



# ROTORUA ANGLERS ASSOCIATION

*October 2024*

## Presidents Report

As the club moves into its 76th year I want to address a few changes that are on the horizon following the recent AGM.

Firstly, I would like to thank the members of the committee for their efforts on behalf of the club over the last year. I would also like to thank those who have agreed to continue in their posts for the coming year.

There are a couple of changes we are making. The first is one that is required under the new legislation that the club operates under. These changes are required to our constitution in order for the club to continue forward, and failure to implement them will see the club cease to exist as a legal entity under the act. In order to allow

members to view and understand the changes I will be sending out a draft constitution that has been drafted by Richard Pryce. Once this has been done, and there has been time for members to digest the changes, we will announce a Special General Meeting to confirm the changes.

The second change proposed was put forward by Gwen regarding our club trophies. In order to encourage members to fishing different waters, and to hopefully give a new life to our trophy competition it was proposed that we move to a system where there are trophies available based around the lakes and waterways being fished, as well as the main trophies for largest fish, best condition factor etc. the meeting agreed that this was a positive change, and we will move forward to finalise the details for the change. There is a poster twin the club rooms that details the basic outline of the system.

Lastly, as the new season opens, I would like to wish you all the very best for your fishing endeavors ahead.

**October 4 Club Night**

**October 6 Kids Fish Out**

**October 11 Club Night**

**October 12-13 A to Z tuition**

**October 18 Club Night**

**October 18 Committee meeting**

**Prize Giving Luncheon Citizens Club**

**October 25 club night BBQ, Bring and Buy sale of your unwanted fishing gear.**

## 2024 A.G.M



Ron Cole delivers the presidents report , Ian fear presented the financial summary . The minutes were recorded by Rika

A total of twelve club members made the effort to attend the 2024 annual general meeting. Granted, there were ten apologies noted in the minutes for those members who could not attend, and one or two club members are currently travelling overseas, but the low turnout does deserve some consideration.

The A.G.M is the most important meeting of the year. Matters considered too important to be decided on by the executive and committee are raised at the A.G.M. for the consideration of all financial members. The financial well-being of the club is presented by the treasurer, and nominations are made and accepted for the incoming committee who will take the club forward for the 24/25 year. All of them principal issues, critical to the well-being of the club, but their importance was not reflected in the number of club members who turned up to vote.

Of course, it depends on your point of view. The glass half full, or half empty argument. It could be argued that most club members are content with the way their club is being managed and see no need to take any active roll or attend any meetings. It could also be argued that they just do not care enough to be interested in the management of the club. The future for the Rotorua Anglers Association will not be measured by the strength of its bank balance or the value of its assets, but by the strength and commitment of its members

# TIGER TROUT: FACT AND FALLACY

Roger Bowden

Rotorua has one of the best lake fisheries in the world, and we are truly blessed to have access to such abundance. Lake Rotorua is well stocked with large brown trout and a multitude of quality rainbows. Within a short drive from the city, Lakes Rotoiti, Okataina, Tarawera and Rotoma all offer quality fishing for large, well-conditioned rainbow trout. The smaller lakes on the outskirts of the city also offer exciting fishing opportunities for the avid angler, but for the angler who wants to tick all the boxes, Lake Rotoma, home to one of the rarest breeds of trout in the world, is the place to go.

Our thanks to the team at Eastern Fish and Game, who breed tiger trout at their Paradise Vally Hatchery for release into Lake Rotoma. The tiger trout is a hybrid of a female brown trout and a male brook trout. The brook trout has a distinctive dark, mottled pattern on its back, that extends down the flanks to the belly of the fish. When mated with a female brown trout, this distinctive pattern is carried over, hence the name "tiger trout."

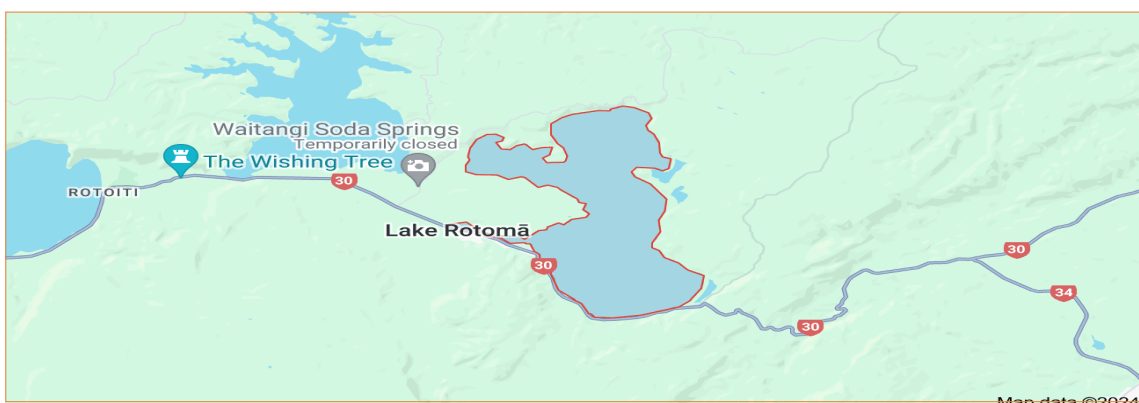
In the United States of America, both the brook trout and the brown trout are autumn spawners so it is inevitable that a beautiful, well-conditioned brown hen trout will attract the attention of a male brook trout. However, having that mating resulting in a hatch of tiger trout is far from guaranteed. A brook trout, being a char, has eighty-four chromosomes, whilst a brown trout has only eighty. The fertilized eggs resulting from the mating will yield fry only five percent of the time and the resulting progeny will be sterile. The hybrid tiger trout cannot reproduce its own kind.



