

ROTORUA ANGLERS ASSOCIATION

October 2022

NEWSLETTER



Pierre Vuilleumier. Photo: Larry Ware

EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patron	Larry Ware (exec) x	021 64 5544
President	Pete Otto x	021 026 16061
Secretary	Vacant, x	urgently needed please
Treasurer	Ian Fear x	027 474 2772
Bar	David Hutchison x	027 314 6853
Trip Coordinator	Gavin Corbett x	021 226 3978
Catering	Pierre Vuilleumier	x 27 606 095
Trophy Coordinator	Gwen Inskeep	021 103 1254
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
Kids' Fish Out	Brendan Davis	021 105 5039
A to Z School	Larry Ware	021 64 5544
Almoner	Terry Wood	07 345 5587
Procedural, Legal	Richard Pryce	027 276 5478
Resource Consents	Peter Corsen	021 288 2111
Newsletter Editor	Rika Otto	rikaotto8@gmail.com

Contribution Deadline: 20th of each month

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

At the AGM I was delighted to see the amount of anglers who put up their hands to join the committee again. Larry and Gavin are both past Presidents, and their knowledge and experiences are already being felt. Larry is suggesting we look at an Internet connection, revamp the trestle tables to better seating and improve the raffle. Gavin is suggesting we look up previous members, and challenge everyone to recruit one more member per year. Also rwe are reconsidering what else the kitchen can offer to members. Pierre comes in here, looking at a coffee machine and snacks. Richard has already been helping with our liquor license application. David has started working at the bar, and has taken on investigations into the mud problem with the Council. Gwen will handle fishing trophies and Fish of the Month. We had a first informal "wish list" meeting and have listed quite a few projects for the next year. Some cost money, so Ian will be watching us. Rika will continue as editor, and for those of us have fallen under the scalpel with our editorials—just remember she has been teaching English all her life and still is. "X" donates executive committee members.

This winter has been pretty wet and still is, which affects our fishing plans quite a bit. Just remember the fish still swim in the rain. Mark was kind enough to invite the anglers to the hatchery again on a Saturday morning to try improving our strike rate. We had 18 turn up, even Jo's mum from South Africa. Lily was the child, and Mark emphasised the instructions: (1) Wind slowly (2) Let go the reel (3) Rest rod on tummy (4) Point rod to the clouds. Also very important (we all fall down here): check your gear every few casts - the indicator, fly/hook, and the shot weight.

We have postponed the planned Interclub competition from 22 Oct to 25/6 Feb 2023. Last year we planned a Deep Creek outing, but access is a problem. Roy Coulson is now the Taupo trip planning person, and has asked if we can get together as clubs on outings, which is a great idea. I want to meet the Whakatane club members, so will attend their AGM this week.

Another thought by the new committee was to maybe talk less on a Friday about who went fishing; and rather say who is going fishing this week and who is invited to go with them. In this way newer members can gain experience and success; and integrate a bit quicker.

PETE'S TROUT SMOKING RECIPE



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6M81m_AoKz8

Some of the dialogue is in Afrikaans, but everybody should be able to understand from the images. Search on YouTube: *Pete's smoked trout*. Video made by Christo Wolfaard.

FISH OF THE MONTH

No fish were submitted.

Please note that the new person to contact with the details about your fish is Gwen Inskip, 021 103 1254. I will send out a new form with Gwen's contact number with this newsletter as well as a list of categories for the yearly prizegiving.



1271 Fenton St, Rotorua, 07 348 3147

OCTOBER UPCOMING EVENTS and REMINDERS

- Mon 3rd Fly tying, Clubhouse 7am
- Sat 8th Fishing/Casting Club
- Sun 9th Kids' Fishout 3, from 8 pm
- Thurs 13th Committee meeting, Clubhouse 7am
- Thurs 20th Magazine article and fish of the month competition deadline
- Tues 25th Dark moon
- Fri 28th Club potluck dinner, Clubrooms from 5pm
- November:**
- Sat 5th Stream Team
- Sunday 6th Kids' Fishout 4 and last this year

TYING THE CLOUSER

Kingfish Style

Hook 1/0 Stainless Salt Water. Thread strong and I prefer red but your choice.

