

ROTORUA ANGLERS ASSOCIATION

Incorporated 16/06/1949

April 2021 NEWSLETTER



Sean and Tyron Dercksen at the Utuhina Stream in Rotorua

EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patron	Joe Fleet	07 347 8861
President	Pete Otto	021 0261 6061
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Bar and Catering	Willem van Rouveroy	07 343 7212
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Trophy Coordinator	Ian Ferguson	021 059 9347
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

Our South Island trip with Larry and Jo is now over. Looking back, there are some significant memories. To get there, the ferry return for a vehicle and two adults costs about \$590, but it is still a lovely overseas trip. We had calm crossings both ways. The breakfasts on the ferry are a great start to the day. When we stood on the outside deck, we saw the sea birds like albatross, gannets, terns, petrels and various gulls. Sailing through the Marlborough Sound is just so tranquil, and we saw mussel farms and holiday residences along the way which are only accessed by boat.

In the South Island, 91 octane petrol cost us 30c to 50c per litre more than in Rotorua. Some towns depend on tourism, but accommodation is not cheap, although prices vary quite a bit. The weather is a constant challenge, coming mostly from the west. We had to travel from west to east to escape the rain. When it rains, the rivers come down which affects the fishing. Sandflies are another challenge, although I have also had some recent bad experiences at Thames. It was amazing to find friendly wekas walking through camps and at parking areas.

The roads repairs north and south of Kaikoura have been done superbly, resulting in high quality roading. At one stop we looked down on the resident seal colony. The speed limit is 90 or 80 km per hour in certain areas, on roads which are like race tracks. A large area of coastline has been made a reserve, in order to allow the sea life back to normal, and for the seals to settle down again. I tried fishing in one bay but gave up when I realised there were seals on the rocks on both sides.

We fished a stony beach South of Kaikoura, but with no reaction. There were no shells or kelp washed up, so the sea may have been quite barren at that area. At the end of this beach where there was some kelp, I caught two rock fish. From about 100 m out, we could see dusky dolphins jumping out of the water, sometimes four at a time.

At the Farewell Spit reserve we saw kingfish following the rays, right in front of us in the shallow water. Gavin strongly recommended visiting the Denniston mining area in the hills north of Westport. On the day we were there we were enveloped in mist, but still got a good idea of the scale of the operation, and the technology used. The town and buildings are gone today.

I have just got to mention the America's Cup. If someone told me 10 years ago that yachts would be sailing above the water, I would not have believed it. After the first 6 races, I thought "this is going to be interesting". However, the final race said it all: Team NZ put on the speed, increased the lead on every leg, and there was nothing the opposition could do. Well done Team New Zealand!

Pete Otto

APRIL UPCOMING EVENTS & REMINDERS

- 2nd Fri. No club event, this is Good Friday. Come on the 9th again
- 9th Fri— Sun. Surf casting club weekend. Come and go as you please
- 12th Mon. 7pm. Fly tying at the club, Colin will advise
- 14th Wed. 7pm. Clubrooms. Beginner or near-beginner fly tying classes
Tutor: Richard
- 17-18th Interclub Trout Fishing Competition . Lake Taupo and its Tributaries. We need to finalise a team asap
- 22th Thurs 7 pm. Committee meeting at the Clubrooms
- 23rd Fri. 5pm. Club BBQ. Eat at 6pm. The club will supply the meat. Please bring a plate, e.g. vegetables, rice, pasta, rolls, stew, Asian or dessert ...

Please note that April has a number of long weekends, so activities are curtailed.

ROTORUA LAKES' MONITORING BUOYS

Operation of the Rotorua lakes monitoring buoys has been transferred to Limnotrack. We are in the process of rolling out new and improved monitoring buoys to Lakes Okaro, Tarawera, Rotorua, Rotoehu, Rerewhakaaitu, and Rotoiti. This will include some enhanced tools for online visualisation of data coming from the buoys. We are installing a few new sites over the next two weeks and will be opening up the data portals thereafter.

I'm pleased to hear that the buoys have found broad usage among anglers - thanks for your interest and I will keep you posted as things progress. In the meantime, please feel free to get in touch with any further questions you might have.

