

ROTORUA ANGLERS ASSOCIATION

Incorporated 16/06/1949

March 2021 NEWSLETTER



Declan and Simon Lescheid, Lile and Cormac Davis.
Ngongotaha, January 2021.

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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

February is usually our hottest and driest month, and it seems to have made the fish more lethargic. We spot a lot of trout, but that does not mean they want to play. Thus, fishing has been a challenge for many of us. We had one colder week with a bit of rain, so let's hope for more, and for temperatures to cool a bit. Jigging down to the colder water has produced better, but still not fantastic, results. Some members have started doing surf casting, and sea fishing is going well. An angler caught a kingfish off the beach with a pilchard!

We hope Phil will make a full recovery soon and be back helping us with fly tying. Richard's evening for beginners was well attended and appreciated, and we will schedule more of these. Shaun tied a fly and caught a fish on it. He was delighted, and his son is very keen to fish at any time. Thanks Richard. Iain and Sandra have resigned from the committee and we would like to thank them for the clubhouse maintenance, bar duty and purchasing. You seldom get praise for this, and members just accept that others do this. These positions are now vacant, and we thank William for starting to help with the bar. Thanks again John for our website update.

Brian won the large pork rib raffle, but it was too much meat for him, so he donated it back to the club for the month-end BBQ. Rika has turned it into honey soy roasted pork pieces. Harvey won the leg of lamb the next week. The raffles add a bit of suspense and fun to our evening meetings and the kitty becomes a bit fatter. Thank you all for taking part.

Martin in Edinburgh has asked about our club rules, condition factors and weighing in of fish. I emphasised that we take an angler's word and as most members have phone cameras now, a photo is sufficient when fish are released. They are looking at revising their systems.

Please make a note of the coming Interclub competition in April in Taupo. We would like to enter a team and will be giving more details soon. Remember that we need an extra Taupo licence for this occasion. We are a prominent club, and this gives us more visibility out there. A boat for the team would be good.

When you read this, Larry, Rika, Jo and I will probably be in the South Island for about two weeks. Roy will be also aiming for Dunedin at this time. Ferries have been booked. The first night we will stay in Picton, then go over to Nelson where we have asked Terry Kelso and Richard Boyden if they could arrange some fishing. They were both RAA President/members and I can still remember Terry being excited about the time his NZ team won the world championship by half a fish! Farewell Spit is a “must do” for us. After that we take things day by day. I would love to get some Kaikoura crayfish. While watching telly about lobster pot fishing in Tasmania, I found out a large one could sell for \$200! Our supermarkets now have smallish tails at more reasonable prices, have a look.

Finally, Gavin Corbett has kindly donated a number of sizable trout to the fishing club to be used for filleting practice. At the moment we are considering asking members to book a place on a Friday evening so that we know how many members are interested. Watch the emails for further updates.

All the best, Pete.

MARCH UPCOMING EVENTS & REMINDERS

- 1st Mon. 7pm. Clubrooms. Fly tying classes. Tutor: Wayne Woody 2
- 6th Fri— Sun. Surf casting club weekend. Come and go as you please
- 10th Wed. 7pm. Clubrooms. Beginner or near-beginner fly tying classes
Tutor: Richard
- 14th Sun. Rangiora Bay outing on Lake Tarawera. Next right turn after the boat houses. From 9am
- 25th Thurs 7 pm. Committee meeting at the Clubrooms
- 26th 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.



Gavin Corbett explaining how to read the water flow and control your line at the A_Z course



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FISH OF THE MONTH



Rainbow hen, 2.84 kg, C/F 48.2

Caught jigging on Lake Rotoiti

Angler: Ian Ferguson

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



SOUTH ISLAND FISHING TRIP



Piet Otto and snapper caught at the mouth of the Aorere River in Collingwood.

MONDAY FLY TYING



Phil Trautmann demonstrated an easy, all-purpose dry CDC fly, the CDC Caddis Emerger, which was tied at the monthly fly tying evening at the clubhouse on Monday, 1 February. Emphasis was given to tying CDC with our regular tools—plus two or three home-made ones, supplied by Phil, for us to take home. New Year's pressies! Many thanks Phil!

Colin Cox.

Some internet sites for further reading:

There is an interesting, technical article by Keith Wise, an entomologist at the Auckland Institute and Museum, <https://www.britannica.com/animal/caddisfly>.

Here is some information about caddisflies for especially younger anglers: <https://www.kidsrestorethekepler.org.nz/local/details?id=26>

New Zealand caddisfly: <https://teara.govt.nz/en/photograph/10045/new-zealand-caddisfly>.



Last month's fly tying. With Carol, Colin, Wayne and Phil.

Phil also tied a Cul de Cunard. It is French for Cul (end) de (of) Cunard (duck). This is a floating fly that is tied with duck down feathers, which can be quite expensive. Phil did an amazing thing: he taught his students to split the cotton thread with a needle that he makes (they each got one) and then the down is inserted into the split thread with a clamp clip, which was also gifted to the students.

When the fly was completed, saucers of water were placed on the table, and the fly floated like a balloon on top of the water, like water off a duck's back!

BEGINNER FLY TYING



Richard presented the first beginners' fly tying course on 10 February.

