and painting, will move everything back, and hopefully never build again!

My recent trip to Turangi was unfortunately blown away by strong southerly winds coming down the river. I watched a few brave fishermen but they caught nothing. The same applied for Waitahanui. I decided to explore a bit, so went off to Tokaanu to aim for a hot swim, but the pool was closed for maintenance. The thermal walk is quite interesting, with unexpected thermally active pools. Next stop was the old 200 m jetty that has recently been restored. In the late 1800's there was a 35-ton ship that ferried passengers and produce across the lake. When the ship docked, they sent carrier pigeons to the hotel to say how many visitors had come, to arrange carriage transport and rooms. One visitor reported in his diary, "The stream is under fished, and we are catching trout of 12 and 15 pounds". The whole area is pretty shallow and full of lake plant material, not good to fish. The main boating wharf further down the lake has good fishing possibilities off their jetty into clearer water. The Trout Centre along the main road is really worth a visit. The boating wharf at Motuoapa before Turangi is probably the best I have seen anywhere in the country.

In two years, we celebrate our 75th anniversary. Neal gave me a 16-page 1999 pamphlet drawn up by Lew Sperry on "The first 50 years". We take so much for granted. Those before us bulldozed access to Stony point, pulled weed from Ruato with rope and tractor, built jetties and fish traps, and dug the hatchery ponds. Anyone who can help with research, please let me know.

FISH OF THE MONTH



Gavin Corbett

2.72kg Rainbow hen

Softbaiting

Lake Okataina

**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



Bryan Taylor and Gavin Corbett fishing a South Island high country lake.

APRIL UPCOMING EVENTS & REMINDERS

Fri 1st	Dark moon
Sat 2nd	Stream Team
Sun 3rd	Daylight saving ends
Mon 4th	Fly tying
Tues-Thurs 5-7th	Tuki Tuki trip planned
Sat 9th	Fishing/Casting club and Kilwell Reel Day at Holdens Bay from 10 am
Thurs 14th	Committee meeting
Fri 15th	Club closed. Easter
Wed 20th	Magazine article deadline
Fri 22nd	Club BBQ
Sat 23rd	Social Evening at Ron Cole's home. See page 8 for details
Sat 30th	Whirinaki trip

FLY TYING, MARCH 2022



Tied by Richard Hendriksen

Copper John

Tied by Richard Hendriksen

Designed by John Barr circa 1990 Boulder Colorado

Hook size 10/12

Copper bead 3.00

Place the bead on the hook

Wrap on lead wire 7x turns

Tie on the thread and secure the lead wire

Bring the thread to the bend of the hook

Tie the tail biots

Tie in the thread and bring forward up to the lead to make it even as possible.

Bring copper wire forward in touching turns

Leave 1/2mm space behind the head

Tie in tinsel on top of the hook

Tie in wing case of your choice

Tie in peacock herl and reinforce by twisting around tying thread

Strip feather and cut out the centre for the legs

Tie in on the top of the hook

Pullover the thorax,

Pull over the tinsel

Whip finish



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SOCIAL EVENING AT RON COLE'S HOME

I would like to propose a Club Social to be held at my place, 24 Gillam Crescent, Springfield, Rotorua on the afternoon of Saturday 23rd April, from 2pm. Open to all club members, partners and families.

It is a BYO event, although there will be a selection of homebrew for tastings for those interested.

There is a pizza oven and BBQ available for dinner. I will provide the pizza dough bases, BYO toppings. For those that don't like pizza the BBQ is available.

Other activities on offer are:

Cornhole board

Giant jenga

Trout spotting in Utihi stream at the bottom of the garden, (spotting only as closed waters).

A roll casting competition, (Gavin is already practicing).

Telling tall tales about previous fishing exploits.

Hope to see you there.

Regards

Ron Cole.

A SOUTH ISLAND TRIP, MARCH 2022

By Gavin Corbett , who went with Larry Ware and Bryan Taylor

Was it a disaster? Not quite, but there is no doubt the unseasonable weather which plagued our fishing trip in the South Island was responsible for a definitive change in strategy. The original plan was for a leisurely trip down the West Coast before crossing Arthur's Pass into the high-country lake region. We spent three or four days around the Lake Coleridge area, and then travelled down to sea level on the East Coast, with the trip culminating in river mouth fishing opportunities as we progressed North to Picton.

The reality was that any thought of fishing on the West Coast was abandoned completely, as all the rivers that we had anticipated fishing were raging torrents of dirty brown water. Of the twenty days we spent traveling, perhaps four or five of those days exhibited the lazy summer days we had anticipated.

I could dedicate this entire story to the unfortunate weather pattern that we endured, but I am reminded of the Oscar Wilde quote, "conversation about the weather is the last refuge of the unimaginative," so I will confine myself to an account of Bryan's success at Lake Selfe. Lake Selfe is one of a series of small high-country lakes located in the Harper Valley, two hours' drive north of Christchurch. It is a truly beautiful setting favoured by trampers, fishermen and day-tripping picnickers adventurous enough to brave the rutted gravel roads.

The weather gods smiled, and we were able to overnight and spend the next day fishing a shoreline that featured a steep drop off, a weed bed within casting distance, and cruising fish patrolling a predictable beat. Bryan observed numerous small cockerbullies in the shallows so began fishing a woolly bugger pattern on a slow sinking line. Time and time again, Bryan cast the line and began the slow twitching retrieve that imitates the darting cockerbullie. "Last cast," cried Bryan, and there was a definitive take with a weight on the line, a bend in the rod, and line screaming off the reel. For a time, it seemed the fish was winning, with Bryan struggling to regain the line, but then, there it was, the first glimpse showing a sizeable fish. The fish was in no mood to succumb early, and it was only after numerous dashes for the security of the deeper water that Bryan was finally able to beach it. It was a beautifully proportioned rainbow trout weighing in at four pounds four ounces.

We had rather optimistically promised our Christchurch host a fish for his smoker, so this particular fish was quickly dispatched and its stomach contents inspected. No surprises there, it had been dining on cockerbullies.



Reflections in Lake Selfe. Photo: Larry Ware



The drive up to Lake Coleridge was stunning — we actually managed 2 fine days in a row - the first in the South Island. Photo: Larry Ware



Bryan with his trout to be smoked for the landlord. Photo: Larry Jones



Larry Ware and Bryan Taylor. They awoke to snow on the seaward Kaikouras.



Lake Selfe was stunning and the only sheltered lake we fished. Photo: Larry Ware



The beautiful drive up to the Harper's River Camp . Photo: Larry Ware