

ROTORUA ANGLERS ASSOCIATION

Incorporated 16/06/1949

February 2021 NEWSLETTER



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	Iain and Sandra McLintock	
Past President	Jenny Hilton	027 340 2524
Committee Members: Iain McLintock, Sandra McLintock, Brendan Davis, Richard Hendriksen		
Trip Coordinators	Gavin Corbett and Larry Ware	
Membership Secretary		
Web coordinator	John Olds	027 330 7581
Fly Tying Convenor	Colin Cox	07 343 6282
Trophy Coordinator	Ian Ferguson	021 0599 3247
Kids' Fish Out	Brendan Davis	021 105 5039
A to Z School	Gavin Corbett	021 226 3978
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

The holidays have now passed, and some of us are back to our routines again. Luckily, we are having this marvellous summer weather which allows us to go fishing in lakes, rivers and sea; and then we can swim in these waters to cool off again.

The RAA anglers have been out fishing the Awahou, Waiteti and Ngongotaha streams, Ohau Channel, Lakes Rotoiti, Tarawera, Okataina, Okareka, Rerewhakaaitu, Okaro and surf casting or fly fishing for kingfish in Tauranga harbour. These activities have been met with varying degrees of success, but we always persevere. Jenny is still enjoying her South Island trip, now in Dunedin.

I have received a booklet from Edinburgh in Scotland, written by the Caledonian St Andrew Angling Club members during their lockdown. It includes a summary of their history dating back to 1882. I will summarise some of the articles for our newsletter, and then donate the booklet to the RAA club library.

We now have a printed one-page calendar for \$5, available at the club, or it can be posted to distant members. This calendar will soon feature on our new, revised website. We will try to stick to the dates and activities but have decided that if an event is destined to be miserable and rained out, it will be rolled over to the next week or weekend. I will try to email weekly updates.

For newcomers, Richard has offered to give fly tying courses, starting 10 Feb at 7 at the clubhouse. This is a very interesting activity and gives huge satisfaction if you can tie a fly and then go out and catch a fish with it. I once got three fish on the same fly, a Dolfly.

I am aware that some of our members have medical challenges, and others are developing challenges. There are times when we don't have any wise words, other than we are thinking of you in these troubled times. I have a friend in Hamilton who has come through the last year on faith alone.

Pete Otto

FISH OF THE MONTH



Caught by Pierre Vuilleumier

Rainbow hen, Waiteti Stream,
1.95 kg, condition factor - 44.8

**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

FISH OF THE MONTH



FEBRUARY UPCOMING EVENTS & REMINDERS

- 10th Wed. 7pm. Clubrooms. Beginner or near beginner fly tying classes
Tutor: Richard
- 12th Fri— Sun. Surf casting club weekend. Come and go as you please
- 21th Sun. Ngongotaha stream outing. Meet at the parking area in
Ngongotaha village from 8am. Picnic at noon.
- 22nd Mon. Larry Ware trip to the South Island commences. It is not too late
to join the group. See the proposal in this newsletter.
- 25th Thurs. 7pm. Committee meeting at the clubhouse
- 26th Fri. 5pm. Club BBQ. Eat at 6pm. The club will supply the meat. Please
bring a plate - vegetables, rice, pasta, rolls, stew, Asian or dessert
- 27th Pete and Rika away to South Island with Larry for 2 weeks

ONCE UPON A TIME (3)

By Joe Fleet

When I was eleven going on twelve years old, I went to the river early to sit by the water to await the evening rise. As it got dark, mayflies and numerous other insects floated past me in the foam line which is formed by the water tumbling over rocks. As the water flows downstream, the white foam collects in the current and carries with it all manner of objects such as leaves, sticks, mayflies and many terrestrial insects I couldn't identify. They were like little sail boats that danced and bobbed along in the current. Here I saw large fish take up station to feed upon the approaching surface food. The larger and more aggressive fish swam to and fro in front across the current and two or three smaller fish swam in line behind.