- Place hook in vice, barb down
- Whip a lump of thread on the shaft approx. 1/3 to 1/2 way down the shaft to hold the eyes
- Now fix a set of dumbbell eyes of your chosen colour to the bump with plenty of crossovers and helicopter whip and may be some glue to lock it to the shaft
- From the front of the eyes, fix your chosen material leaving length about 3 times the hook length (material can be buck tail or any other material with some flash added)
- Moving back towards the barb lock the material to the eyes the back down the shaft to the bend of the hook
- Tie in some tinsel or other material (flasheybou, etc) at the bend to make a slim body
- Carry the thread back to the eyes
- Wind on the body material and seize behind the eyes
- Now cross over the eyes and seize in front, building a little bit of a tapered head
- Turn the fly hook up and put some throat material seizing in front of the eyes only so the material flairs across the gap of the hook (include some flash of another colour. I like pinks and yellows)
- Taper of the head and whip finish

These flies are designed to fish point up

Fishing to a short tail sting ray with a kingfish rider from the master Dick Marquand:

Cast the fly over the ray and strip in with jerky pulls to let the fly drop to the bottom but take care not to hook the ray i.e .cast alongside it.

I have seen a kingi take a clouser after having been cast to 8 or 10 times whereas using a bait fish fly rarely get takes after 2-3 casts.

Clouser for trout and salmon:

Basically the same style as above on may be an #8 use plug chain eyes and buck tail

Not widely used in NZ but I have taken fish at Rangiruru Bay with one.



JOE FLEET'S CONSERVATION VIDEOS

Christo Wolfaard took 2 videos of Joe's conservation work.

https://youtu.be/VJ_JQSmtaow

<https://youtu.be/e-UxJimleEI>

Search on Youtube for:

- Futureproof your land stream restoration. Te Ngahere hou.
- Plant native trees New Zealand. Nurse crops and their place in the environment. Te Ngahere hou.

LARRY WARE, THE NEW PATRON

Larry Ware accepted the position of Patron at the recently held AGM. These are his own words.

When Piet Otto approached me about the possibility of replacing Joe Fleet as Patron of the RAA - I literally had two Immediate thoughts – “Wow what an honour” and then straight after “Wow what an insult – I am not even 70 years old. I am too young!”

It is an absolute honour to serve as Patron of the RAA, an organization I have been a member of for just over 30 years now. I started with the club by doing the A-Z course 30 years ago, but I had been involved with the Wakatipu Anglers before that I did their A-Z course and served two terms as President while living in Queenstown. When I joined the RAA, I was working in the photographic industry as a store manager and immediately became the club’s unofficial photographer. We set about creating albums for the club of the trips and events. Unfortunately, these albums seem to have disappeared from the clubrooms, possibly thrown out in the great library and storeroom cleanout a few years ago. We also started the photographic competition which was originally sponsored by Batchelor’s Photographic Centre.

In 2006 I left the photo industry and went into business with a friend importing products from China, graphic design and photography which lead to us sponsoring all the RAA design work, printing and supplying banners and signs for various events with many products as prizes. In 2011 I took over Art City completely as my partner moved to China to enable us to source better quality products. Art City continued to sponsor all the clubs printing and signage up until I semi-retired. We donated lots of products as prizes at the club’s Christmas parties and other functions. Thanks to digital cameras, I have increased my club activity photos a hundred-fold and continue to keep the Facebook page and magazine well supplied.

I served as Vice-President under Wade Fleet for 3 years before becoming President, also for 3 terms, and then had several further stints as Vice-President under Gavin Corbett and Wayne Woodward. As President, I started the upgrading of the club rooms with changes to the kitchen and a new bar area and the veranda. I took

over the A-Z courses with Gavin when Nigel and Wayne left the club and changed it to a weekend course from being spread out over 6 nights over 6 weeks. I also instigated the garage sale as a way of raising money for the club.

When Roger Bowden relinquished the magazine production, I took that over and when Roger and John McCarron stopped organizing the away trips, I took over organizing those as well. I occasionally pretended I knew how to tie flies and presented at the Monday fly tying nights.

I have spent far too many nights over the years worrying about the club and its future and what can we do to keep it alive and prospering, a subject I will continue to work on as Patron. I have given a lot to the club over the years but am not sure I will last another 30 years.

Many thanks for this honour.

Larry, the original "El Presidente"



Larry Ware

THE SPRING KIDS' FISH OUT

Brendan Davis

September's Fish Out came along quickly and we were well prepared. It was Father's Day so many anglers were not available due to plans already made. The bookings went along nicely and by the time the day came around for the Fish Out, they had reached over 200 children for the day. Again, the weather was kind to us all with a warm start in the morning and a good day ahead for all to enjoy their fishing.

Pete, the President, did a stellar job of organizing all the shopping again and we both loaded our cars with all the gear needed for Sunday morning. This time we had a lighter load as we did not need all the drinks and we were using up the last of everything.

I was not sure how many would turn up to help but had asked a few new teachers to come along to fill the gaps. Everyone knew their jobs and just went about setting up. This went quickly as we are all well used to it. Barbara and Deb from Whakatane set up the kitchen while Christo and Stephen set up the barbeque and Heidi looked after the registration. The Tokoroa young guns, Graeme and Stu, arrived on cue. Much-appreciated guys. Colin and Ian helped out with the tackle and tying. Soon it was clear we were going to be short members for the day, and we only had a brief moment to talk about rules and safety before we got on with the day's Fish Out.

