



# ROTORUA ANGLERS ASSOCIATION

*June 2024*

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Winter is now with us, and with it, shoreline night fishing is starting to take off. As you will have already seen in previous club emails, we have a club trip planned for 1st June to Tarawera. I hope this will be an entertaining and informative trip and I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Friday nights in the clubhouse continue to be well-supported, and it is an enjoyable evening with fellow anglers. It doesn't hurt that I won the meat raffle a few weeks ago!

The committee meeting last week discussed the club's upcoming 75th anniversary, and we agreed that a luncheon would be preferable to a night-time event to allow those travelling in from out of town to attend more easily. We are currently pricing options and will get back to the members with further details soon.

This week's rain caused flooding to many streams in the area, and as someone who attends our stream team days where I can, I was happy to hear from Gavin that work we had recently completed suffered little damage.

Check out the upcoming events section later in the newsletter and I hope to see many of you at these events.

## NGONGOTAHA STREAM IN FLOOD

There will be no fishing in the Ngongotaha Stream for at least a week or two. Unusually high rainfall on May 21st resulted in severe flooding. The water level has dropped but the stream is still discoloured with high levels of sediment.

Thankfully, there is no serious damage to the walking track, but there are several sites where debris has been deposited as the water level has dropped. Help is needed with the clean up. The next planned Rotorua Anglers working bee will be on the 8th of June.



Fishing for snapper in the Firth of Thames is always easier if the barges are harvesting mussels. The resulting burley-trail attracts fish in big numbers and casting a soft bait into the midst will usually result in a hook up. On a recent trip, the fishing gods had deserted us. The barges were not working, and we had to resort to "proper fishing". This necessitated searching for fish on the sounder and then fishing a twenty-meter depth whilst battling against a strong tidal rip. Thankfully, we still managed to get some well-conditioned fish in the bin before sea conditions changed for the worse and reduced the planned three days fishing, to two.

## UP COMING EVENTS

- 1.1st June. 6pm** Night fishing at Tarawera landing. An opportunity to learn with Neal Hawes See page 2
- 2.7th June.** Friday club night from 5pm
- 3. 8th June.** Stream Team. A working bee to help make the lower Ngongotaha Stream angler friendly.
- 4.10th June.** Fly Tying . Peter Corson will demonstrate the Silver Dorothy fly.
- 5.14th June.** Friday club night from 5pm
- 6.21st June.** Friday club night from 5pm
- 7. 21st June.** Committee meeting immediately following the weekly club night,
- 8.29th June.** Pot luck dinner at the clubrooms. Bring a main course or dessert.



Western Rd. pedestrian bridge under water

## TARAWERA NIGHT FISHING

A night fishing club trip is being organised for Saturday 1 June, based at the Tarawera Landing. Gavin has asked me to provide a few pointers to help those of you who have done little or no night fishing, particularly in winter.

The Tarawera Landing has been chosen because there are several fishing spot options and we can all meet at the same venue and be fishing in close proximity. From there, we can fish the main beach, off the jetty, the Te Wairoa stream mouth, or the Orchard stream mouth. The date has been chosen to provide a moonless night – there is no doubt that fishing is far more productive without the moon.

### You will need:

Neoprene waders, and I recommend thermal clothing underneath.

A **warm, waterproof** coat or wading jacket with a good hood. This is most essential. Once again, thermal clothing underneath is highly recommended. And a warm beany or balaclava.

**Your rod of choice** (I use 7wt) with floating line, and about 9 ft leader to your point fly.

**Torch.** I use a headlamp for general lighting, and for changing flies, untangling tangles, etc. **Please do not flash your headlight around, particularly on the water in front of you, and definitely not in other anglers' eyes.** There's nothing that pisses other anglers off more than this! I also have a mini-maglight torch which I hang on a lanyard around my neck to light up my lumo flies – this shines straight down at the water in front of me and doesn't annoy other anglers. Whatever lighting system you use, **always turn your back on the water you are fishing.**

