

ROTORUA ANGLERS ASSOCIATION

Incorporated 16/06/1949

May 2021 NEWSLETTER



Bryce Campbell is the lucky angler who caught this 3.3 kg rainbow, at Lake Okataina in April. He has entered it in the club trophy competition.

Photo: Roger Bowden

EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Secretary	Ian Ferguson	021 059 9347
Treasurer	Ian Fear	027 474 2772
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	Larry Ware	021 645 544
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Web coordinator	John Olds	027 330 7581
Fly Tying Convenor	Colin Cox	07 343 6282
Fly Tying Beginners	Richard Hendriksen	020 4100 3071
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Contribution Deadline: 20th of each month

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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

This month has seen the sad passing of Bryan Taylor's wife Pauline. They would have celebrated their 60th anniversary this year. We are all on the path of life, which has a beginning, middle and end. We get every hour that was allocated to us. Our thoughts are with you Bryan and your daughters, and our friendships endure.

I would like to thank the Taupo Fishing Club President Shirley Fraser and her helpers for organising the Taupo interclub competition . I noticed we are all getting a bit older. Unfortunately, our team was not successful. Some events transpired at the competition: Firstly, we were given back our 20lb Brown Trout which has been beautifully restored by taxidermist Graham Vowles of the Taupo club. Secondly it was suggested that the club presidents from the RAA, Taupo, Whakatane and Tauranga get together to share ideas and experiences. A lunch is planned for 12 noon on Wednesday 12 May at the Rotorua club, with some fishing after that. In Turangi, I also discovered some Boletus mushrooms which I have been searching for 20 years. In Rotorua we have the Slippery Jack, which is similar to Boletus. Please remember the first rule of field mushrooms is DON'T EAT THEM.

Lake Okataine has been producing some good Rainbow trout lately. At the last surf casting event the wind blew the water into clumps of seaweed which was quite a challenge. Once I noticed a man who had both legs bandaged, but he was still out fishing. Lets keep going and enjoy the NZ outdoors as long as we can, and inspire younger anglers to also develop that enthusiasm. Rod H had a shark experience, where what may have been a Bronze Whaler, ate his fish off the hook. This makes you realise why sharks have no friends. Larry Ware has brought back his South Island photos, and we have seen some of them on the club TV. These are wonderful images so come and see them. Larry is also talking about a November trip, which will concentrate more on fishing. Please start looking at your calendars and talk to Larry. Time flies and the year end will soon be upon us.

All the best, Pete Otto

FISH OF THE MONTH



Chris Taylor

1.78kg, rainbow hen caught by harling on
Lake Tarawera. Length: 48cm

**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

WHAT MUSSEL FARM SNAPPER EAT



Crabs and young mussels

MAY UPCOMING EVENTS & REMINDERS

- 3rd Mon** Schools start
- 7th Fri** Surf casting weekend (also Rotorua marathon)
- 8th Sat** Beginners fly tying, Richard
- 10th Mon** Fly tying, Colin
- 12th Wed** New moon. Planned Presidents' lunch meeting
- 15th Sat.** Turangi weekend trip, Tongariro Lodge
- 20th Thurs** Committee meeting
- 21th Fri** Club pot-luck dinner

SOUTH ISLAND TRIP 2021

This trip was planned for 2020 but thanks to Covid it was delayed a year. I had several goals for this trip -other than catching South Island brownies -visiting Farewell Spit and lighthouse (plus catch a Kingi), driving up to Kohaihai, the furthest north you can drive on the seaward west coast, catch a fish in Larry's Creek, do the Rainbow / Molesworth Station drive and finally check out the Kaikoura earthquake damage.

Originally, I had 12 people express an interest, but we ended up with only 4 and another 4 members travelling on separate trips at the same time. I was in my 4wd with a roof top tent and set up as self-contained, Jo had her new mini tear drop caravan which was also self-contained, and Piet and Rika were in Piet's van and they would use cabins.

To enjoy the trip, I had set a maximum of 4 hours actual driving time a day and no "extra early starts" so I set off at 11.00 on the Friday. I spent the first night in Foxton and caught the 1.00pm ferry to Picton on Saturday. With my senior and AA discounts the ferry only cost \$162.50 one way and it was a very smooth crossing except a couple of vehicle alarms which kept going off intermittently all the way to Picton. Piet and Rika and Jo arrived at 11.30 on the Sunday and after settling into camp at Waikawa we started the trip with lunch at the Jolly Roger restaurant on the water's edge at the Marina. That evening was our first fishing session with Jo and Piet casting off the marina wall with Piet managing to get a couple of fish.