We decided to start quickly with fly training and then cut down as the day went on. From the onset the fish just did not want to co-operate and were very shy. There was also a lot of tree fishing which meant rods needed to be changed quite often with constant repairs to the flies. The children had fun. The first tagged fish was caught by Mujtaba Ali, aged 9, from Auckland, and the second by Evie Sell, aged 7, from Waioma. As the day went on some members needed a break from the pond and it was hard to find replacements. Thankfully Sandeep arrived and Mark and me were able to take their places. By this time there was a big queue of happy children wanting to catch a fish. Ray and the new apprentice, Stephen, did a smashing job at the fish fileting because the fish were bigger, and everyone

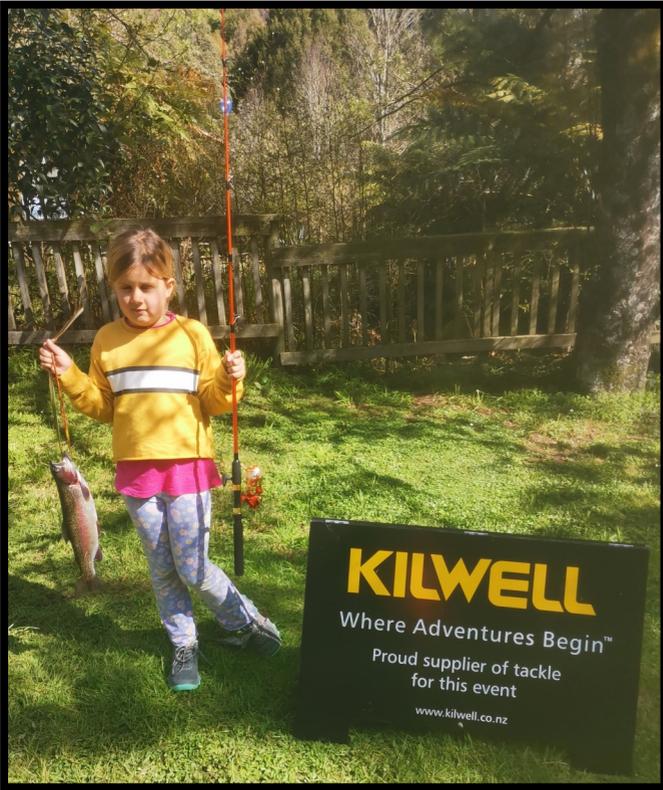
wanted their fish cleaned to take home. The atmosphere was good, and the crowd became excited when a fish was pulled out, much to the relief of the parents. I was happy that there were two more tagged trout in the pool. Ashley Lee, 8, from Rotorua and Fraser Filipo, 8, from Auckland both received a free fishing rod from Kiwell.

It was a long day for all, and the fishing was slow. We had 4 tagged rainbow trout and 193 trout for the day. Thank you for turning up everyone and helping our club grow into the club that promotes fishing and fun. We had a lot of feedback from the public on how happy families enjoyed the day. But most of all, your interactions your laughs with the public were welcomed by many - a job well done.

Also, a big thank you to Mark and his crew at Fish and Game for all the help and support and our sponsors at Kilwell.



Fraser Filipo
aged 8
from Auckland

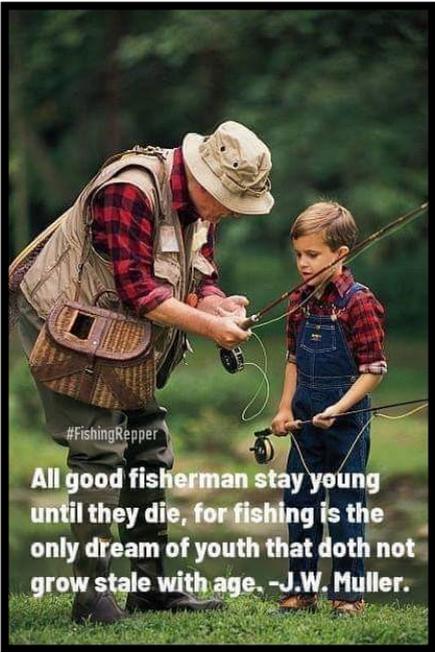


Evie Sell
aged 7
from Waioma



Ashley Lee
aged 8
from Rotorua

Mujtaba Ali
aged 9
from Auckland



WAS THE WEIGHT WORTH THE WAIT?