**Flies:** I use and recommend lumo flies at this time of year. I use two flies, but you really only need one. My most productive fly is the Lumo Black Marabou (#8), and this is almost always my point fly. I use a dropper about 75cm above the point, and this is armed with any other night fly (usually my Wallaby fly, so both flies are Lumo). If you're not comfortable with a dropper, then just tie 75cm of leader to the bend of the top hook and add your point fly to the end. Or just use one fly. I'll have a supply of my two favourite flies to distribute to participants. (Those who wish to use boobies on a sinking line (especially at Te Wairoa) are welcome to do so)

**Methods:** Generally the same as daytime fishing at these venues. Most of the time, I use a very slow retrieve with Lumo flies, with the odd quicker strip or twitch. The main beach slopes gently and can be waded safely. At the extreme left end of the beach is a tiny stream with quite shallow

water in front – this can be very productive. You might need to shorten your leader here. If fishing off the end of the jetty into deeper water, let your flies sink before retrieving.

The Orchard stream mouth is quite shallow, so you might need a shorter leader here too. I believe it does drop off, but I've never found it – just beware of wading too far out! At the Te Wairoa stream mouth, stand a good two rod-lengths back from the drop-off – **firstly for safety** but also you'll find that the fish will often be cruising just beyond the drop-off and will take just as you're about to re-cast! Cast out as far as you can and let your flies sink (count to 20 or 30 before retrieving) and retrieve right in to the drop-off. For more detailed info on this spot, Piet Otto is your man! Remember the Fish and Game rule – all jacks caught at the Te Wairoa stream mouth must be released.

The change of light at this time of year is about 5.30, so I suggest we have a briefing at 5pm when I can answer any questions. Those who wish to get there during the afternoon and have a daytime fish are of course welcome to do so. I suggest we have another briefing, stop for coffee, weigh-in, etc at 9 pm, then those who have had enough can head off to bed, while the stayers can fish till midnight. See you there! Neal Hawes

## STREAM TEAM



The primary aim of the "Stream Team" is to improve the angling experience whilst fishing the Ngongotaha Stream. The focus this month was to create better angler access to two sections of the stream which are known to hold good fish. The long sweeping bend, just upstream from the pedestrian bridge, has always been a favourite location with anglers. Our goal was to clear the overgrown banks of the blackberry, and create a path that would allow the angler to slip into the water, down-stream from holding fish. The second location, about one hundred meters further upstream, necessitated wading into the stream to remove a small willow tree that was blocking angler access to a long and promising stretch of water. This was a productive morning's work that anglers will surely appreciate.

## CLUB TRIP, NGONGOTAHA STREAM

Julian, a valued member of the Stream Team, has sighted many fish whilst working stream side with the team from the Rotorua Anglers Association. This was his first opportunity to land a feisty little Rainbow, which he deceived by swinging a Grey Ghost into a deep pool at the tail end of a shallow run.



### FISH STOCK LEVELS SAFE

The Ngongotaha Stream is holding good numbers of fish, and the modest turn out from the Rotorua Anglers Association did little to change that scenario.

Simon reported his delight at having Paradise Valley to himself and managing to deceive several rainbows and a brown. As for the rest of the team, we enjoyed a delightful morning walk.

Thankfully, chef Piet was on hand to reward us all with ham steaks and bread rolls. It was a convivial break and an opportunity to share stories.



Simon with the "fish of the day"



## THE SHAG MENACE

I don't have any strong opinion on the shag menace, but I was fortunate to see the hunt and chase acted out only metres from where I stood. I was fishing my local water way and had sighted a nice fish sitting mid-stream, behind a small boulder. Every now and then it would rise slightly in the water column and then sink back to the shelter provided by the boulder. This is a typical pattern for a feeding trout - conserving energy, but willing to lift for any food drifting its way.

I was already rigged up with a tandem wet fly arrangement in anticipation of some downstream fishing, so thought I was in with a chance for this fish. All I had to do was crouch down between a couple of flax bushes, flick a little line out, and then let the flies drift down stream to the waiting fish. I took one last look at the target before flicking out my line, and then, confusion. My mind tried to compute the scene unfolding before me.

