

# ROTORUA ANGLERS ASSOCIATION

*August 2022*

*NEWSLETTER*



Shag eating a flounder: Photo: Larry Ware

# EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

<b>Patron</b>	<b>Vacant</b>	
<b>President</b>	<b>Pete Otto</b>	<b>021 0261 6061</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Ian Ferguson</b>	<b>021 059 9347</b>
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<b>Membership Secretary</b>	<b>Colin Cox</b>	<b>07 343 6282</b>
<b>Web coordinator</b>	<b>John Olds</b>	<b>027 330 7581</b>
<b>Fly Tying Convenor</b>	<b>Colin Cox</b>	<b>07 343 6282</b>
<b>Fly Tying Beginners</b>	<b>Richard Hendriksen</b>	<b>020 4100 3071</b>
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<b>Kids' Fish Out</b>	<b>Brendan Davis</b>	<b>021 105 5039</b>
<b>A to Z School</b>	<b>Vacant</b>	
<b>Almoner</b>	<b>Terry Wood</b>	<b>07 345 5587</b>
<b>Newsletter Editor:</b>	<b>Rika Otto</b>	<b>rikaotto8@gmail.com</b>

***Contribution Deadline: 20<sup>th</sup> of each month***

***Club Postal Address: P.O. Box 1083, Rotorua 3040***

***Clubrooms: 33 Pererika Street, Rotorua***

***<http://rotoruaanglers.org.nz>***

***[rotoruaanglers@gmail.com](mailto: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

Piet Otto

The last few weeks have certainly brought a fair share of rain, and Lake Taupo must have risen by half a meter. That still does not mean the fishing is bad, as I have had some good successes in the rain, and seen others do the same. The year has started to change, we are more than a month away from the longest night, and the daffodils are out, showing spring is on the way.

With the increased fuel prices, we tried a sea trip with Lindsay (Easzy Fishing) from Whakatane, and the fuel was \$75 compared to \$130 to Tapu with Eric (Snapper Express). The boat is smaller than Eric's boat, but just move sensibly around the deck, and you still have good fishing. If you compare the two charters, with Eric you get better quality snapper, but once the team has quota, you return to shore, which may be within a two-hour trip (harvesting). Other species like Kahawai or Dory during this time, are a bonus. The same price trip with Lindsay is 6 hours, and he moves around more to find the fish. Straylines are put out the back to pick up the passing Kingfish, and we went over areas where birds were diving, using handlines to get Kahawai. We hooked two sharks and let them go. Christo lost two big fish which may have been sharks or something else. David got a good Kingfish. Lindsay also gives a cup of tea. As this is more open sea, you need to check the sea conditions for the day more carefully. We returned on low tide to find the river-side launch ramp in a sorry state, thick with river mud, and an old log lying on one ramp. Boats had to wait in the stream to land after the first boat was towed off the ramp through the mud. I subsequently read in "Fishing and Outdoors" that a new project team is looking how to fix the situation.

Our mid-year Christmas party was well attended, and a good meal was enjoyed by all. Neal Hawes from Turangi looked in at the clubhouse last Friday. Ron arrived at Rerewhakaaitu in his new Toyota SUV – hope you have good fun and safe driving! Two fish were caught on Saturday and three lost. Taupo anglers were fishing in tinnies and we missed getting together a bit. I could not attend again on Sunday due to church and going to see my daughter in Taupo.



Midwinter Christmas Dinner.