Where nature fails, science succeeds. Scientists have worked out how to breed tiger trout under laboratory conditions. They fertilize the brown trout eggs with the brook trout milt and then submit them to a shock treatment of heat. This causes the eggs to mutate, adding a chromosome pair which boosts the fertility rate to eighty five percent. This is a significant improvement on the five percent fertility rate of the wild.

In New Zealand, the breeding of tiger trout is perhaps a novelty, but in America, they are a valuable tool for invasive pest control. Tiger trout grow quickly, are aggressive and will eat every small fish unlucky enough to be in its path, an ideal control mechanism for unwanted species. The fact that they are sterile means that there is no fear of a population explosion and the number of tiger trout becoming unmanageable.

For the record, the largest tiger trout caught, weighed in at twenty pounds. If you have an urge to fish for tiger trout in New Zealand, head for Lake Rotoma. Traditional fly fishing or soft plastic lures on a spin rod should prove successful.





# KIDS FISHOUT SEPTEMBER 2024

The September 2024 kids' fish out was a most challenging event. There were enough volunteers to staff the various workstations, and there was the usual multitude of fish in the pool, but long queues of children bore witness to the fact that catching the fish was proving difficult.

As with any fishing story, there is always a multitude of reasons explaining the failure to catch fish:

- a fly not suitable for the purpose,
- the leader or tippet is too light or too heavy,
- the bright sunlight or deep shadow,
- fish too well fed,
- the children not focused on the indicator.

I even heard one angler blaming the thunderstorm from the night before for the skittish behavior of the fish. Whatever the reason, the reality was an exceptionally long day with both anglers and children getting equally frustrated.

A big thank you to the volunteers who turned up to help. They worked tirelessly, without the usual lunch break, to make sure that all the children who were booked in, got their turn on the pond. It was a hard day's fishing, but rewarding, because of the children's excitement. The fishout is an important fund-raising effort for the club. The official count was 225 children.

This year, the Club and Fish and Game are considering what they can do better. There is soon to be a training day for the club volunteer anglers to sharpen their skills.



**Leo Sayer 8years Tauranga**



**Evelyn Burgess 9 years Rotorua**



**Breeana Dinning 8years Waikite Valley**



**Adam O Reilly 11 years Tauranga**



## STREAM TEAM

Blackberry, a nasty invasive weed, was brought to New Zealand by the early settlers who wanted reminders of their home country.

It is now well established throughout New Zealand and is classified as a sustained control pest, meaning that there is no plan for total eradication. The onus is on individual land owners to control the spread.

A large patch of blackberry that was smothering native tree planting on the Ngongotaha stream track has been painstakingly cleared over the last few weeks. They used a brush cutter, pruning and the judicious use of poison. Volunteers from the Rotorua Anglers Association were on hand to rake and pile the cuttings, clearing the area for future planting.



Club members Julian ,Ron, and Gordon step up to the challenge.

## PLANTING A WETLAND

In years past, the Ngongotaha Stream circled this area of land. Now, the stream flows on a much straighter course, leaving only a wetland. When the stream is exceptionally high, this wetland area is submerged beneath a meter of water but most of the time it is just damp and muddy.

Over the last decade, the Stream Team has carried out extensive planting within this area. Native species such as cabbage trees, flax carexsecta, bull-rush and kahikatea, are all thriving in the wet conditions. The problem that the Stream Team faces is that the blackberry is also thriving and threatening to smother the plants.

These last few weeks have seen a determined effort to win back control but the ongoing battle is completely reliant on the efforts of



Blackberry versus a brush cutter

## FUTURE PLANTING

A local landscaping company, Lakes Consulting, has donated five hundred carex virtaga and fifty cabbage trees for planting in the newly cleared wetland area. Carex virtaga is more commonly known as swamp grass, and is used extensively in wetland areas for erosion control

Left: Mature stands of carex virtaga. When the grass is mature, it will deny light to the blackberry.





# EASY AS SMOKED TROUT CROQUETTES

## Ingredients

300g smoked trout or salmon

600g mashed potatoes

2tbsp of breadcrumbs

1tsp salt

A handful of chopped parsley

1 tsp fresh thyme

Pinch of cayenne pepper

Good pinch of white pepper

Hot oil for baking

For crumbing

1/2 cup seasoned flour (salt, pepper or any seasoning you prefer)

1 beaten egg mixed with 2 tbsp milk.

2 cups breadcrumbs. Panko crumbs are good.

## Method

Boil potatoes. When cooked, drain in a colander or strainer cover and let dry for 5 mins, to avoid too much water being left. Then mash.