Present is Larry, Steve with his birthday gift of his fly tying installation, Shaun, Chris and Cory, Richard, Pete, Shaun and Tyron, and Litia. Colin is not in the picture.

Using club equipment and Richard's materials, the group tied a yellow Woolly Buzzer. We looked at various hook types and sizes. Trout can be captured on pretty small hooks – the bigger the hook, the better chances are that the fish will feel it and spit it out ASAP.

Richard demonstrated how to control the cotton and how to secure it on the hook. A big feathery tail is tied first, followed by a body, and finished off with the head at the eye of the hook. Tying off the thread is necessary so it does not all unravel again. Lastly, any loose pieces are trimmed off because if anything is too long, it could result in the trout missing the hook itself. Everyone had great fun

JANUARY A-Z COURSE



From the left, standing: Larry Ware holding tippet reels. Front desk: Willem, Cul-lum and Cushla. Back desk: Jo and Richard

Over the years the A-Z course has had many tutors and has taken different forms. Larry has shortened the course to a Saturday and Sunday where it previously ran over 4 weeks. As a start, new anglers need a trout fishing license. Then follows information on fly rods and lines. Anglers need to know what trout feed on, so a talk is given on insects, nymphs, cicadas and smelt ; After that ,anglers are taught about the difference between sinking and floating flies and how these are played to imitate trout food.

Lastly, anglers go out on the grass in front of the clubrooms where they are taught casting techniques. Control of the line is important, and as anglers progress, they increase their casting distance. On Sunday, everyone went out to Hamurana to do casting in the lake. Richard demonstrated how to catch an 8 lb brown trout, which he then released.

FISHING STORIES FROM SCOTLAND

The Caledonian St Andrews Club was established in 1882 in Edinburgh, Scotland. During the March 2020 Covid19 lockdown, the club produced a book of members' stories. The following are amusing snippets that Piet has gleaned from these stories

Euan caught his first eel at Oban when he was 4 years old, with a garden cane, some nylon, and a worm.

Alex tells of catching minnows with home-made gear when he was a child, but he does not want to say much about his early experience with gelignite poaching.

Malcolm and Martin were fishing from a boat when it started filling with water. When Malcolm dragged the sinking boat ashore, he discovered that the bung was out. The words uttered by Martin were blown in the wind towards 3 fine bullocks who then bolted away over the horizon at full speed.

Alex caught a 10-pound rainbow trout at Inverurie to win a sought-after Daiwa fly reel. He put it in the freezer (uncovered?) where it turned to cardboard from freezer burn. He had to bury it under his leek plants...

This is a story from the River Tay. It is protocol to enter the river when the first angler is 20 yards away. Then the angler takes a good step down-stream after each cast. If fishing is good this step turns into a shuffle and the other anglers shout "Watch your waders!" If an angler hooks a fish, those on each side reel in and assist with landing the fish. You could find 30 anglers on such a stretch.

Dennis has a LAW: DO NOT STRIKE! Just lift the rod. (Does this sound familiar, Joe?) On the Farrar river Howard, in his excitement, did strike. He missed the fish. Then followed a rich mixture of profanity and blasphemy. A nearby stag went silent; the leaves curled and fell. The tirade continued into the evening. The next day Howard lifted the rod and landed a 10-pound salmon. All was forgiven.

When Peter lost his big fish, he went home "with nothing for the pot and an unsympathetic and sceptical Sue." Sound familiar anyone?

Les and Jimmy were boat fishing Butterstone Loch. The drift was too fast, and Les said Jimmy must throw out the drogue. The boat did not slow. No one had tied it to the boat! It reminds me of the time I was fishing with Callie in Tauranga harbour and (one of us) threw the burley bag overboard ...

Compiled by Pete Otto

SOUTH ISLAND TRIP



Collingwood Holiday Park chalets with Larry Ware's SUV . Piet Otto is in the background. It started raining the day we arrived after 3 weeks of beautiful sunshine.

The Aorere River mouth is adjacent to the holiday park The lower reaches are deep and slow-moving. Fishing is rewarding but can be difficult as a result of steep banks, lack of roads and public access. The river is clear at low flow and the bed is made up of round granite stone and large outcrops of solid rock. The brown trout caught in this river are generally the largest fish in Golden Bay. Anglers who are willing to walk can find some of the most under-utilised fishing in the region at low flows.

Source: Fish and Game brochure, Marlborough region.

SOUTH ISLAND FISHING TRIP



Piet Otto unexpectedly caught a stone from the Waikawa Bay Marina breakwater. The hook attached itself to a sponge, which in turn was securely anchored to the stone. Both stone and sponge were returned to the sea.



Piet then caught a gemfish, maka-tikati or *rexea solandri*. These fish are seemingly not much appreciated as an eating fish in New Zealand because it has a reputation of having worms in its flesh and they have razor-sharp teeth. However, when pan-fried with a squeeze of lemon or smoked, the bones are easier to remove and the soft white meat is succulent and full of moisture due to its high fat content. South Africans eat a similar fish, locally called snoek (*Thyrsites atun*)



Cushla trying to keep the line in the air at the A_Z course



Gavin Corbett's pet in the Ngongotaha