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PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Dave is away on a well earned winter (fishing??) holiday so no report this month.
FISHING REPORT

With Lake Rotorua’s surface water temperature below 10 degrees Centigrade one could expect that the algae bloom would be long gone, unfortunately that is not the case as there is still a significant green tinge to the water at the moment. It also seems that the colour of the alga has changed from blue-green to lime green which suggests perhaps that the lake is suffering from a different strain or perhaps a different species altogether. What effect this is having on fish life at this time of the year is unclear, though most of the fish seen are in pretty good condition.

Fresh fish entered the Ngongotaha and Waiteti streams over the weekend and anglers were seen to be having a lot of fun fighting good conditioned and agile fish most mornings since. The bulk of the run seems to be rainbows though there are a few good conditioned browns in amongst them. Most anglers are fishing either egg patterns or weighted nymph / grey ghost combinations and are having a fair amount of success up until around 9am or so.

Fresh fish also moved into the Utuhina Stream over the weekend and those early on the water were rewarded with some hard fighting and good conditioned fish. A combination of egg pattern flies and natural imitations seems to tempt these fish.

Below the control gates on the Kaituna River has produced a few good conditioned rainbows at times over the past few days. Olive woolly buggers seem to be catching well in the somewhat discoloured water.

Lake Rerewhakaaitu is still extremely high, compared to last winter, access to the shoreline is very much restricted without a set of neoprene waders, as the lake water is well within the tree line around the lake. There are fish moving in various places so it is well worth a visit.

Blue Lake has fished fairly well over the past week or so apparently. A lot of fish have moved to the boat ramp end of the lake, which is a little unusual for this time of the year. Favoured flies seem to be red setter, grey ghost or silver dorothy when used during the day, or doll flies, black marabou or craig’s night time after dark. During the day most of the fish seem to be holding just inside the weed bed but come in close after dark.

Lake Pupuke is high and cold and fishing well. Right now through to the end of October is usually the best possible time to fish Pupuke as a) there is a lot less disturbance from other lake users and b) the Trout are feeding in relatively shallow water and very reachable with a fly-line. Small Red Setters, orange headed Woolly Buggas and slowly retrieved Booby flies are all good picks and can work well.

By all accounts the Waikato tributaries that are still open are fishing very well. Fluro pink Czech nymphs have been working well as have Woolly Buggas. If you are hanging out for summertime and some dry fly fishing then why not try the Waikou or the Waimakiriri rivers. About this time last year, (on a nice sunny day), we were able to fish the Waimak
with a dry fly – dropper rig, and whilst the majority took the nymph we did manage a fair number on the dry.

What can we say about fishing the Taupo area at present. Undoubtedly there are some nice fish being landed, and for some in significant numbers, but for most I would have to say the pickings are still a bit lean. A recent walk up one of the Taupo tributaries probably defined the current fishing situation perfectly. Looking into several good holding pools there was not a Trout to be seen but 30 metres further upstream the was a pod of 8 nice fish in one pool, 5 in the next and 4 in the one after that. Very much like very early season fishing, (ie. small natural nymphs, long fluorocarbon leaders and moving pools regularly until you find success). Keep your eyes on the weather and the next time Turangi gets some good rain then head on down there. They are overdue for a genuinely big run of fish.

Fishy Tales

- Having been inspired by tales of Czech / French / Polish nymphing one Club Member recently attempted to create his own new nymphing technique, Drift nymphing. He attempted this during a tricky, high flow, crossing of the Hinemaiaia River. It truly was quite spectacular to watch and some of us, keen to see more, ran downstream to the next pool to see just how far he would drift. Alas, at this point he is yet to catch a fish with the new technique but we all hope he perseveres and we can watch it all again!

- On the same trip another not to be named Club Member suffered from an unfortunate case of bad Turangi water, which resulted in a late start and a very slow day on Saturday. Others uncharitably suggested it was the amount of Whiskey he mixed with his water that may possibly have limited his fishing…

- If you do have a report, success story, or anecdote to share then just send it to iconp@ihug.co.nz.

Happy Fishing and Tight Lines - Freddy Da Fish.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

*Good fishermen know that in talking about fishing, nothing is more interesting than the truth.*

Arthur Ransome - Rod and Line 1980
Drying out after another unsuccessful Drift Nymphing expedition, our very own Splash Bob Wet Pants!
LAST CLUB NIGHT

Last month we had Belinda Thomas talking to us about the winter fishing techniques and it was a very enjoyable night, thank you once again Belinda.

NEXT CLUB NIGHT – Tuesday 16th August – 7.30pm

This month we will have Darryl Reardon and Nick Foster talking to us. Darryl and Nick are our current Fish and Game councilors for Auckland / Waikato and they will be talking to us about the issues facing Our fishing area. This is sure to be an interesting night and we hope to see you all there.

CLUB TRIPS 2011

February – Ngongotaha River and Rotorua Lakes
March – Lake Otamangakau
May – Ngongotaha River and Rotorua Lakes
July - Tongariro and Tauranga Taupo
October - Lakes Rotoaira and Otamangakau
October – Lake Aniwhenua and surrounding Rivers, Phil Gates
November – Intermediate Tuition weekend
December – Tuition weekend on Ohinemuri River

The NSF committee arrange various Club Trips over the year to different parts of the country. If you would like to be involved, or have an idea for a trip please let one of your committee know.

D.V.D. LIBRARY

The following DVD’s are available from the Club Library. If you would like to borrow one please contact Dave Symes at the next Club Night or via email, dssymes@xtra.co.nz

ESSENTIAL SKILLS With OLIVER EDWARDS
ESSENTIAL PATTERNS With OLIVER EDWARDS
STILLWATER PRESENTATIONS With DENNY RICHARDS
ADVANCE FLYCASTING DOUG SWISHER
CHRIS OGBORNE’S SINKING LINE TECHNIQUES
NEW WAYS OF FISHING THE CADDIS FLY
NEW WAYS OF FISHING THE MAYFLY
HOW TO SUCCEED ON SMALL STILLWATERS PART ONE
HOW TO SUCCEED ON SMALL STILLWATERS PART TWO
HOW TO SUCCEED ON RESERVOIRS PART ONE
HOW TO SUCCEED ON RESERVOIRS PART TWO
NEW ZEALAND FLYTYING With JOHN GIACON
THE EDUCATED TROUT
WEE WETS AND DOWNSTREAM DRY'S With DAVE McLELLAN

CLUB DVD'S
If you have borrowed DVD's and have finished viewing them, please bring them back to the next meeting.