Break up smoked fish and place on a paper towel to soak up any excess oil.

Add to the potato along with chopped parsley and thyme and pepper

Add 2 tbsp breadcrumbs to stir to make a firm mix.

Roll into cake shapes or cylinders for croquettes. Crumb them by passing them through flour, the egg mix and the breadcrumbs.

Keep refrigerated for about an hour to firm them up. until required.

Fry in the hot oil until golden brown.



The humble fish cake need not be the sort of last minute dish you throw together from a few left overs. Choose good quality fillets from well conditioned fish and make an extra effort with the presentation.

The compliments you receive will be deserved



# A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A RANGER

Gwen Inskeep

It was about 4-30 pm on a Friday afternoon in Rotorua. Everybody was getting ready to go home when the boss called me into his office and closed the door. I wondered what it was that I had done wrong.

“Sit.” he said, “We have a change of plans. Tomorrow, you and I are going to chase helicopters.”

“Well okay, but why?” I asked

“There are two offenders,” he said, “both poaching deer; one in a state forest the other in private forest. We will back up both teams as required. But our main target is the offender in the private forest. You need to pick me up at 4am tomorrow morning.”

At 4am, our team headed for Taupo. During the trip south, we got news that the other team had arrested the first offender without incident. However, our team’s assignment was going to be more of a challenge. We learned that a specially-equipped plane had provided photographic evidence of the illegal shooting of deer. Also, we had photographs of another helicopter ferrying four of the carcasses out of the forest. The helicopter and its cargo had landed in a field next to the owner of the helicopter’s home. A D.O.C. ground team had already confiscated the deer and firearms on board and were attempting to take legal possession of the helicopter.



When we arrived, the owner was at the scene making threats and demanding a search warrant. We pointed out that a search warrant was not needed because all the activity at the crime scene had taken place in an open field, not at his place of residence.

Once the initial paperwork was completed, the D.O.C. ground team headed back to base, leaving myself and my boss to manage the site. The offender was still yelling insults and curses at us, but we figured all we had to do was remain calm and wait for the NZ Air Force personnel who had been summoned to fly the helicopter back to Rotorua.

But there was still more drama to be played out. The offender jumped into his ute, and shouted that we would soon be in big trouble. He sped off down the road and arrived back an hour or so later and with a smirk on his face. He told us he had help arriving. A short while later, a gang of bikies arrived, making a lot of noise, revving their engines and spraying gravel everywhere.

We watched with trepidation as the offender met them. He pulled out a hefty sum of money which he then distributed to the bikies. Now having been paid to do the job, the gang advanced toward us in a threatening manner. Remembering my “keep calm and try to de-escalate tension” training, I walked forward to meet them. Their intentions were immediately made clear with a snarled comment from the leader, “We’re here to beat your heads in and make sure that our mate gets to fly his chopper out of here.”

As calmly as I could, I responded by pointing out that there were several surveillance cameras on site and that any action taken by them would be filmed and the evidence used to ensure their prosecution and the seizure of all their assets, including their beloved motorbikes. I then suggested an alternative scenario. “Why don’t you just accept the money your mate has already paid you, get back on your bikes, and ride away? He will be angry, but what is he going to do? He certainly won’t be going to the police to say you stole his money.”

My logic won the day. There was a bit of face saving, angry threats, and the like, but eventually the bikies mounted their bikes and roared off in noisy retreat. An hour later, the air force team arrived, and soon the helicopter was airborne, heading for Rotorua, ending a not-so-typical day in the life of a ranger.



# OUT THERE DOING IT



Club members fishing the Ngongotaha, upstream from the village. This section of the stream is a challenge ,but it does hold good numbers of fish. Predominately rainbows, but some of the resident browns are in the 6lb plus category.

## Your Newsletter Needs Your Contributions

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

**Photographs . Articles, Recipes, Quotations, Jokes, letters to the editor.**

Send your contributions to Gavin Corbett

[corbettgavin@gmail.com](mailto:corbettgavin@gmail.com)

## CONTACT US.

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**WEB PAGE. [www.rotoruaanglers.org.nz](http://www.rotoruaanglers.org.nz)**

## PUT THESE EVENTS INTO YOUR DIARY

### Bring & Buy Sale!

#### Bring and Buy Sale

Your opportunity to de-clutter. Sort out the fishing gear you no longer require and offer it for sale to fellow club members.

The plan is to also invite recent attendees of the A to Z class along for the evening. It maybe that you have items for sale that would help them get started at a reasonable cost.

**Friday, 25th October at 5 pm. Club BBQ, and Bring and Buy Sale.**

#### Annual Prize Giving

The annual prize giving will be held at the Citizens Club Rotorua on Sunday, 20 October at 12.30pm.

The event will be preceded by a two-course luncheon at a cost of \$29.00 per head.

Bookings are essential and should be made by a direct deposit to Account number 38-9014-0578816-00

When depositing the money state your name, occasion and number of attendees, for example. GCorbett, PrizeGiving 3

**Sunday 20th October 12.30pm.**

**Citizens Club Rotorua, 1146 Rangiuru Street, Rotorua**



# HAMILLS

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