**1271 Fenton St, Rotorua, 07 348 3147**

# FISH OF THE MONTH

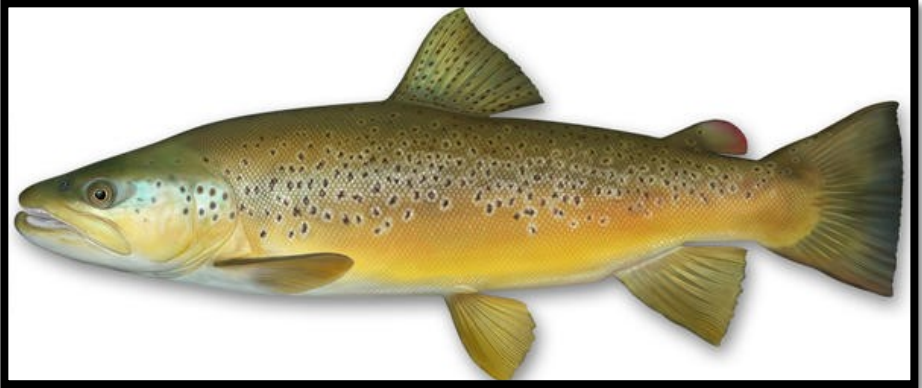


**The winner of the Fish of the Month Award will receive a \$10 voucher redeemable from Hamills Rotorua**

## AUGUST UPCOMING EVENTS and REMINDERS

1 Mon	Fly tying
6 Sat	Stream Team
7 Sun	Kids' Fishout 1
13 Sat	Fishing/Casting AGM
17 Wed	Beginner fly tying
18 Thurs	Committee meeting
19 Fri	Prize giving
20 Sat	Magazine article deadline
26 Fri	Club potluck dinner
27 Sat	Dark moon
27-8 Sat	Turangi trip

# BROWN TROUT



Brown trout are caught by a variety of methods which include: natural baits, spinners and wobblers, artificial flies which include nymph, wet fly, feathered lure and dry fly. They are considered to be more wary than the rainbow trout and, in a fly caster's opinion, it is the most difficult of the species to deceive with artificial fly. Despite this observation, which may refer to large and more educated specimens, brown trout are the most common of our freshwater sportsfish and there are more brown trout caught by anglers than any other species.

Large brown trout may attain a weight of 10 kg or more, although a fish over 5 kg is considered a trophy.

Anglers today release unharmed many of the larger trout they catch. This makes good conservation sense, especially in high country rivers where large brown trout are highly valued.

<https://fishandgame.org.nz/freshwater-fishing-in-new-zealand/nz-fish-species/brown-trout/>



Midwinter Christmas Dinner



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# FLY TYING



Zonker Strip tied by Richard Hendriksen

## Zonker pattern


tied by Richard Hendriksen

- Take a hook size to our liking
- Tie on the thread to the bend of the hook
- Place or tie in the body material of your choice
- Tie in the zonker strip at the bend and secure.
- Cut off your thread at the rear of the hook
- Re-tie your thread at the eye of the hook
- Tie in your hackle and palmer backwards



- Pull down the hackle below the hook shank
- Bring the zonker strip forward and secure it at the head of the fly
- Whip finish

# 15 BEST TIMES TO GO FISHING

1. WHEN YOU NEED TO CHILL OUT.
2. WHEN YOU NEED SOME EXCITEMENT.
3. WHEN YOU WANT TO BE ALONE.
4. WHEN YOU WANT TO HANG OUT.
5. WHEN YOU NEED A LITTLE FRESH AIR.
6. WHEN YOU NEED A LITTLE EXERCISE.
7. WHEN YOU WANT TO RELAX.
8. WHEN YOU WANT TO BE CHALLENGED.
9. WHEN YOU WANT TO CONNECT WITH NATURE.
10. WHEN YOU WANT TO CONQUER NATURE.
11. WHEN YOU HAVE THE DAY OFF WORK.
12. WHEN YOU DON'T HAVE THE DAY OFF WORK.
13. WHEN YOU'RE A KID. 
14. WHEN YOU CAN TAKE YOUR KIDS.
15. ANYTIME THE FISH ARE BITING.

# SCOTTISH FISHING IN SUTHERLAND

William Martin Smith

Our intrepid 4 members returned to Oykel Bridge Hotel 19-26.06.22. It was mid -summer and not much had changed. The trout fishing and hotel were up to standard.

The waters listed below were fished. We missed out on Loch Urigill because it was double booked by the Ledmore Estate, possibly a blessing as those that fished were a party of salmon fishers from the Oykel Bridge Hotel who had no success, probably due to inexperience of highland lochs. That day, and arranged at short notice by Ledmore Estate, Howard and John had a successful day on Loch Awe, part of the Assynt Estate. 102 fish were landed in the week. Malcolm, yet again, scored the most.

Ailsh: fished fairly well generally in trying conditions. Fish were smaller than usual.

Cam: behaved as usual with a few better than average fish landed.

Cam River: fished out of a Ledmore boat without engine some 300 yards from the loch. Not to be repeated.

Craggie: Howard and John bank fished on Tuesday morning; Howard had some success.

Veyatie: performed far better than previously, perhaps as the conditions were more favourable.

Awe: a small loch with excellent sport and quality fish. Note that salmon fishers from the Culag Hotel in Lochinver have booking priority.

