



ROTORUA ANGLERS ASSOCIATION

JUNE 2026

Presidents Report. David Hutchison

We recently hosted an informal discussion with Arash and Mark from New Zealand Fish and Game Eastern Region. Key points of the meeting were recorded and copied to all those who attended, and available on request to any club member.

Arash has subsequently commented, via email that they appreciate and value the relationship the Fish Game – Eastern Region team have had with our club. He commented on our work together over the past 30 years that this event has been running, giving an opportunity to children who would have never have been able to enjoy the experience of fishing. The discussion proved to be very positive and gave a good indication as to how much our participation in these events is appreciated.



Your Club and committee must now consider how we best prepare for the 2026 events. The major concern is having a sufficient number of volunteers on hand to run the event. One possibility is to invite friends and valued members from other Rotorua-based fishing clubs to assist. We should also consider how best to utilise the experienced young anglers showing up at the NGO club managed by Simon Aton. We can take pride in the way our club runs a series of diverse events throughout the year. We really have punched well above our weight for a number of years. The challenge is how to continue this momentum into the future. Much will depend on how we build and refine our online and social media presence. Our web page and Facebook are both generating much interest and have become valuable tools in our efforts to raise the clubs profile.

Our 2026 AGM is just around the corner, our first under the new constitution. Please give some thought to our future and what you would wish for our club.

June 5th Club Night

June 8th Fly tying, club rooms

June 12th Club Night

June 19th Club Night

June 26th Club Night, Pot Luck Dinner

PATRON. Larry Ware 021645544
PRESIDENT: Dave Hutchison 0273146853
SECRETARY: Dave Hutchison 0273146853
TREASURER: Ian Fear 0274742772
NEWS LETTER: Gavin Corbett 0212263978
EDITORIAL: Send To. corbettgavin@gmail.com
FACEBOOK.: www.facebook/rotoruaanglers

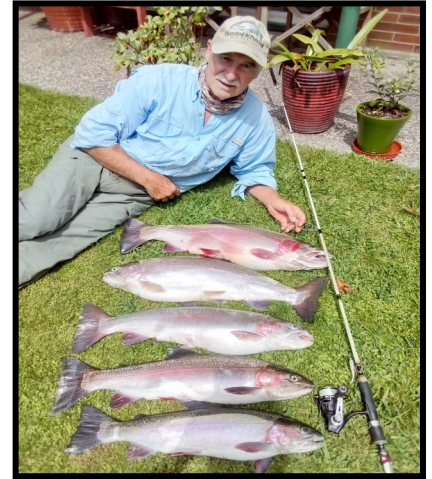
YOU DON'T KNOW HOW LUCKY YOU ARE, MATE

Gavin Corbett

The Taupo fishery is often described as the “trout capital of New Zealand” According to the official survey figures below, Rotorua fisherfolk might question that assertion. Results collated from a six-month survey showed that the average size of trout caught in Lake Taupo was: length, 46.2 cm; weight, 1.12kg; condition factor, 39.8.

Lake Taupō summer survey results.

Angler surveys on Lake Taupō commenced in October 2025 and continued through until Easter weekend 2026 with 301 angler interviews completed and 252 individual rainbow trout measured and weighed by staff. Overall, the catch rate for anglers fishing Lake Taupō this summer was 1.04 fish per hour (1 legal sized trout every 57 minutes). This is slightly up on last summer and the second highest on record since 1992.



An average catch on a Rotorua lake

According to the survey data, anglers kept a total of 365 trout (51.8% of total recorded catch), releasing 219 trout (31.1%) that were legal-sized and returning a further 121 trout (17.2%) that were under the legal-size limit. Overall, anglers kept 62.5% of their catch that was legal-sized. Unfortunately, the overall percentage of catch and release amongst anglers has increased this summer to 34.4%, which increases the pressure on the primary food supply for trout (smelt).

The 252 rainbows (Fig.3) measured and weighed by staff averaged 462mm and 1.12kg (2.5lbs) with an average condition factor of 39.8. The majority of these fish (58.3%) were classed as maidens and these young fish averaged 439mm and 1.05kg with a condition factor of 43.8. Those trout classed as previous spawners averaged 495mm and 1.17kg with an average condition factor score of 35.1. It is worth noting that the average condition factor for all trout kept this year is probably lower overall due to the presence of some poorly recovered trout this summer. From a fishery management perspective, it is beneficial for anglers to take these trout as part of their bag limit to help increase the overall harvest and help the long-term sustainability of the fishery.