Seeing the fish feeding there, I experienced a deep, emotional tension. If I targeted the biggest fish, all the others would disappear. If the cast was clumsy, all would disappear. Hell! I settled down to wait the resumption of the rise. When one broke the surface just a few yards away in flat water near the bank, I flicked my fly out but it fell short, perching high on the water. A black head appeared, and my little winged fly disappeared. I watched, fascinated, at the head and tail rise. First the head, then the dorsal fin and finally a tail appeared and disappeared. It had taken my artificial fly, not a natural one. Because I was spellbound, my reaction to strike was delayed, but the hook still embedded itself in the fish's jaw. On this occasion, I had been using a steel rod which had been a Christmas present that my brother had made for me. It was a long whip radio aerial, acquired (actually, stolen) from a World War II half-track Bren carrier and it had a Bakelite reel with no ratchet brake and twenty feet of cracked, but to my mind, still usable fly line.

The fish was now my fish, even though I still had to land it. Amazing! I'd not seen anything like that before. I don't remember the fight nearly as much as the rise - that black head, the gaping mouth, the gentle wave of the dorsal fin as it disappeared beneath the surface and the spreading rings. My little winged fly had gone. Then, there was the fight and struggle to control the fish. My bare feet were bruised by the pursuit down the river.

From that moment on I was hooked on dry fly fishing. I never looked back. I became more aware of my surroundings than ever before. I mostly ignored the hunger pangs that I felt on a day's exploration on the river. It was all concentration and wonderment for my young mind. While walking down to the river I'd observe and make a mental picture of my surroundings. Only by standing back from the river and observing, have I turned what were once very ordinary fishing trips into memorable ones. I'd look for what I thought were the likely fishing spots. I learnt to read the water, to look in the pools and runs so I came to know where my quarry lay. Things like the direction of the wind, the position of the sun, the time of day, and my position in relation to my quarry all had to be considered. I noted the depth and speed of the current and the back eddy where the pumice floated about. I observed fish that faced the wrong way in the current that had me flummoxed for a while, but I soon learned why this was so. Behind the large stones in the river, the water tends to flow in reverse. I'd sometimes turn over smaller stones to reveal another living world beneath of mayfly larvae and other aquatic insects.

I was also influenced by what happened the banks of the stream. I saw a chaffinch on the stream side, lifting into the air to pluck a mayfly that was struggling to gain height over the water. The fantail danced out from a tree that over hung the water, to snatch and return. I heard the audible click of a closing bill catching a hapless prey. All played a part in making those fishing days special. I often forgot to go home, and I never gave a thought to filling the wood box. Even today, I get a little distracted on route to the river. As my friends will tell you, 'He's always stopping to look at trees and things, and poking about in the undergrowth, turning over logs and scratching in the leaf litter searching for God only knows what.' For me, everything about a riverbank has some connection with my quarry. And all this happened because of witnessing that rise many years ago. Oh! What fabulous times I've had dry fly fishing.



Ian Ferguson. Lake Rotoiti

SURFCASTING CLUB OUTING 8-10 JAN

By Pete Otto

The Rotorua Anglers Association and the Surf Casting Club have reciprocal membership. The Surf Casting Club has a monthly get-together and/or competition. See the dates in the newsletter. The club members fish along the coast from the Maketu Cut down to Thornton. Some people fish at night, but each fisher has their own preferences. Fish are weighed, measured and recorded at the club as they are caught. REMEMBER SUNBLOCK.

I arrived at 5pm on Friday to find two Surf Club members Graeme and Patrick ending off the day. Jo Meyer, a Rotorua Angler's Association member came over from her holiday camping ground in Opotiki and joined me. We both used squid bait which was enjoyed by crabs and other denizens of the deep but after two hours we had caught nothing. Jo then returned to Opotoki and I slept in the very comfortable bunk house next to the clubhouse.

On Saturday I caught a medium kahawai. By 10am the sun was rather hot, so I ended my visit with some body surfing. The water was lovely. Jo, Gavin Corbett, and Brendon Davies arrived, and Jo also caught a kahawai. Brendon caught a juvenile fish. I then left to go to the BBQ that Larry Ware was holding in Rotorua to farewell Chris Wright . I smoked the kahawai and served it as a starter.

By the end of the weekend the longest fish that had been caught was a shark, and Gavin was given the fish to take home.