SUBS
In an effort to get Club Membership Subscriptions in quicker we are instigating two new options.

1) Subs can now be paid by direct credit to the Clubs Bank Account via the following A/c number. If you do choose to use this facility please remember to enter your full name or your Membership Number (shown on your Membership Card) along with your payment details so John knows where the money came from!

2) If someone has not paid their Subs by 1st August 2011 then they will incur a $10 late payment penalty.

North Shore Flyfishers Incorporated
ASB A/c #: 12-3209-0190179-00

MORE NEWS ON FLY TYING
Phil Gates has added 3 more flies to the Club website with step by step pictorial tying instructions. There are now 8 flies shown on our site with videos or pictorial instructions on how to tie them. If you are interested in Fly-tying at all then this is well worth looking at!

Thank you to Phil for all his great work on the website, (check it out), - www.nsff.org.nz.

CLUB TRIP TO LAKE ROTOAIRA
The Club is planning a Trip to fish Lake Rotoaira on Opening Day, 1st September. The Trip dates will be Thursday 1st, Friday 2nd, Saturday 3rd, and return home on Sunday 4th. This Lake has been providing some of the best quality fishing in the Turangi area for years and the Trout that come out of here are invariably great eating fish with bright orange flesh.

Exact accommodation details are yet to be finalised but if you are interested then please contact Roy Richardson asap. Phone – 021 936 442, Email – roy@location.co.nz
TURANGI CLUB TRIP REPORT

To paraphrase an old 1970’s song “Fishless days and fishless nights” pretty much sums up the Club Trip to Turangi last month. Our guys fished from the Bends to the Fence, wet lining, nymphing, long leaders, light tippets, glowies, naturals, early and late, for a grand total of 21 fish between 10 people. That is hard work in anyones fishing book. That’s not to say it wasn’t a good fun trip, they always are, but it really didn’t live up to the fishing expectations we all had for the weekend.

Apart from that it was another very enjoyable Club Trip and made so by the people on it.

Thank you to everyone involved and a special thank you to Bob and Ian for their understanding approach to an accommodation mix up, and to Kerry and Laurie for their excellent BBQ cooking and a superb Apple Crumble desert!

WHY WE FISH

In the night I dreamed of trout-fishing; and, when at length I awoke, it seemed a fable that this painted fish swam there so near my couch, and rose to our hooks the last evening, and I doubted if I had not dreamed it all. So I arose before dawn to test its truth, while my companions were still sleeping. There stood Ktaadn with distinct and cloudless outline in the moonlight; and the rippling of the rapids was the only sound to break the stillness. Standing on the shore, I once more cast my line into the stream, and found the dream to be real and the fable true. The speckled trout and silvery roach, like flying-fish, sped swiftly through the moonlight air, describing bright arcs on the dark side of Ktaadn, until moonlight, now fading into daylight, brought satiety to my mind, and the minds of my companions, who had joined me.

Henry David Thoreau 1817-1862 'Ktaadn'

INTERMEDIATE TUITION FISHING TRIP

As a result of the continuing success of the Club Tuition Trip to the Ohinemuri we are now looking at the possibility of running an Intermediate level Tuition Trip. Peter Scott of Rod and Reel, and the New Zealand Fly-fishing Team, has generously offered to help out again. So if you may be interested then either send in an email to iconp@ihug.co.nz or simply have a chat to any Committee Member on Tuesdays Club Night.
**JOKE OF THE MONTH**

Four guys have been going on the same fishing trip for many years.

Two days before the group is to leave, Frank's wife puts her foot down and tells him he isn't going.

Frank's friends are very upset that he can't go, but what can they do.

Two days later the three get to the camping site only to find Frank sitting there with a tent set up, firewood gathered, and dinner cooking on the fire.

"Damn man, how long you been here and how did you talk your wife into letting you go?"

"Well, I've been here since yesterday. Yesterday evening, I was sitting in my chair and my wife came up behind me and put her hands over my eyes and said, 'Guess who?'"

I pulled her hands off, and she was wearing a brand new see-through nightie.

She took my hand and pulled me to our bedroom. The room had candles and rose pedals all over. On the bed she had handcuffs and ropes!

She told me to tie and cuff her to the bed, and I did - and then she said, "Do what ever you want."

So, here I am.

**THE RISE FLY FISHING FESTIVAL**


Since its inception in 2006 the Rise Fly Fishing Film Festival has played to over 22000 fly fishers in Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Europe. In this its sixth year, it proudly continues to bring cutting edge fly fishing films to fanatics throughout the Southern Hemisphere and Europe.

For the 2011 film festival, film maker Nick Reygaert, who produced the feature film of the festival, will host the evening. He will introduce each movie and field a question and answer session at each intermission. A prize raffle completes a unique and interactive audience experience.

"I am extremely excited to be bringing RISE back to Australia and NZ in 2011. We have spared no expense in sourcing what we believe to be the best fly fishing films in the world today. All films will be screened in High Definition to give a true cinematic experience and deliver another night to remember" - Nick Reygaert
Mike Hughes into another early morning ‘Freshie from the Braids’.

DIFFERENT WAYS OF LOOKING AT THINGS

Two guys were discussing popular family trends on sex, marriage, and Family values.

Bill said, 'I didn't sleep with my wife before we got married, did you?'

Larry replied, 'I'm not sure, what was her maiden name?'
RECIPE OF THE MONTH

The following is Courtesy of the Canterbury Anglers Club Newsletter, looks delicious, and is much appreciated.

**Trout with Crisp Bacon Crust**

**Ingredients**

- 2 rashers of bacon chopped
- 2 sprigs of thyme, stem removed
- 1 lemon, zested & cut in wedges
- 50g fresh breadcrumbs, about 2-3 slices
- 2 tbsp. olive oil
- 4 med trout fillets

Heat oven to 220c.