The next day we set off for Golden Bay via Nelson. Jo stopped off with friends on the way and left her caravan behind rather than tackle the Takaka hill with it. There was quite a bit of road works on the way but the roads, although narrow, were in very good condition. Rain started as we approached Motueka and became heavy over the Takaka hill. The road over the saddle was in good condition and there is a very short stretch of a single lane which is controlled by traffic lights at the beginning of the hill on the Motueka side. By the time we arrived at the campground in Collingwood, the rain was well settled in so it was cabins all around. Jo arrived the next day and apart from a wander around the camp site and town between showers not a lot was done. Piet managed to catch a very good snapper from the camp's rock wall, supposedly a first according to the camp

manager. The next day we piled into Piet's van and headed up to Cape Farewell, the most northerly point of the South Island, for a short walk up a hill to see spectacular views with the cliffs, seals, and Farewell Spit in the distance.

After a short drive to the entrance to the Farewell Spit National Park, we went on a 4.5 km walk because we couldn't do the day-long Light House tour as the tides were wrong. The inside of the Spit is a protected marine reserve so of course we were treated to rays and kingfish feeding on the bait fish right in front of us in less than a meter of water and no more than 3-4 meters from us. While the landward side of this stunning peninsular was calm, the seaward side of the spit was wild and windy. On the way back, Piet and Jo tried a bit of sea fishing but had no luck. As the rain appeared to be set in, we decided to reverse the trip, like a few other campers, and head for the East Coast and Kaikoura. We visited Pupu Springs -the biggest let-down of the trip, and stopped off at a salmon farm for lunch, which was well worth the detour. After picking up Jo's caravan we spent the night in Havelock before continuing on to Kaikoura. We stayed at a camp in Peteka, just south of Kaikoura itself. The road from Blenheim to Kaikoura is an amazing drive because the area is in the midst of a drought and the countryside is dry and yellow and the new road is fantastic. I should have been driving a Lamborghini instead of a Nissan Terrano. We stopped off at several spots to check out the seals and earthquake uplifts, definitely a must see, especially the South Bay at Kaikoura and the main seal nursery. Rika visited the Kaikoura museum, which has been updated and has a room devoted to telling the stories of the earthquake. After 3 days at Peteka we decided we better get back to the West Coast so headed across via the inland Kaikoura road which had several streams and rivers crossing it. Unfortunately, all but 2 were dry and those 2 were only ankle deep so fly fishing was not on the agenda. By the time we hit the Lewis Pass the rain had begun again so we stopped at Reefton -the council campground may be basic but was excellent value and had good facilities (best price of all the campgrounds we stayed at). That night Piet, Rika, and Jo treated me to an Afrikaans singing session. I was seriously impressed and very entertained – our President has a magnificent voice and was ably supported by the 2 ladies. The next day we were meant to go gold panning but due to a misunderstanding, I turned left to the gold site while the others turned right to Westport, we ended up separated for the day. I fished the Inangahua River and then stopped off at Larry's Creek. It turns out that Larry's

Creek Road goes nowhere near Larry's Creek, but Larry's Creek track does. Unfortunately, I was not able to access the river easily or safely, so no fishing was possible, but the drive up the track was worth the stop over. I finally caught up with the others at the Buller River mouth in Westport where they had both caught fish. The next day the rain set in again so it was up town to the museum or chill out at the campsite. The Westport campsite was the most expensive by far of all that we stayed at and the internet was almost non-existent. Our last day we decided to jump in Piet's van and head up the coast to Granity and visit the Dennison Coal Mine Site. What an amazing place. Although we were misted/rained out, this just made the place more interesting. The information panels were a must read, man, you had to be tough to be able live and work in the West Coast mines. This was to be our last day together, so we had tea at a restaurant up town. The next day the intrepid 3 set out for Picton while I started "my trip".

What I learnt from this trip is the weather can very quickly throw a 2-week itinerary in the bin. We should have stayed on at Collingwood as the weather cleared up after we left and we could have chased those kingfish as planned plus stayed on the West Coast side where the rivers all had water in them. Travelling with a caravan makes it difficult to pull into a lot of fishing access spots as traditionally they are tight and rough and do not have a lot of turning space. Next time we could set up a base camp somewhere and then explore from there. The company was great and made up for the lack of fly fishing. The trip became a very enjoyable because it was a relaxing, sightseeing, and photography holiday. The food was more than I had planned for because I had expected to lose weight, not put it on. Thanks Rika and Jo for cooking such great meals. Almost all the campgrounds were in very good condition; they had obviously used the Covid downtime to renovate and tidy up. Would I do it again – absolutely – I am NOW planning on going back in November - December in order to finish before the school holidays begin. Are you interested in joining me? If so, please let me know and book yourself in NOW!!

Cheers Larry Ware

All photos of the South Island trip were taken by Larry Ware.

SOUTH ISLAND TRIP

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The Cape Farewell cliffs are composed of river-deposited sandstones and pebbly (gravel) conglomerates. Coastal erosion is caused by rushing waves which undercut the cliffs and give rise to caves and arches. Seals are basking on the rocks.