From downstream, a large, black, torpedo shape rocketed up toward my fish.

Alarmed, the fish turned in its own length and raced downstream. The shag, with a much greater turning circle, was too slow. It made a perfunctory effort at pursuing the trout but soon realised it had lost the race and surface twenty metres downstream from me.

There were two fishermen on the stream that day, one with natural ability, one with learned skills, but neither a match for that lucky trout.

There are some 36 species of shag worldwide. Twelve of these are found in New Zealand, of which eight are endemic (found nowhere else).

## CONTACT US.

PRESIDENT. Ron Cole           021327068  
SECRETARY. Dave Hutchison   0273146853  
TREASURER Ian Fear           0274742772  
PATRON. Larry Ware           021645544  
NEWS LETTER. Gavin Corbett   0212263978  
EDITORIAL. Send to. corbettgavin@gmail.com  
FACEBOOK. [www.facebook/rotoruaanglers](http://www.facebook/rotoruaanglers)  
WEB PAGE. [www.rotoruaanglers.org.nz](http://www.rotoruaanglers.org.nz)



### Shag research

In 1945, H.G Williams published a book titled "The Shag Menace", detailing his research and concern about the past twenty years on the degradation of the trout population by shags. "There is only one way in which to settle the question. I shot a number of black shags. They all contained trout! I shot many more, still more trout and no eels. I then prepared forms and sent them throughout the country. I have received nearly three thousand replies. In a total of 2883 stomachs examined, there were only 18 eels, but 15,805 trout. That is an average of five and a half trout in the stomach of each shag."

### Fish and Game 2024

Anglers the world over share this view of the black shag's appetite for sport fish, and in Denmark and other countries, hunters are allowed to shoot them. But in New Zealand, after studies showed that shags have little impact on fish stocks, the black shag was partially protected in 1986. A landowner can still kill them if they damage commercial property, for

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

It is with a sense of relief that I learnt that the RAA Newsletter has been resurrected, albeit in electronic format only. The newsletter has been our club's pride and joy, and the envy of other clubs, for as long as I've been a member (30 years this year), going back many years from when Roger Bowden produced it, and subsequent editors since. So, it has been disappointing to have had production lapse last year.

The newsletter is the lifeblood of the club, being not only a forum for interesting articles, but more importantly as a means of communication to the membership. I know I keep harping on about it, but communication is the key to a healthy club. If the membership is not informed of the club's activities then they just don't renew their membership and are lost, usually for ever.

Much as I would prefer a hard copy to keep, I do acknowledge that printing and postage costs these days make that prohibitive, so your excellent electronic version will be a worthy substitute. Keep up the good work, and keep the lifeblood flowing. Neal Hawes

# The Fly Tying Desk

## Sulky Rabbit fly

Peter Corson

This variation of a rabbit fly is tied with Güterman SULKY holographic thread, hence the name Sulky Rabbit. The tread is available in sewing and craft shops. This fly is good for harling and trolling in autumn and winter and has been responsible for the demise of many brown trout.

- Wind back to  $\frac{3}{4}$  up the hook again then tie in gold or copper wire.
- Bring the thread back up behind the eye of the hook.
- Take about 1 to 1.2m of the Güterman SULKY holographic thread, in this case using light blue, but tan, gold and copper colours also work
- Divide the thread in half, then half again, then in half for a third time so you end up with eight strands.
- Tie this in near the front and tie back keeping the threads on the top of the shank.
- Once tied in to the bend bring the tying thread back to behind the eye.
- Wind the holographic thread around the shank working up to the eye, then back part-way before winding again to the eye. This forms a nice, tapered body.
- Tie off the holographic thread.
- Take a strip of rabbit zonker about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to  $1\frac{2}{3}$  the length of the hook shank.
- Tie this in firmly about 2-3mm behind the eye.
- Wet the rabbit fur with a sponge or wet fingers.
- Part the fur with a bodkin and wind in the wire through the parted fur, working up the shank with 5-6 open wraps.
- Tie off the wire the helicopter off the excess wire.
- Add in several strands of crystal flash or more of the holographic thread.
- Form a fairly large head, whip finish then add fly tying varnish.
- When the varnish is dry apply a blob of white nail polish to each side of the head and let it dry.
- Using a toothpick, carefully apply a spot of black nail polish or varnish to the centre of the white nail polish to form eyes.
- Tie these in different colours with green, natural or white rabbit fur and the various coloured threads.
- Get these in the water and watch your rod tips closely!