Mix together bacon, breadcrumbs, thyme, and lemon zest.

Place the trout fillets in a lightly oiled baking dish, then sprinkle the breadcrumb mixture evenly over each fillet.

Arrange the lemon wedges around the fish and drizzle with the olive oil.

Roast the fish for 8-10 minutes until it is cooked through, and the topping is golden. Serve with steamed greens and boiled new potatoes.
HUTT RIVER TAP TURNS FOR TE MARUA UPGRADE
Dominion Post – 18/07/2011

A controversial plan to take more water from the Hutt River for the region's taps has been given the green light.

A panel of independent commissioners granted an application by Greater Wellington regional council to take extra water while the water storage lakes at Te Marua are seismically strengthened.

Works to strengthen the resilience of the storage lakes and increase their capacity will cost an estimated $10 million. The project will be done over the next two summers, draining one lake at a time.

The consent, granted last week, allows the river's lowest flows to be reduced by one third. Fourteen submitters objected to the consent, saying the river flow is already too low, contributing to toxic algal blooms.

Commissioners Ian Boothroyd, Elizabeth Burg and Christine Foster said the conditions of the consent would ensure any potential effects on the river's ecosystem health were minor.

The minimum flow at Kaitoke Weir was reduced from 600 to 400 litres a second for three years.

The reduction to the minimum flow could be required in dry summers to maintain water supply to Upper Hutt, Lower Hutt, Wellington and Porirua.

Conditions of the consent include monitoring water quality, toxic blue-green algae, aquatic animals and fish migration.

BREAD FISHING FOR TROUT EARNS BIG FINE
Eastern Fish and Game – 18/07/2011

Fish & Game officers say the latest fines handed down for trout fishing with no licence and using bread for bait - sends a strong message to would-be poachers.

A 34 year old Rotorua man has appeared in the Rotorua District Court and fined a total of $700, after pleading guilty to two counts - fishing without a licence and using illegal bait.

The court heard that he had been caught in late February by a Fish & Game officer and a police officer working together. He had been fishing the Utuhina Stream in Rotorua, and was in possession of a freshly caught rainbow trout.
A community magistrate fined him $500 for fishing without a licence and a further $200 for fishing with illegal bait.

Fish & Game Officer Anthony Van Dorp says the sentence signals clearly that it’s simply not worthwhile to fish illegally – with the courts showing they take the matter seriously.

“It’s cheaper by far in the long run to buy a licence and fish using legal methods.”

Club Member John Rust in action on the Tongariro. Photo courtesy of Mike Huges, Tongariro Fishing Guide.
FOUR BAY DAIRY FARMS FINED FOR POLLUTING

Bay of Plenty dairy farmers were reminded of the serious penalties for polluting after four were prosecuted last week for various degrees of contamination to waterways.

The two businesses and three individuals (4 eastern Bay, 1 western Bay) were sentenced last week in the Environment Court in Tauranga.

Bay of Plenty Regional Council Water Management Group Manager Eddie Grogan said these prosecutions showed us that some farmers in our region were still not carrying out the necessary checks.

“All four dairy cases were a result of poor management of effluent systems, including ponds and irrigators,” Mr. Grogan said.

The two companies and three farmers received significant fines totaling more than $118,000, which reflected the recent increase in penalties available to the Environment Court after an amendment to the Resource Management Act.

“However the real significant shift in direction from the Court was the imposing of enforcement orders requiring each farm to develop contingency plans for effluent disposal,” Mr. Grogan said.

These plans must address issues including equipment maintenance, staff training, monitoring of effluent systems, and ensuring storage is appropriate.

Mr. Grogan said that the penalties reflected the severity of the situation.

“We are pleased that these cases all received enforcement orders and significant fines and hope that this will be a deterrent to others. This is a timely reminder for farmers to check they have all the correct systems in place to manage effluent even on the busiest, wettest days,” Mr. Grogan said.

The Regional Council works alongside a number of stakeholders to assist farmers to remain compliant 365 days a year, and several free tools are available.

“A Massey Pond Storage Calculator is available to farmers to help calculate risk, ensuring that effluent systems have the right storage capacity so that effluent irrigation only occurs during the right soil moisture conditions. This ensures that nutrients are utilised effectively, which is good for the environment and farmers productivity,” Mr. Grogan said. “In many cases however, the right systems may be in place but it all comes down to farm operators. Farmers need to ensure maintenance of their equipment is undertaken regularly, and that staff are fully trained in the operation of the equipment.”
Mr. Grogan said that it is crucial new farm workers are aware of all the requirements to remain compliant.

“A simple checklist has been created as a guide to ensure new workers go through the right induction and farmers can be confident they will not risk compliance,” Mr. Grogan said.

**TROUT FISHERS SEEK POLITICIANS ANSWERS ON RIVERS**
NZ Federation Of Freshwater Anglers – Press Release – 21/07/2011

A national trout-fishing advocacy wants answers from political parties on question marks over water quality and public access to rivers and fishing.

The New Zealand Federation of Freshwater Anglers has written to all political parties identifying threats, often commercially driven, to traditional public ownership and use of water and waterways plus environmental standards and water quality.

Federation president Jim Hale, a Manawatu dairy farmer and trout fisherman, said there was growing concern at the potential plight of New Zealand rivers and the erosion of access to waterways.

"While such issues may not be at the top of political party agendas, they are of considerable importance to the numerous trout fishing public. There is a feeling and an awareness within freshwater anglers that the threats to our freshwater rivers and lakes from urban, industrial and agricultural extraction and pollution, and the increasing attempts by vested interests to privatise and monopolise a public resource, are at a tipping point," he said. "Consequently there is a very real danger that something the public values greatly, and which many take for granted, could be lost forever."

Mr. Hale said the first European settlers had established trout fisheries and a law framework that was designed to, unlike the UK, make trout fishing a public sport available to all along egalitarian principles.

"So there is nearly two centuries of tradition and heritage and associated law at stake."

Many of trout fishers want parties to consider formulating sound policies and have indicated answers will definitely influence voting preferences in the upcoming election.

