



ROTORUA ANGLERS ASSOCIATION

December 2025

Committee Comment

Christmas is weeks away and time to reflect on members achievements in 2025. We can be very proud to have created a wonderful experience for approximately 700 - 800 children plus parents who attended our Kids Fish Out days. None of this would be possible without Eastern Region Fish and Game Council providing the venue, and a well-stocked fishing pool. Kilwell's sponsorship provided great prizes for those lucky enough to catch a tagged fish. We should also acknowledge and thank the 23 plus volunteers who make these days work so well and liaise with all our partners in this undertaking.

Several well-known club members also run up to four A to Z Fly Fishing courses per annum. These are popular with the November course over-subscribed and having to turn people away.

We wish to enliven our annual awards and trophy competition. We are currently discussing how to make it very easy to directly post your "catch of the day" photograph (via cell phone) to our Facebook page. We currently have two Facebook pages i.e. Rotorua Anglers Association and "Rotorua Anglers". The latter has a "message" facility which is managed by the Administrator. Both have a limited number of club members with password access to post content. Our task is to understand how to link these two Facebook Pages to one another and have our members be able to post content e.g. "Catch of the Day" to the page and thereby enter our Trophy Award competition. Our benchmark is perhaps the new weeks old (private group) Facebook page entitled "The NGO Trout Fishing Club" (221 members). We also are discussing the display of a leader board and progress chart, in our clubrooms .

Note is your Diary, our Christmas Party on 12th December 4.30pm onwards at our clubrooms. As always, guests are welcome

Please Note, the next newsletter will be published in February 2026

Photographs and articles for the February issue would be most welcome

Email your contribution to corbettgavin@gmail.com

December 1st Fly Tying , Clubrooms

December 5th Club Night

December 6th Exhibit at the Rotorua A/P show

December 12th End of year club Christmas party

January 11th Club picnic ,BBQ fishing Hamurana

January 16th Club Night



Christmas Party December 12th

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THE FLY TYERS DESK

Slushi Egg Fly

1. Use a size 10-14 grub hook such as the Black Magic G12.
2. Start by placing a coloured bead on the hook to match the slushi yarn.
3. Begin the thread immediately behind the bead and create a thread base back to about 2mm rear of the point of the hook (when your thread hangs vertically down).
4. With a bright dubbing to compliment the shushing yarn, create a small dubbing noodle and form a dubbed hot spot for 2-3mm up the hook.
5. Take a piece of slushi yarn about 15cm, which will be enough for 3 flies.
6. Tease off the fibres from the string core to expose about 3-4mm of the core. Tie in the slushi yarn by the string core from the front to the back where the dubbing stops.
7. Bring your thread back to behind the eye then make 4-5 winds of the slushi yarn, moving the fibres rearward with each turn.
8. Tie off with a whip finish, snip the thread and add a spot of head cement.
9. Put that one aside and tie another.



A slushi fly deceived this rainbow trout

FESTIVE SEASON OVEN BAKE TROUT

INGREDIENTS

Skinned trout fillet
1 red onion, thinly sliced
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 medium navel orange, thinly sliced
1 cup glazed cranberries
2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
1 tablespoon minced fresh dill



METHOD

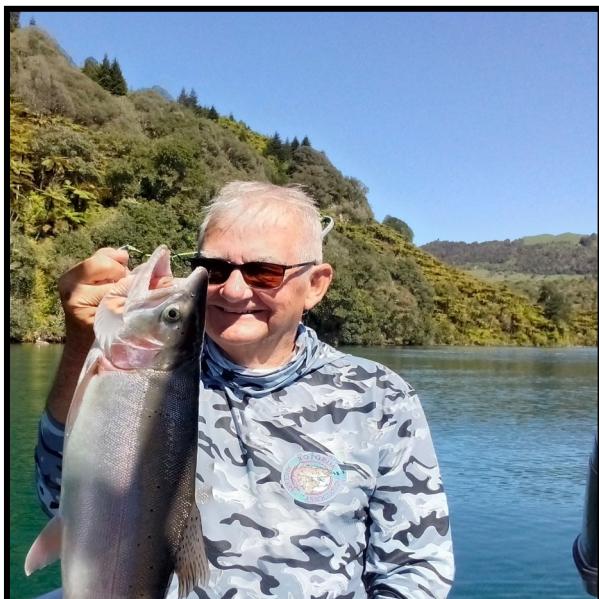
1. Preheat oven to 180 degrees C.
2. Line a baking dish with aluminium foil.
3. Place onion slices in a single layer on foil and then place the fillet on top.
4. Sprinkle the fillet with salt, and arrange the orange slices on top of the fillet.
5. Sprinkle with glazed cranberries and lightly drizzle with olive oil.
6. Top with a second piece of foil. Bring edges of foil together on all sides and crimp to seal, forming a large packet.
7. Bake until fish just begins to flake easily with a fork, 25-30 minutes. Be careful of escaping steam when opening packet. Remove to a serving platter; sprinkle with dill.