Kind regards,

Chris McBride

Limnotrack

Waikato University



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FISH OF THE MONTH



Caught by Gavin Corbett.

Rainbow Hen, 2.86 kg, C/F 56.8,
Caught on Lake Tarawera,
jigging

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

LUCKY BRIAN

At our Friday afternoon club gatherings, we often have a raffle. Choosing an attractive item or items for this occasion is not always easy. Pete found a huge rack of ribs and thought it would be appropriate. On the day Brian's raffle ticket won it and he went home with the ribs. However, he found it was just too much for him and decided to donate it back to the club. Much appreciated Brian! The next Friday was club BBQ, so Rika cooked up the ribs as a dish for everyone. But lo and behold, Brian missed the event and also missed out on some tasty honey soy ribs.

Now you are not going to believe this: Last Friday Pete got some Sauvignon Blanc, sirloins, lamb chops and Belgian chocolates for the raffle and guess who won it? - Brian! What a coincidence.

For your information, the raffle costs about \$30. If 6 anglers pay \$5 for 3 tickets, it covers the cost and the rest of the \$2 single tickets go into our funds, ending up about \$20. The idea is not to become rich, but for everyone to have some fun. See you at the next meeting!

Rika Otto



Brian

TROUBLES AT LAKE OKARO

Lake Okaro is small circular lake fishermen and women pass by on their way to fish Lake Rerewhakaaitu. Those that call in are usually rewarded with a rainbow or two, whereas, at Okaro they have been unsuccessful. The concern is being expressed amongst fisher people the willows are beginning to invade along the Lake Okaro northern shoreline and into one of the few remaining shore fishing areas on this lake. At present, these invasive plants are about a metre high. If action is not taken now, within two years shoreline fishing will be impossible. Therefore, there is a need for our club to consider bringing these concerns to the attention of the Bay of Plenty Regional Council.

Joe Fleet, Patron

POEM

Written from a trout's perspective:

Here he comes again that crazy fisherman

Trying to catch me best he can

Today's offering I know not what

Nymph, Dry, I don't give a jot

Wow that's a nice cast that I will ignore

Longer next time, give me more

I come to take a closer look

Ha Ha ! Tricked you back to my book!

(Rod H.)



Well, we ARE getting older—so, on 4th Feb., after my swim, after my shower, sitting on my bench, reaching for my clothes—I blacked out. What the heck?!! A thump on the chest + three shocks same place + CPR + trip to hospital just 100 yds away + chopper trip to a

bigger hospital in Hamilton City—+ tubes in everywhere—————then, at dawn, eyes opened and I said, “I believe I’m gonna live”. And I did.

Phil. :-) And am improving, too. :-)

A letter from a member in Scotland, William Martin Smith:

Many thanks for an interesting read - during our “Lockdown.” We hope to return to fly fishing WEF 10.04.21! Our Club final outing was on 22.10.20.

It has been a long, hard, cold dark winter - in more ways than one! I and three others hope to return in June 2021 to Oykel Bridge, in (remote) Sutherland for our mid-summer wild brown trout fly fishing week. Lock-down should, hopefully, be sufficiently relaxed by then?

The scenery, hotel, lochs, boats and engines are excellent. The cuisine, wine, malt whisky and company are extremely complimentary. The weather mid-summer is variable – 26°C, bright, cloudless sun one day and snow storms the next are “par for the course”! With a good “following wind” our week will produce a basket (not more than 8) of 12 - 16 oz. beautiful wild brown trout, frozen and driven 6 hours home. Additionally, we will safely return numerous “wee” brownies to see another day. Over too many years our best fish have weighed in at 4 lb. 10 oz!

On average, our “basket” will have cost £150 - £250 per fish. £150 for locals. £250 for two of our number who fly part-way from London to Inverness. AND - we go back for more, usually to another equally similar remote venue, next year!

TROUT FARMING

Trout farming economically unviable and potentially disastrous to NZ

News release from the NZFFA, The New Zealand Federation of Freshwater Anglers from their March newsletter.

The New Zealand Federation of Freshwater Anglers (NZFFA), a national trout and rivers advocacy body, states that trout farming would be of no nett economic benefit to New Zealand and could be disastrous to the country's tourism-related wild trout sports fishing 'industry' that is conservatively estimated to be worth over \$1.5 million annually and which employs thousands of people in rural areas.