## GLO-BUG, THE GO TO FLY

Glo Bugs. Love them or loathe them, there is no doubting that they are an extraordinarily successful fly

Tied to imitate an egg released by spawning trout, this fly is a must have in your fly box.

The glo bug can be fished in the still water of a lake, or the moving water of a river or stream, but as with all flies, the key to success is fishing the pattern correctly.

If you prefer lake fishing, concentrate on the shoreline, focusing on the sandy, gravelly bottom favored by spawning fish. Utilize a floating line with a twelve-foot leader and the indicator set to allow the glo bug to float just above the lake bed. The slightest ripple will give the suspended glo bug enough movement to attract attention from passing fish.

Alternatively, you could fish the "heave and leave" technique. A slow sinking fly line with a short leader to the glo bug. All that is required is to cast the line, and then leave it in place until you have a strike.

Fishing a glo bug in a stream or river requires the same essential technique as used with any form of sub surface nymph fishing. The essential requirement is to get the glo bug down near the bottom as quickly as possible. Because the fly pattern is naturally buoyant it may be necessary to add some weight. The most common solution is to crimp a little split shot a few inches above the fly. With the indicator set to control the running depth of the fly, the goal is to have the glo bug bouncing along the bottom.



# TIPS FOR MAINTAINING YOUR FISHING GEAR THROUGH THE WINTER MONTHS

## 1. FLY LINES

Clean your fly lines by using Armorall. Put some on a cloth and draw the line through a section of cloth held between your fingers. Repeat with a new section of cloth every two to three metres. The “gunge” that comes off the line will surprise you. Armorall also prevents the line from drying out over winter.

Pull the fly line completely off the spool and store it in big loops.

Unless you have a new leader, and tippet, replace them. Sunlight, wind knots, and wear and tear, will have weakened them. You don't want to lose your first fish of next season with a break in your leader or tippet.



## 2. FLIES HOOKS AND LURES

Check that your fly and spinning lure boxes are dry. Flies will quickly rot if the thread, chenille, feathers and other components aren't dry. Discard any flies with hook damage, especially rust. Rusty hooks will snap very easily .

Repair any flies with loose threads.

Soak a section of cloth in CRC or a similar type lubricant, and wipe down all your recently used metal lures and sea fishing hooks. Again discard anything with rust.

If salmon lures have been discoloured you can track down someone who will re-silver them or you can follow my lazy lead and add the stick-on colour patches.

Use a pair of split ring pliers (available from most fishing retailers) and replace any damaged, blunt or rusty hooks, split rings, tags or swivels.

## VEST AND WADERS



Empty your fishing vest. Discard the superfluous things that you will never need again and put the vest in for the “annual” wash. Take all the fishing knives out of their pouches and sharpen them. A blunt knife is far more likely to cut you than a sharp one. Buy an oil stone and learn how to use it. A steel is only to remove the final “feather” from the sharpened edge and give an even edge. Do not return knives to their pouch unless you are sure that they are completely dry.

Give your waders the sniff test. Waders worn regularly throughout a season will smell of old socks . On a sunny day, find a way to position the waders upright. Shoulder straps over the clothes line works well for chest waders. The feet should touch the ground. Carefully fill the waders with water and disinfectant and leave for 30 minutes plus. Come back with a permanent marker and look for leaks. They will be obvious. Mark them and tip out the water. Hang the waders by the feet until dry. It may take a day or so. Then apply sealant and patches to the trouble spots you have marked. Any fishing retailer will have repair kits suitable for your type of waders. Once waders are fully dry, add talcum powder or similar and then re-hang upside down for the off season.