OUT THERE DOING IT

Fishing with Simon. By Roger Bowden

During the unrelenting westerlies in October and being sick of the lack of sun and inclement weather, we decided on a tiki tour around Lake Rotorua. After a few stops, we arrived at the entrance to the Ohau Channel. As I hadn't fished here before, Simon led the way and we waded into the water at the outlet, rigged with soft baits. The wind was by now a gale with white caps racing in and smashing against the rocks, drenching us in the process. It wasn't a place I wanted to be for very long. Simon let out a yell and a nice rainbow went cavorting into the lake, jumping wildly as it went. He quickly despatched this fish and went back in to the maelstrom. The water was akin to a washing machine on its wash cycle. Simon was casting across the current and next thing I saw was his rod bent double, proving his legendary status with the soft baiting technique. Simon was forced to quickly move across the weir to free his line as the fish raced down the funnel and into the channel proper. I kept fishing. The anticipation for more fish like that countered the discomfort of being drenched by spray and buffeted by 30 knot gusts. Simon was away for some time but eventually appeared through the scrub, proudly carrying a very large and handsome brownie. He had been calling for my assistance but I couldn't hear him over the wind and crashing waves. He recounted how he nearly drowned in the deep water near the edge of the channel but finally managed to land the leviathan. Without a net, he resorted to grabbing it in the gills from a precarious position. The brown weighed in at just under 10 lbs.



A good condition rainbow from Lake Tarawera. Fish caught early in the season are showing exceptional growth rate. A two year old tagged fish weighed in at 3kg.



Roger fishing a woolly bugger at Sta's Bay, Lake Ohau. It was one of the few locations that we found with relatively clear water. Heavy rain a few days before our arrival and snow melt contributed to discoloured water in most locations we visited.

A to Z TUITION



The students used the hatchery pool to learn the roll cast. Once they had mastered this technique ,they were able to catch and release a trout. Barbless hooks and proper handling ensured a quick and safe return to the water for the trout.

The Rotorua Anglers Association holds three or four A to Z tuition courses every year which are designed to launch beginners into the wonderful world of fly fishing. The weekend course covers a variety of topics, starting with the basic gear required and concluding with catching and releasing trout from the hatchery ponds. Over the two days, students learn how to set up a fly rod with either a floating or sinking line, basic knots required, the trout's habitat and food preferences, the different techniques for fishing a lake or stream and an introduction to fly tying. Learning to cast a fly line is a focus of the weekend course and both the overhead and roll cast are taught. The final session on Sunday showed the beginners how they had improved so that they could competently cast a line at the hatchery and catch their first trout.



The expert in any skill was once a beginner.

Helen Hayes

Students mastering one of the four basic knots taught during the Saturday morning session

PUT THESE EVENTS IN YOUR DIARY

ROTORUA A/P SHOW .DECEMBER 6th.

Your club has secured exhibitor space at this annual event. We can use this space to promote the benefits of the Rotorua Anglers Association.

Can you help man the stand?

Contact Dave Hutchison or Gavin Corbett



HAMURANA BBQ SUNDAY JANUARY 11th

The first club event for 2026 is a day on the shore of Lake Rotorua at the Hamurana reserve.

The club will supply a BBQ lunch, your contribution of side dishes would be appreciated.

Fish the morning, enjoy a leisurely lunch ,fish the afternoon.

Look for the club gazebo and banner at the north western end of the car park



SALTIES WEEKEND

RAA Salties Report

It was unfortunate that the postponed November fish weekend had to be cancelled due to adverse weather forecasts. There will be no fish weekend in the busy month of December.

However, the Dawber's are caravanning over at Murphys Motor Camp, Matata, in January over a period that encompasses the 3rd weekend of the month (*the normal monthly Salties weekend*) and on Saturday 17th January are inviting Salties and any other RAA Members who so wish to join them for a "day at the beach"

So, if you have nothing else planned why not bring a picnic (*breakfast, lunch, tea?*) and your rods over to the coast. The car park/reserve adjacent to the camp is right on the beach front. Those who may consider overnight stays may find vacancies at the DOC camp in Matata or Pikowai as I understand Murphys is probably fully booked.

We would love to see you and join us on this day.

Graeme

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ROTORUA ANGLERS ASSOCIATION PRIZE GIVING

2025

Maple Lang Jack bell trophy. Lake Rotoiti.

Simon Aston Dough Lynch trophy, Lake Rotoma. Wyn Johnston trophy, Lake Rerewhakaaiiutu. Dave Ellery trophy, Rangitikei River. Ces Taylor trophy, best bag of four. Jack England trophy, Best brown trout .

Gavin Corbett Stephen Hutton trophy, Lake Okataina.

Bryce Campbell Hamills Rotorua trophy, Lake Tarawera.

Lucas Corson Killwell Sports trophy, best junior. Gerald Watt trophy, best brown trout, junior.

Nigel Clark President's cup, heaviest fish. Honour board. Best condition factor

Roy Coulson West Pac Trophy, best out of area.

Marie Hutchison. Rotorua Anglers Association trophy, best salt water fish.

Peter Corson. Bas Jackson Trophy, best news letter contribution.

Yulia Corson, Sam Stoney, Lucas Corson, Lilie Davis. Certificate of appreciation awarded to four volunteers who helped make the Kids Fish Out a success.



Marie Hutchison



Simon Aston

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Lucas Corson



Lilie Davis



Nigel Clark



Roy Coulson



Brendon Davis



Maple Lang