**TAHARUA AND UPPER MOHAKA RIVERS - CONSULTATION**
Hawkes Bay Regional Council – 22/07/2011

Local landowners and key organisations in the Taharua Stakeholder Group are working with the Regional Council to address water quality issues in the Taharua and upper Mohaka rivers due to land use intensification in the headwater Taharua catchment. The
issue and proposed actions are summarised in the Draft Strategy below, now out for public comment (on the webpage shown at the bottom of this article – ed).

**Send us your thoughts and comments -**

- Use the [online feedback form](http://www.hbrc.govt.nz/WhatWeDo/Waterways/TaharuaandUpperMohaka/tabid/1068/Default.aspx) (comment on 'Water' in the dropdown box)
- Email chris.reed@hbrc.govt.nz
- Post comments to Hawke's Bay Regional Council, Private Bag 6006, Napier 4142 attn Chris Reed
- Please include your name, address and daytime contact phone number on all correspondence.

**Consultation Closes 9 am Monday 22 August**


**IF YOU WANT TO PROTECT OUR WATERWAYS, PICK UP YOUR PEN**

By Grant Dyson - NZ Fish & Game Public Awareness Advisor

When did you last see anglers on the steps of Parliament staging a protest?

It may never happen but perhaps it should: all freshwater anglers need to get up and fight harder for the resources – clean rivers and lakes – they claim to hold so dear.

In today’s world, recreational resources and access to them have never been under such extreme pressure. In recent years we’ve seen an accelerating trend in the conversion of land to dairying, powerful corporate forces driving the trend. Add in the ‘normal’ urbanisation patterns – city sprawl – and the result is even semi-wild places for fishing and hunting are under threat and in some cases disappearing.

What can you do? The answer in a word is lobby, and actively. Consider the steps taken by sea anglers and their lobby group a year or two ago. The normally indifferent rec sea fishers went into action when catch limits were under review. The group lobbied hard, and effectively, using the media to defend recreational fishing practices which were under attack from the fishing industry and they hammered away at government.

But you don’t need to join a group to have a say. With tools like email it’s never been easier to have your voice heard. Letters to editors of mainstream newspapers and current affairs magazines are an effective approach to lobbing issues into the public arena. MPs and other decision-makers take note of such correspondence, especially when a number of people voice the same concern. While, it’s all very well writing to *Fish & Game Magazine* or your other favourite fishing media, essentially you’re speaking to the converted so target your efforts at local daily and community news outlets.
An additional approach is to write directly to your local MP – tell your mates to do the same. The more people pushing the same issue, the more our elected representatives take notice. Speak up for continued access to recreational resources in your area – be they rivers, lakes or forests.

You could also pick up the phone to your local daily newspaper, community paper or radio station. You’d be surprised at how grateful the media can be if you make their life easier by offering good fresh quotes from someone affected by an issue.

‘People power’ in the form of social media like Facebook and Twitter, and blogs, can pack a real punch too.

The key message is, if we don’t become better at speaking out we’ll have to accept dwindling opportunities to go fishing and hunting. That would be a sad thing to resign ourselves to.

**NETWORK OF PONDS TO PROVIDE FISHING FOR KIDS**


Plans have been hatched to dig a series of ponds on public land close to the Waimea River at Appleby and stock them with trout and salmon ready to catch next year.

But any thoughts of Fish & Game license holders nipping out to haul in Sunday lunch will have to be set aside – the fish will be strictly for youngsters to catch.

The Sports Fishing for Youth Charitable Trust has been working on the idea for two years and is ready to go. The Tasman District Council is providing the land and has approved the formation of the ponds. Sales of the gravel will cover the cost. Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology aquaculture students are growing the fish, and an application to release them has been made to the Department of Conservation.

If there are no hitches, "kids' fishing days" will begin next April.

Trust chairman George Wilkinson said the idea was born out of the growing difficulty of catching trout in the region's rivers.

Once plentiful, they were now much harder to find, and it was no longer possible to take a young person out with the guarantee of success, he said. A typical day with an experienced fisher might leave a beginner thinking it was about as exciting "as watching paint dry", he said.

So, he and others he talked to began working towards creating the ponds, mirroring what has already been developed in the Taupo, Wellington and Christchurch areas.
Dr Wilkinson said the TDC had been supportive. "They can see that it will complement the nearby Challies Island wildlife ponds and form a key element of the planned Waimea River Park."

A range of sponsors had also agreed to help, but the key was an arrangement with NMIT for the supply of fish grown at the Glenhaven Aquaculture Centre.

NMIT aquaculture programme co-coordinator Mark Burdass said students were required to grow trout and salmon from eggs as part of their programme, and would now see them used for a good purpose.

"Students will feed the fish and grow them to about 600 grams (1.5 pounds) and then manage their release into the newly formed ponds," he said.

Richmond-based trout fishing guide Tony Entwistle, a trustee, said the ponds would provide the opportunity for all children, including those with disabilities or sickness, to experience the thrill of catching a "nice fish".

"Catching trout is not easy for kids, particularly the brown trout of the local rivers. This will be an opportunity for the kids to fish in a safe environment with some expert assistance from experienced anglers.

"We also hope to build a fishing platform that will be wheelchair-friendly and will have access paths that will accommodate kids with disabilities," he said.

Dr Wilkinson said the pond construction required low summer flows for gravel extraction.

"All going well, we hope the ponds will be built late this year and fish will be introduced in March or so next year."

Fish & Game would bring in special regulations to manage the ponds, he said.

DOC regional conservator Neil Clifton said the application involved introducing the fish into a new catchment and had to go through a public notification process.

"On the face of it, it seems a good proposal," he said. "We'll process it as quickly as we can."
THE HIGH COST OF DOING NOTHING
Doug Stevens - 26/07/2011

Gen. John Sedgewick said just before he was shot at the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House in 1864 while looking over a parapet at the enemy lines, "They couldn't hit an elephant at this dist..."

History is littered with similar famous last words that have proven fateful.

Are we in New Zealand prepared to let our world famous and universally envied egalitarian fishing access die as we utter the words, “Oh she’ll be right”? Because if we do not do something, and soon, we will see New Zealand lose what we take for granted – our freedom of access to our lakes and rivers.