NZFFA was responding to a report that government was not opposed to commercial trout farming but did not see it as an immediately need. The association's president Dr Peter Trolove, a veterinarian with first-hand experience of fish farming in Scotland, said the report contained welcome news quoting unnamed Government ministers as stating it would be "many years" away before legalising trout farming was considered; but it was regrettable that those ministers reportedly believed trout farming was "worth considering". Trolove noted that the official position of Government now was opposed to trout farming because current legislation prohibited the commercial farming of trout for very good reasons.

"It is interesting to note an NZ Institute of Economic Research [NZIER] study quoted in the report, stated trout farming could be worth \$48 million by 2030. That pales into insignificance compared to the conservative estimate of well over one billion dollars annually earned by present trout sports fishery," he said.

Detrimental: The contrast was even more pronounced because trout farming would be severely detrimental to the recreational trout fishery, with numerous overseas examples of trout being wiped out in entire river systems by diseases emanating from trout farms.

"The sports fishery is of great value in terms of contributing greatly to domestic tourism and international tourism – generating spending outside of cities into rural heartland regions. There are also the aesthetic and health benefits of outdoor exercise in sports fishing.

"Trout farming, by its damage to the natural wild fishery via various dangers, like imported diseases and poaching (once a monetary price was put on trout flesh), would quickly erode that billion-dollar yearly asset. The importation of cheap trout flesh products would be required under the World Trade Organisation's free market rules if commercial trout farming was allowed and this would quickly make NZ farms unsustainable due to be unable to compete against Asian and other imports on low prices. Commercialisation of trout would also provide a monetary incentive for poaching and black markets as has happened with other wild resources such as venison, paua and crayfish."

Disease Potential: He said the potential for disease within fish farms was graphically illustrated by losses in King Salmon's fish farms in the Marlborough Sounds where the company accepted 20% losses as normal and have sustained losses between 40 and 70% on their Marlborough Sounds salmon farms in recent years. Despite two fish pathogens being identified, one indigenous to this country and the other identified for the first time in NZ, both MPI and NZKS passed off this probable disease incursion by assuming the new pathogen has always been present. They blamed the unacceptable level of mortalities on "global warming" despite an independent panel and a Massey PhD student supporting the fish pathogens as the most likely cause of the deaths. The Scottish Government has would find all these mortality levels unacceptable.

Select Committee Short-comings: Trolove was critical of the evidence presented to a recent parliamentary select committee which heard a petition last year from a former Golden Bay salmon farmer calling for the abolition of the current legislative ban on trout farming. The evidence was simply an unformed essay supporting aquaculture in general with little about the benefits or otherwise of farming trout. No budgets or cost-benefit analyses were offered.

The select committee had heard evidence from Fish & Game NZ, Department of Conservation and Ministry of Primary Industries all which had opposed trout farming for various reasons but had been ignored by the committee. In addition NZFFA and the trout fishing public were given no opportunity to make submissions. "This select committee's actions were bordering on an undemocratic process," Trolove said..

The Council of Outdoor Recreation Associations of NZ (CORANZ) also expressed concern at government's plans to expand the aquaculture sector

WEATHER OR NOT

A LETTER FROM DOC

Kia ora

I am writing to follow up on an email sent in December 2020, advising you that DOC was entering into a new weather forecasting partnership with NIWA. This partnership will provide visitors and staff to key Public Conservation Lands & Waters (PCL&W), with the latest data in weather forecasting services. On 2 March 2021, DOC's official weather forecasting website goes live. Go to the DOC weather page on 2 March to access NIWA Parks Weather.

Some of the key information you will be able to access from the site is:

- New Zealand's highest resolution weather model (1.5km) which better captures Aotearoa's complex terrain, allowing for a more detailed forecast with a higher accuracy.
- Tailored video animation forecasts for each national park displaying the forecast weather conditions and river flows to be displayed at visitor centres.
- Daily video presented by a NIWA meteorologist giving a national overview of the weather and any potential weather hazards.
- Links to MetServices Severe Weather Watch and Warnings and Mountain Safety Council's Avalanche Warnings.

