

ROTORUA ANGLERS ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2021

NEWSLETTER, LOCKDOWN EDITION



Kid's fish out August 2021 at the Ngongotaha Trout Hatchery. Photo: Colin Cox

EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patron	Joe Fleet	07 347 8861
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	Larry Ware	021 645 544
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
Trophy Coordinator	Ian Ferguson	021 059 9347
Kids' Fish Out	Brendan Davis	021 105 5039
A to Z School	Larry Ware	021 645 544
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 first New Zealand Covid lockdown in 2020 was not good for the club as we had to stay home. Once we had everything under control, the club opened up and we started gaining momentum again. However, for this lockdown we have a more aggressive adversary in the Delta variant. I guess most of us have been affected. I have not seen my daughters in Melbourne and Singapore for 2 years, and also our granddaughter, now 5 years old. It is a concern that we now have started getting cases outside of Auckland at Hamilton, Raglan and now Cambridge. All we can do is be sensible, do the right thing and follow protocols.

Harvey, Maurice and I are recovering from medical procedures, and it is going well. Rika and I have managed to do a large amount of gardening to prepare for summer, and we have managed to keep fairly fit by walking. The Athletic Club building is still closed. One group has about 20 walkers, and the other about 8. Walks are 2 hours 3 times a week in the Redwood area or around the Waipa sawmill. About 20 walkers get together for coffee at Planet Bike. Our church has services, keeps distances, and we have tea afterwards. I have visited a home group of 12 people in Tauranga. We have entertained 4 vaccinated people at our house.

Now we can fish again, and it is great to be out in the open. Please let Rika or I know about your outings so that we can keep members updated in the newsletter. We need not always see dead fish, but we are anglers after all. Harvey told me about a fishing shop actually located at the campground office (left) at the bottom of Beaumont Road, Ngongotaha. This person is also able to share a lot of information about local fishing.

We have made a few changes to the Friday 5 pm club meetings. About a dozen anglers attend, so to date we don't order hot chips or have a raffle. Snacks are provided and we have an hour gathering, with some lively discussions from 5:30. We are trying to build up momentum again and decide on an AGM and Prize Giving as the year is about to run out and Christmas is nearly upon us. Members who are in any way doubtful, stay home till levels change significantly. Let us hope this will be sooner than later and that it will be positive. Keep safe.

All the best. Pete Otto

FISH OF THE MONTH



Ian Ferguson caught a wild
2.6kg rainbow hen

Lake Rotoiti

2 October 2021

**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



NOVEMBER

UPCOMING EVENTS

Depending on the Levels, the following is planned at the clubhouse:

Fridays will be club nights at 5 pm unless emailed otherwise

Mon 1 st: Fly tying 7 pm

Wed 10 th: AGM 7 pm

Fri 12 th: Prize giving 7 pm with snacks

Wed 17 th: Beginners fly tying 7 pm

Thurs 18 th: Committee meeting 7 pm

Sat 20 th: Club open day and sale, 9 am - 1 pm. Please bring stuff for sale

A-Z Courses will be confirmed by Larry (He has postponed his trip South)