The quiet waters on the Golden Bay (south) side of Farewell Spit. Day trips by a sole operator in 4x4 vehicles are dependant on the tides and weather. (Photos: Larry Ware)



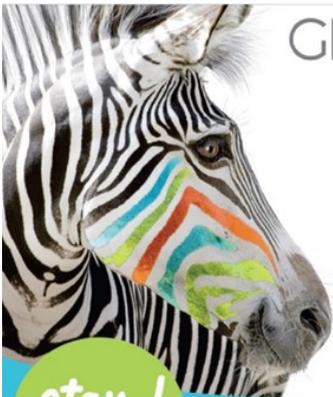
On Farewell Spit/Tuhuroa. This ray is followed by two kingfish in the shallows of Golden Bay. Black swans feed further out in the bay.



A walk through a kanuka forest which links the north and south beaches. Left: Jo Meyer and Piet Otto. Right: Rika Otto. (Photos: Larry Ware)



The wild and windy sand dunes on the northern edge of Farewell Spit/Tuhuroa. The sand originates in the Southern Alps and is deposited by the Westland Current. The dunes are unstable because they are constantly exposed to the prevailing winds which average over 25 km/h. Piet Otto is the single person.



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FISH AND GAME REVIEW

Fish & Game Review Recommendations Will Future-proof Fish & Game

Tuesday, 27 April 2021, 4:00 pm

Press Release: Fish and Game New Zealand

A review into Fish & Game has outlined a tranche of recommendations to modernize governance protocols and decision making. New Zealand Fish and Game Council chairperson Ray Grubb says the review provides an overdue and welcome health check of the organisation. While it proposes some significant changes, he is encouraged it endorses Fish & Game's core strengths. "It is encouraging that it is a ringing endorsement of our strong environmental advocacy on behalf of our 150,000 anglers and game bird hunters. It also provides a template for future results," Mr Grubb says.

The review report, released today by Acting Conservation Minister Dr Ayesha Verrall, culminated in extensive engagement by independent reviewers. It recommends reducing the number of Fish & Game regions from 12 to six, the number of governors on each council from 12 to eight and suggests ways to include iwi throughout Fish & Game. Mr Grubb says the review panel went to exceptional lengths to canvass the full raft of views from both within Fish & Game and external stakeholders. "What the reviewers identified is a huge disparity in views on the future structure. The review report, therefore, provides solutions where consensus was not going to be possible." The Minister has established an implementation panel, which will also be chaired by Mr Grubb, as a signal that Fish & Game shall continue to manage its own affairs.

"I must also thank the review panel members - Belinda Clark and John Mills - for their thorough and frank appraisal of Fish & Game, one that has many positives for the organisation to take into the future."

<https://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PO2104/S00203/fish-game-review-recommendations-will-future-proof-fish-game.htm>

The full report, *Review of the Governance of Fish and Game New Zealand and the Regional Fish and Game Councils* is available here:

https://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2021-04/FINAL%20Report%20-%20Review%20of%20Fish%20and%20Game%20New%20Zealand%202020_0.pdf

Radio New Zealand's Kathryn Ryan interviewed the Chair of Fish and Game, Ray Grubb and the former Chief Executive, Martin Taylor on the Nine to Noon programme on 28 April 2021. This is the blurb that accompanied the interview:

"A scathing review of Fish and Game has found poor governance, conflicts of interest and division between head office and the regions. The review was commissioned last year by the former Minister of Conservation, Eugenie Sage, amid concerns the organisation's structure was not working well. Fish & Game represents game bird hunters and sports fishers nationally. It consists of 12 regional councils with a national Fish & Game Council. The review says there are too many governors, unclear relationships and accountabilities, poor management of conflicts of interest, and recommends the number of regional councils be cut in half." Listen here:

https://www.rnz.co.nz/audio/player?audio_id=2018793275



Te Waikoropupū Springs near Takaka are the largest freshwater springs in New Zealand, the largest cold water springs in the Southern Hemisphere and it contains some of the clearest water ever measured. (Photo: Larry Ware)

A RESTORED TROUT



Graham Vowels who restored our trophy Brown trout, with Shirley Fraser who heads the Taupo club. They looked smart in their club T-shirts and cloth badges. They have a buddy system to take out interested anglers, so phone Shirley on 027 511 7581. (Photo: Piet Otto)



South Island weka. (Photo: Larry Ware)

TAUPO INTERCLUB COMPETITION



Roy Coulson back casting in high wind on the Tongariro River
(Photo: Piet Otto)



Jo Meyer fishing the Wairau River. (Photo: Larry Ware)



Kaikoura seals pose for the camera. (Photo: Larry Ware)