Richard Pryce

Perhaps the above heading should have read “The frustrations of a novice fly fisherman” because that is essentially what this article is all about. However, the rationale for the heading will become obvious if you elect to read on.

In November 2021 my good mate and fellow Rotarian Ian Pound and I participated in the Club’s A to Z course. It is a great initiative in providing novices with a grounding in the theory of the mysteries of fly fishing – surely one of the more challenging pastimes to come to grips with. Still, it helps to fill in your time in retirement! By way of, hopefully, constructive comment, I provided feedback to the course convener, the irrepressible Larry Ware, that if the Club wished more course participants to become actively involved in the sport and the Club’s activities, it would be best if there was more follow up and guidance provided once the course was completed. It is one thing to be armed with at least some theory, and quite another to convert that into effective practice which produces that elusive first fish. Without some early success it is easy to lose enthusiasm and conclude that the sport is simply too much effort to bother with.

In fact, I am something of a case in point. I actually did the A to Z in the early 1990s, and managed to catch a trout in Lake Rotorua off the mouth of the Waiteti. But I retired from fishing due to the pressures of my work and the responsibilities of a young family, to say nothing of the lack of any meaningful ongoing support from the Club to guide me on my way and keep me interested.

Fast forwarding to 2021, with a view to promoting some friendly encouragement and rivalry, Ian and I agreed that the first one of us to catch a trout in a stream or river while in the company of the other would receive a nice bottle of red wine from the latter – to be consumed, of course, by both of us over a nice meal.

Despite such a tempting prize, the trout proved to be uncooperative and obviously blithely ignorant of what was at stake, given the sizeable egos involved. Visits to the Ngongotaha stream and the Waoieka and Otara rivers proved to be unsuccessful. And to be honest, I think it was probably a case of the blind leading the blind. We half pie convinced ourselves that we knew how to read a river, so

that although we knew the likely location of any fish in the waters we were fishing, our continuing lack of success was probably due to poor casting technique, wrong choice of fly or any other of a host of possible mistakes that confront the novice.

It must have been after a dozen or so expeditions that we decided to give the Waiteti stream a go on 10 May 2022. I have good reason to remember that date because it was when I caught my first ever trout on a fly rod in a stream! And the process seemed to be almost classic textbook – with the indicator disappearing and a quite strong pull on the line. I called out to Ian in delight and commanded that he retrieve my net from the car (why would I have had reason to take it with me given my record to date?). Trembling with excitement, and fearful of losing the fish, I gradually brought it to the net and landed it safely on the bank. I agree entirely that catch and release is a most desirable practice, but I leave it your imagination as to whether I elected to follow that path or quickly dispatched the said catch to an early introduction to a BBQ.

I should stress that I could take no great credit for my catch. Rather it was mainly due to the expert and generous advice handed on to me by that well known local identity (and present fellow Club member), Mr Troutman himself, Harvey Clark, who frequents the Waiteti from his base in the local campground. Harvey made some suggestions as to what fly to use and the best position for the strike indicator, which proved to be invaluable and had the desired effect. Harvey advised that my first catch was a jack, and one which would weigh in at around 3.5 lbs. Note the imperial rather than metric reference. Ian took his defeat in good heart, and we retired to a local café for a celebratory coffee – but in the knowledge that a celebration of sterner stuff would follow in the near future. So it was that at our next Rotary meeting (which I happened to be chairing) that Ian got to his feet and explained the pact that we had made and produced a nice bottle of red to honour his commitment. This prompted a question from one of our members as to the size of the trout. I indicated that a local fishing expert had estimated it at being around 3.5 lb. To give the meeting a better idea of how big that was I pointed to Ian (remember his surname?) and indicated that he was one Pound – so the fish was roughly 3.5 times his size. That produced a bit of a chuckle.

So, having broken my duck as it were, what has occurred since? Have the dams broken as seems to be the case with many novices once they have caught that

elusive first fish? No luck I am afraid. It would be easy to use the excuse of the lousy winter weather as the main reason for that being the case, and it has certainly played some part in restricting me to only 3 or so further efforts. However, returning to the theme of my earlier comments, I have little doubt that the company of experienced fishermen is critical to future success. Remember, not all members have the inherent, and to me unfair, advantage of a surname such as Trautman!

To answer the query in the heading, the weight was certainly worth the wait. A fish, which in some countries around the world would be regarded as a monster, though one which is admittedly of modest proportions in the fishing paradise in our very own backyard. Refer the photo in the June 2022 newsletter if you wish to make your own assessment.

I can hardly wait for the new season to start (the license has been purchased). Hopefully, with some more guidance and tuition I may end the season with some additions to my sole catch to date. My impeccable sense of discretion forbids me from revealing whether my mate Ian has yet become deserving of his own bottle of red.

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