Already a number of our most famous fishing waters are closed to the ordinary angler and have become the exclusive domain of the wealthy.

A quick internet search will show you what we and our grandchildren will face. To fish just one kilometre of the River Test in Britain can cost around $800 or more per day. Many people state that can’t happen in New Zealand, we have the Queen’s Chain. But let me assure you that not only is it happening, there are already rivers in New Zealand that cost several hundred dollars for a day’s fishing.
Several rivers are now closed to the public unless you hire a particular guide, stay in certain accommodation or hire a helicopter from the right company. So when free access is denied by the landowners who then allows access to commercial operators, we are being forced to pay to fish some of the waters that we as the public own. And this trend looks set to continue.

So if the cost of doing nothing is to lose our rights to fish our best rivers and lakes, what must we do to stop it?

The answer lies in the ballot box. The laws set up to protect our egalitarian fishing and hunting rights need strengthening and this can only be done through parliament.

While it will almost certainly be a Key lead government after the next election, the question will be who will be the parties that will work with National with confidence and supply agreements. Only one party has stood up and said as part of any negotiations it will ensure that the laws surrounding access are strengthened.

Which party is that? It is UnitedFuture and they mean what they say as can be seen from this excerpt taken from one of their press releases.

“UnitedFuture believes that our outdoor heritage is central to what it means to be a Kiwi. We are committed to preserving our egalitarian rights of access to the great outdoors, including sports fish and game. Loopholes within our laws that contribute to situations of ‘exclusive capture’ need closing.

UnitedFuture will promote Fish & Game having the authority to manage commercial exploitation of trout fisheries with attached conditions to ensure fair and practical access for ordinary licence holders. Furthermore, we will strengthen the Walking Access Commission so that it is an advocate and arbitrator in access negotiations, rather than purely a mediator, and ensure that it has sufficient power to secure appropriate practical access to public resources on lands of all tenure.

Never before have we as anglers had such a good opportunity to get the representation in parliament that we need. If we want to restore the right of full, free access to our rivers; if we wish to stop the commercialisation of our sport and if we want our grandchildren to enjoy the outdoors in the way we have, then give your party vote to UnitedFuture. If UnitedFuture could get 3.6% of the party vote it would have 5 MPs – a powerful negotiating force post election.

We owe it to our far-sighted forefathers who fought for the rights of all New Zealanders to freely access freshwater fishing and game animals. We also owe it to the future generations that we preserve this uniquely Kiwi way of life. The cost of doing nothing is much too high.

Doug Stevens - www.nzfishing.com
Fish and Game Northland says the Kai Iwi lakes have turned a corner for trout fishing – with the latest fish weighed in the biggest recorded since the early nineties.

We believe one of the main reasons for the exciting turnaround – fish increasing in size and weight – is the complete removal of the pine tree plantations surrounding the lakes.

“The roots from the pines have drawn down a lot of groundwater over the years and limited natural runoff into the lakes. This has compromised the lake levels during low rainfall years in particular.”

“With the pine trees gone and native species doing better the lakes are healthier. There is now more food present in the form of native species like inanga and koura, and the vegetation along the shoreline is providing insects for the trout to feed on.”

The native Dwarf inanga are thriving, a species which trout feed on in the same way as smelt in Lake Taupo and the Rotorua lakes.

“Anglers with fish finders on board their boats are commenting on seeing enormous shoals of small fish swirling like large balls in the water column. It’s likely they’ve
increased in number due to higher lake levels in the reeds where they breed and at the same time, koura are being seen at night in their thousands, a good sign that the increase in decaying vegetation along the lake margins is providing habitat and food for these crustaceans.

Fish and Game had traditionally stocked the fishery with 3000 trout fingerlings but in 2001 this was reduced to 2000 fingerlings due to a decline in the overall trout average weight and condition factor.

The reduced stocking saw average fish weights start to improve in 2003. But since the removal of the pine trees, there has been a marked increase of 200 grams per fish in the average weight of catches in the annual fishing contest.

Fish and Game must applaud the Kaipara District Council’s decision to remove the pine trees as the right one, with natives now to be planted in their place. “The end result will be a far better place for the public to camp and picnic, while the trout fishery will be further enhanced.”

The recent Kai Iwi Lakes Fishing Competition produced some fine fish; the winning trout weighed in at a solid 2.6 kgs showing clearly how the fishery has improved - with average fish weights recorded the best since 1993.
Angler Andrew Dalton won the two-day competition with a winning Rainbow trout weighing in at 2.60 kg.

There is now an opportunity for Fish and Game staff to carry out a monthly sampling of small fish – to monitor the increase in potential trout food in both Lakes Waikere and Taharoa, and then reconsider the current stocking regime. Annual liberations into the Kai Iwi Lakes could be increased to provide anglers with more opportunity and harvest.

Anglers will just have to be patient like the rest of the community, and wait for the native trees to take hold and nature to take its course. But what is happening at the lakes is exciting and the Kai Iwi Lakes trout fishery is turning into a winner.

**MINISTER LAUNCHES GIANT WETLAND PROJECT**
Environment Bay Of Plenty – Media Release – 27/07/2011

Minister for the Environment Dr Nick Smith launched a 3000 square metre floating wetland in Lake Rotoehu today as part of the Rotorua Lakes restoration programme.

The massive floating wetland – an artificial island constructed of recycled soft drink bottles and planted with native plants – is designed to remove nitrogen from lake waters. Nitrogen is one of the key nutrients causing deteriorating lake water quality.

The wetland has been funded 50 percent by the Crown through the Deed of Funding to clean up the four priority Rotorua lakes, Rotorua, Rotoehu, Rotoiti and Ōkāreka. It is part of the Rotorua lakes restoration programme which is an initiative of the three partners – Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Rotorua District Council and Te Arawa Lakes Trust.

The giant wetland covers 2800 square metres, and is covered by a resource consent held jointly by the Regional Council and Te Arawa Lakes Trust. It is built from 364,000 recycled bottles and planted in native wetland species eco-sourced from the local Rotorua area. It is anchored in place by 10 screw anchors so that it can be moved if there are any changes in the lake’s water level.
Regional Council Chairman John Cronin said the launch signaled that the partners were making significant progress in cleaning up the lakes.