Accurate weather information is crucial to ensure people make informed decisions on safety undertaking activities on PCL&W. As one of our valued stakeholders, we hope to have the opportunity to work with you to explore possible weather locations to be rolled out in the future, as we continue to develop the site.

We will be looking to start this work in the next few months.

If you have any queries, please email us at weather@doc.govt.nz

Ngā mihi

Chris Bowen

Products, Standards and Policies Manager

Department of Conservation, Te Papa Atawhai, Mobile – 0274083439

26 MARCH CLUB BBQ

The BBQ was a lively affair. Roger Bowden and Gavin Corbett had donated some wonderful, red-fleshed Lake Okataina trout, which Roger first filleted in a closely watched demonstration. He talked about handling and respecting the catch, by putting the newly caught fish on ice as quickly as possible. When at home, he wraps them in tea towels and puts them in the fridge overnight because they are then easier to grip and work with. He uses a titanium filleting knife which stays sharp for a longer period. Roger started the filleting process with the fish head on his right and cut along the backbone from head to tail. The audience could hear the knife moving along the bones with each subsequent, deeper cut. Before he turned over the half-filleted fish, he loosened the bottom fillet along the backbone. Only then did he turn the fish over so that the head was on the left to complete the filleting. After the head was cut off, he used forceps to remove the pin bones. Roger suggested that one should hold down the flesh with two fingers and pull the bones out between them one or more at a time, while making sure to get the smaller ones near the head.

In contrast, Pete usually pulls out the pin bones with a fish tweezer from Australia, after smoking, when they are easy to feel and extract. To protect our deck from the smoker, the cooks used a sheet of treated plywood and this caused some panic, as it caught alight while the fish was smoking. Luckily, quick action doused the flame. Other fillets were cooked in the oven and on the BBQ.

Richard brought Phil along for the first time after his setback, Peter Teague was back after some treatment, and Jenny said hello and goodbye again as she is off to Napier. John won the raffle of Spanish sparkling grape juice, Toblerone and chicken kebabs. As we had three raw fillets to spare, these were also raffled, and went to some happy anglers.

Piet and Rika Otto



Left to right: Brendon Davis, Phil Trautmann and Martin Green at the club BBQ on 26 March.

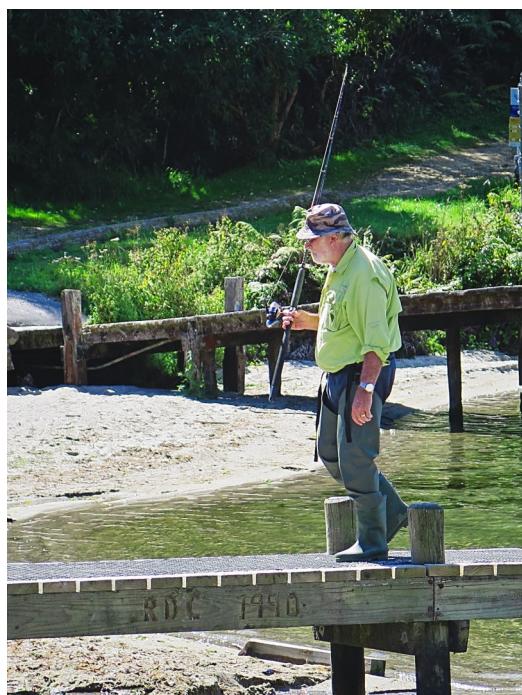
The Okataina trout fillets awaiting their new owners.

The Cover Story

Sean and Tyron Dercksen attended the beginner fly tying course and learnt how to tie a hair and copper. With a variation of this fly on their line, they went fishing in the Utuhina Stream. Sean hooked a rainbow and for the next 19 minutes he managed to get it out of the weed and then it took him for a run in his wellington boots through the water. Tyron raced on the bank, filming his dad having this enormous fun. Tyron then waded into the stream and held the rod while Dad netted the fish. When the fish was landed it was rewarded with a photo and a release.



Roger Bowden about to demonstrate filleting.



Woody fishing at the Blue Lake on a beautiful day.

Unfortunately, no fish were caught.