It is a privilege to be able to use these well-appointed facilities at the beach, and I will certainly want to go again. We do not need to fish, but just go for swimming, extended beach walks, relaxation and enjoy the company. There are campervan power points and ample space for tents. Once again, introduce yourself to the folks who are there when you arrive, and also those who come and go. They can give you some good tips, and it is always surprising who you meet , the stories they can tell and what and who they know.



Jo Meyer surf casting



Brendon Davies with his 2.8 kg
brown trout caught in
Ngongataha in January 2021

ROY'S FISHING STATISTICS FOR 2020

Otamangakau

4 visits (1 blank)

27.75 hrs fished

8 rainbows caught

3 browns caught

Largest rainbow was 8 lb

Largest brown was 6 lb 4 oz

Smallest rainbow was 3 lb 4 oz

Smallest brown was 5 lb 8 oz

Average rainbow was 5 lb 12 oz

Average brown was 6 lb

1 fish caught every 2.52 hrs

Tongariro

5 visits (3 blanks)

17.5 hrs fished

3 rainbows caught

Largest rainbow was 3 lb 12 oz

Smallest rainbow was 2 lb 8 oz

Average rainbow was 3 lb 1 oz

1 fish caught every 5.8 hrs

1 fish every 3.0 hrs

Rerewhakaaitu

1 visit

3.0 hrs fished

SOUTH ISLAND CLUB TRIP

I am looking at organizing a club/fishing trip to the South Island in February / March this year. Are you interested?

The plan is for a loosely organized trip covering 2-3 weeks that would start in the top of the South Island, chasing kingfish at Golden Bay and then moving down the West Coast fishing the inland lakes, rivers and streams before crossing over to the Tekapo canals. The definition of "loosely organized" means there is no fixed timetable because everything would be based on the weather and fishability of the area before moving on.

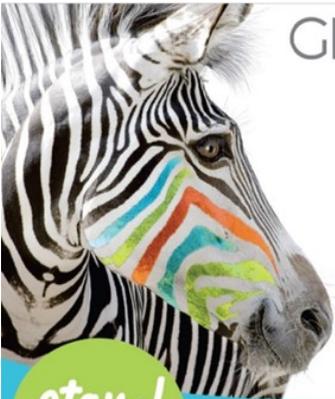
Campgrounds would be the main accommodation providers but those with motorhomes / caravans could stay where they like, and we meet up at designated locations. People are free to come and go as they please.

If you are interested, please contact me directly with your questions / ideas. When we have an idea of how many are interested, we can get together and put your starting date on the trip and a basic timetable. I leave on 22 February.

I intend to carry on south to the Mavora Lakes near Te Anau, the Eglinton River in Fiordland, and finally a couple of nights on Stewart Island before heading home.

Cheers

Larry Ware, 021 645 544, larry@artcity.co.nz



GET AHEAD OF
THE HERD

Advocate Print for
Great Product,
Great Value and
Great Service.

Proud to Support the
Rotorua Anglers Association

 **Advocateprint**
BE RECOGNISED IN COLOUR

stand out!

CONTACT US: to discuss all your printing needs.

 248 Fenton Street, Rotorua | PO Box 1398, Rotorua 3040

 07 347 8822  07 346 3006

 info@advocateprinting.co.nz  www.advocateprinting.co.nz

ALL IN A DAY'S FISHING



Just another quiet day's fishing with John Mccarron, on Lake Rotoiti.

Colin Cox's fish above was 6 1/2 lb

1 rainbow caught

Largest and smallest rainbow 3 lb 10 oz

Average rainbow 3 lb 10 oz

Summary

The year 2020 was adversely affected by the flu epidemic and lockdown and for me, a troublesome tennis elbow condition, so my fishing was curtailed.

The four visits to Otamangakau produced one of the highest average weights for brown and rainbow since 1983 when I started recording my fish although the visits were limited.

All the fish were taken in the upper part of the lake and I did not fish the Outlet Arm at all where there tends to be a lot of small fish (less than a 1 lb).