The Ledmore boats and engines performed well, the underpowered Oykel Bridge Hotel engine was used on Ailsh. No petrol engines are permitted on Loch Awe. An electric one would have been useful. The boat provided rowed well.

Weatherwise, the week was dry in contrast to the forecast predicting rain every day. The first three days were cloudy with some sun and a helpful breeze; Thursday had bright sun, 25C with a stiffish wind; Friday was cloudy, 20C and with a light east wind; Saturday was part cloudy with strong wind. Midges were thankfully

scarce.

The hotel was short-staffed with Covid absences and closed to non-residents. The front of house staff, Leah and Megan, coped admirably and the catering was well up to expected standards. John had room 7, the manager's old quarters, which included a comfortable four seat conservatory/lounge that provided an ideal venue for the occasional nightcap.

The salmon fishers had a poor week despite good water levels in the river. The lack of fish was the proffered reason. One group of regulars had four fish in the first two days and two other groups had blanks. There is no report of the fourth group although a blank is likely as there was no crowing in the lounge pre dinner.

As the view of the group was that the hotel, company and fishing would be difficult to replicate elsewhere, a return to the Oykel Bridge Hotel in 2023 is planned, possibilities are the same week from 18th June or May from 14th or 21st.



The Cam Loch. Photo: William Martin Smith



Photo: William Martin Smith



Scottish Highlands. Photo: William Martin Smith



# NZ FISHING HISTORY

Submitted by Joe Fleet.

## **The introduction of rainbow trout into the upper Ruakituri River**

During the 1939-45 war Rupert James of Waimaha Station took trout ova from the lower Ruakituri and placed them in the gravel just above the Waitangi Falls. None of these survived. After the war, he tried again. This time he carried the fry in a teapot. He blew into regularly into the spout to keep the water aerated. The fish were still alive when he arrived above the falls. He liberated them.

On his return six weeks later he found many of them swimming about in a small tributary above the falls. You can well imagine his joy when he revisited the area two years later and caught a 3lb rainbow hen. Four years later, [I can't imagine myself waiting that long to go back] he landed an old 8lb jack. Later he caught a magnificent hen of 9lbs which he returned to the water. He caught her again the next year. She weighed in at over 10lbs. Today many of her offspring, survive in the pristine waters above the falls.



# LAKE REREWHAKAAITU, 2007

Lake Rerewhakaaitu Family Fishing and Camping Weekend, 3-4 March. 2007

Joe Fleet

John and Jenny and I left town to set up camp on Friday afternoon. By Saturday morning my wife, our sons, Wade and his wife Joanne, Kane and the kids, plus Grandma and club member Terry Wood, Christine Schmidt and her young group from the A to Z school arrived. Graham Fraser, Terry and Alison Kelso, Peter West and from a past A to Z school, Fiona and husband Don, Cathy and Dave all came on a day trip.

We shared the camping sites with another family group of about fifty people, the Thompsons and their elders from Auckland. They come here every year from all over New Zealand to get together. They said they usually come in June but Grandma is starting to feel the cold these days. They brought along tennis rackets and balls and kites supposedly for their kids to play with but they all got involved including our lot and the kids went swimming during the day.

On Saturday we awoke to the sound of gunfire. We had forgotten there was a Canada geese cull that weekend. There were flights of panic-stricken birds everywhere. It's a shame this action has to be taken, but it's the damage they do to the environment when their numbers get out of hand, that culling has to be carried out. It appears there is no other option.

The fishing was hard. Several fish were caught but it was a long time between strikes. Terry Wood seemed to have it worked out. He tried jigging and took about eight over the weekend. The rest of us caught just one here and there. Kane captured the best-conditioned one, a three-and-a-half-pounder. It was quite noticeable many of the fish that were landed were in poor condition. You would have thought that they would be in better shape, it being March, and with the smelting tapering off. I wondered if their condition would improve a great deal before winter.

This family weekend went well, although it rained at night on Saturday and we took our tents home wet to be dried at home. That's what camping is about, a

small inconvenience to an enjoyable weekend. Those who came remarked they would come again next year. The day trippers said they regretted not bringing their tents.



Fishing at dusk on Lake Argyle, South Island. Photos: Larry Ware





Scottish trout. Photo: William Martin Smith



Fishing the Ruakituri River in 2014. You need good balance, good legs, and a wading stick.