The heaviest rainbow weighed by staff this summer was a stunning hen weighing 3kg (6.6lbs), measuring 600mm in length. This fish was caught jigging at the northern end of the lake during early January. No brown trout were measured during the surveys this summer.

Figure 3. Average length and weight of trout kept by anglers on Lake Taupo since summer 1998/99, where data exists.



THE FLY TYERS DESK

Doll Fly

Glow in The Dark.

Tied by Ian Fear



1. Hook selection. I usually use size 6, either extra long or my preference, 2 extra long, but there is plenty of room on a standard length.
2. Secure the hook in a vice.
3. Whip the thread from the eye of the hook to the bend.
4. Tie in a tail tag. I like red wool but use whatever colour you like.
5. Tie in a length of chenille in your chosen colour. The chenille tail should be the same length as the red tail. Secure the other end of the chenille to the eye of the hook.
6. Tie in Arora glow body at the eye.
7. Wind the Arora body material down the hook with the opposite twist to the thread.
8. Wind thread down over the body lashing the body on tight to give it more durability.
9. Bring the chenille up to the eye on the back of the hook and whip it off.
10. Trim the chenille and Arora skirt.
11. Whip finish for a head and glue

Fishing the fly at night.

Light up the Doll fly up with UV torch, or my preference from years ago camera flash if you can still get them.

Use a floating or intermediate line with 10 lb leader of about a rod length long (9 foot).

The retrieve is long and slow. Don't be in too much of a hurry and let the fly do its work.

Fish the steam mouths or hatchery release points from the end of April to August-September. A dark, rainy night is your best option.

OUT THERE DOING IT

Gavin Corbett

Soft baiting for snapper in the Firth of Thames can be hugely successful, but like any other fishing method, it's a mixture of a learned skill and a touch of luck. On the first day out, no barges were operating, so Roger and I resorted to traditional bottom fishing, jiggging a soft bait around the twenty-meter mark. On days two and three, we were lucky enough to get alongside a barge harvesting mussel lines. The resulting burly trail certainly attracted big numbers of snapper but you still need to have the ability to accurately cast your soft bait. There is very little room for error. Too short, and you miss the feeding fish. Too long, and your soft bait will hook up on the barge, the mussel lines or another angler's gear.



Not exactly pan-sized



Top Left On any one day, there could be six or more barges working within the Firth of Thames, but not all of them are actually harvesting mussels. Some will be carrying out routine maintenance on the mussel lines, others might be laying new lines, and one or two might already have a full load and be heading for the home port and processing plant.

If the fishing Gods are smiling, you will find one working a line of buoys that are almost submerged with the weight of mussels. You won't be alone. A working barge is a magnet for fisherman who jostle for position in the resulting burley trail

Bottom Left. A working barge. The deck crane is lifting a large white bag full of mussels. A smaller crane is lifting the mussel line clear of the ocean as the vessel moves in reverse along the length of the line.



PUT THESE EVENTS IN YOUR DIARY

Kid's Fish Out

August 2nd

September 6th

October 11th

November 1st

Pot Luck Dinner: June 26th.



HOOK, LINE, AND BILGE PUMP.

Nigel Clarke

I spent Last Friday with a fisherman friend from Auckland. We had spent most of the day at Lake Tarawera , but with time to spare, I suggested that we launch my boat at Okareka for a quick troll around. I advised him that according to our club's publication, it stocked smallish, hard-fighting rainbows and would be worth exploring. I had not had opportunity to fish this lake before, so was pleasantly surprised when we landed two or three trout of quite respectable size. The hardest fight of the day was landing a bilge pump and hose ,hooked at a depth of fourteen metres. Quite the challenge on an 8lb line. It certainly put a bend in the rod.



A pleasing reward for a couple of hours' effort.



Catch of the day

TROUT McNUGGET DUMPLINGS

Claire Ngatai

Fresh trout 1kg **raw fsh**

2T grated fresh ginger

2T toasted sesame oil

2T chopped spring onion

2T rice wine vinegar

1 cup finely chopped onion—optional of a less dense filling

Salt and pepper to taste

Oil for frying or a pot of boiling water.