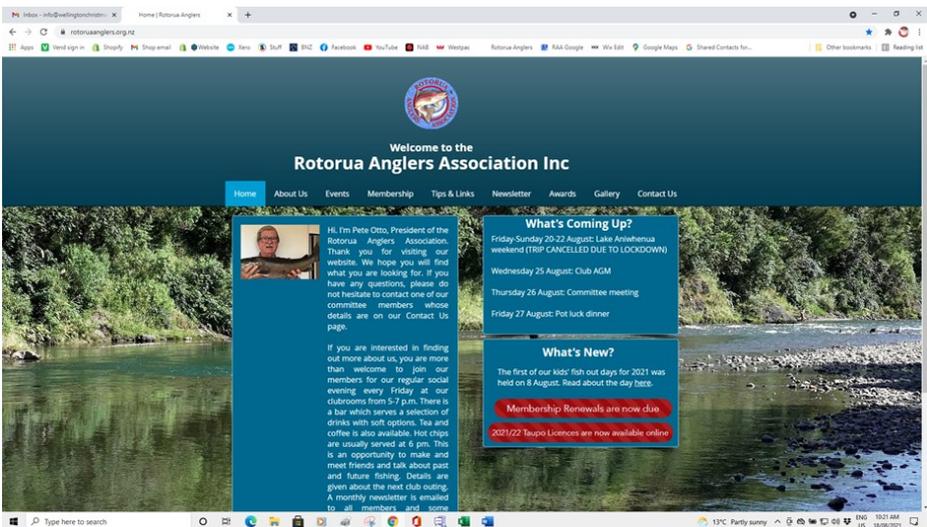
THE CLUB WEBSITE

John Olds – Webmaster

Most members will be aware that the new look club website was launched in mid-February. I've had a lot of positive feedback so far.

The keys to any website are that it is kept up to date and is relevant. I hope this is being achieved. Most of the information that is on the site is a transfer of what was on the old site but with tweaks and new additions. I've also borrowed from what are successful formats and useful information from other angling sites.

For those who have not had a chance to look at the site below is a screen shot of the home page. Along the top of the page are the various menus, some of which have dropdown sub menus. You can access the site from your laptop or mobile phone.



Please take the time to have a wander around the website. What I am interested in is feedback as to:

- The overall layout of the site.
- How easy (or difficult) it was for you to navigate the site.
- How easy (or difficult) it was for you to find specific information.

- What you think we should add to the site (or what may need updating/ changing/moving).
- Any other comments you may have.

I'm interested in the user's perspective as that's what matters in the end.

Just drop me an email at johngibsonolds@gmail.com or catch up with me at the next club night or event.

FLY TYING, AUGUST 2021

John Olds

At the August fly tying meeting I demonstrated two flies that have worked well for me over the years.

The first is the Polish Nymph a pheasant tail variation which, strangely enough, originated in Poland. I first came across this pattern on the You Tube channel of Davie McPhail, one of the finest tyers I have come across. This fly works well on both browns and rainbows and I have had particular success with it on the Rangitikei River. The two orange hot spots and the leggy look of the PT at the head make this fly stand out. It is relatively easy to tie, the only tricky bit can come when you lay the PT facing forwards along the shank.

The second fly is the Rangitikei Red. This is a fly that came about from my experiences on the Rangitikei River where the rainbows were loving flies with gold beads and red in them. A fellow angler has extensively field- tested varieties of these flies and found that beads other than gold do not work as well and that the fly works just as well on browns as it does on rainbows. He has also found that you can lose these flies to fish just as well as any other.

We also had a discussion on indicators. There are many variations that work well depending on the conditions.

The NZ Strike Indicator with the plastic tubing is very good but I prefer to use polyarn with this rather than the wool as I find wool does not float as well.

Below is a photo of some of the other indicators I use. The three on the left are

various sizes of dry fly used on dry/dropper set ups. Many anglers use this set up in summer and it is very effective in “doubling your chances”. However, I have also used it in winter on the Tongariro in small, shallow runs. The dries are various sizes from the large one which is good in boisterous water to the Royal Wulff which is a go to for quieter water. I add a hot spot to the top so my old eyes can pick them up easier.

In the centre is the thingamabobber which works well on streams like the Ngongataha.

The indicator on the right is made using either poly yarn or macrame yarn. Some make these using one o-ring and tying thread at the top of that o-ring to hold everything in place. I find using two o-rings much more efficient and nothing moves. These indicators can be made as big or small as you wish but I’ve found if they are well treated with floatant they will hold up a good amount of weight. I use green Mucilin floatant to treat these at home and if they need re-treatment on the river I’ve found Loon Aquel the best for this and also for dries. You can make these in different colours. This one I have made in mixed colours as I find I can pick this up in all light conditions. There are a number of videos on You Tube about making strike indicators.

The club website has links to Davie McPhail’s channel and also to both the flies I have mentioned above here:

<https://www.rotoruaanglers.org.nz/fly-tying>





Rangitahi Red.

Tied by John Olds

Polish Nymph

Tied by John Olds



KIDS' FISH OUT IN AUGUST - WE DID IT!