“This 800 hectare lake has become a very useful melting pot for testing lake restoration techniques that could be applied to other larger lakes in the programme. Weed harvesting has already removed up to 3500 tones of weed each year. This achieves the reduction in lake nutrients required to restore the lake, even before land use changes come into play,” he said.

Other smaller projects had also been tried on the lake, including bio-treatment in Otautu bay and de-nitrification of an in-flowing stream on the Tautara Matawhaura Māori Land Trust farm.

“Some of these trials have been initiated as a result of input from the community. The Regional Council recognises the value of the support we have had from local iwi, who are the main land owners around the lake. They have contributed to restoration ideas, providing land and access to sites so that we can undertake these actions, and they have changed their land use practices to meet the targets set for sustainable loads reaching the lake,” Mr. Cronin said.

“These projects now coming to fruition mark the culmination of more than 10 years’ work, when at the outset this outcome may have been difficult to imagine.”

Mr. Cronin said another project was planned for later this year was de-stratification to prevent oxygen loss in the lake’s bottom waters over summer and autumn.

“This will augment the actions already undertaken, and has the potential to accelerate the restoration process at Rotoehu. It is also an opportunity to test this restoration technique as a possible action we can take in other lakes,” he said.

Rotorua Mayor and Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group Chairman Kevin Winters said it was very pleasing to see that a device designed to help clean up lake waters could also fit so well into the environment and enhance the beauty of Rotorua’s lakes while doing its work.

“I’m sure that future generations of residents and the many visitors to our region will appreciate this and other work being carried out to improve water quality in our lakes,” he said.

The Minister also visited the Waitangi Soda Springs phosphorous locking plant which is designed to remove 750 kilos of phosphorous each year from one of the main inflowing streams by dosing it with alum. He also saw the nitrogen plant at Tikitere.
A report released today warns the condition of New Zealand’s lakes, rivers and wetlands will “continue to decline for several more years and possibly much longer” under the Government’s flawed freshwater policy.

Fish & Game NZ commissioned Cawthron Institute – an independent research agency – to evaluate the Government’s National Policy Statement (NPS) on Freshwater Management following widespread concern that it largely ignores a Board of Inquiry’s comprehensive review of water policy and clear recommendations to address the country’s ailing waterways.

Fish & Game NZ chief executive Bryce Johnson says the findings in the new report now confirm the organisation’s fears.

“Fish & Game and other organisations criticised the NPS for ignoring the Land and Water Forum’s and Board of Inquiry’s key recommendations to have bottom lines for environmental management and a strong, centrally-led strategic direction which puts the environment first,” he says.

“What we have now is the old rhetoric about ‘balance’, which has never been defined and invariably ends up with the environment being the loser.

“Cawthron’s findings that New Zealand’s water quality is likely to get worse under the recently announced NPS proves our concerns are warranted.”

The report highlights a key failing of the NPS is that it ignores a recommended objective of safeguarding every freshwater body, instead focussing on maintaining and improving the “overall quality of freshwater in a region”.

This means some rivers and lakes can be further degraded as long as regional councils have plans for others to be improved.

“Experience both within New Zealand and overseas suggests that an ‘offsetting’ approach is likely to lead to further degradation,” states the Cawthron report.

It cites a policy of “net water quality improvement” being in place in Waikato since 1993, which has ironically resulted in continued water quality decline across the region and an $80 million taxpayer hand out to farmers to reduce nutrient discharges into Lake Taupo. Further, an additional $210m has been earmarked to clean up the Waikato River and taxpayers will also foot the $144m bill to clean up the Rotorua lakes.

Mr Johnson says instead of central government providing leadership on freshwater quality, the NPS delegates responsibility to regional councils which have been ineffective at addressing water quality decline and over allocation.
Cawthron’s paper supports that sentiment, stating that regional councils can essentially “continue current policy”.

The report concludes that because key Board of Inquiry recommendations have been ignored, the NPS “will have no effect” on the main source of the problem – pollution from intensive agriculture – unless regional councils change their plans to require consents for diffuse pollution.

However, it points out that presently there is “no imperative in the NPS for them to do so”, and councils have until 2030 – 19 years – to set limits and standards to protect the most at-risk freshwater bodies.

“Imagine how many more rivers and lakes we’re going to lose to agricultural pollution in the interim,” says Mr Johnson. “Land use intensification in entirely unsuitable areas, as we’re witnessing with dairy expansion, remains unrestricted.”

He says the country has essentially been left with the status quo: poor policy that has resulted in 90% of lowland rivers and 50% of lakes now classified as polluted.

“Leaderless freshwater management policy, combined with the Government’s $430m push for irrigation and intensive agriculture expansion, suggests the future for our iconic waterways and the ‘100% Pure’ brand is pretty gloomy.

“A far better solution for New Zealand would have been to adopt the Board of Inquiry recommendations, which would have put some meaningful environmental constraints on agricultural intensification and some real integrity behind ‘clean green NZ’.”

- Contact: Fish & Game NZ chief executive Bryce Johnson 021-397897

A copy of the Cawthron report can be downloaded from the Fish & Game NZ website: www.fishandgame.org.nz

AUCKLAND / WAIKATO NEWS

Local fishing

The cold weather and rain has had a considerable impact on fishing over the last month. As you would expect it’s been positive for the lake fisheries with the cooler water providing great fishing conditions after the long summer.

Arapuni has been productive for shore-based anglers in the upper reaches at the Waipapa Dam, while boat anglers have also done well. Anglers have been catching plenty of wild rainbows, averaging about 50-55cm and in good condition, while the hatchery-reared fish
released last year are thriving with the May liberations 48-50cm and the October liberations 43-45cm.

High numbers of wild brown trout are also being caught in Arapuni, and they are now contributing about 20% of the total catch. Nearly all these browns are in the size range 57-63cm, which suggests that they are the same year-class, presumably all born in 2008. I’ve always considered that water temperatures in the streams flowing into Arapuni were too warm in May/June for brown trout to successfully spawn - compared to rainbows they require water 1-2°C cooler for successful egg incubation. But a quick check of the NIWA database reveals that May 2008 was very cold, with Te Kuiti having its coldest May on record with temperatures 2.5°C colder than usual. So presumably in 2008, brown trout could successfully spawn further north than usual.