The Derwent Otter was often used

HAMURANA CLUB PICNIC 31 FEB

The picnic was held on the beautiful shores of Lake Rotorua next to the mouth of the Hamurana stream. Around 22 fishers and family members sat under shady trees or stood in the water, casting flies or spinners. Food was shared, the kids played and conversation flowed. We were glad that Roy, Margaret and Joanne with her lovely dog also joined us from Taupo.

Rika Otto



THE CALEDONIAN ST ANDREWS CLUB

Established 1882 in Edinburgh, Scotland

Martin and Marjory Smith from Scotland have family in Rotorua, so in the past they visited regularly and became RAA club members. I visited them two years ago in Edinburgh and was well hosted in their lovely home with smoked Scottish trout for dinner. They have doubts about visiting us again due to health issues but are still keen to keep in touch as social members.

There are fundamental differences between our countries. First the weather: "Cobbinshaw outing cancelled due to gale" and "The Queensferry crossing was wild and windy and Loch Leven was blown into froth by the strong West wind". Fishing was cancelled "but the beer and company was good". Loch Leven was later closed in 1992 for 6 years due to water quality issues. secondly, access to the water is much more structured. The waters either have an owner, are corporately owned, there are concessions, or permits are needed. In New Zealand we buy a local licence and go fish the country.

In Scotland a hundred years ago, the average trout weighed one pound, but this has now increased to about two pounds. In 1983 the heaviest fish was 4 pounds. I saw one record of a 14 pounder, and their booklet shows Peter holding an 11-pound rainbow from the Glencourse reservoir.

At times they take the train for outings and hire a saloon carriage. The Bridgend Hotel in Kinross, for example, has boats and gillies, who require lunch, beer and compensation. Some boats are powered by outboard motors.

Membership of the club has varied. In 1902 the membership was limited to 50. In 1963 there were 70 members and by 2019 there were 37. Few records exist from 1939 to 1945, but it is recorded that "the club suffered a loss of 26 members, of whom 24 died ..." In 2019 subscriptions cost £35 and club funds stood at £1377.

The most important event is the annual dinner, with "standards and traditions" that are maintained. When I went to lunch with Martin at the Royal Scots Club, jacket and tie was required. In 2013 a proposal to have lady members was declined, but in 2018 the constitution was amended to be gender neutral and the members agreed that woman members would be welcome. Here at the RAA, Heather Fargher out-fishes most men, so good luck gentlemen!

Pete Otto

RAA VISIT TO KILWELL

The Kilwell factory in Rotorua has been operating since 1933. Their wide variety of products include sea- and freshwater fishing equipment. Customers can order online from their comprehensive website. Approximately 21 people took the tour with guide Tony Holden, a Kilwell staff member. Visitors move along designated factory pathways according to H&S regulations.

Main highlights of the tour were seeing the manufacture of fishing rods and outriggers and the interesting display of fishing rods in the museum. The latest graphite rods are strong, light and suited for most fishing. The raw materials for the rods are moulded by specialised, high-tech machines. The rod-making process starts with graphite cloth which is hardened with various chemical compounds. This cloth mixture is rolled, shaped and tapered into specified lengths in a series of processes which are computer controlled. The blank rods are left to cure on racks for a given time. In the next area the rods are finished with snake eyes, cork rod handles and porcelain rings for line threading. The reels are sourced externally from world-wide reel distributors, for example, Shimano, Penn and Daiwa.

One of the interesting features of the tour was the manufacture of outriggers. They are tapered rods which come in various lengths from around 6m, which are used when fishing for gamefish, for example, marlin. Fishers set up the outriggers on the starboard and port sides of the game-fishing boat to provide separation. Outriggers vary in length, depending on the length of the boat from which the fishing is taking place. They are used to place the lures far from the boat. Forming the graphite outriggers onto the mandrils (moulds) is quite a skill, and the resins need to be stored with great care at very low temperatures.



Terry Wood

On the upper floor, we saw a huge display of early fishing rods & reels, all nicely displayed in glass cabinets and on shelves. The display showed the development of rods and reels throughout the years, which capture the techniques anglers practice today.

The Rotorua anglers would like to say a big thank you to Kilwell for their hospitality. It is a privilege to experience such a well-run organisation with such great products that we can use with confidence.