Brendan Davis

It was a long wait this year for the first fish out as we had missed a few last year due to Covid. The weather looked good earlier in the week, but the forecast changed as we got closer to the fish out date. It was expected to be a very wet day. This year we did not have enough club members for all the jobs we needed to do for a successful fish out so I organised some teachers from John Paul College to come along and help, which eased the demand on everyone, and we could all relax a little more. A week before the fish out, Pete organised a small team of club members to help clean up the Octagon building as it had a build-up of bird poop outside and the inside did not look great. Thank you to John Olds, who busted his water blaster, and to Mike, Pete and Rika who did a great job on the day.

On the Wednesday before the fish out, we heard that we were fully booked, which was great as we did not have to do any extra advertising because Mark had posted the day on Facebook and it sold out within a few days. Pete did the shopping for the barbeque and we had a little stock left over from last year, so this kept the price down. Pierre made the soup for the day while Pete and I packed our cars on Saturday with all the equipment to take up to Fish and Game so it would be ready for Sunday and this worked out well.

On the morning of the fish out there was no rain falling. I could not believe it. I was so relieved as it would make the day all the better for everyone. It was great to see so many members and volunteers turn up. Club members knew what had to be done and went set up for the day as usual. Everyone was very relaxed and ready to go with no rain in sight; it was looking like a great day ahead. As the kids rolled in everyone took their place and the day started off very relaxed but the fish were not responding well. It also started to rain intermittently, and no fish were caught. The fish were all huddled together in the middle, making it very difficult to catch from some positions. After some changes to the rods the fish were starting to be caught. Some kids had a long wait, so all the helpers moved to the pond and deployed a different tactic of fishing side by side. Suddenly there was a loud roar from the crowd as the biggest fish in the pond, 4,2kg, was caught by Jayden Moore, a local from Ngongotaha. This lifted everyone's spirits with smiles and the shouts of laughter rang around the pond.

Fishing was slow but that's what you get sometimes. The weather was not as

bad as was predicted but the kids did not mind as they proudly took their prize catch home to their family and that is what it is all about. On the day, 142 children caught a fish with the largest fish caught 4.2 kg. Thank you to all who kept going and did the extra mile. Thank you to Pierre for the beautiful soup. I managed to get the last cup. We sold a few during the day and we all appreciated this with the cold weather. Thanks to Rika and Jenny for keeping the fire and supplies going all day and Graeme for the extra lead and barbeque. We had a few volunteers learning the setup and a big thank you to the teachers who did not stop all day.

So, to all members, helpers and supporters, thanks again for all your efforts. It is appreciated You all did a great job and made many children and parents happy. There were a few suggestions put forward that we will add for the next fish out at a date yet to be determined because of Covid alert levels. Happy fishing when we get a chance!





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FISHING IN SCOTLAND

William Martin Smith

Our intrepid group of 4 rods returned to the Oykel Bridge Hotel for their annual remote brown trout fly fishing week in Sutherland. Some of us have fished annually for 30 years. Visit Website <https://oykelbridgehotel.com/fishing/loch-fishing/>

The River Oykel is famous for salmon fishing and has not suffered the same decline as most Scottish salmon rivers. During our week, however, the river water levels were too low, and the salmon and sea trout remained in the tidal Kyle of Sutherland. Water levels increased sufficiently for two days and the migrating fish ran straight through the expensive River Beats. Our “superior” wealthy fellow hotel guests were “not well pleased”!

Our visit included Midsummer Day when daylight hours are the longest. Fishing can continue from 05.00 until 01.00 the following day! The Hotel Dinner, however, is too good to miss.

The “head” of trout in most hill lochs is less than 9 inches, three to the pound & “good” fish are 3/4 pound and excellent “breakfast” brown trout as shown in the attached photo.

The scenery, cuisine, wine, malt whisky and company are excellent, making the 6-hour journey for two of us from Scotland and overnight stop for the English two worthwhile.

Tight lines in NZ when the season returns.

(Martin 2nd left)





Scottish brown trout around 3/4 pound



Sutherland, Scotland

Chr



Lake Rerewhakaaitu. Photo: Larry Ware



Chris Wright, Christo and Gavin

Left to right: Chris Wright, Christo and Gavin Corbett. Photo: Larry Ware



Will the wind bring it back?

Quick, pass me the launching manual

Look, this is how you walk on water

Nothing to worry about folks, just our Patron Joe Fleet having fun