In Arapuni, brown trout can live up to six years, typically two years longer than rainbows, so some of these browns will live till 2014 and reach 70+cm.

Cooler conditions are also ideal for the Auckland lakes as trout move out of the depths and into the shallows to feed. I visited Parkinson’s Lake and Muir’s Lake (Lake Whatihua) recently and there were schools of rainbows cruising along the edges feeding on small invertebrates. Reports from Lake Pupuke have also been positive with good catches from the Hospital jetty and off the rocks at Sylvan Park.

**District Councils given a free ride**

Why are District Councils allowed to regularly discharge poorly treated effluent into local rivers?

The Waikato Regional Council receives a lot of publicity for their frequent prosecutions of dairy farmers for illegal discharges into waterways. So you have to ask why are District Councils getting a free ride?

Both the Morrinsiville and Te Kuiti wastewater plants were given short-term consents during the 1990’s on the condition that the plants would be upgraded to accepted standards. But in both cases the full upgrades never happened and the plants continued to discharge poorly treated effluent into local rivers.

The Morrinsville Wastewater Plant, which discharges into the Piako River, is operated by the Matamata-Piako District Council and receives effluent from the urban area and a Fonterra factory. In 1995, expert consultants found that the Plant’s oxidation pond with its large depth and irregular shape was acting in an unpredictable fashion and producing a highly variable effluent. Therefore, the council declared that the pond would no longer discharge into the Piako River but would be used for storage during periods of exceptional load, and then the effluent would be pumped through a new treatment system prior to discharge.
But it didn’t happen and the pond continued to discharge poorly treated effluent directly into the Piako River. This discharge was largely unrecorded, unmeasured and until recently of unknown quality. Moreover, from 1998 to 2009 the discharge didn’t have any consents.

Expert opinion concluded that this discharge has caused acute toxicity and dissolved oxygen sags in the Piako River over the last decade.

Another example. Back in 1999 we put in a lot of effort objecting to an application by the Waitomo District Council to continue their discharge from the Te Kuiti Wastewater Plant into the Mangaokewa River. However, we withdrew our objection after the District Council agreed to upgrade their single oxidation pond by constructing a three stage treatment system, including a wetland, which was expected to provide a substantial improvement in effluent treatment.

But the full upgrade didn’t happen and consequently the Plant has continued to discharge poorly treated effluent into the Mangaokewa Stream, often with excessive levels of ammonia and Enterococcal microbes with the potential for significant adverse effects to downstream waters and human health. The Plant treats not just sewage from the Te Kuiti residential area but also effluent from two meat works.

Now the Waitomo District Council is applying for a 35 year consent for the Plant. A full upgrade is promised, which is expected to provide a substantial improvement in effluent treatment....

Ben Wilson - Fisheries Manager - bwilson@awfg.org.nz

Big fish, small water. Photo courtesy of Jimmy Teen.
POACHER CAM EFFECTIVE TOOL IN BATTLE AGAINST TROUT THIEVES

By Fish & Game Public Awareness Advisor Grant Dyson

Rob a service station and you’d expect to be filmed by a security camera – but who would think trout poachers would find themselves on ‘Poacher Cam?’

That’s my term for the ‘covert surveillance’ cameras Fish & Game Officers are using as one of their weapons against poachers.

As a part-time Public Awareness Advisor for Fish & Game based at the Ngongotaha hatchery, I figured it was time to visit one of the camera sites with the Officer in charge of compliance in the Eastern Region, Anthony Van Dorp.

He’d mentioned cameras sited at important spawning streams but frankly, I was a little skeptical. Wouldn’t a camera housing sitting in a tree say, be pretty easy to spot?

We arrived at the bush-shrouded stream that feeds into a lake I’m not allowed to name. At least four good-sized spawning trout were scudding around a fairly shallow clear pool which presented easy pickings, for even a reasonably single-minded poacher. This secluded trout pool was all things considered, poacher heaven.

We stood on the bank at a grassy spot providing easy access to the water, and Anthony challenged me to spot the Poacher Cam.

After some minutes of intently scanning the fairly dense vegetation, which included native bush, and ponga fronds, I was forced to give up. There were several trees overhanging the trout pool which provided perfect mounting sites – but there was no trace of a camera. In reality, I could have spent half an hour probing the vegetation and still wouldn’t have found the electronic observer.

I was taken aback when Anthony showed me the camera and just how incredibly well it was hidden. Imagine something not a lot bigger than a big Cuban cigar, wearing its own little camouflage jacket. The Poacher Cam blended into the background with all the panache of a stick insect on a manuka tree (not that it was on a manuka tree, you understand).

The slim line camera is powered by a battery box which is just as well camouflaged, sitting nearby. Again, unless you were centimetres away you’d never spot this compact, heavily disguised unit.

It really is a case of ‘poacher beware’ – you could be on camera recorded scooping up that trout. Oh, and law enforcement authorities are extremely adept at swapping ‘intell’ – the latest information on offenders and what they are up to. Poacher Cam footage is shared with the Police.
If camera footage doesn’t lead to the direct identification of a trout poacher, it provides plenty of other useful information, Anthony says. It tells them just how much ‘foot traffic’ a particular pool is getting.

“It may be that we single out the spot for a visit in person,” Anthony says, to catch poachers in the act.

“The surveillance cameras – updated every couple of years - have been a very effective enforcement and deterrent tool. You may think you are in a remote spot where you can poach a trout well away from observant eyes – but it’s just not the case.”

And Anthony Van Dorp points out that the courts are taking poaching very seriously. In the past year judges have imposed penalties ranging from $700 fines to as many as 280 hours of community work. That amounts to some incredibly expensive eating fish.

The ‘Big Brother’ invasion of our privacy argument certainly can’t be ignored. It may be a sad reflection on modern society that we have so many surveillance cameras operating. You can’t do much in the downtown these days without being observed by perhaps multiple CCTV cameras, and now they’re in the bush too. But if some (extraordinarily) well-hidden cameras are part of the price we have to pay to preserve breeding fish crucial to the health of the fishery, so be it.