Dumpling wrappers [Count down Frozen] 300gram packet]

Soy sauce for dipping

Method

1. Have a small bowl of water to dip your fingers in as you seal the dumplings.
2. Flake the trout.
3. Combine the trout and all other ingredients in food processor. Chop coarsely.
4. Season with salt and pepper to taste
5. Heat oil to 180c
6. Stuff one dumpling wrapper to cook and test. Taste and adjust the seasoning
7. Fry the rest of the dumpling s. When the dumpling rises to the surface of they are cooked.
8. Remove from the pan
9. Serve immediately with a the soy dipping sauce.

Why use a dumpling for bait?

To catch a WON TON trout.



CHOICES

Gavin Corbett

Eli woke up before his alarm, not because he was well-rested, but because his phone buzzed under his pillow. Notifications filled the screen. Messages clips and updates from people he barely spoke to in real life. He blinked, squinted at the glowing screen and started scrolling before his feet even touched the floor.

Across town, Noah was also awake, but for a different reason. The sky outside his window was turning that pale gray blue that meant the river would be quiet. He pulled on yesterday's jeans, grabbed his rod, and slipped out of the house as quietly as he could.



Eli's morning passed in fragments. He watched a video while brushing his teeth, Later, he texted back and forth while eating cereal. He had half a conversation with his mom which was punctuated by distracted "uh-huhs" as his thumbs kept moving. With a start he realized he was late, and rushed out the door, still staring down at the cellphone screen.

Noah stood knee-deep in the river, the cold water biting through his leaky waders. He didn't mind. He cast the line repeatedly, watching the arc, adjusting the angle, aware of how his weighted fly rolled out ahead of the indicator. It wasn't just about catching fish. It was about reading the current, feeling the tension in the line, noticing the subtle shift in light as the sun climbed higher ushering in the morning bird song. He could stand there for hours and never feel bored.

At school, Eli sat in the back row, his phone hidden in his lap. The teacher's voice became background noise, and he laughed quietly at something on his screen. When his battery dipped below twenty percent a flicker of anxiety crossed his face. The possibility of his phone shutting down was more worrying than any upcoming test.

In the same classroom, Noah struggled to pay attention to the teacher. His mind kept replaying that morning on the river. Every cast, the perfect drift, the indicator signaling a bite, the strike and the beautiful colours of the small rainbow trout that he netted. He had to force himself to focus on the subject matter for the end of year exams, consoling himself with the knowledge that once the term exams were completed, he had a two-week term break when he could fish all day every day. After school, Eli went straight to his room. The Charger was plugged in, the door closed, the world narrowed. Hours passed unnoticed. He hopped from app to app, chasing something he couldn't quite name. Each new post felt like it might be the one that satisfied him, but it never lasted.

Noah went back to the river. The light was different now, warmer, softer. He chose a ripple a little further upstream from where he had fished in the morning and began to methodically cover the water. He concentrated on his casting and the mending of the line aiming for that perfect drift. His attention was totally focused on the brightly-coloured indicator and when he saw the unmistakable dip, he lifted his rod to strike. There was the rush of adrenaline as he played the fish, and then the quiet satisfaction of gently releasing it back into the river.

Back in his room, Eli's eyes burned. He tossed his phone aside for a moment, staring at the ceiling. The silence felt strange, almost uncomfortable. After a few seconds, he reached for the phone again.

At dinner, Noah talked about the fish—not in a bragging way, just describing it: the colour, the movement, the moment it took the fly. His parents listened, asking questions, smiling at his excitement.

Eli barely spoke. His phone sat next to his plate, lighting up every few seconds. Each buzz pulled his attention away from the room he was actually in.

That night, Noah fell asleep quickly, tired in a satisfying way. The kind of tiredness that came from being outdoors, from doing something physical, from paying attention to the environment.

Eli stayed awake longer than he meant to. One more video turned into ten. Then twenty. When he finally put his phone down, the room felt too quiet again. He lay there, restless, as if the day had slipped past him without his participation.

Both Eli and Noah had a choice as to how the day was to be spent. One passive, the other deliberate. The rewards were starkly different.