**AT THE END ARE THE RAINBOWS**

by Hugh Creasy

For years the old paradise shelduck stumbled about the ninth fairway, accompanied by what may have been a faithful suitor, but without the distinguishing characteristic of a missing foot that identified the female. She survived the domestic predators that roamed the golf course and took toll of her goslings, no matter her fierce protest. The goslings reduced in numbers as spring progressed till she had only one or two for company, and they flew away in late summer. A couple of seasons ago she was joined by a young magpie that seemed to be paralyzed, perhaps in a fall from the nest. The youngster was fed by its parents for a few weeks and managed to survive in shelduck company for a few weeks more before it disappeared. The shelduck lived on, croaking her protests as she avoided golfers and golf balls, season after season – and she survived the insecticides, herbicides, fungicides and nitrates that golf course managers apply in their pursuit of the perfect green.

But this year, this week, she is missing. It’s too early for nesting, and her mate wanders the fairway alone. Last year’s juveniles are flying in, mobs of them in noisy and untidy formations. They like to stay near water and they paddle the little stream. In a few weeks’ time there will be battles as mating begins and mates are sorted and accepted and territories fought over. Every year the old shelduck would battle to retain her place. With neck outstretched and wings held high she would threaten any female that dared land on her patch, and every year she won.
But now her battles are over. I like to think she died undefeated by her kind, but perhaps taken by a predator as she breathed her last, hidden in the lupins and gorse that lined her favourite fairway. There are predators enough to ensure a quick death, from the harriers cruising the cliffside thermals to the mustelids hugging every fold of turf as they search for prey among the young and the weak.
Her tenacity and strength will have been passed on to her young and perhaps a daughter of hers will take over her territory.

It has been a hard month on birds. Hundreds of fairy prions have been washed up on beaches, victims of gales in the Tasman Sea and in the Southern Ocean. They are filter feeders on plankton near the sea’s surface. It may be that climate change or a La Nina season has upset their food supply and weakened them.

The gales have kept me from the river. It runs murky and dark, high but not in flood, and the redds that made a patchwork pattern on the coarse gravels have been hidden for weeks. By now the progeny of the early spawners will be shoaling in the backwaters and shallows, preparing for life in the big river.

But still the spawners come, from the estuaries and harbours, and from downstream pools, searching for ideal gravels to make their redds. In rivers with high numbers of resident fish, the latecomers will be tearing up the redds of earlier spawners. All that energy wasted – but there are survivors. And the dislodged eggs are prized by scavengers – smaller trout, not yet ready for the mating game – who suck up the fertilised eggs with great efficiency.

Cunning anglers who know their water will tie egg imitations to capture maiden fish – the best eating at this time of year. Take care not to break the law for many rivers are closed during the breeding season, and in October, when they reopen, hungry spawners and tired old slabs will take a fly in desperation. There’s a real skill in identifying and catching fish in top condition. Some anglers prefer to wait another month when the slabs will have regained condition or died of exhaustion.

At the river I watched a spin fisher casting into pocket water – small backwaters between large boulders – with some success. But he was wading in fast water, taking considerable risk to get into position. It was the kind of risk I’m not prepared to take, but I envied him his courage, though I thought it verged on foolishness.

He came to the riverbank with a fish in a net and killed it. I congratulated him. He was shivering with the cold.

“Was it worth it?” I asked. “Hell, yes,” he answered, “but the water got inside my waders when I knelt down to net the fish. Now I’m frozen. It’s time to go home.”

It was, and my fly-tying bench beckoned. I look forward to spring and the opportunity to use the flies I tie in winter, though some of them are fanciful creations, tied in moments of boredom using strange colours of chicken feathers pulled from a duster. A blue fan-winged creation I tied a couple of season ago floated beautifully and pulled a foolish fish or two, but it spun during casting and put a terrible kink in my leader. Fan-winged flies always look great but I’ve never been able cast them well, and they’re hopeless in any sort of head wind. When cast well they float gently down to the surface and look so
pretty. Fish must take them for moths or butterflies, but they’re hardly bait for serious fishing.

In the early part of the season, when rivers still run high, I prefer well-weighted nymphs, and if they need to be tied in small sizes, I can still get weight in them by using coloured copper wire for their bodies, over a lead-weighted thorax. A soft brown partridge hackle the full length of the hook completes the fly. It’s a caddis imitation, though with the addition of a wing case and a shorter hackle it will do for a mayfly nymph. The weight of the wire must suit the size of the hook and it can be tied right down to #22.

Right now it’s snowing, and only imagination runs the river, but in the mind a bright sun shines, the pools are clear and trout are rising to the mayflies of spring.

**EDITOR’S NOTE**

Every now and then someone says something to you that you just can’t get out of your head, and so it was for me on the recent Club Trip to Turangi. I was sitting in the lodge lunch room on the Saturday afternoon talking with John Rust and he mentioned something that an old friend had said to him many years ago and how true it was, both then and today.

The comment made was “These ARE the good old days”.

And the more I think of those words the more I believe them to be true. Remember yesterday, plan for tomorrow, but whatever you do, don’t forget to live for today!

**FISHING FUNNIES**

“Expensive as it may seem...there’s still no money back guarantee with your Taupo fishing license.”
MEMBERS FEEDBACK
We, your committee, are always trying to give you what you want.

But are we??
In order for us to do our job properly we need to have your feedback, positive or negative. For example, have you been on a club fishing trip? Did you enjoy yourself? What would you change, if anything? Club nights – what would you like to see more of? Less of? In short, talk to us.
The contact details of all your committee members are listed at the end of every newsletter. So if you have something on your mind let us know.

Thank you - Your committee

NSFF CLUB MERCHANDISE

Cap – $15.00 Inclusive of GST
Green or Beige, one size fits all, with embroidered badge.

Embroidered Cloth Badge - $7.50 Inclusive of GST

Brushed Brass Metal Pin Badge - $12.50 Inclusive of GST

If anyone is interested in purchasing these products please either place an order at Club Nights or at Hunts Sports.

Meetings held the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm:
Milford Cruising Club, 24 Craig Road, Milford, North Shore City

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